



Annual report to the parliament 2011/12



Fish for the future



Norman Moore,
Minister for Fisheries

To The Hon. Norman Frederick Moore MLC BA Dip Ed Minister For Fisheries

Sir

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* (FMA) and Section 263 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA), I submit for your information the Annual Report to Parliament of the Department of Fisheries of Western Australia for the financial year ending 30 June 2012.

The Department also produces a companion *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia*, as required by Section 263 of the FRMA. This Annual Report also includes a table on stock status and catch ranges for major commercial fisheries, derived from the *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia*.

Stuart Smith



How to use this report

Clicking on text in this row will take you to sub-sections of the report. You are currently in the sub-section highlighted by the darker orange box.

Government of Western Australia Department of Fisheries		Introduction	Summary of the year	Overview of agency	Agency performance	Disclosures and legal compliance	Appendices
Profile of Department of Fisheries	Currents and undercurrents – significant issues affecting the Department	Operating structure	Corporate Executive	Governance structure	Strategic Plan	Performance Management Framework	

Clicking on text in this row will take you to the main sections of the report. You are currently in the highlighted section.

Performance Management Framework

Measurement of Department outcomes and services

The Department of Fisheries evaluates, measures and reports on the effectiveness and efficiency of its service delivery levels through key performance indicators (KPIs). The KPIs include effectiveness indicators and efficiency indicators.

Effectiveness indicators show the extent to which the Department achieved its goals of conserving and sustainably developing the State's fish resources. Efficiency indicators reveal the relationship between the service delivered and the resources used in its delivery.

Measuring the effectiveness of fisheries management presents a number of challenges to fisheries agencies worldwide; it is not possible to accurately count the number of fish in a wildstock fishery at any given time.

In WA, fisheries managers rely on complex scientific modeling and robust reporting and monitoring systems to estimate the abundance of fish. They are also used to measure the effectiveness of existing management strategies in achieving the sustainability of fish stocks and the aquatic environment. This work is published annually in the Department's [Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia](#).

The *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia* is a 'snapshot' of fisheries sustainability over the preceding twelve to eighteen months. It is used by the Department, in consultation with stakeholders, to review fisheries past management results and, together with current observations, informs decisions about the priorities for fisheries and environmental management and research in the year under review and future years.

The *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia* underpins the Department's key performance indicators relating to the sustainability status of fish stocks. Along with other performance measures, this information assists Corporate Executive in measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of staff and processes in meeting the Department's strategic goals and those of government.

The *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia* is tabled in Parliament with the Department's annual report. A summary of the *Status Report's* fisheries sustainability results for 2011/12 is published in this annual report – see '[Stock status and catch ranges for major commercial fisheries](#)'.

A summary of the Department's performance against budget targets is provided in Table 17 on page 57.

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From the Director General



Stuart Smith, Director General of
the Department of Fisheries

The 2011-12 financial year was both challenging and rewarding as the Department worked with the community to ensure the sustainable management and protection of the State's fisheries and unique marine environment.

This work is being undertaken against a background of significant challenges that accompany the State's rapidly increasing population and growing affluence. More people are fishing and some areas are being fished more

intensively. Recreational boat ownership is up and fish-finding technology is improving. Pressures from other users of the marine environment including oil and gas production, port development and expansion, and changing global environmental conditions are also all having an impact.

Despite these challenges, the vast majority of Western Australia's marine environment remains in pristine condition and

the Department's research and monitoring shows that 100% of the State's commercial fisheries had catch or effort levels during 2010-11 or 2011 that were considered acceptable.

During the year the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery, the State's most valuable commercial fishery, continued its orderly transition to quota management. In the current fishing season, all licensees are fishing to individual catch limits within a total allowable catch of 5,500 tonnes. New initiatives to facilitate the transition to quota included extending the 2010/11 commercial fishing season by two months in 2011 (July and August) and further extending the 2011/12 commercial fishing season until September 2012. This is to allow all licensees maximum opportunity to catch their quota when they believe they will receive the best economic returns. Three discussion papers were also released for industry consultation prior to the finalisation of rules that will apply when full quota management commences in January 2013.

Having been the world's first fishery to achieve independent sustainability certification from the Marine Stewardship Council in 2000, the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery achieved another significant milestone this year when it became the world's first fishery to have its MSC certification renewed for a third consecutive five-year period, subject to the MSC's ongoing annual



audit process. I congratulate the rock lobster industry on this achievement, which has brought benefits to the way the fishery is managed and will place the industry in a strong position to meet growing consumer and retail demand for sustainably caught rock lobster.

For more detail on the sustainability and management of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery, please see Case Study 1.

The experience with MSC certification in the rock lobster industry has given the Department and the fishing industry confidence to seek independent sustainability certification for all of the State's commercial fisheries. The State Government has provided \$14.5 million over four years to fund the applications for certification. Once achieved, certification will provide a marketing edge for successful Western Australian fisheries. This will allow their products to be identified locally and internationally as coming from a sustainable wild-caught fishery, at a time when consumers are becoming increasingly conscious about the source of food and the sustainability of food production systems.

Other significant achievements in commercial fisheries management during the year included the determination of a management plan and transition to managed fishery status for the State's mackerel fishery. There was also an extension of the time allowed for commercial (and recreational) crab fishing in Cockburn Sound, following the success of management measures to rebuild Cockburn Sound crab stocks.

Regulations that prevented commercial fishers from holding recreational rock lobster, abalone and netting licences were also

eased during the course of the year, allowing commercial fishers to participate in recreational fishing activities with family and friends. Commercial fishers are not allowed to use a commercial fishing vessel while fishing recreationally, and when fishing from a powered vessel they are required to hold a Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence, as are all other recreational fishers in the State.

Increased revenue from recreational fishing fees has allowed the Department to progress a number of new initiatives of benefit to the recreational fishing community during the year. They included the allocation of more than \$1 million from fees generated by the Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence to create a Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund. An independent board now makes recommendations to the Minister about priorities for expenditure of the fund.

As part of this initiative Recfishwest, the peak body for recreational fishing in WA, has also provided grants of \$50,000 for independent allocation to community groups undertaking additional recreational fishing projects.

Funding from recreational fishing fees and the Royalties for Regions program has enabled work to be progressed on the development of WA's first





artificial reef trial at Geographe Bay in the State's south-west. A dedicated research program is being implemented to monitor the effectiveness of the artificial reef structures as habitats suitable for fish aggregation, breeding and improved fishing opportunities. This program will be fully operational when the first artificial reefs are deployed in Geographe Bay during 2012/13. Work has also commenced to identify sites in other regions of the State for the deployment of artificial reefs.

The popular metropolitan Roe's abalone fishery, the State's most highly regulated recreational fishery, saw a changed fishing format introduced on a trial basis during the year. The fishing season was shifted from one and a half hours on five consecutive



Checking an abalone catch.

Sundays in October/ November to one and a half hours on the first Sunday of each month for five months commencing in November. The changes were originally proposed by Recfishwest to allow recreational fishers the opportunity to take their allocated share of abalone over an extended season, when the fishing days are likely to be warmer and fishing conditions safer.

The Department also released a discussion paper proposing the simplification of recreational fishing rules that currently apply in different regions of the State for public comment in February 2012, with a view to making understanding and compliance with the rules easier for recreational fishers. The main focus of the proposal is the introduction of mixed species bag and possession limits for finfish instead of species specific controls. This is to better provide for the sustainability of key recreational species. Please see case Study 2 for further information on major recreational fishing initiatives undertaken during the year.

The future of marine-based aquaculture in WA received a boost during the year with the commencement of a project to identify two investment-ready aquaculture development zones. As part of the project, the Department is seeking the necessary pre-approvals, and determining the ongoing management and environmental monitoring requirements for defined commercial aquaculture activities. Cone Bay in the Kimberley has been identified as the preferred site of the first zone to be established, while the second zone is likely to be in the State's Mid-West region. The zones have the potential to significantly increase the production of marine finfish in WA at a time when world-wide demand for seafood has never been higher.

Work is well underway on the development of the Fish Eye system in partnership with key stakeholders. Fish Eye will provide a range of new service delivery options for the Department and greatly expand the online information available to commercial fishers. It will enable commercial fishers to submit and receive information and manage their fishing entitlement, licences and



authorisations online, and provide the Department with more timely information on which to base management decisions. The release of the first stage of Fish Eye is planned for the start of the 2013 western rock lobster season.

The Department's work in protecting the marine environment was enhanced through the allocation of \$9.4 million over two years to combat biosecurity threats. Introduced marine pests have a direct cost to the global economy of some \$1.5 trillion per year. If left undetected or uncontrolled these pests, which enter our waters in ballast water or through the fouling on ships and other platforms, can cause diseases in humans and quickly disrupt



Commercial fishers in action.

ecosystems and industries, and threaten tourism, fisheries and aquaculture operations. The funding has strengthened the State's frontline marine pest defences through the recruitment and training of dedicated biosecurity researchers, policy staff and Fisheries and Marine Officers, and the use of high-tech detection tools that enable in-water vessel checks for marine pests.

The Department has also participated in the development of management arrangements for newly created marine reserves in the Kimberley and the State's south-west. This has further enhanced Western Australia's reputation as home to the most protected marine waters in the world. An estimated 80% of the State's marine environment is managed and protected at levels sufficient to warrant qualification as marine protected areas under International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria.

The Department's legislative reform agenda was progressed during the year with major amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* being enacted and proclaimed. In addition, work continued on new legislation that will provide for a change in emphasis from the management of specific fisheries as currently applies, to the management and protection of aquatic resources and their ecosystems.

A major highlight of the year was the release by the Government of a [Fisheries Policy Statement](#) recognising that Western Australia's fisheries management has undergone significant change in recent years to ensure sustainability. The policy also lays the foundations that will help maintain confidence and security for fishers through well-planned legislation, the use of new technology, and independent sustainability assessments. The



Fisheries Policy Statement was developed in liaison with the WA Fishing Industry Council and Recfishwest – the State’s peak fishing bodies. It provides Government recognition of the importance and contribution of both the commercial and recreational sectors to Western Australia’s lifestyle and economy, and underpins processes that will guide the sustainability of the State’s fish and aquatic resources.

Tragically, the year was marked by fatal shark attacks at Cottesloe, Rottnest Island, Bunker Bay and at Stratham Beach near Busselton, bringing to five the number of fatalities in WA waters in the last two years. The loss of human life and its impacts on families and the community have brought this issue into sharp focus for the Government, with additional resources being directed at mitigating the risk of shark attacks. Activities being undertaken include the use of satellite and electronic tagging and monitoring; research to assist the understanding of how weather conditions, water temperature and the availability of natural prey may correlate with electronic or visual shark observations; increased helicopter patrols at popular beaches including at Rottnest and the South-west; increased collaboration with Surf Life Saving WA; improved shark response capability; and public education and awareness campaigns about how people can assist in reducing the risks posed by sharks by altering their personal behaviour.

While people continue to venture into marine and estuarine environments there will always be risks of additional attacks occurring. We can ensure people are more informed about ways to manage these risks and the Department is now better placed to deal with the risk. Although white sharks remain a protected

species under fisheries legislation, the Department is authorised to destroy any shark that has attacked a human or poses a threat to members of the public. For more information about work being undertaken in this area, please see Case Study 3.

I wish to thank the community and the many stakeholders who have worked constructively with the Department during the course of the year. I would also like to acknowledge the Executive team and dedicated and professional staff throughout the Department for their efforts in the management and protection of the State’s fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. My thanks also go to the Minister for Fisheries, Hon Norman Moore MLC and his staff for the guidance and support provided during the year.

Stuart Smith
Director General



Highlights at a glance 2011/12

In addition to the achievements described in 'From the Director General', other highlights for the Department of Fisheries during 2011/12 included:

- Funding of \$2.1 million was secured for the 2012/13 budget to replace fisheries infrastructure vital to the commercial rock lobster industry in the Abrolhos Islands. Rat Island jetty will be replaced and the East Wallabi and Beacon Island jetties upgraded.
- Commercial mackerel fishers were given greater security with the transfer of WA's Mackerel Managed Fishery to full management. Forty eight licences were granted in the quota managed fishery, which was developed with permit holders and the WA Fishing Industry Council.
- The West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery obtained Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification as a sustainable well-managed fishery for the third consecutive five-year period. Significant work was undertaken by the Department to enable the smooth transition of the fishery to quota management commencing in January 2013.
- A purpose-built facility opened in Denham. Shared jointly by the Department of Fisheries and the Department of



The new Marine Operations Centre in Denham.

Environment and Conservation, it will deliver better services to protect, regulate and manage WA's Shark Bay World Heritage Area. The new facility supports improved management, compliance and education services to local residents and the many thousands of tourists who visit the area each year.

- Investment for two regional development zones in the Mid-West and Kimberley will boost WA's aquaculture potential. The zones provide pre-approved areas for defined commercial aquaculture ventures. Latest figures indicate global aquaculture production is expected to reach up to 85 million tonnes by 2020.



- The Department's corporate website was extensively overhauled to be more customer-focused. Visitors can now enjoy additional news and information, including using video (via YouTube), electronic news feeds and email newsletters. A new section has been created on shark hazards, interactive maps are provided (via Google) and the site can be translated into more than 30 languages.
- A \$700,000 project to restock Lake Kununurra with barramundi is well underway, with the Kimberley Training Institute appointed to carry out this work. Hundreds of thousands of juvenile barramundi (fingerlings) will be released into Lake Kununurra in the next four years, with the potential to create a world-class 'trophy' barramundi recreational fishery.
- Continuing improvement in crab stocks in Cockburn Sound led to a further easing of restrictions in 2011/12, with a four-month

recreational season increase (from 15 December 2011 to 31 August 2012). The commercial fishing season was similarly extended for two and a half months, along with a time increase to set and pull crab pots and a decrease in the commercial minimum legal size limit for male blue swimmer crabs.

- A research project that has already helped to increase knowledge about juvenile dhufish was boosted by \$112,000 of the State's Natural Resource Management funds. Dhufish is native to WA, a highly sought-after species by fishers, and a major indicator species for the health of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery. The extra funding enables survey work to be conducted over a wider area to understand more about the likely habitats of young, small dhufish. A [case study](#) on the research is provided in this report.
- A Natural Resource Management grant of \$250,000 has extended vital research on critical nearshore recreational fishing stocks. Research on tailor and Australian herring on the west coast has been extended to the south coast and similar information is being collected about whiting species, to provide a complete picture of the status and connectivity of nearshore stocks in WA's temperate waters.
- The second phase of WA's first integrated online marine science education resource was rolled out. Funded by Woodside Energy, MarineWATERS provides a range of new resources for teachers and students from Kindergarten to Year 10. The new phase includes additional lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations and two new supplementary information packages.

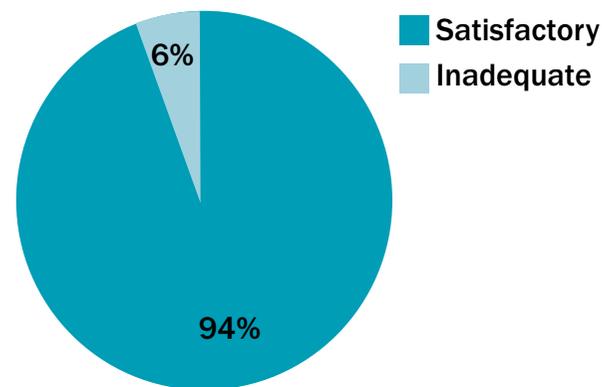


Stock status and catch ranges for major commercial fisheries

The information in this table is derived from more detailed data presented in the companion report *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia*. The fisheries referred to in the table are the management units that are either fully managed fisheries or are in the process of having dedicated management plans developed for them.

Full information on the current management status and future directions of commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries and aquaculture industries is given in the *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia*.

Figure 1. Summary of major commercial fisheries with regard to an assessment of their breeding stocks during 2011/12.



Note: The 'satisfactory' category (34 fisheries) includes those fisheries where the breeding stocks are adequate and three major commercial fisheries whose breeding stocks are recovering, while the 'inadequate' category includes two fisheries where additional actions need to be taken or confirmation is required to ensure the breeding stocks are either adequate or are now recovering.



Table 1. Stock status and catch ranges for major commercial fisheries

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
West Coast Bioregion							
West coast rock lobster	Yes	Adequate	5,500 (Quota management)	5,501	2010/11	Yes	A Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) of 5,500 tonnes was set for the 2010/11 season to accommodate the recent series of low puerulus settlements.
Roe's abalone	Yes	Adequate	92.8 (Quota management) (530 – 640 days)	81.6 (426 days)	2011	Yes	Both the catch and effort were down by 10 tonnes due to closure of Kalbarri region of the fishery following a marine 'heatwave' generated mortality event.
Octopus	Yes	Adequate	50 – 250	166	2011	Yes	Fishery in developing phase. Target range to be reviewed following completion of current study.
Abrolhos Islands and mid-west trawl	Yes	Adequate	95 – 1,830	2,203	2011	Yes	Total landings were above the target range due to good recruitment.
Cockburn Sound crab	Yes	Adequate	NA	53	2010/11	NA	This is the second year since the fishery re-opened following a three-year closure. The catch did not increase due to the large number of small-sized crabs.
Deep sea crab	Yes	Adequate	154 (Quota management)	145	2011	Yes	The TACC began in 2008. An acceptable effort range will be determined.
Estuarine finfish (west coast)	No	NA	75 – 220 (Peel-Harvey only)	73 (Peel-Harvey only)	2011	Yes	Catches of west coast estuarine finfish have been stable since 2000.
West coast beach bait	Yes	Adequate	60 – 275 (whitebait only)	35 (whitebait only)	2011	Yes	Yearly fluctuations in whitebait catch still match environmental variations.
West coast purse seine	Yes	Adequate	0 – 3,000 (Quota management)	Fewer than three licences operated	2011	NA	Continued low catches due to market competition, irregular availability of fish resulting in low fishing effort levels.

NOTES NA not assessed. ¹Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available. ² Indicates missing returns.



Summary of
the year

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
West coast demersal scalefish	Yes	Recovering	< 450 (Demersal suite)	438	2011 (West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery, South West Trawl Managed Fishery, Cockburn Sound Line and Pot Managed Fishery), 2010/11 (Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fisheries, West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery)	Yes	Total catch includes all relevant commercial fisheries. The stock is deemed to be recovering with the next full assessment scheduled for completion in 2012/13.
Gascoyne Coast Bioregion							
Shark Bay prawn	Yes	Adequate	1,501 – 2,330	2,014	2011	Yes	King and tiger prawn catches were both within their historical target ranges.
Exmouth Gulf prawn	Yes	Adequate	771 – 1,276	976	2011	Yes	The total catch was in the target range but catches of tiger prawns were above and king prawns were below their individual target levels.
Shark Bay scallop	Yes	Adequate	1,250 – 3,000	295	2011	Yes	Catch well below target range due to small size of scallops and poor recruitment due to La Nina effects. A heatwave and floods in late 2011 will impact stock abundance in 2012.
Shark Bay crabs	Yes	Adequate	Under development	860	2010/11	NA	The catch comes from a dedicated trap fishery and prawn trawlers. A heatwave and floods over the 2010/11 summer have impacted on the crab stock available for the 2012 season.

NOTES NA not assessed. ¹Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available. ² Indicates missing returns.



Summary of
the year

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Shark Bay beach seine and mesh net	Yes	Adequate	235 – 335	250	2011	Yes	Total catch was similar to 2010. Catch rates of key species were generally maintained.
Shark Bay snapper	Yes	Recovering	277 (Quota management) (380 – 540 days)	236 (419 days) plus 60 recreational catch	2011	Yes	At the current TACC, the spawning biomass is projected to recover to the target level by 2014. The next full assessment is scheduled for late 2012.
North Coast Bioregion							
Onslow prawn	Yes	Adequate	60 – 180	16	2011	Yes	The low catch was associated with lowest recorded fishing effort because of the cost of fishing, high fuel prices and low returns.
Nickol Bay prawn	Yes	Adequate	90 – 300	178	2011	Yes	Catch of banana prawns was lower than the projected catch range but within the target catch range.
Broome prawn	Yes	Adequate	55 – 260	6	2011	NA	The very low level of effort continued because of the cost of fishing, high fuel prices, long distances to travel and low returns.
Kimberley prawn	Yes	Adequate	240 – 500	155	2011	Yes	The number of boats fishing was the lowest for 30 years because of high catch rates in the Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF) and small size of prawns in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery (KPF).
Kimberley gillnet and barramundi	Yes	Adequate	25 – 40 (barramundi)	28.2	2011	Yes	Listed catch is an underestimate due to missing returns but total still likely to be within the acceptable range.

NOTES NA not assessed. ¹ Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available. ² Indicates missing returns.



Summary of
the year

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Northern demersal scalefish	Yes	Adequate	Total 600 – 1,000 (goldband < 561) (red emperor < 195)	Total 1,037 (goldband 487) (red emperor 128)	2011	Yes	Total catch close to upper limit. Catches of goldband snapper and red emperor were both within the acceptable catch range. Full assessments and review of catch ranges scheduled over next two years.
Pilbara fish trawl	Yes	Adequate	2,000 – 2,800	1,085	2011	Under revision	Reduced catch partly due to reductions in effort since 2009. Full assessment and review of catch range scheduled in the next two years.
Pilbara demersal trap and line	Yes	Adequate	400 – 600 (trap) 50 – 115 (line)	459 (trap) 112 (line)	2011	Yes	Both the trap and line catches were within the acceptable ranges.
Mackerel	Yes	Adequate	410 (Quota management) 246 – 410 (all except grey mackerel)	284	2011	Yes	Catch rates are stable or increasing in all three management areas.
Northern shark	Yes	Sandbar shark: Inadequate Blacktip shark: Acceptable	< 20 (sandbar)	No catch reported	2010/11	NA	No fishing effort continued for this year. To enable a recovering status, management needs to ensure on-going low catches. The black tip assessment is based on Northern Territory analysis.
Pearl oyster	Yes	Adequate	1,600,000 oysters (Quota management) (14,071 – 20,551 dive hours)	796,158 oysters (13,917 dive hours)	2011	Yes	Pearl oyster catches are at second highest historical level, but still only 50 per cent of TAC due to exceptional abundance.

NOTES NA not assessed. ¹ Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available. ² Indicates missing returns.



Summary of
the year

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Beche-de-mer	Yes	Adequate	Sandfish 20 – 100 Redfish 40 – 150	Sandfish 56 Redfish 0	2011	Yes	No fishing occurred for redfish in 2011. Sandfish within historical range.
South Coast Bioregion							
South coast crustacean	No	NA	50 – 80 (southern rock lobster)	70.3 (lobster and crab combined catch; 52 t for lobsters)	2010/11	Yes	The management arrangements, including the acceptable catch range, are currently being reviewed.
Abalone (greenlip/brownlip)	Yes	Adequate	213 (Quota management) (907 – 1,339 days)	202 (1,224 days)	2011	Yes	No issues.
Estuarine finfish (south coast)	Yes	Adequate	200 – 500	201 (finfish) 15 (crab)	2011	Yes	Stock levels of key species are considered adequate.
WA salmon	Yes	Adequate	1,200 – 2,800	171	2011	Yes	Recent catches continue to be low relative to historic levels, due to low effort from limited market demand. A review of the target catch range needs to be undertaken.
Australian herring	Yes	Uncertain	475 – 1,200 (south coast only)	110 (south coast only)	2011	Yes	Formal stock assessment and review of acceptable catch range due for completion in late 2012. Commercial catch continues to be low relative to historic levels.
Albany/ King George Sound purse seine	Yes	Adequate	2,683 (Quota management)	1,241	2010/11	Yes	Catch was lower than 2009/10 due to lower effort.

NOTES NA not assessed. ¹ Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available. ² Indicates missing returns.



Summary of
the year

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Bremer Bay purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (Quota management)	Fewer than three licences operated	2010/11	Yes	Catch levels similar to previous years and acceptable given effort levels.
Esperance purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (Quota management)	Fewer than three licences operated	2010/11	Yes	Catch levels are higher than previous years and acceptable given effort levels.
Southern and west coast demersal gillnet and longline	Yes	Gummy and whiskery sharks: Adequate Dusky sharks: likely to now be recovering.	725 – 1,095 (key species only)	828 (key species only)	2010/11	Yes	Total catch was within range as were the catches of gummy sharks, dusky and sandbar. Whiskery catch was slightly below the historical range due to the intended effects of seasonal closure and effort reductions.
Northern Inland Bioregion							
Lake Argyle catfish	Yes	Adequate	95 – 155	Less than three licences operated	2011	Yes	Catch is within the acceptable range.

NOTES NA not assessed. ¹ Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available. ² Indicates missing returns.



Financial overview

The overview examines the trends in financial information from 2007/08 through to 2011/12. The analysis is based on information provided in the Department of Fisheries audited statement of comprehensive income and statement of financial position.

The overview is to assist readers in understanding the financial impact of decisions taken over that period to address emerging issues in the fisheries sector, including:

- Significant government funding to increase compliance and research relating to recreational fishing, commercial fishing and marine parks.
- Significant government support, through the establishment and financing of Fisheries Adjustment Schemes, to increase the financial sustainability of commercial fisheries in Exmouth Gulf, Shark Bay and the Abrolhos Islands.
- The introduction of revised management arrangements of the recreational fishing sector through the introduction of a Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence. The increase in revenue from this sector has funded new recreational fishing initiatives.

- Significant government funding to invest in new assets or replace aging assets to support the delivery of the Department's services.

The Funding and Expenditure Summary for 2011/12 diagram over illustrates the relationship between the Department's income and capital contribution sources in 2011/12 (excluding carryovers from 2010/11) and total expenditure by recurrent (operating) and capital expenditure category. The Total Cost of Services chart shows the total amount spent on each of the four services managed by the Department during the year.

Note that \$m is used as an abbreviation for \$ million.

Financial performance

Financial performance can be identified by comparing what and where the Department spent against its income sources. The cost to the government for the Department over the years can also be compared against the total cost of services and outcomes the Department has delivered.

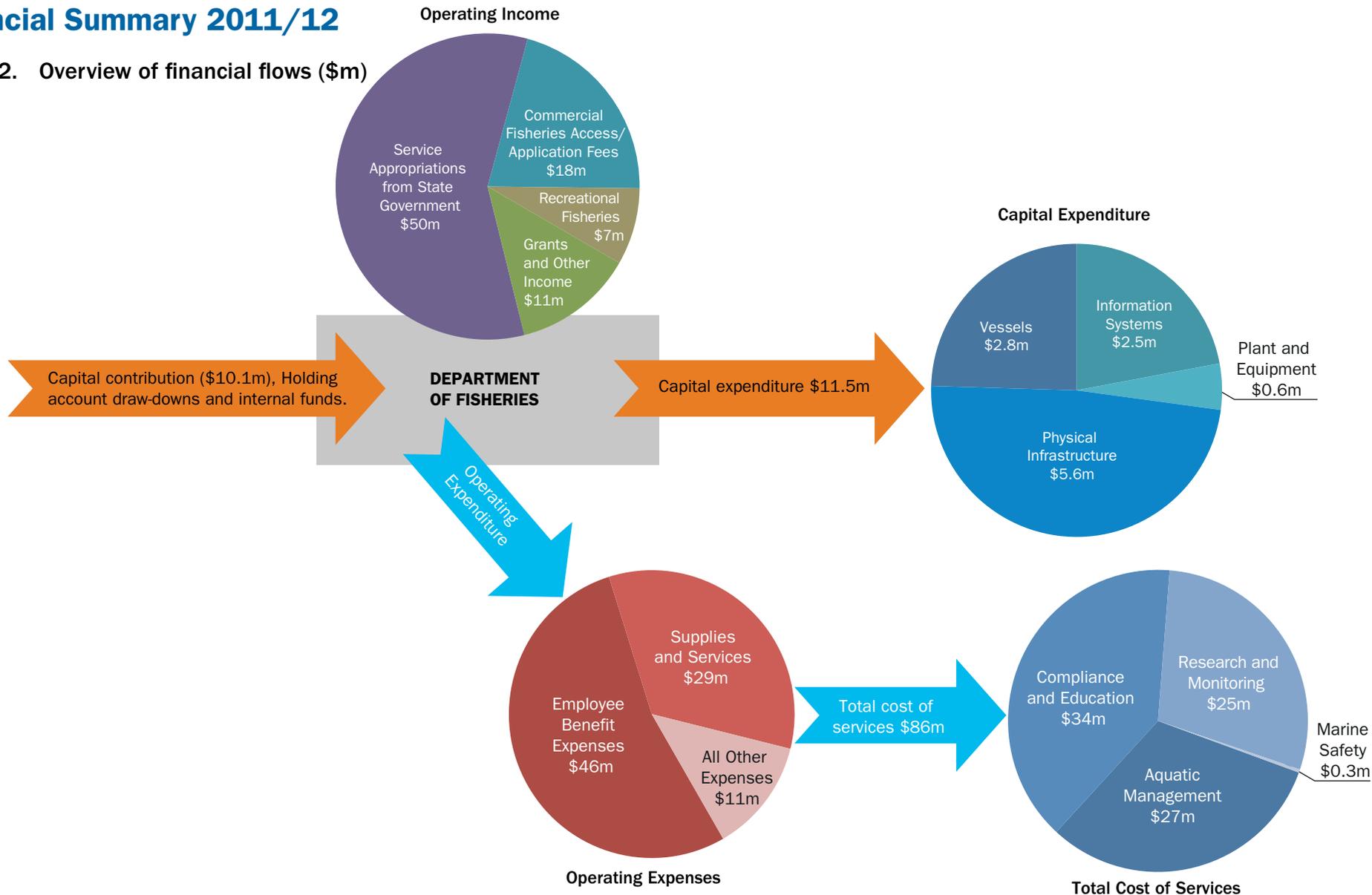
The following is a summary of the financial performance and position of the Department for the year ended 30 June 2012.



Summary of
the year

Financial Summary 2011/12

Figure 2. Overview of financial flows (\$m)





Net Cost of Services – five-year trend

Net cost of services facilitates an assessment of performance by showing the net cost of resources consumed in operations. It shows the extent to which these costs were recovered through licence fees, user charges and independent sources of revenue, and the net cost of operations to the State.

The trend in the Department's net cost of services from 2007/08 through to 2011/12 is shown in Figure 3.

The increase in the Department's net cost of services from 2010/11 to 2011/12 has been significantly impacted by major policy decisions, new projects started in 2011/12, growth in services and costs to meet increased demand, and reclassification of capital costs to expenses.

Figure 3. Net Cost of Services – five-year trend

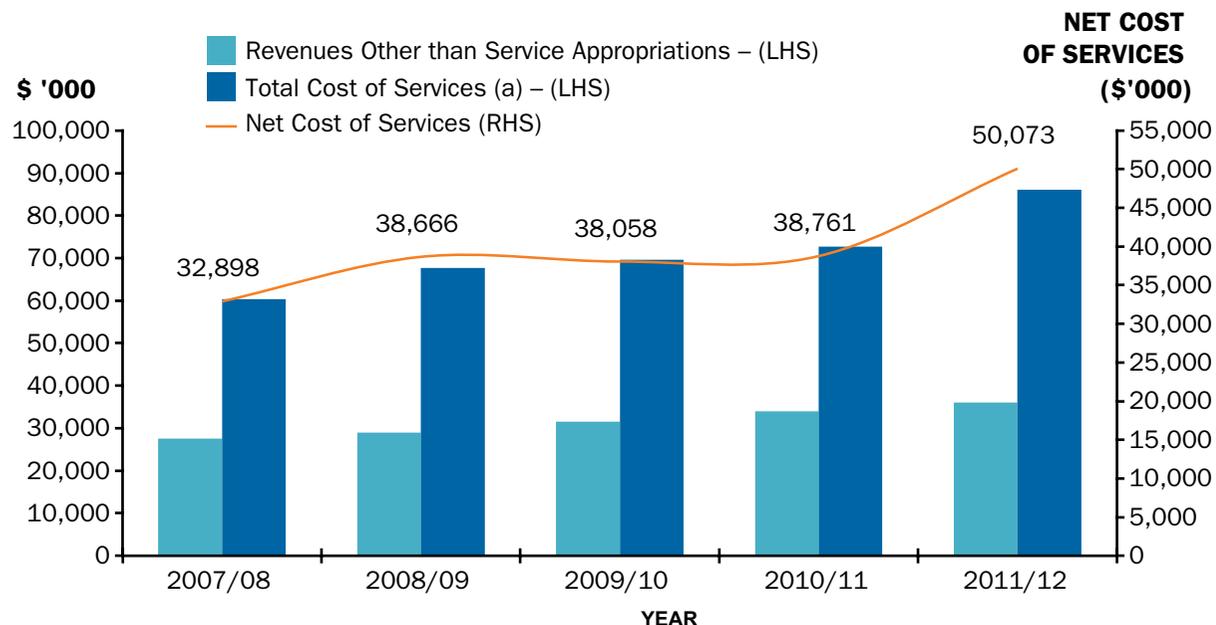


Table 2.

Net Cost of Services – five-year trend	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total Cost of Services – (LHS)	60,400	67,672	69,575	72,706	86,098
Revenues Other than Service Appropriations – (LHS)	27,502	29,006	31,517	33,945	36,025
Net Cost of Services (RHS)	32,898	38,666	38,058	38,761	50,073



Income Sources – 2011/12

Service Appropriations from State Government funded 49% of the Department’s recurrent day-to-day activity or operational costs in 2011/12.

Other Income consists of Commonwealth funding provided to the Department for services in the Indian Ocean Territories (\$830,000), State Government and industry contributions to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (\$1,714,000), fees (\$2,398,000) recovered from commercial fisheries for financing costs related to the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes.

Figure 4. Income Sources - 2011/12

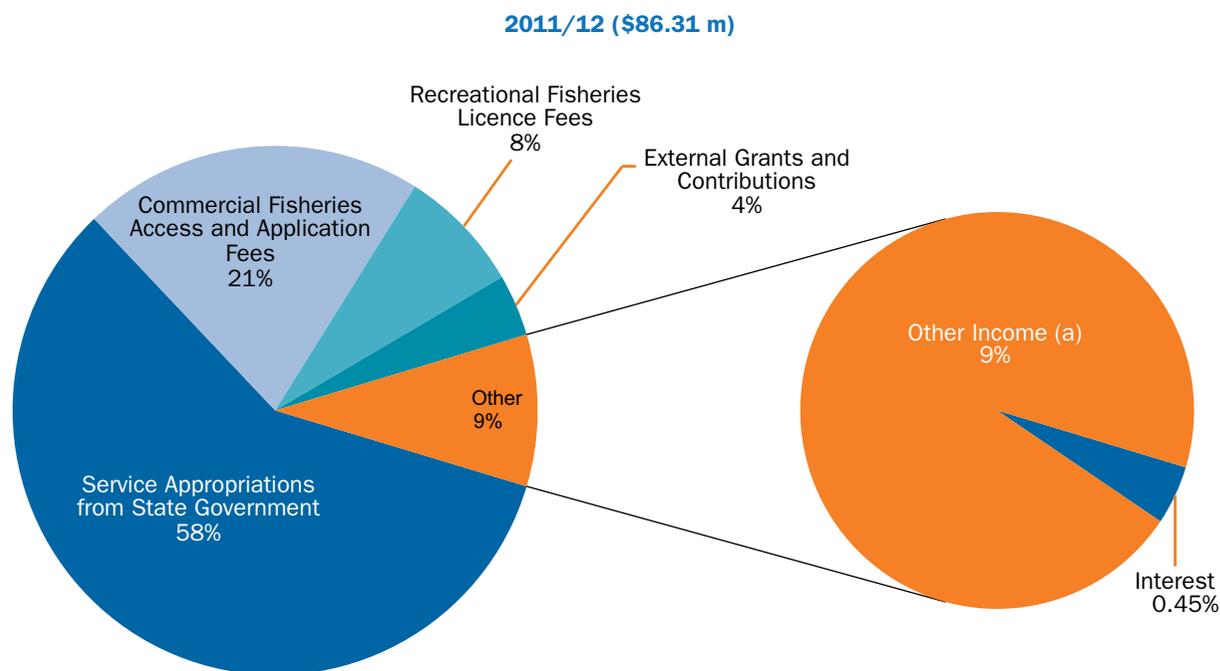


Table 3.

Income Sources – 2011/12	2011/12	2011/12
	\$'000	%
Service Appropriations from State Government	50,280	58.3%
Commercial Fisheries Access and Application Fees	18,158	21.0%
Recreational Fisheries Licence Fees	6,610	7.7%
External Grants and Contributions	3,261	3.8%
Interest	385	0.4%
Other Income (a)	7,611	8.8%
TOTAL	86,305	100%

(a) Resources received free of charge are excluded from Income Sources.



Income Sources – five-year trend

Total income, excluding resources received free of charge, has increased from 2010/11 due mainly to an increase in appropriation funding from the State Government.

In 2011/12, the Department received a one-off appropriation funding of \$4.5 million to replenish cash balances as a result of increased expenditure in 2010/11, to meet the growth in demand for its services. In addition, government approved an upward adjustment of \$4.5 million to the Department's appropriation baseline to meet demand and cost pressures in fisheries management, compliance, education and research and monitoring services.

Revenues from other sources are received from the commercial fishing industry through access fees, recreational fishers, external funding for research and management of the Australian Fishing Zone from the Commonwealth Government, and Other Income.

Other Income has increased from 2010/11 mainly due to the first full year of additional fees recovered from commercial fishers specifically for current industry-funded Fisheries Adjustment Schemes. These fees recoup the annual financing costs paid by the Department on industry's behalf.

Figure 5. Income Sources – five-year trend

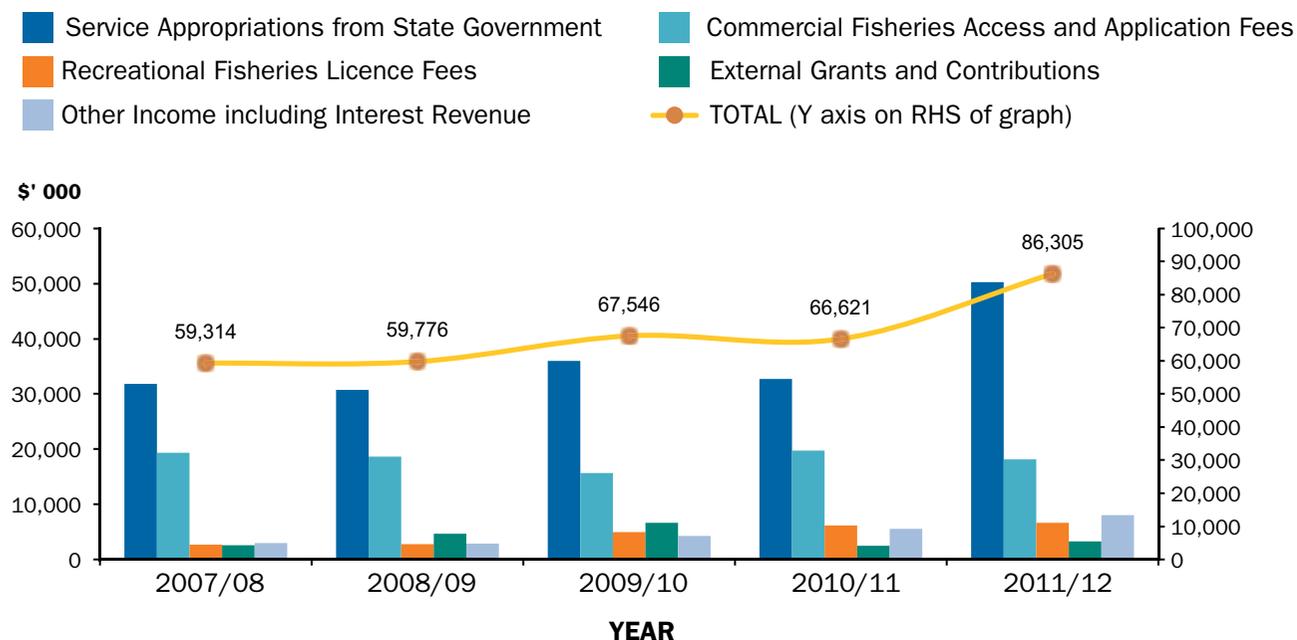


Table 4.

Income Sources - five-year trend	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Service Appropriations from State Government	31,812	30,770	36,029	32,676	50,280
Commercial Fisheries Access and Application Fees	19,289	18,687	15,662	19,769	18,158
Recreational Fisheries Licence Fees	2,680	2,746	4,986	6,123	6,610
External Grants and Contributions	2,601	4,681	6,633	2,490	3,261
Other Income including Interest Revenue	2,932	2,892	4,236	5,563	7,996
TOTAL (Y axis on RHS of graph)	59,314	59,776	67,546	66,621	86,305



User Fees and Charges

The decrease in Commercial Fisheries Access Fees from 2010/11 to 2011/12 is reflected in the variability in Gross Value of Production (GVP) and commercial fisheries catch figures from one year to the next, which determines the amount of access fees recovered from commercial fisheries.

The increased number of recreational fishing from Boat Licences issued has increased revenue from the recreational fishing sector in 2011/12 compared to 2010/11. Part of the increase in revenue will fund new recreational fishing initiatives.

Figure 6. User Fees and Charges

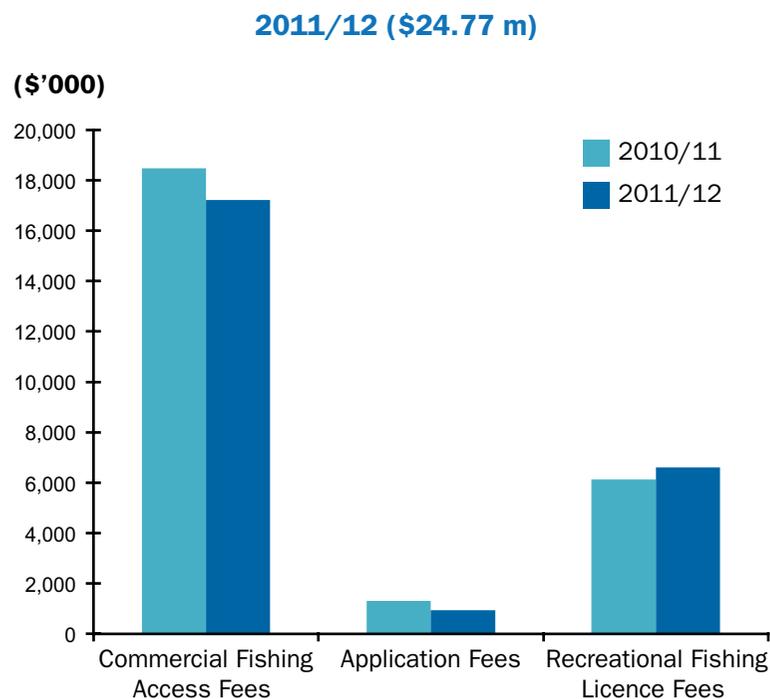


Table 5.

User Fees and Charges	2010/11	2011/12
	\$'000	\$'000
Commercial Fishing Access Fees	18,466	17,223
Application Fees	1,303	935
Recreational Fishing Licence Fees	6,123	6,610
TOTAL	25,892	24,768



Recurrent Expenditure – five-year trend

Figure 7 presents an overview of the day-to-day activity (recurrent) expenditure over the last five financial years highlighting that expenditure has increased across most expenditure categories since 2007/08.

Figure 7. Recurrent Expenditure – five-year trend

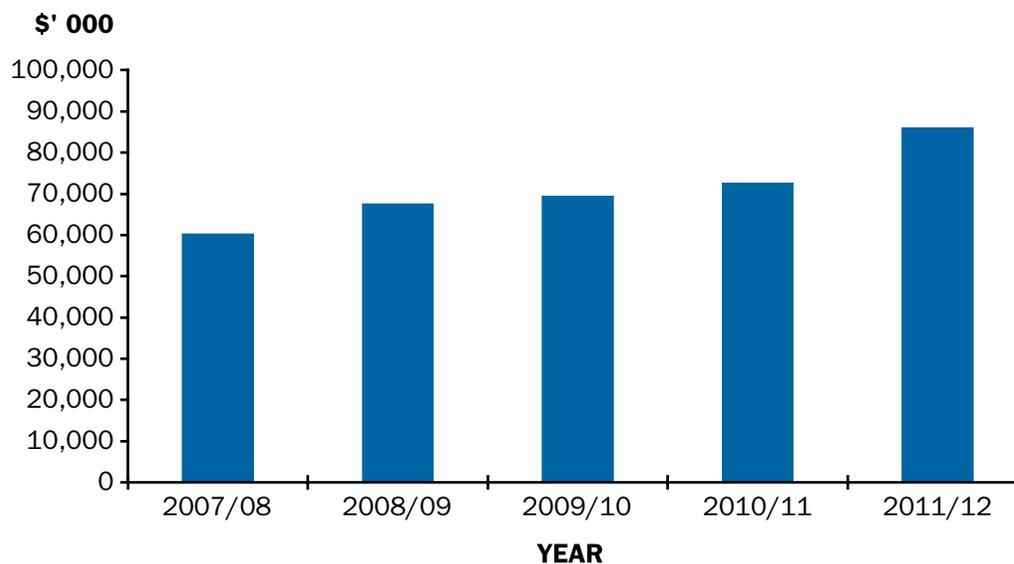


Table 6.

Expenditure Categories	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Employee Benefit Expenses	31,578	36,071	38,027	40,516	45,925
Supplies and Services	17,216	17,378	17,750	23,192	29,179
Depreciation and Amortisation	3,211	4,356	3,262	3,790	3,756
Finance Costs	76	59	140	1,068	2,405
Accommodation Expenses	1,867	1,996	2,092	2,071	2,571
Grants and Subsidies	3,752	4,172	5,099	1,636	935
FAS Buybacks	1,491	3,176	2,566	170	464
Other Expenses	1,209	464	639	263	863
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	60,400	67,672	69,575	72,706	86,098



Departmental Services – Total Cost of Services

The Department has four services:

- Fisheries Management;
- Compliance and Education;
- Research and Monitoring; and
- Marine Safety

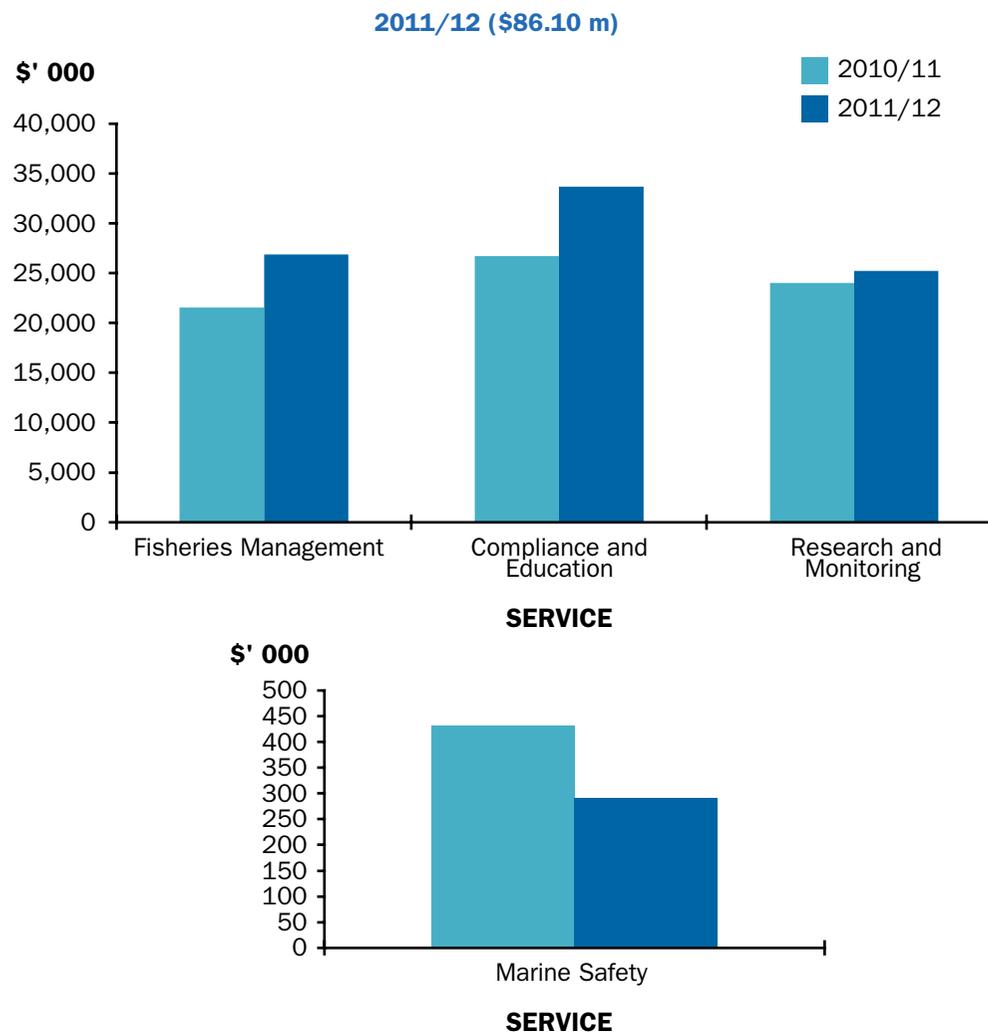
Figure 8 shows how much was expended on each service in 2011/12, against comparative figures for the 2010/11 financial year.

The increase in the total cost of service for Fisheries Management and Compliance and Education services from 2010/11 to 2011/12 has been significantly impacted by major policy decisions such as new marine park management arrangements, biosecurity and growth in costs to meet increased demand for services.

Table 7.

Services – Total Cost of Service	2010/11	2011/12
	\$'000	\$'000
Fisheries Management	21,530	26,897
Compliance and Education	26,704	33,695
Research and Monitoring	24,040	25,214
Marine Safety	432	292
TOTAL COST OF SERVICES	72,706	86,098

Figure 8. Departmental Services – Total Cost of Services





Capital Expenditure by program – five-year trend

Figure 9 shows Department capital expenditure by program over the last five years.

The increase in capital expenditure from 2010/11 is mainly due to expenditure on the following capital projects in 2011/12:

- entitlement Management System (Fish Eye) – development to implementation phase;
- new office in Denham – opened in March 2012; and
- replacement of several patrol vessels.

Figure 9. Capital Expenditure by program – five-year trend

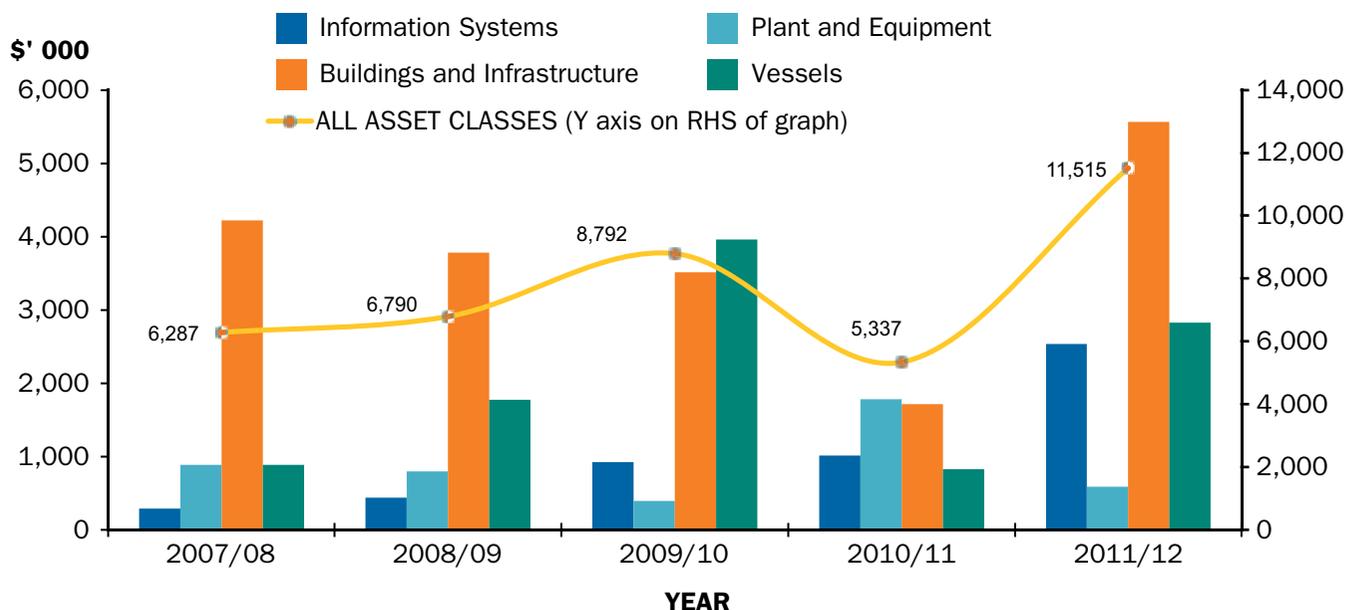


Table 8.

Capital Expenditure Programs	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Information Systems	291	436	926	1,010	2,539
Plant and Equipment	885	798	393	1,784	586
Buildings and Infrastructure	4,223	3,782	3,510	1,716	5,566
Vessels	888	1,774	3,963	827	2,824
ALL ASSET CLASSES (Y axis on RHS of graph)	6,287	6,790	8,792	5,337	11,515



Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position shows what the Department owns (assets) as well as owes (liabilities).

This is useful in assessing and analysing how good the Department is at managing its resources.

Financial Position – five-year trend

Figure 10 shows the value of the assets and liabilities, and net assets of the Department over the last five financial years.

The net assets of the Department is the difference between total assets and total liabilities, and represents the residual interest in the assets after deducting the probable call on these resources, represented by liabilities.

Under the *Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1997* the Department has the capacity to reduce effort in a fishery by acquiring commercial fishing authorisations. The Act allows the Department to borrow money from the Western Australian Treasury Corporation to purchase the authorisations. The fishers remaining in the relevant fisheries are required to pay additional fees to recover the borrowings incurred by the Department. Under this scheme, outstanding amounts owing from fishers as at 30 June of the financial year are recognised as Amounts Receivable.

The borrowings relating to these schemes and the recognition of associated amounts receivable has impacted both assets and liabilities at 30 June 2012.

Figure 10. Financial Position – five-year trend

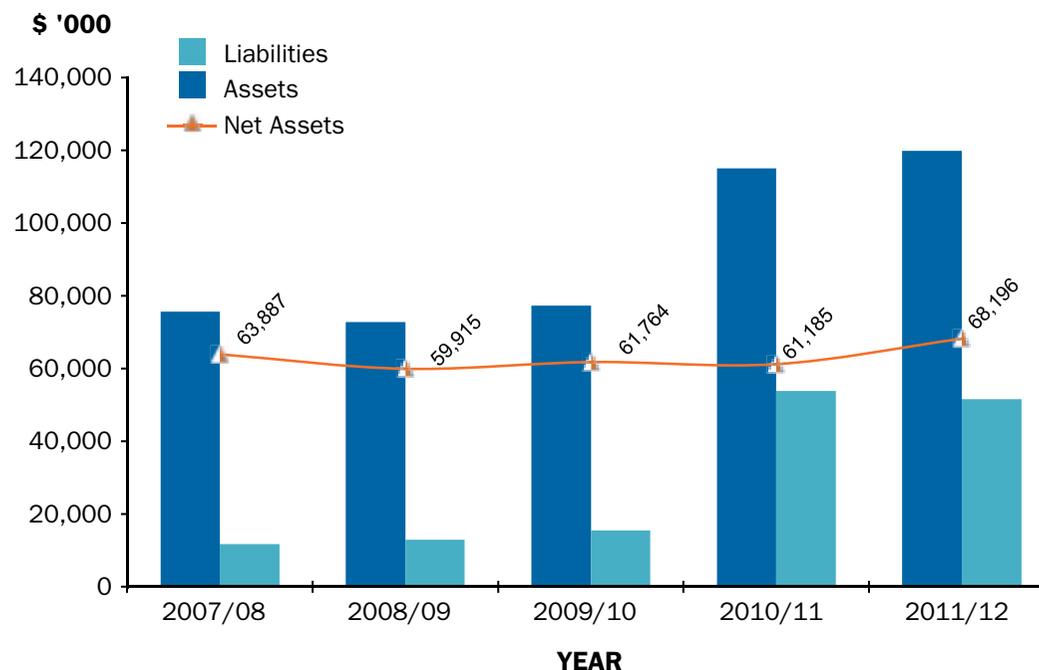


Table 9.

Financial Position	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Assets	75,566	72,768	77,277	115,023	119,767
Liabilities	11,679	12,853	15,513	53,838	51,571
NET ASSETS	63,887	59,915	61,764	61,185	68,196



Asset Categories as at 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012

The Department's assets as at 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012 are listed in Table 10.

Figure 11. Asset Categories as at 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012

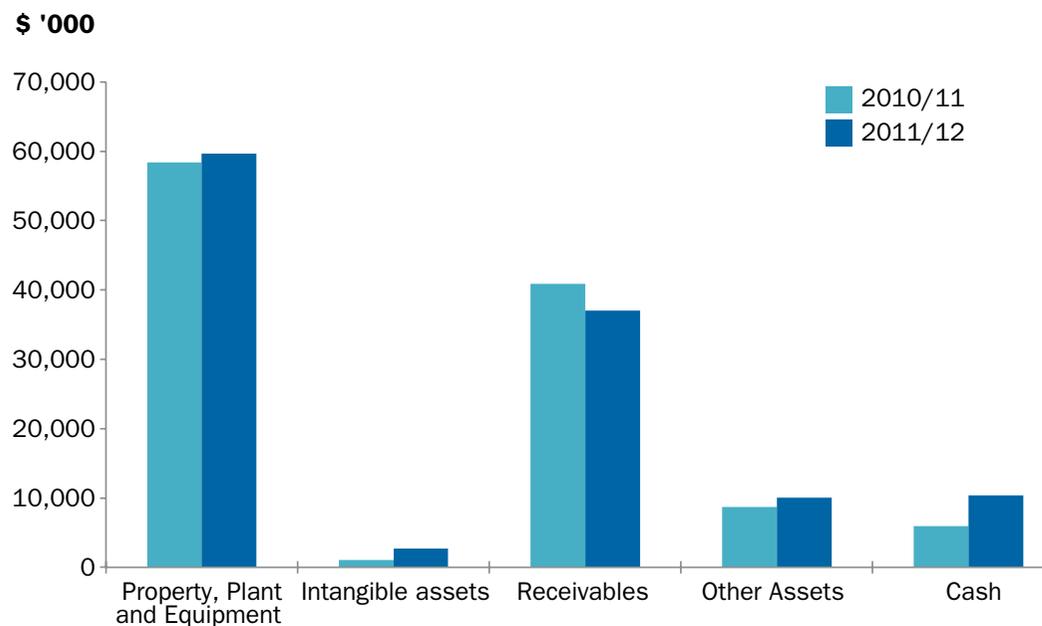


Table 10.

Asset Categories	2010/11	2011/12	2011/12
	\$'000	\$'000	%
Property, Plant and Equipment	58,399	59,680	50%
Intangible assets	1,053	2,672	2%
Receivables	40,872	37,000	31%
Other Assets	8,737	10,067	8%
Cash	5,962	10,348	9%
TOTAL ASSETS	115,023	119,767	100%



Liability Categories as at 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012

The liabilities of the Department are mainly employee entitlements and borrowings under the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme. This is shown in Figure 12.

The amount 'owed' under Borrowings as at 30 June 2011 has been reduced by fees received from industry in 2011/12 and will continue to decrease in the out-years with the final instalments due in 2018/19.

Figure 12. Liability Categories as at 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012

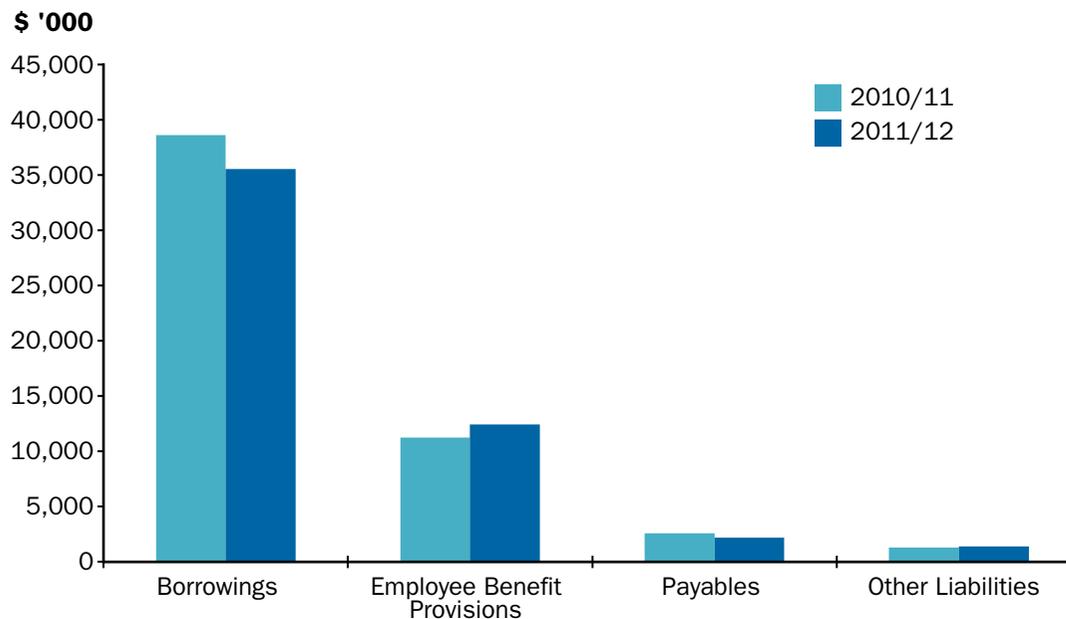


Table 11.

Liability Categories	2010/11	2011/12	2011/12
	\$'000	\$'000	%
Borrowings	38,647	35,535	69%
Employee Benefit Provisions	11,274	12,423	24%
Payables	2,607	2,211	4%
Other Liabilities	1,310	1,402	3%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	53,838	51,571	100%



Trust Accounts as at 30 June 2012

Figure 13 shows what trust accounts make up the amounts showing as cash assets at 30 June 2012.

Figure 13. Trust Accounts as at 30 June 2012

As at 30 June 2012 (\$10.35 Million)

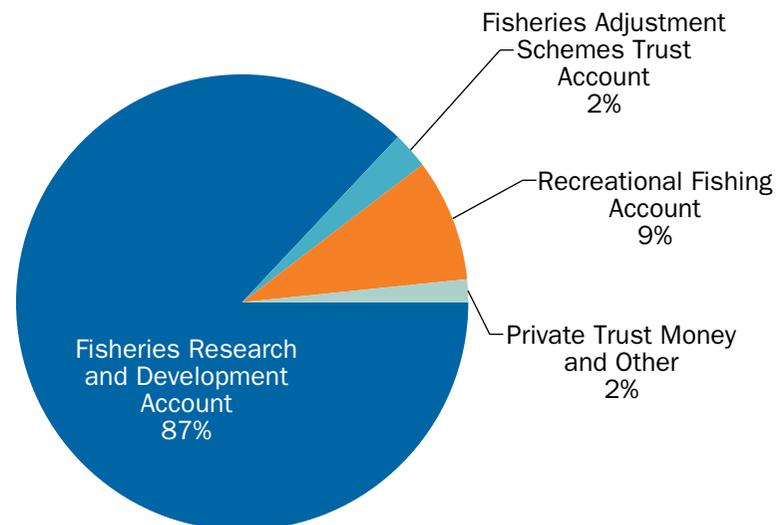


Table 12.

Trust Accounts	2011/12	2011/12
	\$'000	%
Fisheries Research and Development Account	9,012	87%
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account	268	2%
Recreational Fishing Account	901	9%
Private Trust Money and Other	167	2%
TOTAL	10,348	100%



Fish pies (and other graphs)

The following is a snapshot of fisheries management and operations carried out by the Department of Fisheries, represented graphically using pie charts and other graphs.

Values of the State's major fisheries and aquaculture

Figure 14. Managed Fisheries by Gross Value Product (\$'000) in 2010/11

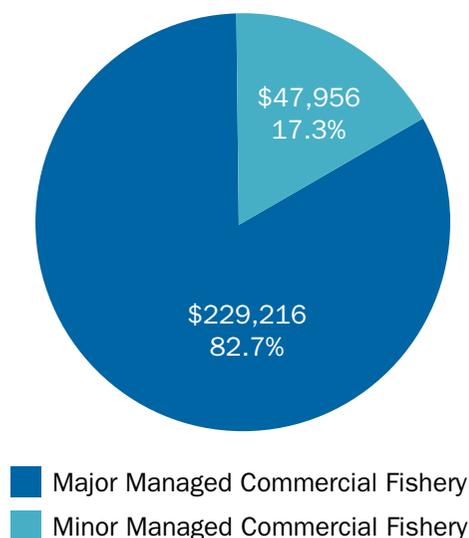


Figure 15. Major Commercial Fisheries by Gross Value Product (\$'000) in 2010/11

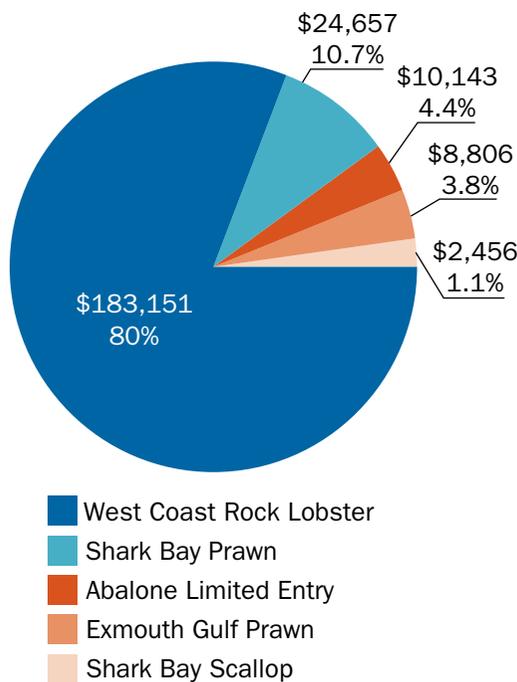


Figure 16. Minor Commercial Fisheries by Gross Value Product (\$'000) in 2010/11

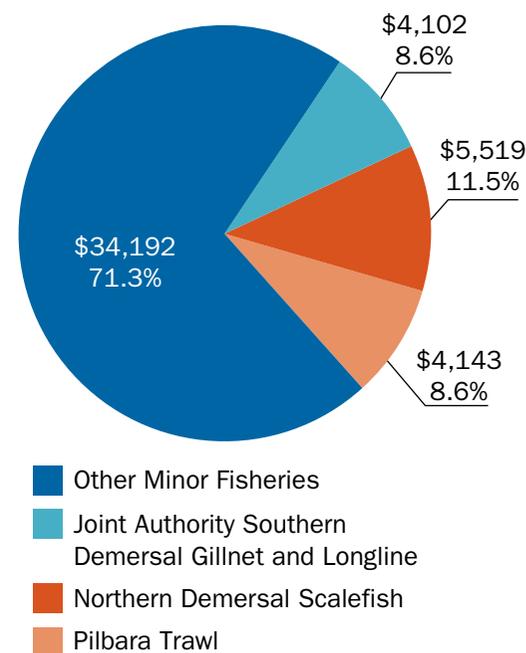
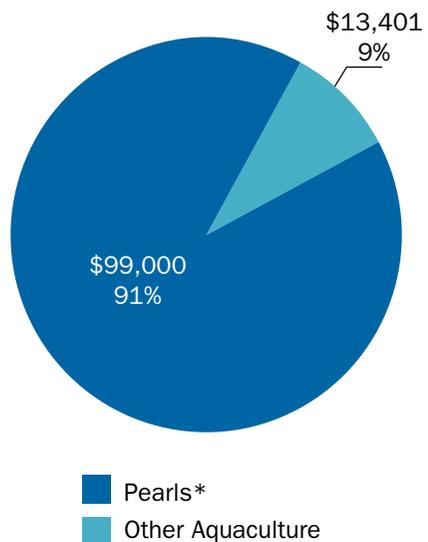


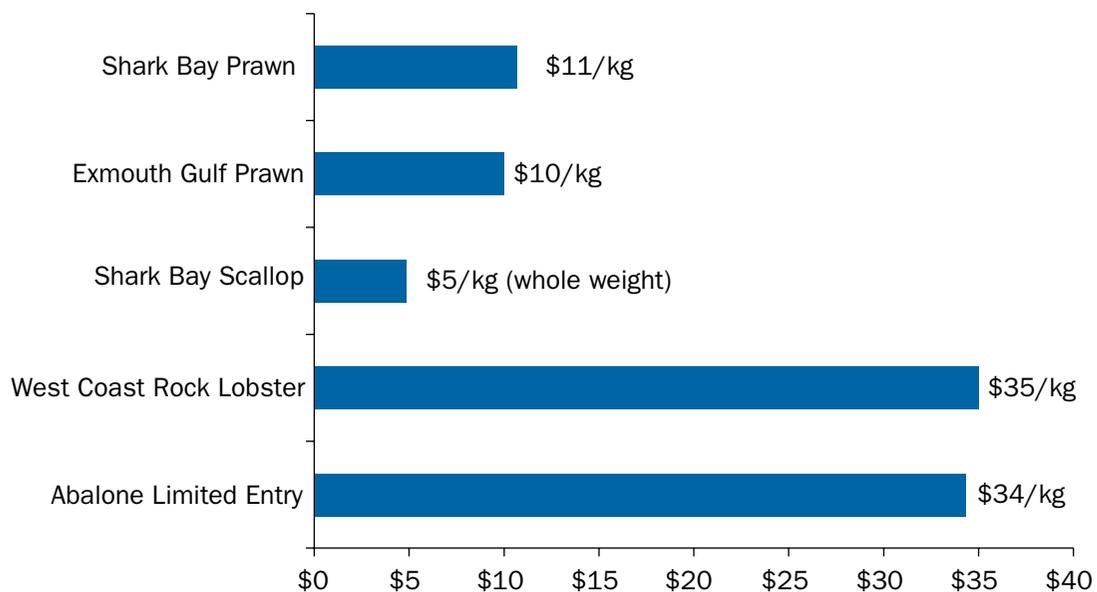


Figure 17. Aquaculture and Pearling by Gross Value Product (\$'000) in 2010/11



*Pearls and pearl-related products
(meat and mother of pearl)

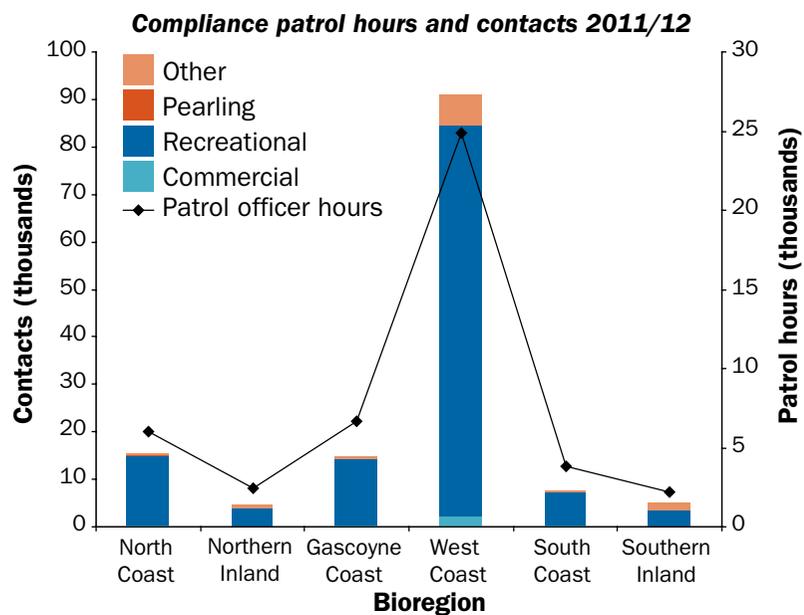
Figure 18. Major Commercial Fisheries – Average Gross Value Product (\$) of catch in 2010/11





Summary of compliance and educative contacts within the fisheries bioregions during the 2011/12 financial year

Figure 19. Number of contacts (in thousands) by the Department's Fisheries and Marine Officers in each fisheries bioregion (shown using bars) and number of patrol hours (in thousands) recorded (shown using a line).



Note: Fisheries and Marine Officers make contact with fishers in the field; these may be formal compliance inspections or more informal conversations about fishing rules or conditions. Both types of contact are aggregated together in these figures. A single contact represents a single fishing operation on a particular occasion. In recreational fisheries, an individual person involved in fishing is one contact, while in commercial fisheries the licensed fishing operation (usually based on a fishing boat) is one contact. A fishing operation may sometimes be contacted twice on the same day (e.g. in different locations, or by a different officer), in which case this contact is counted twice.

Key compliance statistics - 2011/12

Figure 20. Number of offences in each bioregion (shown using bars) and number of patrol hours (in thousands) recorded (shown using a line)

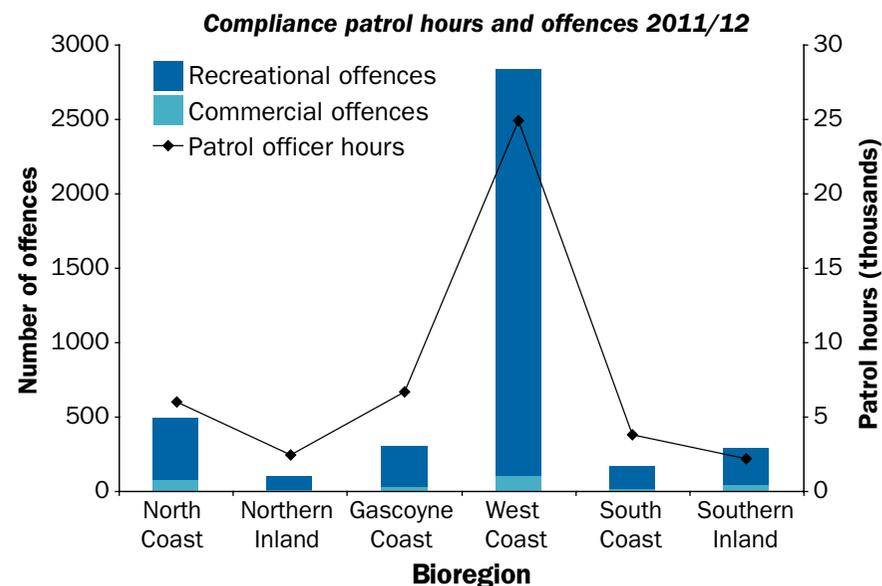




Figure 21. Number of offences in each bioregion (shown using bars) and number of contacts (in thousands) recorded (shown using a line)

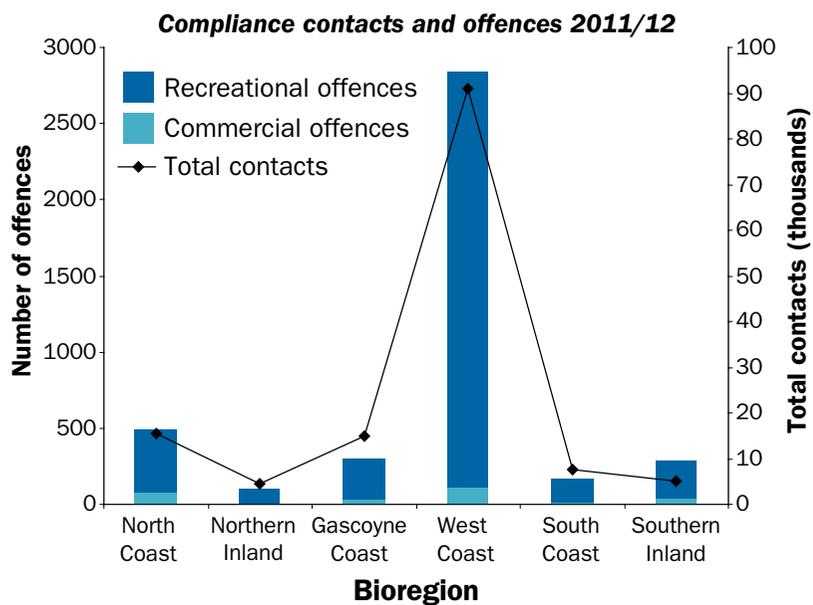


Figure 22. Number of contacts across all bioregions 2011/12

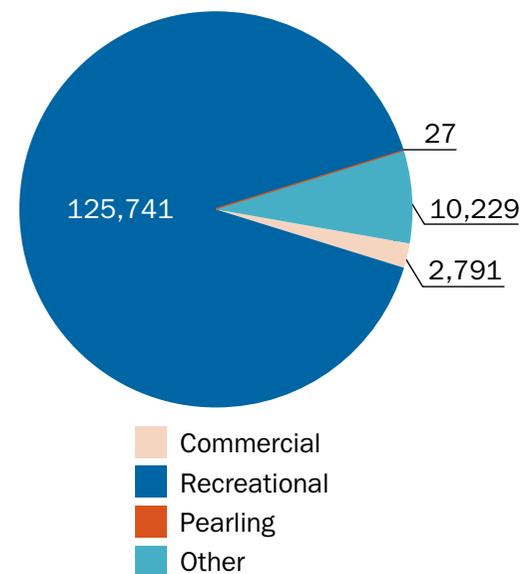




Figure 23. Number of recreational contacts by bioregion 2011/12

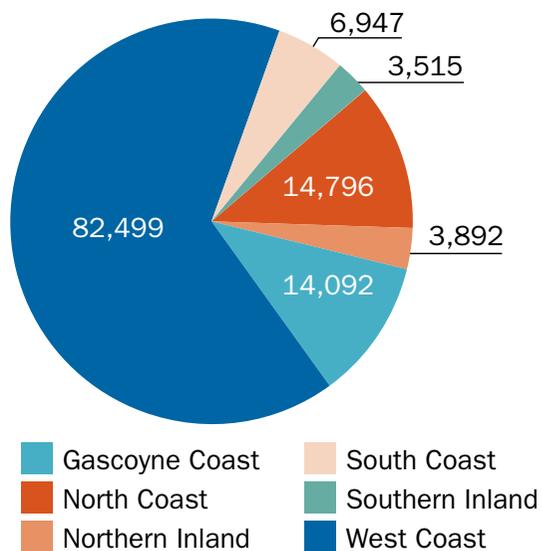


Figure 24. Number of commercial contacts by bioregion 2011/12

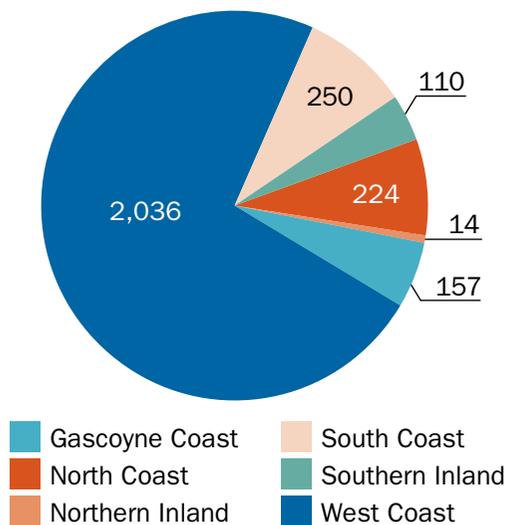
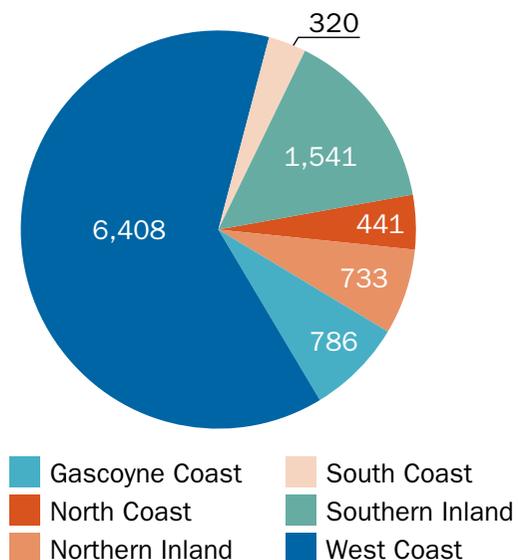




Figure 25. Number of other contacts by bioregion 2011/12



Note: Contact numbers include those made by the Department's three large patrol vessels. Contacts from *PV Hamelin* and *PV Houtman* are included in the totals for the West Coast Bioregion, those from *PV Walcott* in the North Coast Bioregion.

Key compliance statistics - 2009/10 to 2011/12

Table 13.

Sector	Offence type	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Commercial	Brief	80	157	125
	Infringement	81	64	62
	Warning	173	71	90
	Letter of warning	1	6	10
Recreational	Brief	278	418	381
	Infringement	856	1435	1550
	Warning	1526	1872	1976
Other	Brief	1	1	1
	Infringement	1	4	4
	Warning	16	4	5
Total		3013	4032	4204

Note: The numbers above represent a snapshot of offence data for the three financial years when the data was extracted. Subsequent court processes can affect un-finalised matters, resulting in slight changes to these numbers. Prosecutions are counted as the number of charges laid, rather than the number of offenders.



Figure 26. Commercial compliance breaches

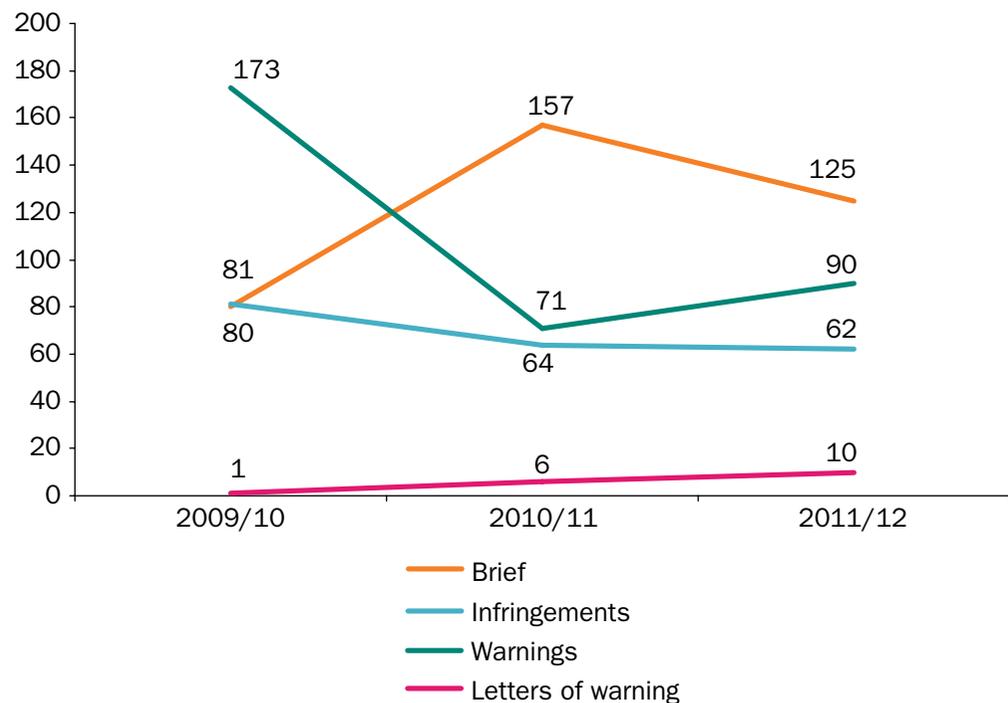
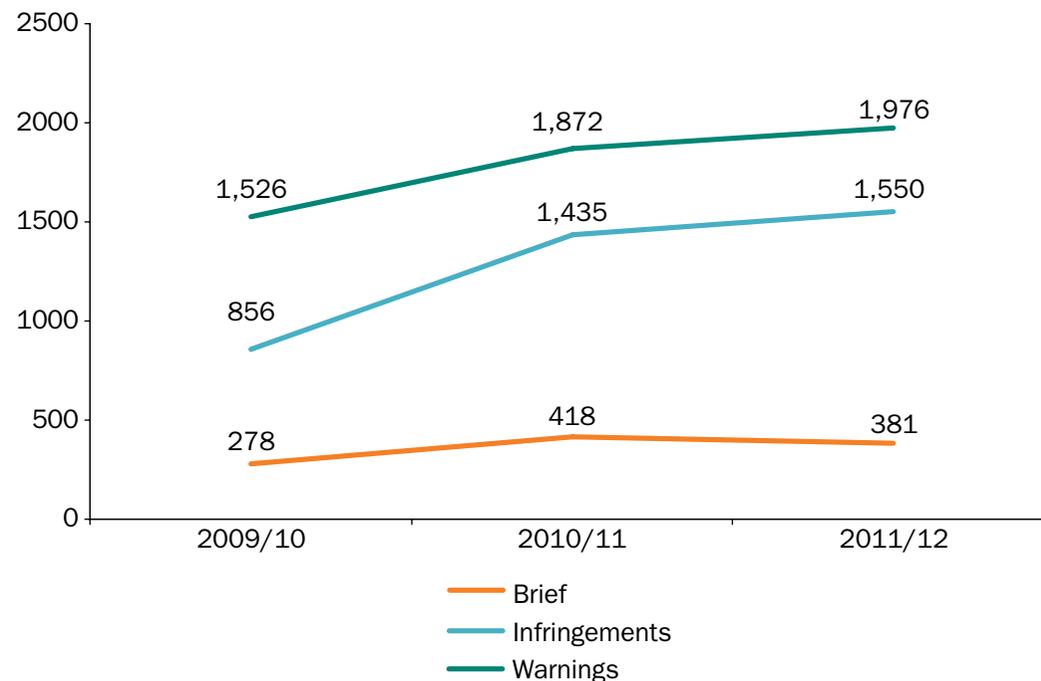


Figure 27. Recreational compliance breaches



Key licensing statistics

Table 14.

Recreational licence renewal modes	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Department of Fisheries Offices	24,541	22,866	22,801
Australia Post Outlets	49,097	51,758	52,296
Online via the Department's website	45,269	61,454	74,825



Profile of the Department of Fisheries

Vision: World-class management of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

Mission: To conserve, sustainably develop and share the use of the State's aquatic resources and their ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations.

Our message to the community: Fish for the future.

The Department of Fisheries manages the marine and freshwater fisheries and ecosystems within the limits of the State. By agreement with the Commonwealth, the Department has unique management responsibilities within Australian waters out to 200 nautical miles from the Western Australian coast. This allows for management on a spatial scale that is appropriate to the sustainable management and protection of the State's fish resources and their environment.

The principles of ecologically sustainable development, as contained in the objects of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, guide the Department in its operations. These objects involve managing human impacts on both target and bycatch fish species and their habitats, and assessing and limiting any potential



indirect impacts of fishing and aquaculture activities on the broader ecosystem. They also include managing social and economic effects of fishing and aquaculture activity.

The Department works in the current context of limited fish



and environmental resources, and a growing human 'footprint' on the aquatic environment. Factors with increasing influence include a growing population, developing coastal infrastructure, industrial development, rapidly advancing 'fish-finding' technology and climate change.

As a result of the Department's activities, around 80 per cent of WA's marine waters are protected through fishing closures or controls on fishing methods that can have a direct impact on marine habitats (for example, trawling) and are totally closed to highly destructive fishing methods (for example, dredging and explosives). The Department ensures compliance with fishing rules and controls through an active community education and enforcement program.

The Department's services are delivered in a context of increasing aquatic management accountability. This includes accountability to the Commonwealth Government through reporting requirements established under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The Department values consultation with stakeholders and works with partners to develop management practices able to stand up to domestic, national and international scrutiny.

In this report to the Parliament and the community, the Department presents its summary of operations and outcomes during the 2011/12 financial year, based around the State Government's Annual Reporting Framework.

Legislation administered

The Department assists the Minister for Fisheries in the administration of the following Acts:

- *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*;
- *Pearling Act 1990*;
- *Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987*;
- *Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997*; and
- *Fishing Industry Promotion Training and Management Levy Act 1994*.

The Department is also responsible for the management of fishing (and related activities) in marine protected areas established under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, and provides at-sea marine safety compliance services on behalf of the Department of Transport under the *Western Australian Marine Act 1982*.

By arrangement with the Commonwealth, the Department manages a number of fisheries operating in waters adjacent to the Western Australian coast out to 200 nautical miles.

The Department also provides fisheries management and education services in the territorial waters around the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island, on behalf of the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department. This is in accordance with a Service Delivery Arrangement made under the Commonwealth's *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (WA) (Cocos Keeling Islands)* or the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (WA) (Christmas Island)*.



Fisheries in Western Australia that fall under State or joint State/Commonwealth jurisdiction under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement Agreement are listed below.

Fisheries under Western Australia State Jurisdiction

Except where specifically noted, fisheries involving the following species are managed by the Department of Fisheries, in accordance with State law:

- all bony fish and shark (except to the extent they are managed under a Joint Authority or by the Commonwealth);
- all aquatic invertebrates;
- all marine algae; and
- all seagrasses.

This means all commercial fisheries listed in the '**Stock status and catch ranges for major commercial fisheries**' table detailed earlier in this report.

The Department also manages recreational and customary fishing activities, pearling and aquaculture operations, the fish processing industry sector, the fishing charter boat and aquatic eco-tour industries, Fish Habitat Protection Areas and the Abrolhos Islands.

With the exception of pearling, the above activities are managed in accordance with the provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*. The pearling industry is managed under the *Pearling Act 1990*.

Operators in commercial fisheries, the pearling industry, the charter boat and aquatic eco-tour industries and the fish processing sector are licensed by the Department.

Recreational fishers are required to hold licences when fishing for western rock lobster, abalone, marron, inland freshwater species, when fishing from a powered boat or when fishing with a net.

Aboriginal people fishing in accordance with continuing Aboriginal tradition and custom are not required to hold a recreational fishing licence.

Fisheries under Western Australia Joint Authority Jurisdiction

The following fisheries are controlled by the Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority (a body comprising the State and the Commonwealth) and managed in accordance with the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*:

- the Joint Authority Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery; and
- the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery, east of Koolan Island.

The activities of fisheries managed through the Joint Authority are described separately in a report tabled in the Commonwealth and Western Australian Parliaments.

Fisheries under Commonwealth Jurisdiction

Fisheries undertaken in waters adjacent to Western Australia that are controlled by the Commonwealth in accordance with Commonwealth legislation are:

- Northern Prawn Fishery;
- Southern and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery;
- Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery;



- North-West Slope Deepwater Trawl Fishery;
- Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery; and
- recreational fishing in the waters of any Commonwealth marine park.

Stakeholders

All those that have a stake in Western Australia's aquatic environment have a role to play in ensuring fish stocks and their habitats are protected, now and in the future. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate in fisheries management and consultation, in particular through peak representative bodies, the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council and Recfishwest. This is essential to balance the often competing demands on the use of the State's fish resources and their habitats.

The Department of Fisheries identifies the following groups as its stakeholders with an interest in ensuring 'fish for the future':

- the community of Western Australia;
- commercial fishers;
- recreational fishers;
- Indigenous communities;
- charter fishing and aquatic eco-tour operators;
- fish processors and others involved in the commercial use of Western Australia's aquatic resources;
- pearlers;
- aquaculturalists;



Tending to pearl oysters.

- the conservation sector;
- fisheries volunteers;
- environmental groups and passive users;
- businesses and communities directly and indirectly dependent upon fishing and aquaculture activities; and
- other state, national and international government agencies and tertiary institutions.



Currents and undercurrents – significant issues affecting the Department

During 2011/12 some significant issues had an impact on fisheries and fisheries management and are likely to have an influence in the future.

- Effective management of the State's fisheries and marine ecosystems continues to be challenged by population growth, improvements in fishing technology and industrial development. External factors, such as exchange rate fluctuations and competition from imports, have also affected some fisheries. Against this complex social and economic backdrop, the Department is working to ensure sustainability of the State's fish resources and maintenance of the healthy marine and aquatic ecosystems that support them.
- Continuing record-low puerulus settlement within the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery is driving the Department's management priorities. A total allowable commercial catch (TACC) was set at a level designed to increase the abundance of breeding stock in the fishery, and strict catch limits were imposed on each licensee.
- A 'marine heatwave', in which water temperatures reached up to four degrees above average, affected the West Coast and Gascoyne regions of the WA coast in early 2011. Combined with floods in Shark Bay at the same time, this had serious impacts on the marine populations targeted by commercial and recreational fisheries in 2011/12. The major effects were on abalone near Kalbarri and scallops and blue swimmer crabs in Shark Bay. This resulted in management action to ensure the ongoing sustainability of these stocks.
- Obtaining the required knowledge and sound science to support decision making and achieve ecologically sustainable fisheries management remains a challenge for the Department. Effective co-ordination of the State's marine research efforts is needed to ensure that research activities are prioritised and funded according to risk levels and community needs.
- While the harvest from most wild-capture fisheries worldwide is declining, aquaculture industries have the potential to significantly increase fish production as the demand for high-



quality seafood grows. The Department is working with the aquaculture sector to identify suitable sites and species for these industries.

- Difficult economic conditions, including increased costs of fuel and a high Australian dollar, are affecting export markets and the profitability of fishing operations. The Department and the fishing industry are working on strategies to improve the sustainability of fishing operations.
- The increasing cost of the Department's responsibilities to manage fisheries and the marine environment sustainably, overlaid by the growing cost of marine park management, require the development of more cost-effective, integrated, risk-based management solutions.
- Commonwealth Government proposals to establish large-scale marine parks in Commonwealth waters (beyond three nautical miles offshore) and a lack of compensation measures in relation to the development of marine reserves in State waters are creating uncertainty for some of the Department's stakeholders.





Operating structure

The Department of Fisheries operating structure consists of a Corporate Executive comprising the Director General and executive directors of the Department's four divisions; Aquatic Management, Fisheries Research, Regional Services and Corporate Services.

Process structure

The Department deals with a variety of complex issues that affect the management of the State's sustainable fish resources. This is done through a number of integrated processes to improve planning, priority setting and project management across all four divisions of our key service areas.

Most of the Department's communications and interaction with the public is through our staff and volunteers, supported by a variety of publications, media releases, educational programs, and online presence.

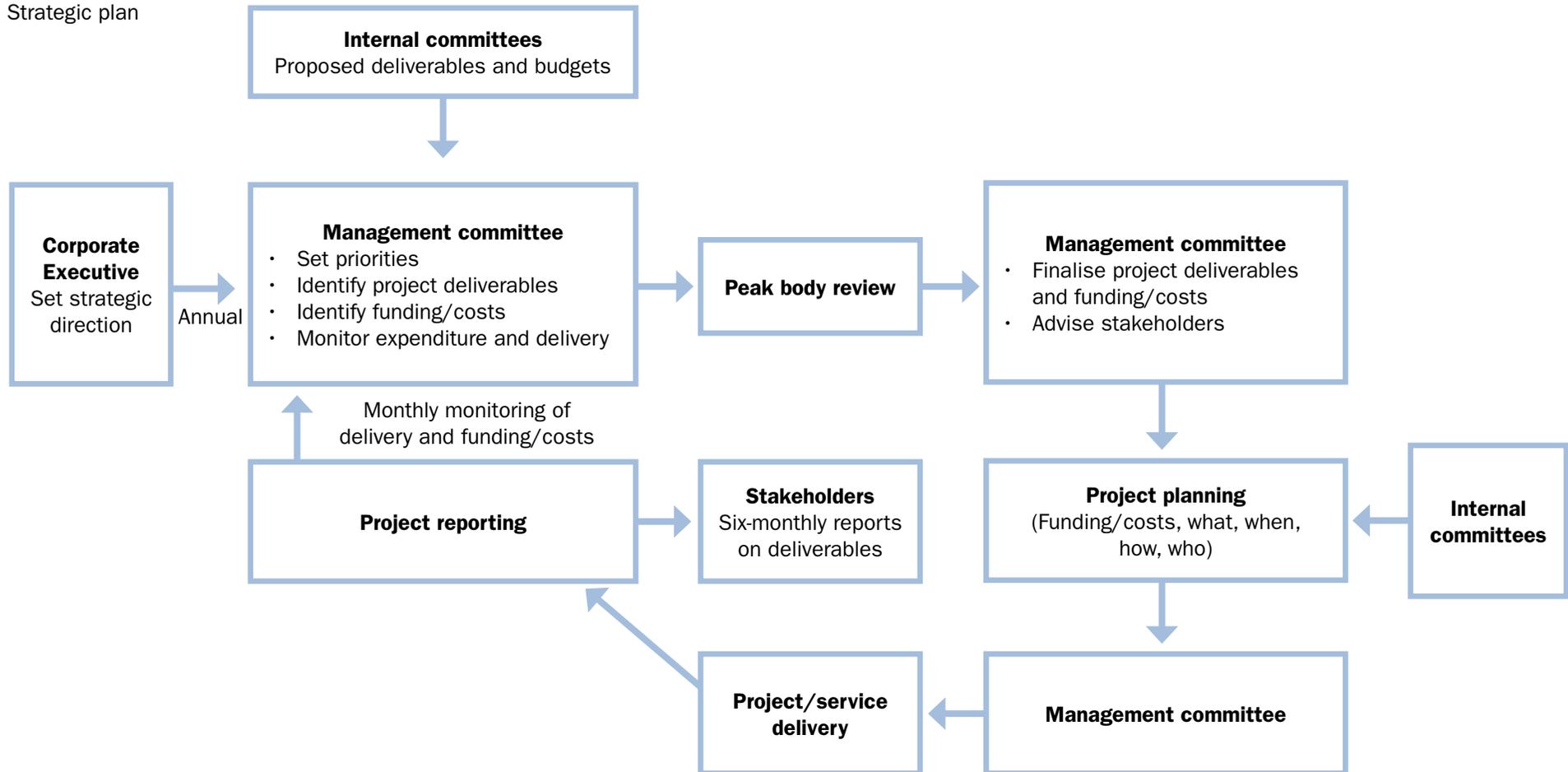




Figure 28. Process structure within the Department

Governing factors

- Minister/Government priorities
- Aquatic Advisory Committee
- Risk register
- Stakeholder priorities
- Strategic plan





Corporate Executive

The Corporate Executive of the Department of Fisheries comprises the Director General, the Deputy Director General (who is also in overall charge of Aquatic Management), the Executive Director of Regional Services, the Executive Director of Fisheries Research, and the Executive Director of Corporate Services.



Stuart Smith, BEc, Grad. Dip. Ec.
Director General*

Stuart Smith joined the Department as Chief Executive Officer on 3 November 2008. He previously held senior roles at the Department of Industry and Resources, including that of Deputy Director General, State Development and Deputy Director General, Resources Group. He also acted as Director General of the Department of Industry and Resources.

Stuart brings over 20 years of wide-ranging experience in both the State and Federal public sector to the role of Director General (formerly Chief Executive Officer). He holds a Bachelor of Economics from The University of Western Australia and a Graduate Diploma in Economics from the Australian National University.

* Terms of appointment: The Director General is appointed under Part 3 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* for five years.



Heather Brayford BSc, MBA, GAICD
Deputy Director General

Heather Brayford was appointed Director, Aquatic Management in 2009 and became Deputy Director General in 2011. Her position includes responsibility for fisheries management programs, broader environmental management programs, aquaculture and the provision of legal, legislative drafting and governance services.

Heather has almost 25 years experience in fisheries management, having held a number of senior policy and management positions in the Department. She was also Executive Director of Fisheries in the Northern Territory.



Dr Rick Fletcher, BSc (Hons), PhD
Executive Director, Fisheries Research

Dr Rick Fletcher was appointed as Director, Fisheries Research in 2006. This position is responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the Department's research group, which provides the information that underpins the Department's successful natural resource management programs.

Rick has over 25 years experience conducting and managing research on fisheries and aquaculture-related issues across four jurisdictions in Australia and the South Pacific, including being Director of Research of Fisheries in NSW. His recent research focus has been in the development of ecosystem-based management frameworks for marine and coastal systems, for which he is the leader of a number of State, national and international initiatives.



Bruno Mezzatesta, BBus MBA FCPA
Executive Director, Regional Services

Bruno Mezzatesta is responsible for the Department's Regional Services Division which includes community education and compliance, licensing, and communications. Before this role, Bruno was the Director of the Department's Corporate Services Division. He has more than 25 years

experience in the public sector, including periods with the Office of the Auditor General and the Department of Treasury and Finance.



Mick Connolly*, BSc, BBus ASA
Executive Director, Corporate Services

Mick was appointed to the position of Director, Corporate Services in March 2011 and is responsible for the operations of the Corporate Services Division, comprising financial services and infrastructure development, human resources, and information management.

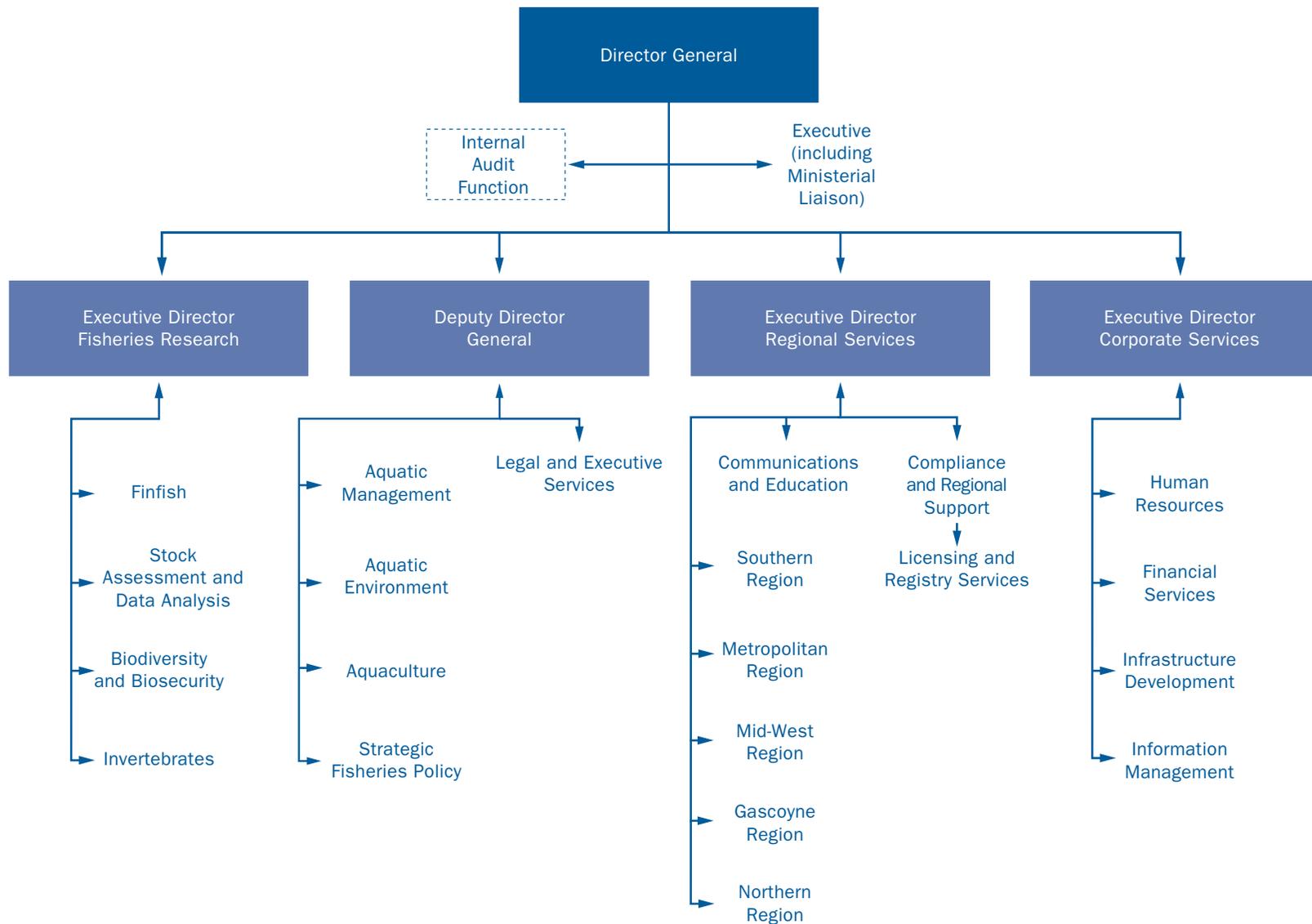
Mick is also the senior officer responsible for the development and delivery of the new Fish Eye entitlement management system which will modernise the administration and management of fisheries in Western Australia.

Mick has 29 years of experience in the public sector, including 20 years in various regulatory roles within the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor.

*Mick Connolly left the Department of Fisheries in June 2012.



Figure 29. Department functional structure chart as at 30 June 2012





Governance structure

The governance structure of the Department of Fisheries covers the set of bodies that affect the way it is directed, administered and controlled.

Corporate Executive

The Corporate Executive is responsible for establishing the strategic directions of the Department. It considers a range of information in establishing strategic priorities, including risk information derived from the Department's risk register of ecological and organisational assets, stakeholder priorities and government policy. This direction is reflected in the Department's [strategic plan](#).

Management committee

The management committee is responsible for setting the work of the Department to ensure optimum delivery against identified aquatic management priorities within a five-year plan. Its role includes taking a strategic and risk-based approach to establishing priorities; setting clear achievements and associated budgets; co-ordinating project planning, management, monitoring and reporting processes; and ensuring accountability for effective and efficient service delivery across the organisation.

The management committee includes the Department's four executive directors, the director of the Aquatic Management division and two external members to provide independent governance and fisheries expertise from outside Western Australia.

Internal Audit Committee

The Internal Audit Committee (IAC) maintains and manages the Department's internal audit function on behalf of the Director General. The committee assists the Director General to identify and quantify risks which have the potential to impede the Department in achieving its goals, and to guide the development and implementation of risk-mitigation strategies.

Aquatic Advisory Committee

The Aquatic Advisory Committee provides strategic advice on issues relating to the management of fisheries and aquatic resources as requested by the Minister or the Director General.

Public consultation

The Department is committed to continuing consultation with stakeholders and to ensure efficient and effective decision-making processes are maintained. It supports the initiative of the State



Government's *WA Citizenship Strategy 2004–2009* and uses the guidelines in the *Consulting Citizens: Planning for Success* and *Consulting Citizens: Engaging with Aboriginal Western Australians* to plan specific consultation programs.

Operations

The Department operates from its head office in the Perth central business district and in other metropolitan and regional areas as follows:

- The Fisheries Research Division is based at the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories in Hillarys, the Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre and the Aquaculture and Native Fish Breeding Laboratory (located at the University of Western Australia's Shenton Park Field Centre).
- The Department's Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre is at Hillarys, as is the Department's Communications and Education Branch. The Regional Services Branch also maintains a compliance presence at this location.
- The Marine Operations Centre and the Metropolitan Regional Office operate from premises in Capo D'Orlando Drive in Fremantle.
- The Regional Services Division has five regional offices in Broome, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Fremantle and Albany, and 12 district offices located throughout the State. The Department operates the Saville Kent Centre, a field station on Rat Island, at the hub of the Abrolhos Islands. The Abrolhos Islands Research Institute is located at Separation Point in Geraldton.

- The Watermans Bay Marine Centre is being refurbished as part of a collaboration between the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the CSIRO, the Oceans Institute at The University of Western Australia and the Department of Fisheries. It will open in mid-2013 as part of the [Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre](#). The centre will bring together over 240 researchers carrying out projects across a broad range of marine-related subjects including oceanography, fisheries and marine ecology, technologies, engineering and law.



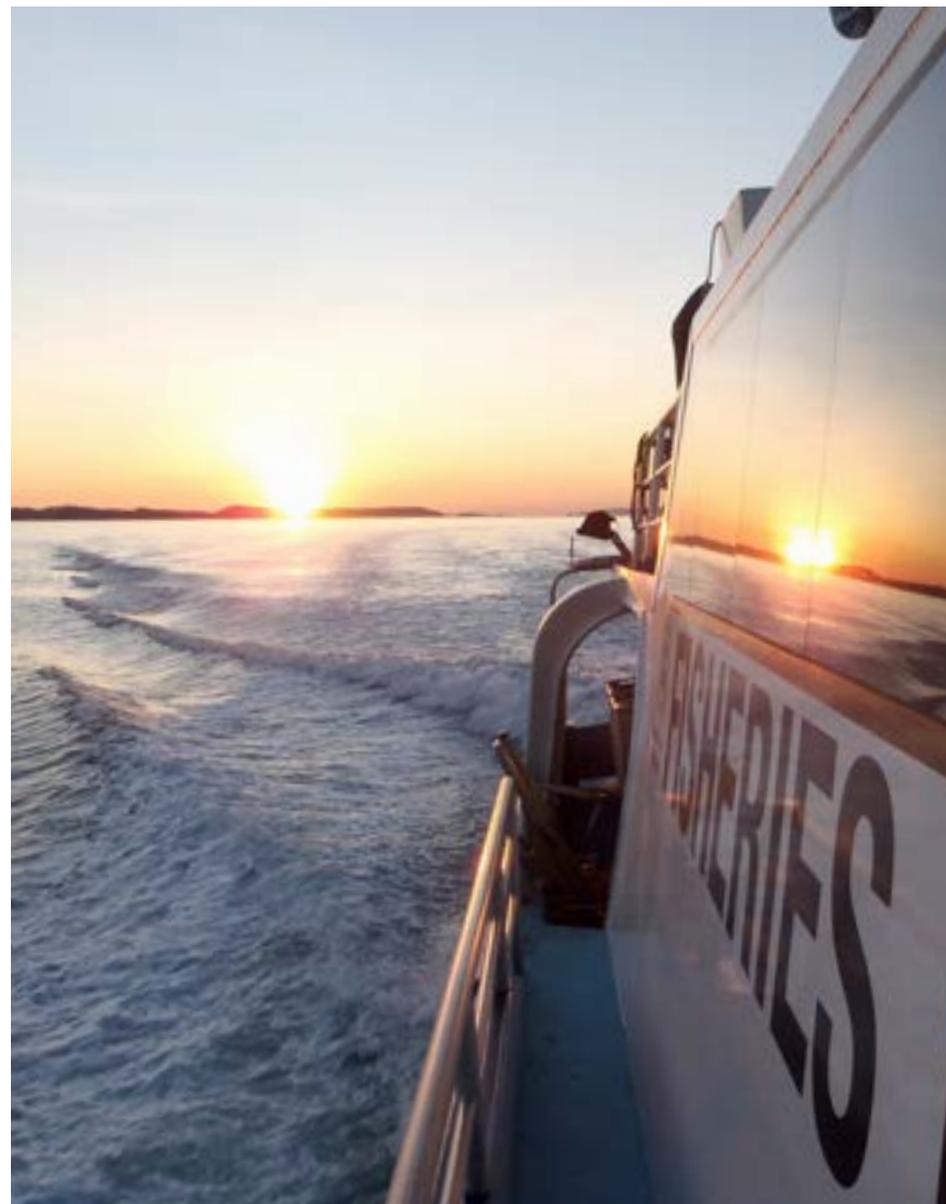
The Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre.



Strategic Plan

The Department of Fisheries Strategic Plan 2009 – 2018 sets the high-level strategic direction for the Department as it works to ensure the continuing sustainability of the State's fish resources and aquatic environment. It reflects the challenges the organisation faces and the commitment to ensuring the capability, systems and processes are in place to achieve the vision of world-class management of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems by focusing on following strategic objectives.

- **Sustainability and development** – to ensure WA's fish stocks and aquatic ecosystems are sustainable; to deliver services on behalf of government in accordance with the Department's statutory requirements; and to provide services based on careful risk assessment to ensure fish for the future and the protection of marine ecosystems.
- **Quality community outcomes** – to achieve balance between ecological, economic and social considerations in the management decisions that maintain sustainable fish stocks and aquatic ecosystems.
- **Partnerships** – to promote effective strategic alliances and community stewardship.
- **Agency management** – to ensure effective and efficient use of resources in the business of the Department.





Performance Management Framework

Measurement of Department outcomes and services

The Department of Fisheries evaluates, measures and reports on the effectiveness and efficiency of its service delivery levels through key performance indicators (KPIs). The KPIs include effectiveness indicators and efficiency indicators.

Effectiveness indicators show the extent to which the Department achieved its goals of conserving and sustainably developing the State's fish resources. Efficiency indicators reveal the relationship between the service delivered and the resources used in its delivery.

Measuring the effectiveness of fisheries management presents a number of challenges to fisheries agencies worldwide; it is not possible to accurately count the number of fish in a wildstock fishery at any given time.

In WA, fisheries managers rely on complex scientific modeling and robust reporting and monitoring systems to estimate the abundance of fish. They are also used to measure the effectiveness of existing management strategies in achieving the sustainability of fish stocks and the aquatic environment. This work is published annually in the Department's [Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia](#).

The *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia* is a 'snapshot' of fisheries sustainability over the preceding twelve to eighteen months. It is used by the Department, in consultation with stakeholders, to review fisheries past management results and, together with current observations, informs decisions about the priorities for fisheries and environmental management and research in the year under review and future years.

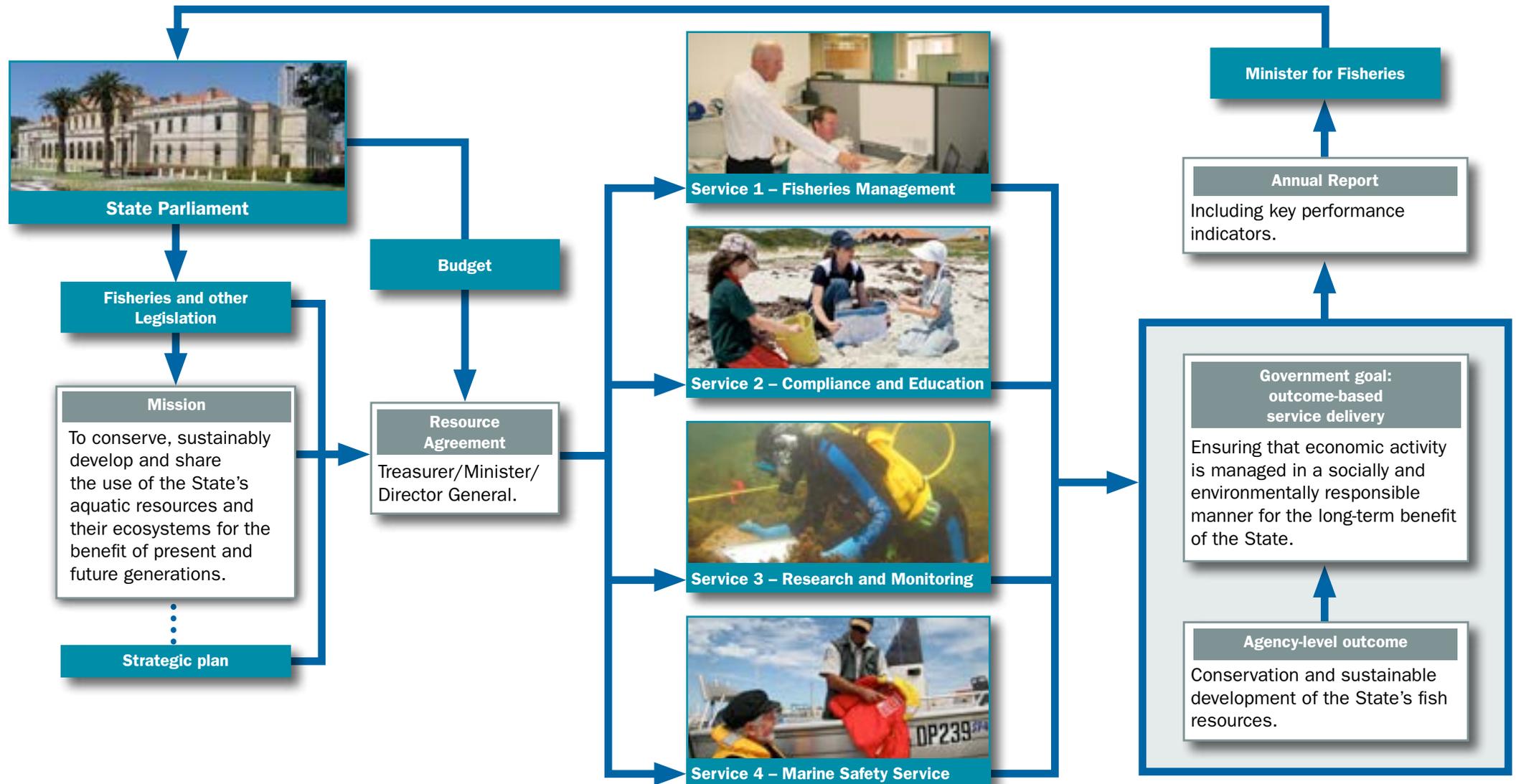
The *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia* underpins the Department's key performance indicators relating to the sustainability status of fish stocks. Along with other performance measures, this information assists Corporate Executive in measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of staff and processes in meeting the Department's strategic goals and those of government.

The *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia* is tabled in Parliament with the Department's annual report. A summary of the *Status Report's* fisheries sustainability results for 2011/12 is published in this annual report – see '[Stock status and catch ranges for major commercial fisheries](#)'.

A summary of the Department's performance against budget targets is provided in Table 17 on page 57.



Figure 30. Performance Management Framework





Alignment with Government goals

Western Australia's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems are an important natural resource managed by the Department of Fisheries on behalf of all Western Australians in accordance with the Department's governing legislation and [strategic plan](#).

The services of the Department, as described in the 2011/12 budget papers and underpinned by a Resource Agreement between the Director General and the Minister for Fisheries, are aimed at achieving the Government's goal of social and environmental responsibility ("ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State") and the Government's desired outcome for the Department ('the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources').

Contribution to Government goals

The Department works towards achieving the Government's goal of social and environmental responsibility and its desired outcome for the Department through the provision of four primary services:

Service 1 – Fisheries Management

This service provides management, policy development, licensing and legislation related to the State's commercial and recreational fisheries, pearling, aquaculture, fish processing, the charter boat industry, customary fishing and protection of aquatic ecosystems. These services are provided by the Aquatic Management Division and the Licensing and Registry Services Branch of the Regional Services Division.

Service 2 – Compliance and Education

This service provides Statewide fisheries compliance and community education, in accordance with the provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the *Pearling Act 1990*. These services are provided by the Regional Services Division.

Service 3 – Research and Monitoring

This service provides timely, quality scientific knowledge and advice to support the conservation and sustainable use of the State's fish resources and aquatic ecosystems. It is provided by the Research Division.

Service 4 – Marine Safety Service

This service provides the co-ordination of at-sea marine safety compliance services by the Department's Fisheries and Marine Officers under a service level agreement with the Department of Transport. It is provided by the Marine Operations Section of the Regional Services Division



Table 15.

Government goal Social and environmental responsibility: Ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State.			
Government's desired outcome for the Department of Fisheries: Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.	Effectiveness indicators	Services	Efficiency indicators
	The proportion of fish stocks identified as being 'at risk' or vulnerable through exploitation.	Fisheries Management	Average cost per hour of management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments).
	The proportion of fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved.	Compliance and Education	Average costs per hour of compliance and education.
	The percentage of fisheries or fished sectors where current catch shares are known and where catch share allocations are in process or in place.	Research and Monitoring	Average costs per hour of research and monitoring.
	The gross value of State fisheries' production.	Marine Safety Service	Average costs per hour for delivery of marine safety services.
The participation rate in recreational fishing.			

The Department also makes contributions to other Government goals including State Building – Major Projects; Financial and Economic Responsibility; and Stronger Focus on the Regions.

Summary of service outcomes

On the next page a summary of the Department of Fisheries service outcomes and measures for each performance indicator, showing how results for 2011/12 compare to the targets agreed with State Government. Trends over time are also shown.

Detailed commentary is provided later in the report on each of the effectiveness indicators (as a measure of performance against the Government's desired outcome) and on the efficiency indicators (which are based on the Department's four service areas).



Table 16. Summary of key performance indicators: Actual performance compared to budget targets

Government goal							
Social and environmental responsibility: ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State.							
Government's desired outcome for the Department of Fisheries							
Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.							
Key effectiveness indicators							
Status key ✓ = We are meeting our targets x = Targets are not achieved – we are taking action							
	2009	2010	2011	2012 Target	2012 Actual	Variance	Status
KPI 1.1 Proportion of fish stocks identified at being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation (%)	14	17	6	14	6	+8	✓ There are 8 fewer fisheries (than the target) at risk or vulnerable through exploitation.
KPI 1.2 The proportion of fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved (%)	96	90	94	94	100	+6	✓ All of the State's fisheries achieved acceptable catches or effort levels. This is the first time this has occurred.
KPI 1.3 The percentage of fisheries or fished sectors where current catch shares are known and where catch share allocations are in process or in place (%)	73	65	61	74	59	-15	x While our target has not been met for this year, we are on target to achieve 25% of catch sharing allocations in place or underway by 2015.
KPI 2.1 The gross value of State fisheries production (\$m)	448	400	400	370	399	+29	✓
KPI 3.1 The participation rate in recreational fisheries (%)	33	30	33	32	32	0	✓
Key efficiency indicators							
Status key ✓ = We are meeting our targets x = Targets are not achieved – we are taking action							
	2009	2010	2011	2012 Target	2012 Actual	Variance	Status
Service 1: Fisheries Management							
Average cost per hour for management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments) (\$ per hour)	112	117	152	123	167	+44	✓ This variance is as a result of non-salary costs associated with funding for biosecurity.
Service 2: Compliance and Education							
Average cost per hour of compliance and education (\$ per hour)	150	164	186	153	185	+32	✓ This variance is attributable to non-salary costs associated with the upgrading of the Abrolhos Islands airstrips, shark hazard mitigation and new marine parks.
Service 3: Research and Monitoring							
Average cost per hour of research and monitoring (\$ per hour)	229	118	126	127	130	+3	✓
Service 4: Marine Safety							
The average cost per hour of the delivery of marine safety services (\$ per hour)	137	143	134	117	115	-2	✓ The Department is in the process of moving to a more uniform reporting structure for its marine safety activities which should bring budget and actual rates into better alignment in the future.

Financial performance

The table below describes our financial performance against the Department's targets in the 2011/12 State Budget Papers and reflected in the Resource Agreement between the Minister for Fisheries, the Treasurer and the Director General of the Department.

Table 17. Financial targets: Actual performance compared to budget targets

	2011/12 Target \$'000	2011/12 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Total cost of services (expense limit) (sourced from Income Statement)	73,893	86,098	12,205
Net cost of services (sourced from Income Statement)	40,042	50,215	10,173
Total equity (sourced from Balance Sheet)	79,028	68,196	10,832
	Number	Number	Number
Approved full-time equivalent (FTE) staff level	401	447	46

Contribution to other Government goals

During 2011/12 the Department contributed to the achievement of the Government's other stated goals as follows.

State building – major projects

Construction of a new marine operations centre at Denham was completed during 2011/12. The centre aids the delivery of the Department's services including Fisheries and Marine Protected Area management in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area. It also

accommodates Department of Environment and Conservation staff and volunteers from the Shark Bay Volunteer Sea Rescue Group.

Financial and economic responsibility

The implementation of quota management into the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery has progressed, allowing fishers to carry out their activities at times when they expect to receive maximum prices for their product.



A commercial rock lobster fishing vessel.

More efficient use of the Department's marine patrol vessels was achieved by collaborating on management, compliance and research responsibilities in the marine environment with other government agencies. These included the Department of



Environment and Conservation, the Department of Transport and the Western Australian Museum.

Stronger focus on the regions

The Department maintains a strong focus on the State's regional areas, where most of the fisheries are based. These fisheries make a valuable contribution to regional economies, employment, lifestyle and culture. The Department has regional offices in the Kimberley, Gascoyne, Mid-West, Peel and Great Southern regions and maintains a number of district offices from Kununurra to Esperance.

About 45 per cent of the Department's staff are located in regional areas and about 75 per cent of expenditure is allocated to activities of importance to regional communities.

A Statewide review began of recreational fishing rules, with the aim of developing more uniform and more easily understood rules that will apply throughout regional WA.

The development of two artificial reef sites continued in south-west WA to enhance fish production and fishing opportunities for residents and tourists to the area.

The creation of two aquaculture development zones was announced, one in the Kimberley and one in the Mid-West. Also a site evaluation of the Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone commenced.



Pyramid-style artificial reefs designed for demersal reef fish, Incheon South Korea.



Agency performance – overview

The Department of Fisheries is responsible for the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and the aquatic environment. A strategic and risk-based approach is taken to fisheries management, setting clear project budgets and co-ordinating activity across its Aquatic Management, Research, Regional Services and Corporate Services divisions to deliver the following services:

Service 1 – Fisheries Management

Service 2 – Compliance and Education

Service 3 – Research and Monitoring

Service 4 – Marine Safety

The Department organises its resources to ensure optimum delivery against identified aquatic management priorities within a five-year plan.

The divisions and branches providing each service are described below under each service heading. Details of the achievements (for 2011/12) and initiatives (for 2012/13) relating to the service are also included.



The Corporate Services Division provides human resources, and financial and management support to enable the Department to deliver its four services effectively.



Service 1 – Fisheries Management

The Department's Aquatic Management Division, in conjunction with the Licensing and Registry Services Branch of the Regional Services Division, has overall responsibility for the Fisheries Management Service.

The Aquatic Management Division, working with the Research and Regional Services divisions, develops, implements and reviews management strategies to ensure the sustainability of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems for the benefit of the Western Australian community including the commercial, recreational and Indigenous fishing sectors. It is also responsible for the management of the pearling industry, land and marine-based aquaculture and the protection of marine and other aquatic environments.

The Aquatic Management Division also maintains an expert capability in legislative drafting, legal services and overarching governance, including risk management, audit and annual reporting.

As a regulator, the Department has introduced an integrated fisheries management and operational approach that considers the needs of all major fishing groups in the community and the effect of other human activities on the State's ecosystems across four marine biogeographical regions – the North Coast, the Gascoyne Coast, the West Coast and the South Coast.

These regions are not randomly chosen – they reflect the variation of temperatures in our coastal waters, caused by the influence of the Leeuwin Current (see the map on page 61). This warm, tropical current flows south from Indonesia and down WA's coast past Cape Leeuwin and then east along the south coast into the Great Australian Bight. It is strongest during the winter months. Each region has its own environment and fish species and therefore its own set of rules.

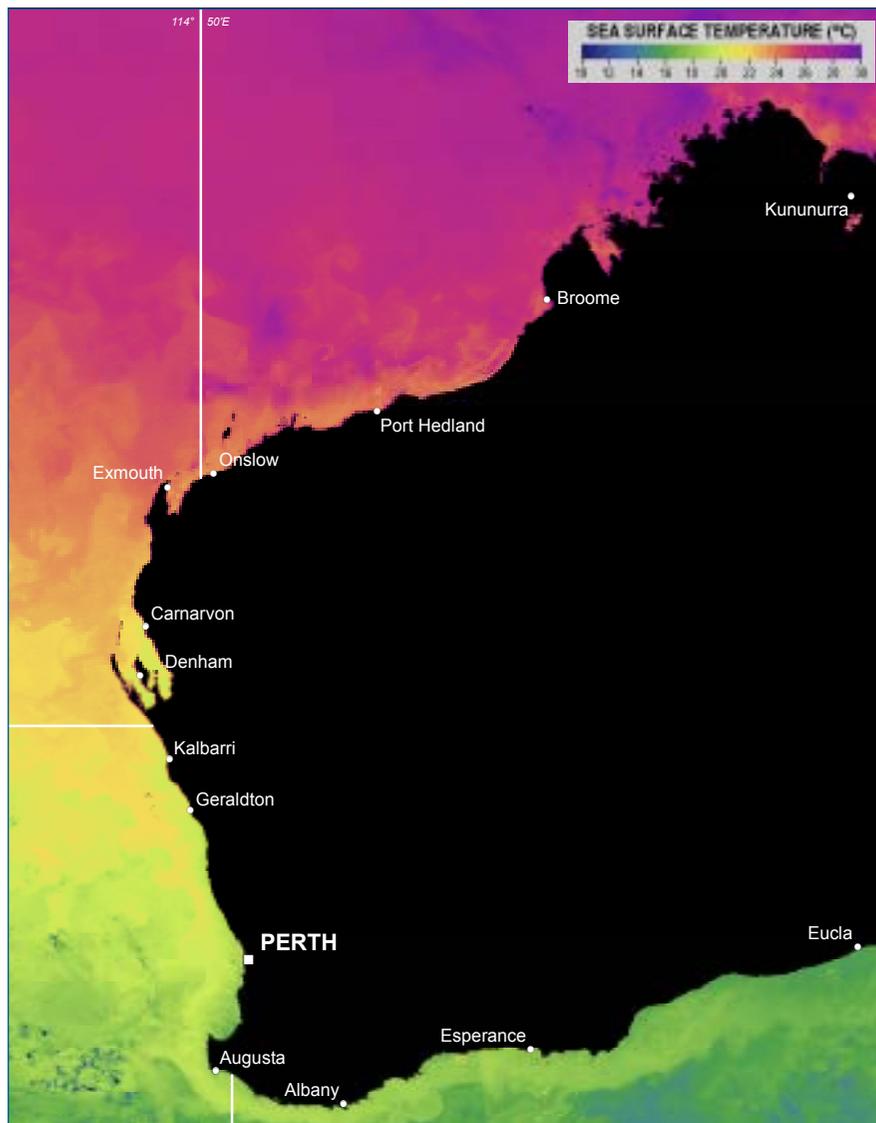
The Department provides a Fisheries Management Service through the allocation of resources across four branches.

Aquatic Management Branch

The Aquatic Management Branch manages the State's wild stock fisheries, delivered through two bioregion groups (the Northern Bioregions Group and the South-West Bioregions Group) and the West Coast Rock Lobster Group.

The two bioregion groups are responsible for the integrated management of all 'extractive' (recreational, commercial and customary Indigenous) fishing activities within their bioregions.

This branch includes the Strategic Fisheries Policy Group, which is responsible for broader issues of policy development and implementation for wild stock fisheries, as well as administrative matters relating to whole-of-State fishery issues.



Sea surface temperature image of Western Australia (courtesy of Landgate) superimposed with Fisheries bioregions.

The Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC), which is responsible for providing advice to the Minister for Fisheries on fish resource allocations between commercial, recreational and customary users, is also supported by the Strategic Fisheries Policy Group.

Aquaculture Branch

The Aquaculture Branch is responsible for the management and regulation of Western Australia’s aquaculture industry. While small by global standards, it has the capacity for substantial growth. Commercially produced species include barramundi, mussels, abalone, western rock oyster, silver perch, trout, pearl oysters, yellowtail kingfish, mulloway, marron, yabbies, ornamental species, artemia (brine shrimp used in fish hatchery diets) and algae (for the production of beta carotene and biofuels).

The Department’s management arrangements are designed to ensure the aquaculture industry is both economically and environmentally sustainable.

Aquatic Environment Branch

The Aquatic Environment Branch is responsible for developing environmental policy frameworks and procedures to protect fish and their habitats throughout Western Australia. This includes biodiversity protection and aquatic biosecurity. The Aquatic Environment Branch also manages the development and sharing of spatial data gathered by the Department to inform its management decisions and those across government concerning the State’s aquatic environment.



The Aquatic Environment Branch provides advice for environmental impact assessments and proposed exemptions. It contributes to State, Commonwealth and regional marine planning initiatives, including the declaration and ongoing management of Fish Habitat Protection Areas and the delivery of WA's aquatic natural resource management activities resulting from the Commonwealth Government's 'Caring for Country' program. It is also responsible for freshwater fish protection and management.

The Aquatic Environment Branch works with other State, interstate and national government departments to perform its biosecurity functions.

Legal and Executive Services Branch

The Legal and Executive Services Branch oversees and develops the Department of Fisheries legislative framework. It assists the Corporate Executive and officers of the Department by providing legal and strategic policy advice, legal interpretation and litigation, including matters coming before the State Administrative Tribunal.

The Legal and Executive Services Branch works closely with all areas of the Department in the delivery of legislative priorities and policy advice on whole-of-government issues. It also coordinates the Department's annual reporting and regulatory 'gate-keeping' requirements.

Legislation gazetted by the Department during the 2011/12 financial year is shown in Appendix 3.

Licensing and Registry Services Branch

The Licensing and Registry Services Branch is responsible for the provision of licensing services for commercial fishing, recreational fishing, pearling and aquaculture. It manages the Fisheries Licensing and Management System (FLAMS) and the online renewal and payment facility. It also maintains a register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases, pursuant to Part 12 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

The register is available to the public on application to the Department of Fisheries Registrar (Manager, Licensing and Registry Services Branch) and the payment of appropriate fees in accordance with section 125 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Appendix 4 of this report provides a summary of information recorded on the register during 2011/12 including authorisations, aquaculture leases, security notations and exemptions.

Service 1 – Fisheries Management – major achievements in 2011/12

- The West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery obtained Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification as a sustainable well-managed fishery for the third consecutive five-year period. Significant work was undertaken by the Department to enable the smooth transition of the fishery to quota management commencing in January 2013.
- A Fisheries policy statement was prepared and released providing government recognition of the importance and



contribution of both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors to Western Australia's lifestyle and economy, underpinning processes to guide the sustainability of the State's fish and aquatic resources.

- Significant management changes were introduced into the Perth metropolitan recreational abalone fishery to improve safety and amenity of access and enable 'real time' management of catch levels.
- Field work for a comprehensive Statewide recreational boat fishing survey was completed. The results will assist recreational fisheries management by providing estimates of the quantity of catch by fish species retained and released for each region of the State.
- Departmental research confirmed that the management measures taken to achieve long-term sustainability of stocks in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery during 2008 and 2009 met the primary objective of achieving a 50 per cent catch reduction on the 2005/06 catch.
- Successful management of four emergency incidents involving marine and freshwater pests prevented the establishment of new pests and the spread of existing ones.
- A new strategic plan was developed and a management plan progressed for the Abrolhos Islands Reserve and the associated Fish Habitat Protection Area. A water monitoring program for the islands also began.
- The *Fish Resources Management Amendment Bill 2011*

passed into effect by Parliament.

- Progress was made on the development of management and environmental monitoring plans for large and small-scale aquaculture operators.
- Government funding was secured for a project to establish two zones for aquaculture development in WA coastal waters. Progress was made with establishing the first zone.

Service 1 – Fisheries Management – major initiatives for 2012/13

- Implement a new management plan to introduce quota management to the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.
- Implement a new Statewide recreational fishing policy.
- The roll-out of the third party sustainability certification for the State's commercial fisheries will commence.
- The first stage of the computerised Fish Eye entitlement management system will be rolled-out.
- A comprehensive stock assessment of the key indicator species will be completed in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery, providing the information necessary to transition it from interim to managed fishery status.
- Commercial catch-sharing arrangements will be developed for blue swimmer crabs in Shark Bay between the trawl and trap fishing sectors.
- The first barramundi fingerlings will be released into Lake Kununurra as part of a project to enhance recreational



fishing in the Kimberley, as part of the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy.

- Two artificial reefs will be deployed in Geographe Bay to enhance fishing opportunities and an associated monitoring and assessment program will commence.
- A virtual interpretative trail across the Kimberley marine environment and an accreditation course for marine charter operators, both developed under the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy, will be launched.
- Initiatives will be progressed involving the Abrolhos Islands including developing new aquaculture policies, negotiating a new 'body corporate' lease, and developing construction standards for jetties within the reserve.
- New legislation will be progressed to replace the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the *Pearling Act 1990*.
- A revised abalone aquaculture policy will be completed.
- Management and Environmental Monitoring Plans templates and guidance statements will be established for aquaculture licence holders.
- Templates for biosecurity plans will be completed.



Service 2 – Compliance and Education

The Regional Services Division has overall responsibility for the delivery of the Department of Fisheries compliance and education services. The division develops and implements compliance, communications and education strategies to ensure fishing behaviour is consistent with the Department's 'fish for the future' objective. It also provides licensing facilities¹, including online renewal and payment.

Division staff are widely dispersed around the coastal areas of the State. They are located in five regional offices, 12 district offices, the Department's head office in Perth and the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories building at Hillarys. Regional Services staff are usually the public's first point of contact with the Department.

The Department provides licensing, compliance and education services through the following branches.

Regional Services Branch

The Department's Regional Services Branch is responsible for the delivery of fisheries compliance and education in recreational and

commercial fisheries; pearling and aquaculture industries; and in Fish Habitat Protection Areas and marine parks. It also provides some education services and marine safety services on behalf of the Department of Transport.

To provide the most efficient and effective compliance and at-sea services in marine parks and reserves, the Regional Services Branch is involved in joint operational planning and cross-authorisation training with the Department of Environment and Conservation.

A wide range of methods is used by the Regional Services Branch to ensure the fishing industry and public comply with fisheries legislation. These include land and sea patrols, aerial surveillance, covert operations, mobile patrols and education activities. Compliance strategies are developed and resources allocated to fisheries and associated areas of highest risk after a comprehensive risk assessment process.

The Regional Services Branch has five regional offices – Gascoyne, Metropolitan, Mid-West, North and South – with each controlling a number of district offices. These regional operational areas are supported by the Regional Services Branch's Perth-based Central Support Services and Strategic Policy sections.

¹ These facilities are provided by the [Licensing and Registry Services Branch](#). As licensing is an essential part of the Department's Fisheries Management service (Service 1), details of the branch and its activities are given in the Service 1 section of this report.

Communications and Education Branch

The Communications and Education Branch builds the knowledge, values and attitudes to reinforce community behaviour towards a healthy aquatic environment. This is achieved by keeping the local community and visitors informed about developments in fisheries management, marine science and compliance. Importantly, it is also about engaging the wider community, fishers and Department of Fisheries volunteers in marine education, research, policy and planning.



The Communications and Education Branch has three areas: communications, media liaison, and community education and volunteers.

During 2011/12 a new Community and Education unit was established, combining the previous community education and volunteer team with the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre. A unit manager was appointed to oversee the Department's education

and community involvement programs. The creation of this unit recognises the growing importance of involving the community in the Department's management efforts.

Writing, editorial, design and print management services were provided to all branches of the Department during the year, maintaining a high and consistent quality of presentation across all its online and offline publications. These included websites, research and management reports, log books, recreational fishing guides, species identification guides, lesson plans, posters, stickers, signage, display banners and other material that supports the Department's goals and operations.

Service 2 - Compliance and Education - Major Achievements for 2011/12

Statewide

- Planning began on a four-year community engagement strategy for the management of shark hazards in Western Australia. A workshop was held to scope the strategy and drew on presentations by experts covering a range of topics from current public and media perception to shark biology and research.
- The second phase of the Marine WATERs (Western Australian Teacher Education Resources) online education tool was developed. Fourteen new lesson plans and a range of new supplementary content were added to the interactive curriculum-linked program.
- The Department's corporate website (www.fish.wa.gov.au) was extensively overhauled to increase its customer focus and more



actively and effectively communicate the Department's role and services. The site has several new 'second generation' web features such as video via YouTube™, electronic news feeds (RSS) and email newsletters. A translation option is available so visitors can view the site in more than 30 languages.

- Regional community education staff contacted or delivered structured education to almost 10,000 people around the State (at 356 activities, events and shows).

Northern Region

- A new district office was opened in Kununurra.
- A community education officer position was created, focusing on the Pilbara and Gascoyne regions.
- Compliance activities were increased in the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery.

Gascoyne Region

- A new rigid inflatable boat was delivered to the Exmouth District Office, increasing the ability to carry out compliance services across both commercial and recreational fisheries.
- The Denham Fisheries office, a multi-agency building incorporating the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Volunteer Marine Safety program, opened.

Mid-West Region

- Industry education, liaison and support were provided for the introduction of the quota catch management system in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.

- New patrol boats were commissioned for the Abrolhos Islands and the Dongara district.
- Airstrips were resurfaced at Rat Island and East Wallabi Island.
- New dive trail markers were established at popular sites at the Abrolhos Islands and a supporting educational brochure published.

Metropolitan Region

- Three new educational activities, including one highlighting the problem of invasive marine pests, were incorporated into the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre's schools' education program.
- The Lancelin office was provided with two four-wheel-drive quad bikes so staff can contact recreational fishers on beaches between Two Rocks and Wedge Island.

Southern Region

- A collaborative plan for the Walpole-Nornalup Marine Park was developed with the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- A catch record card program for recreational fishers who use Busselton Jetty began (and was promoted) to aid fisheries management.
- A new rigid inflatable 7.5 metre-long patrol vessel was delivered to the Albany District Office, allowing for increased levels of at-sea commercial and recreational fisheries compliance and education activities.



Service 2 – Compliance and Education – major initiatives for 2012/13

Statewide

- A review will be conducted of Statewide compliance and education delivery and reporting processes in WA marine parks.
- A community engagement strategy will be developed for the management of shark hazards in WA. The strategy's aim is to encourage the participation of people from a diverse variety of social and cultural backgrounds and interests in determining the best way to educate and raise awareness of the issues of shark hazards.
- A third phase of Marine WATERS online educational resources will commence with an application to extend the Department's partnership with Woodside Energy.

Northern Region

- Compliance and education programs will begin for State marine parks in the Kimberley region, assisted by the delivery of a new amphibious marine park patrol vessel.
- A new Fisheries and Marine Officer position will be funded by the petroleum and gas resources sector.
- New island-specific recreational fishing management arrangements for the Indian Ocean Territories (Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling Islands) will be progressed to legislation.

Gascoyne Region

- A dedicated community education officer will be located in the Gascoyne Region, providing education services to the

Gascoyne and Mid-West.

- Further compliance and management activities will take place in the Shark Bay Crab Fishery.

Mid-West Region

- An industry education program will be prepared and carried out to support the implementation of the new West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan on 15 January 2013.
- The renovation of the Mid-West Regional Office in Geraldton will be completed.
- New courtesy vessel moorings will be installed at safe anchoring areas and main dive sites at the Abrolhos Islands.
- A partnership will be developed with the Western Australian Museum to enhance protection of the maritime archaeological sites associated with the Batavia shipwreck.

Metropolitan Region

- A major refit will be carried out of the regional patrol vessels based at Mandurah and Fremantle.
- The new district office at Lancelin will begin operation.

Southern Region

- At-sea compliance will be improved for the Ngari (Capes) Marine Park with the delivery of a new 11 metre-long patrol vessel and two additional Fisheries and Marine Officer positions.
- Local governments will be helped with the development of their shark response plans.

Case Study 1 Commercial fisheries in focus – continuing the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery’s transition to full quota management

During the 2011/12 West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery season, Western Australia’s most valuable commercial fishery, continued its transition to full quota management, which will start in January 2013.

A major change was the introduction of a longer licensing period (1 October 2011 to 14 January 2013) as a prelude to moving the licensing and fishing year to an annual cycle (from 15 January to 14 January the following year).

With the increase in the season length (with fishing permitted from 15 November 2011 – 30 September 2012 [15 March 2012 – 30 September 2012 in Zone A] and 15 November 2012 - 14 January 2013) there was a subsequent increase in the catch limits. This was designed to maintain the recent ‘status quo’ of 5,500 tonnes per traditional season, while making allowances for the additional fishing period. It resulted in an overall Total Allowable Commercial Catch of 6,938 tonnes and corresponding catch limits of 100, 96 and 102 kilos per unit in Zones A, B and C respectively.

Another significant change was the move to allow Zone A licensed fishers to undertake a one-way return to Zone B to take any uncaught Zone B quota by 30 June 2012.

There was also a significant operational change with the introduction of the Interactive Voice Recording system for West



Commercial rock lobster pots.

Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery licensees. Using the new system, where fishers are required to phone-in details of their intended fishing activities and report landings, moved the fishery into real-time reporting. This greatly improved the scope for effective compliance and prepared fishers for the real-time electronic reporting processes that will operate under the new Fish



Eye online system due to be implemented in the 2013/14 season.

There was also a change to the minimum unit requirement for the grant of a licence from 63 units to one unit ahead of the 2011/12 season. This change was designed to ease the granting of licences to investors in the fishery. Previously, anyone who invested in the fishery with fewer than 63 units could only have those units held on the licence of another person and was not 'visible' as a licensee – although they may have held a security interest over that other person's licence. Reducing the minimum to one unit will allow all investors to be visible on the Department's licensing register, should they take up the opportunity to become a licence holder.

However, the reduction in the minimum holding does not allow licensees with one unit to operate a boat in the fishery, as they would not be economically viable or have a significant stake in the fishery. The minimum holding to operate a boat remains at a level designed to ensure the boat has a reasonable economic base and a significant stake in the fishery.

This level has been reduced marginally from 63 to 60 units in recognition that some licensees at, or near, the previous 63 unit minimum operating holding may lose some units from their licence if investors transfer their units off the licence and place them onto a licence of their own.

Several discussion papers (Fisheries Management Papers (FMP) numbers [253](#), [254](#) and [255](#)¹) were released in March 2012 as part of the consultative process for developing a new

¹ Licensing and Allocations Under a New Management Plan for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (Fisheries Management Paper No. 253); Harvest Strategy and Decision Rules Framework Proposals Under a Quota Management Framework (Fisheries Management Paper No. 254); Operational and Compliance Elements of a New Management Plan for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (Fisheries Management Paper No. 255)

management plan for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery. Two of the papers (FMPs no. 253 and 255) dealt with proposals related to licensing, allocation, operational management and compliance elements under a full quota management arrangement. The third paper (FMP no. 254) dealt with the proposed harvest strategy for the fishery.

Meetings were held in fishery centres along the west coast in March to provide more information about the proposals and receive feedback. After this consultation, a request for drafting approval was developed for the Minister's consideration, aiming to have a draft new management plan for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery ready for gazettal by July 2012.

Marine Stewardship Council recertification of the western rock lobster fishery

Another important event during the year was the Marine Stewardship Council re-certification of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery. In March 2000 an industry-led initiative resulted in the fishery becoming the first in the world to be certified by the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) as a sustainable and well-managed fishery.

The Marine Stewardship Council certification process is considered to be the world's most rigorous and comprehensive independent fisheries assessment. The western rock lobster industry has demonstrated strong leadership in its willingness to embrace this stringent and transparent process. The recertification runs from November 2011 for a further five years.

More than 300 fisheries worldwide are currently engaged in

the Marine Stewardship Council program (over 100 are certified), which together record annual catches of more than seven million tonnes of seafood: that is 12 per cent of the landings for human consumption. Worldwide, more than 10,000 seafood products, worth over AUD \$2 billion/year at retail prices, bear the blue Marine Stewardship Council eco-label.

The Marine Stewardship Council process provides a rigorous independent expert review under three broad principles:

- Stock assessment and harvest strategy (for example, are the levels of breeding stock and the fishing effort/exploitation sustainable in the long term?).
- The impact of the fishery on the wider ecology (for example, what is the impact of large-scale removal of lobsters, of pots on the seabed (including corals), on bycatch species (such as octopus and finfish) and endangered species (such as sea lions, turtles, whales).
- Management and consultation arrangements (for example, how robust and flexible the management framework is; are the decision-making processes effective, transparent and inclusive; how are stakeholders – such as commercial and recreational fishers and conservation non-governmental organisations – consulted during the development and implementation of management arrangements?).

The latest Marine Steward Council reports on the western rock lobster fishery can be found at: www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/south-atlantic-indian-ocean/western-australia-rock-lobster

Better outlook for young lobsters

The settlement of juvenile rock lobsters (puerulus²) onto the west coast improved in 2011/12, but still remains below historic levels. The causes of the reduction in settlement over the preceding six years have still not been determined, but unusual oceanographic conditions during this period may have been unfavourable for the survival of larvae during the nine month larval period and the return of survivors to the WA coast.



Artificial collector gathering puerulus samples.

² Puerulus are the final stage of the long (around nine-month) larval phase of rock lobsters. Artificial seaweed collectors are placed at various sites along the south and mid-west coasts of WA and used to capture some of these puerulus larvae as they return to 'settle' and grow into adult rock lobsters. The number of puerulus captured is used as an index of the strength of recruitment to the western rock lobster stock. It takes about 3-4 years for the puerulus to reach legal size.



Although puerulus settlement has improved in the last two years, it still remains below normal levels. Therefore conservative catch levels will continue to be necessary for at least the next few

years. Conservative catch levels have resulted in the breeding stock being at historically high levels in 2011/12.

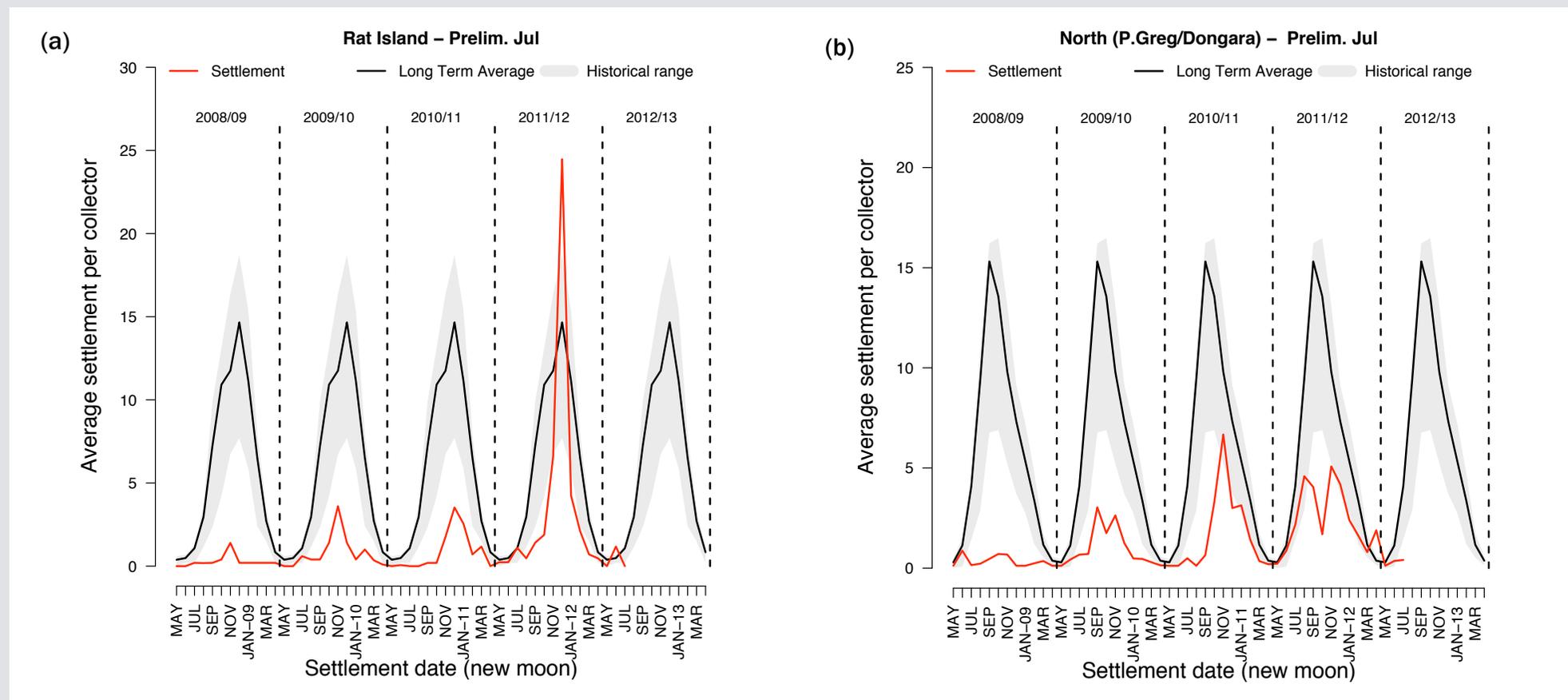


Figure 31. The graphs show the long term average monthly settlement of rock lobsters that reach the puerulus stage from May 2008 to March 2013 and the actual settlement until June 2012 at (a) Rat Island (Abrolhos Islands) and (b) Port Gregory/Seven Mile Beach puerulus collectors.



Robots monitor lobster habitats for research

Small waterproof camera-carrying robots called POTBots (Pictures Of The Bottom) attached to lobster pots and float lines, are being developed and used for new research to examine and monitor the marine habitat of Western Australia's western rock lobster species.

The POTBots project, carried out with the Western Rock Lobster Council, aims to develop a cost-effective tool to help researchers and fishers understand more about lobster habitats. It will enable researchers to map these habitats and determine their associations with lobster abundance and the stock's size composition.

The fully-programmable robotic cameras open a window into the lives of communities of western rock lobsters between Shark Bay and 'The Capes' (Cape Naturaliste/Cape Leeuwin) area. The POTBots can collect GPS (global positioning system) information while they are aboard a vessel, detect when they've been deployed in water and automatically activate their camera to capture high-definition vision, such as a lobster pot's descent to the seabed.

A video from a POTBot can be seen on the [Department's YouTube channel](#).

Once in position, the POTBots will record water temperature and more vision, at various time intervals, providing a cost-effective approach to collecting constantly updated oceanographic and habitat information.

While the initial focus will be on the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery, this technology has great potential in other fisheries in the State and to monitor and document ocean habitats to measure the impacts of climate change.



An image from a POTBot camera.

The project has been made possible through \$115,000 of funding from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC). Information about FRDC-funded projects is available online at www.frdc.com.au.



Case Study 2 Recreational fishing in focus – licence fees fund recreational fishing initiatives

Community-driven initiatives, projects and research to enhance recreational fishing in Western Australia were boosted by more than \$1 million in 2011/12.

In December 2011, the State Government announced funding had been made available through the ‘Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence’ (RFBL) introduced last year and fees from other recreational fishing licence categories.

Since its introduction in March 2011, the RFBL has generated about \$7.6 million in revenue. The fees from the RFBL are placed in a special account to be spent directly on recreational fishing management initiatives. Details about the recreational fishing account are available at www.recfishwest.org.au.

Initiatives to be funded include habitat enhancement projects such as artificial reefs (see ‘Trial of WA’s first artificial reef’ overleaf), stock enhancement opportunities (see the story ‘Tender completed for restocking Lake Kununurra barramundi’) and improved recreational data collection (see the story ‘Research on stock status of nearshore species’).

A new advisory board, the Recreational Fishing Account Advisory Board (RFAAB), has been established by Recfishwest (WA’s peak body representing recreational fishers) to provide guidance and recommendations about suitable initiatives.

Mr Craig Leatt-Hayter has been appointed as the independent chair of the advisory body, which includes four community representatives, the Chair of Recfishwest and observers representing the Chief Executive Officer of Recfishwest and the Director General of the Department of Fisheries.

The advisory board is developing a business plan for the funding of recreational fishing initiatives. It also provides advice and priorities for expenditure. Community and stakeholder groups can propose initiatives for funding consideration.



Photo: Shannon Conway

Trial of WA's first artificial reef

In November 2011 the State Government announced the go-ahead for a trial to be held in Geographe Bay of the effectiveness of purpose-built artificial reefs to improve fish stocks in the area.

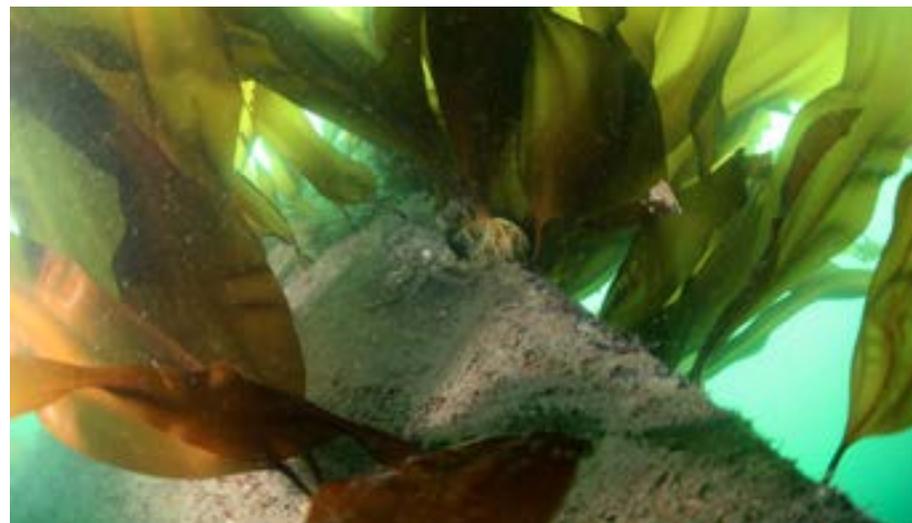
WA's comprehensive fisheries management practices ensure our fish stocks are sustainable at the current levels of fishing. However, with the State's rapidly growing population and the development of technology for fishers to catch more fish more easily, a more proactive approach is needed.

Purpose-built artificial reefs may offer an alternative solution to imposing tighter controls on the take of fish in order to keep their populations sustainable. They can also provide a new fishing experience.

The trial, which involves the installation of a number of purpose-built mini-reefs in a designated area, has been primarily funded through the Royalties for Regions program and recreational licence fees. It has strong community support from shires in the South-west and from Recfishwest.

The days of making artificial reefs from materials such as building rubble or tyres are gone. Modern purpose-built reef structures, manufactured from concrete or steel, are designed to increase the abundance and diversity of fish stocks, rather than simply gathering fish from the surrounding area.

There are many designs of artificial reef, which work on the principle of creating complex internal spaces and causing upward movements in the water column. The design depends on a range of factors, such as the fish species involved, water depth and ocean currents.



Close-up of an artificial reef.

Experience from trials of purpose-built artificial reefs in other countries has led to concrete being used for reefs deployed in relatively shallow waters (less than 20 metres in depth). Steel structures have been used in deeper waters where oxygen and sunlight levels are reduced, so they do not rust to the same extent as they would in shallow waters.

How long an artificial reef lasts depends on many factors, such as the material used, its design, location, and the environmental conditions (such as weather and tides). Indications are that purpose-built structures using concrete or steel installed in relatively deep water could last for at least 30 years.

Although artificial reefs are new to WA, countries such as South Korea, China and Japan have been using them to increase fish production for more than 100 years. Building on



this experience, in November 2011 the State Government signed an agreement with the Korean Fisheries Resources Agency to share their information on the development and use of artificial reefs for sustainable fisheries management. A memorandum of understanding on a similar basis has also been signed with China.

In terms of environmental benefits, overseas monitoring has shown that artificial reefs can significantly increase the local biodiversity of species compared to that found on natural reefs in similar environmental conditions.

While they may work overseas, will they work in WA? Our marine environment is not the same as that of Korea, Japan or China, so the trial reef initiative in Geographe Bay is very important.

More information about [artificial reefs](#) can be found on the Department's website at www.fish.wa.gov.au.

Tender completed for restocking of Lake Kununurra with barramundi

In February 2012, the State Government announced the Kimberley Training Institute had won the tender for a \$700,000 four-year project to restock Lake Kununurra with barramundi.

The project funding was announced in the 2011/12 State budget as part of the \$2.3 million allocation to the Department to deliver its part of the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy.

Lake Kununurra is a 56 km stretch of water created in 1963 after the completion of the Diversion Dam for the Ord River Irrigation Scheme. Unfortunately, the dam wall created an obstacle to barramundi, which migrate upstream every wet season to breed, preventing their entry into the lake.

Restocking the lake to develop the barramundi fishery close to Kununurra is aimed at boosting recreational fishing and creating a valuable asset for regional tourism in the East Kimberley. Ultimately, it is hoped that a world-class 'trophy' barramundi fishery will result.

Many recreational fishers dream of catching a barramundi in Western Australia's north. This project may bring the dream a step closer to reality. Recfishwest has given its full support to the project.

The Kimberley Training Institute (formerly Kimberley TAFE) will release hundreds of thousands of juvenile barramundi (fingerlings) into Lake Kununurra over the next four years. The first round of stocking is planned for 2012. It will take two to three years before the barramundi reach the legal minimum size (550 mm) to be caught.

Barramundi released into Lake Kununurra as part of the project will be tagged and monitored to evaluate the restocking



Lake Kununurra will be restocked with barramundi



program. Details and rules about fishing for barramundi in this area are in the Department's [Recreational Fishing Guide – North Coast Region](#).

Research on stock status of nearshore species

There are significant social, economic and ecosystem benefits resulting from the State's nearshore fish stocks. So that they are maintained for future generations, we need to know more about these species, sometimes regarded as the life-blood of recreational fishing.

In October 2011 it was announced that a project examining the stock status of nearshore fish species vital to recreational fishing had received \$250,000 funding from the State Government's Natural Resource Management strategy.

The grant followed nearly two years of research by the Department into Australian herring and tailor stocks in the West Coast Bioregion (which runs from Black Point, east of Augusta, to the Zuytdorp Cliffs, north of Kalbarri). The two species are very important to recreational anglers, especially in the Perth metropolitan area.

The additional funding will allow the stock status of whiting species in the West Coast Bioregion to be examined, as well as extending work to the South Coast Bioregion (from Black Point to the WA/South Australian border) to provide a complete picture of the status and connectivity of nearshore stocks in WA's temperate waters.

Modern micro-chemical and genetic techniques will be used to determine the connectivity of West Coast and South Coast stocks of these popular species. They will also be used to look at the link between adult and juvenile fish, to explore whether it is possible to

forecast the relative abundance of adult fish in future years on the basis of numbers of juveniles.

Research so far has involved Department scientists working with key stakeholders, including Recfishwest and the WA Fishing Industry Council, to collect data and set up sampling programs for these species. Similar partnerships with non-departmental groups and stakeholders will also be a feature of this project to complete the assessment of whiting stocks.

The State Government originally provided \$660,000 in Natural Resource Management funding in July 2009 for research of nearshore species stocks. A report on stage one of the project is being independently peer-reviewed before release.



A school of Australian herring. Photo: Henrique Kwong

Case Study 3 Aquatic environment in focus – shark hazard mitigation measures

Sharks are an important part of Western Australia's diverse and unique aquatic environments. Encounters between humans and any of the shark species that pose a significant risk to us have in the past, been rare.

Of the 160-plus known species of Australian sharks, only three pose a significant risk to human life in an attack. These are the white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*) and bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*).

During 2011/12, there were four deaths on Western Australia's lower west coast caused by shark bites, all attributed to white sharks. This number is globally significant and unprecedented in the State's history.

In November 2011 in response to the third fatality, the State Government announced funding to the Department of Fisheries of \$3.75 million over five years to help reduce risk of these events. This risk-reduction strategy involves expanded shark-related research, enhanced shark response capabilities and community engagement strategies.

Shark Response Unit

In early 2012, the Department established a dedicated Shark Response Unit to conduct research into shark populations and movements, improve response plans and procedures, and provide

Eyes in the sky



Surf Life Saving WA plays an important role in Western Australia's shark response capability, providing 'eyes in the sky' and on the beach. The organisation received funding of \$9.9 million over five years to boost its helicopter and beach patrols in the Perth metropolitan and South-west areas. It began helicopter surveillance around Rottnest Island and in the State's south-west in 2011/12.



advice and information to assist the community in making decisions about avoiding potential shark attacks when using the ocean or estuaries.

The unit provides logistical support for an extension of the Department's white shark monitoring research project, offering better tagging opportunities, access to materials and infrastructure, and boosting staff expertise in these monitoring/tagging activities.

The research project aims to collect information on the movement and behaviour of white sharks in waters off the Perth metropolitan coast to improve understanding of when, where and for how long sharks swim close to beaches. The project involves fitting uniquely coded acoustic transmitter tags to white sharks, which can be detected by a network of acoustic receivers, placed

from Ocean Reef to Port Kennedy and out to Rottnest Island. Some of these receivers consist of an underwater hydrophone linked to a satellite-linked radio communications system mounted on a nearby buoy.

There has been consultation with local government authorities and other government agencies in WA's south-west and Perth metropolitan region during 2011/12 as part of a review to help improve response protocols for shark sightings and incidents. Consultation with organisations and individuals in the South-west community has assisted in identifying the best locations to place satellite-linked acoustic receivers in the water.

The development of a shark response community engagement strategy is underway and will include a media campaign. Updated information about sharks, swimmer safety and information on the Shark Response Unit's activities and research is included on the Department's new website. Shark sightings are now reported to the public and the media via the Surf Life Saving WA (SLSWA) Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Shark Monitoring Network

Department researchers have been working with the CSIRO's 'Wealth from Oceans' flagship project since 2009, collecting information on the movements and behaviour of white sharks off Perth through the Shark Monitoring Network project.

In March and April 2012, using its patrol vessel *PV Hamelin*, the Department expanded its Shark Monitoring Network by deploying 120 additional acoustic receivers to detect movements of tagged white sharks. Three lines of sub-sea acoustic receivers



Through the Department's partnership with Surf Life Saving WA, confirmed shark sighting details are posted on SLSWA's social media accounts.



have been set across transects of the southern and south-western continental shelf off WA.

These receivers are placed in lines, called ‘arrays’, which under most conditions create a continuous line of detection. They monitor the movements of tagged sharks travelling through WA’s continental shelf waters and the data collected will provide a more accurate understanding of white shark movement patterns



The 20-metre patrol vessel *Hamelin* has been commissioned by the Shark Response Unit as an important resource for conducting shark research and tagging activities.



Satellite-linked acoustic technology can allow rapid notification to local authorities of the presence of tagged sharks detected near receiver equipment.

from South Australia. Receiving equipment will be collected every six to twelve months to download the data and undergo vital maintenance.

Between 2009 and June 2012, 99 white sharks were tagged; 87 in South Australia and 12 in WA. Recent genetic studies, supported by CSIRO tagging studies, indicate white sharks in WA and South Australia form a separate sub-population, distinctly different to sharks in eastern Australia and New Zealand.



Such findings underline the importance of tagging activities in South Australia, where white sharks are known to gather at specific locations such as the Neptune Islands, and improving the response in WA to any tagging opportunities as they arise.

New satellite-linked acoustic receivers have been tested over the past three years to investigate whether they can provide alerts of tagged sharks passing close to beaches. If a tagged shark comes within 400 metres of a satellite receiver, a message is sent to the cross-agency response network so appropriate steps can be taken to minimise the risk of contact with the shark.

Maintenance to extend the operation of acoustic receivers located in the Perth metropolitan area by two years is underway.

Further shark-related research will include investigating correlations between shark sightings and factors such as water temperature, proximity to seal and sea lion colonies, whale movements, weather conditions and time of day. The effect of changes in fisheries management on white shark numbers will also be studied.



Extended Shark Monitoring Network (and existing Ocean Tracking Network) acoustic receiver arrays off the coast at Albany, Walpole, Hamelin Bay and Perth.



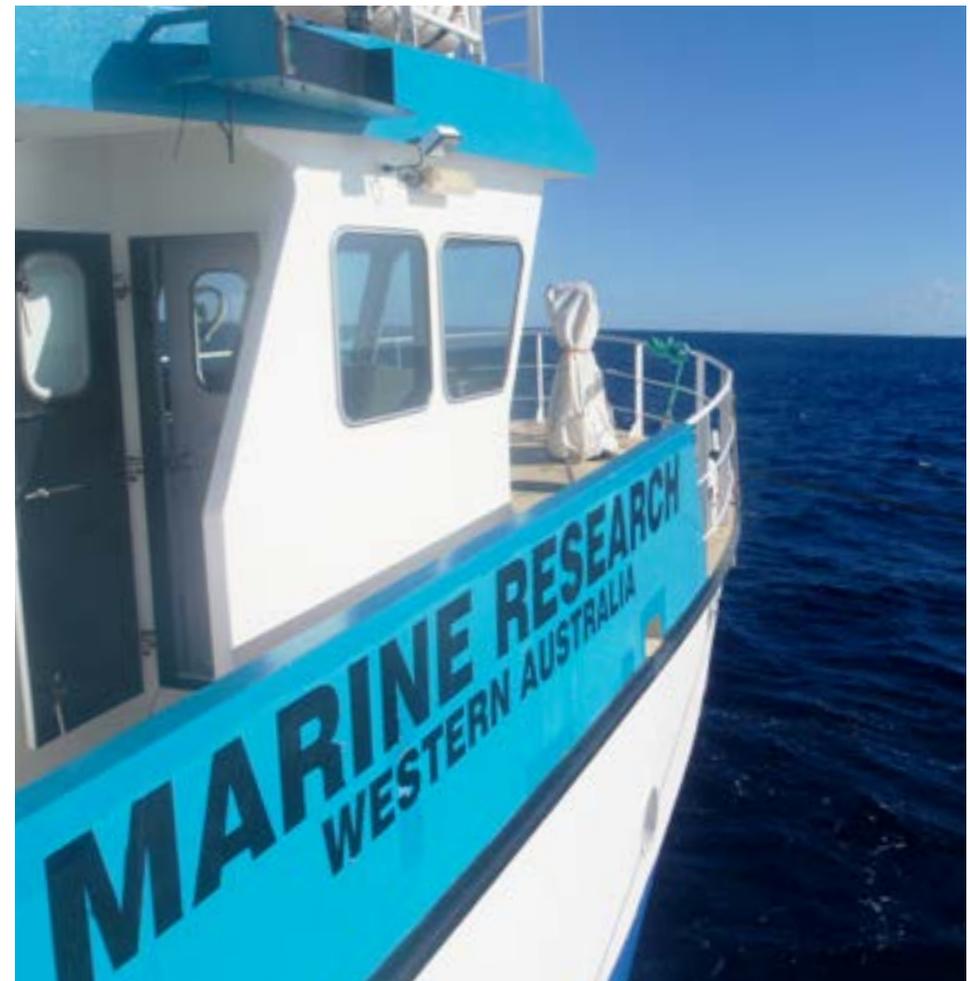
Service 3 – Research and Monitoring

The Research Division delivers the Department of Fisheries Research and Monitoring Service. The primary role of the Research Division is to provide timely, high quality scientific knowledge and objective advice to support the management, conservation and sustainable use of the State's aquatic resources. Ongoing research, monitoring and assessment programs inform the management of the State's major fish stocks and the marine ecosystems that underpin these resources. These activities also contribute to the Department's ability to meet its statutory responsibilities.

The Research Division's 140-plus staff members, of which more than 45 are qualified research scientists, work within four expertise-based branches (Invertebrate Fisheries, Finfish Fisheries, Biodiversity and Biosecurity, and Stock Assessment and Data Analysis), with monitoring and assessment research projects frequently conducted by multi-disciplinary teams, increasingly in cooperation with external research partners.

The major research activities conducted by the Research Division are:

- Provision of objective expert scientific advice to assist the Department in implementing a comprehensive and holistic approach to managing the State's aquatic natural resources (Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management).





- Annual reporting on the status of key fish stocks, fisheries and their associated ecosystems in the *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia* report (formerly known as the *State of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources*).
- Maintenance of long-term monitoring programs and databases to enable the scientific assessment of fish stocks and their associated ecosystems.
- Development of new risk-based assessment and governance techniques to give aquatic management an integrated, ecosystem-based framework.
- Generating an understanding of the threats to biosecurity and biodiversity concerning aquaculture activities in particular and the marine and freshwater environments in general.
- Undertaking monitoring and research activities to limit the potential introduction and impact of marine pest species.
- Investigation of the effects of fishing on stocks, habitats, bycatch species, protected species and the ecosystem in general.
- Undertaking research and development activities to assist the expansion of the State's aquaculture industry.
- Scientific advice and expert opinion is also provided by the Research Division to assist the Department with:
 - Negotiating management or governance arrangements with Commonwealth agencies (such as the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and

Communities (SEWPaC); the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF); and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)).

- Supporting the development of national and international fisheries management strategies.
- Providing advice on risks and impacts of marine and coastal development proposals, including those associated with the resources sector.
- Gaining Wildlife Trade Operation accreditation for State fisheries to obtain export approvals under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The specific expertise and activities of the individual branches of the Research Division are outlined below.

Invertebrate Fisheries

The Invertebrate Fisheries Branch assesses and monitors the crustacean and mollusc stocks that are the basis for the State's major fisheries, including rock lobsters, prawns, pearl oysters, scallops, abalone and crabs.

A recent focus of research has been the development of estimates of pre-recruitment abundance to enable catch predictions for the key invertebrate fisheries. These influence the management 'settings' of these fisheries, so more robust 'decision rules' can be developed.

The Invertebrate Fisheries Branch also assists the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Branch to research broader ecosystem-related



issues associated with these fisheries, such as bycatch and marine community structure, including a number of collaborative projects with universities, the Western Australian Museum and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). The Invertebrate Fisheries Branch works with CSIRO to assess climate effects on the State's fisheries. The Invertebrate Fisheries Branch staffs and schedules the Department's major research vessel, the *RV Naturaliste*. This vessel undertakes a range of research activities throughout the year, including trawling, fish trapping, rock lobster fishing, longlining, biodiversity studies and environmental monitoring.

Finfish Fisheries

The Finfish Fisheries Branch assesses and monitors the State's diverse finfish populations. The branch monitors indicator species for each of the main finfish resources across all WA's biogeographical regions.

Some of the species monitored include the West Australian dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper. These are indicator species for the health of the West Coast demersal scalefish fishery. Other indicator species monitored and assessed include tropical shallow-water and deep-water snappers, sharks, nearshore species such as Australian herring and estuarine species such as cobbler.

These fish are harvested by commercial fishers (supplying local and overseas markets), the recreational fishing sector (involving around 600,000 fishers) and the managed recreational charter fishing sector. Many of these species and stocks are the focus of the Department's Integrated Fisheries Management strategy.

The Finfish Fisheries Branch is a partner in a significant number of collaborative research projects at local universities and other research groups (Australian Institute of Marine Science, CSIRO), many of which involve postgraduate research students. These projects provide additional information for the sustainable management of fish stocks and the ecosystems that support them.

Biodiversity and Biosecurity

The Biodiversity and Biosecurity Branch provides scientific advice relating to the conservation of fish and invertebrates and protection of the environment around the State. This includes issues such as:

- the health of marine ecosystems including benthic habitats; finfish and invertebrates;
- biosecurity issues;
- fish pathology services;
- freshwater research (such as native fish conservation);
- the production of trout and native fish species at the Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre (PFRC) and the Aquaculture and Native Fish Breeding Laboratory at The University of Western Australia's Shenton Park research facility; and
- management of the Department's marine aquarium facilities.

The work of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Branch is carried out with the Department's Aquatic Management Division, the Department of Environment and Conservation, universities, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, natural resource management groups, port and harbour authorities, federal



government departments (such as CSIRO) and federal border protection agencies (such as the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry).

Stock Assessment and Data Analysis

The Stock Assessment and Data Analysis Branch supports the Research Division and the Aquatic Management Division in the fields of statistical design and analysis, population dynamics and stock assessment, data management, monitoring of fishery catch and effort, library services, and recreational fishing and community surveys.

The branch collects and maintains all fisheries 'catch and effort' data and completes basic validation and preliminary analysis. The staff help develop systems to improve the maintenance and efficiency of the Department's extensive long-term databases for commercial fisheries, recreational and charter boats.

The Stock Assessment and Data Analysis Branch undertakes leading-edge research to develop fisheries stock assessment models and sustainability reporting techniques, working closely with other branches in the Research Division. The branch is primarily responsible for assessing the status of most fish stocks in Western Australia. It is through these assessments that the success of the Department's fisheries management arrangements is effectively monitored.

The Stock Assessment and Data Analysis Branch also organises and conducts many major recreational fishing and community and stakeholder attitude surveys. The results are used to produce some of the Department's key performance indicators.

Service 3 – Research and Monitoring – major achievements for 2011/12

In addition to the ongoing monitoring and assessment functions (documented in the [2011/12 Research, Monitoring, Assessment and Development Plan](#)), the Research Division achievements included the following:

Invertebrates

- The stock assessment model for western rock lobster was revised and used to examine different possible management scenarios for this fishery under the new quota management system.
- A Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) research project was developed, with CSIRO, to assess factors that may have caused low puerulus settlement. The project was based on the use of an oceanographic model of the larval phase of the western rock lobster fishery, along with a statistical assessment of potential biological and environmental factors.
- An independent survey of the status of western rock lobster stocks in the 'Big Bank' region (to the north of the Abrolhos Islands zone in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery) showed there has been at least a five-fold improvement in lobster abundance three years after the area was closed to lobster fishing.
- A FRDC-funded climate change project carried out with CSIRO examined 'downscaled' oceanographic models, as well as identifying case studies for assessing the management



implications of climate change effects on fisheries in Western Australia.

- An assessment of the spawning stock and recruitment of blue swimmer crabs in Cockburn Sound showed stocks are recovering well. A management decision-rule framework was also developed, leading to a progressive extension of the Cockburn Sound crab fishing season.
- A Seafood Cooperative Research Centre (CRC)-funded greenlip abalone enhancement study assessed the growth, survival and bioeconomics of commercial-scale stock enhancements for the south coast abalone fishery.
- The report of a workshop on the ‘marine heatwave’ during the summer of 2010/11 was completed. This assessed the effect of the record water temperatures off the mid and lower west coast of WA, where water temperatures in Shark Bay reached four to five degrees Celsius above average and appear to have contributed to a major decline in recruitment of juvenile scallops and crabs, and a mortality of adults. Monitoring of these stocks is underway. The ‘marine heatwave’ was also responsible for 99 per cent mortality of Roe’s abalone stocks in the Kalbarri region. This resulted in a closure of this area to abalone fishing and a research project on the translocation of abalone from adjacent areas.

Biodiversity and biosecurity

- A baseline map was completed of benthic habitats of the Wallabi Group at the Abrolhos Islands.

- Biennial monitoring of introduced marine pests in Western Australia’s three highest-risk ports – Fremantle, Dampier and Port Hedland – was completed.
- The introduced Asian Green Mussel (*Perna viridis*) was detected at Garden Island. A successful collaboration between biosecurity research staff from the Department, staff from the Defence Science and Technology Organisation, Defence Support Group and the Royal Australian Navy resulted in all populations being isolated and eradicated.
- A trial to compare the effectiveness of remotely-operated vehicles to carry out inspections of vessels for marine pests was completed.
- Small waterproof robots (‘POTBots’) are being used in new FRDC-funded research to examine and monitor the marine habitat of [western rock lobsters](#).
- Research, jointly funded by the FRDC and industry, was completed on the genetics of pearl oyster stress and identification of *Chlamydiales* in pearl oysters.
- Twenty-three reports of ‘fish kills’ throughout WA were investigated, in collaboration with staff from the Department of Water and the Waters and Rivers Commission.
- Large-scale spawning of a number of vulnerable freshwater species was achieved at the Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre.
- Trout species were reared to support commercial angling and aquaculture production in the State.



Stock assessment and data analysis

- Data collection was completed for a fully-integrated approach to Statewide surveys of recreational boat-based fishing, using the Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence. Analyses of the considerable quantity of data generated by this survey are currently underway.
- A WAMSI project to implement an Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) approach to risk management in the West Coast Bioregion was completed.
- Scholarships to further build capacity in recreational fishing surveys have been established with Edith Cowan University.
- A Natural Resource Management report covering the use of aerial surveys as part of an integrated approach to estimating shore-based recreational catch and effort in the broader metropolitan region was completed.

Finfish

- Phase one of a Natural Resource Management-funded project to determine connectivity and status of key indicator species in the nearshore waters of the West Coast Bioregion has been finalised and sent for external, independent review.
- Two FRDC-funded projects examining the relative efficiency of gear and resource availability in the tropical demersal fisheries, and the stock structure of blue and king threadfin species across northern Australia, were finalised and reviewed, with their results presented to fishery managers.

- The stock status of the Gascoyne demersal scalefish resource has been finalised after external, independent review and will be released shortly.
- A FRDC-funded project, led by CSIRO, to collect and identify larval dhufish in the West Coast Bioregion has successfully identified **dhufish** genetic material.
- The shark monitoring network has been extended through government initiatives on white sharks. Research and compliance staff have been trained in tagging sharks and another acoustic listening array has been deployed to complement the existing ones in the southern half of the State.
- Collaborative research projects funded by WAMSI, including the stock structure of West Australian dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper and a model of the possible effects of environment and fishing on West Australian dhufish, were completed.
- The tagging of over 1,500 herring to assess stock movement and provide an independent measure of fishing exploitation rates began. This Natural Resource Management-funded project has involved the coordination of recreational anglers, with assistance from Recfishwest. Ongoing technical assistance and support was provided to the Swan River Trust and Recfishwest for the assessment of monitoring regimes and research projects managed by these bodies.
- Development and co-ordination of fish monitoring and assessment for the Indian Ocean Territories was completed.



Service 3 – Research and Monitoring – major initiatives for 2012/13

Invertebrates

- An FRDC-funded project will be completed to increase our understanding of the causes of the low puerulus settlement in the western rock lobster fishery, using a larval oceanographic model and a statistical assessment of biological and environmental data.
- A Seafood CRC bio-economic modelling project examining the maximum economic yield for the western rock lobster fishery will be completed, after assessing the effects of moving from an effort-controlled to a catch quota-controlled fishery.
- An FRDC project will commence to examine the biology and stock status of the Shark Bay crab fishery and, in particular, to assess the recovery of the stocks after the marine heatwave in the summer of 2010/11 resulted in a major decline in abundance.
- The recovery of the scallop stocks in Shark Bay will be assessed to determine when the fishery may be re-opened after the decline in abundance due to the marine heatwave.
- A Seafood CRC project will assess the use of translocation of Roe's abalone into the Kalbarri area to assist in the recovery of the stock affected by the marine heatwave.
- A report will be completed on the status of the Peel-Harvey blue swimmer crab stocks.
- Assistance will be given to complete third party certification pre-assessments of invertebrate fisheries.

Biodiversity and biosecurity

- Long-term monitoring of fish and benthic habitats will be established in recently created marine protected areas in the north (Camden Sound) and south (Ngari Capes region) of the State.
- An annual monitoring regime for introduced marine pest species will be installed at high-risk locations.
- Control techniques will be evaluated to develop the capacity for emergency response and containment of introduced marine pest species.
- Freshwater bodies and associated species will be prioritised for rehabilitation, restocking and feral eradication, based on data from the survey carried out in 2010/11. Restocking of native fish will commence in 'priority' water bodies.
- Molecular tools will be developed to support the management of the endangered Margaret River hairy marron.
- A joint industry project is being developed to determine the commercial feasibility of ranching and rearing juvenile octopus for aquaculture.

Stock assessment and data analysis

- Detailed analyses will be completed of the 2011/12 survey of Statewide boat-based fishing and made available to stakeholders.
- The next (2013/14) Statewide survey of boat-based recreational fishing will be developed and implemented.
- A Natural Resource Management project to estimate levels of



shore-based recreational effort in the Gascoyne region using an aerial survey will be completed.

Finfish

- The second phase of the WA Natural Resource Management-funded project to determine status of key indicator species in the nearshore waters of the West Coast Bioregion will be finalised. This will complete the assessment of all indicator species of the nearshore species suite in the West Coast Bioregion, and provide status of nearshore species in the South Coast Bioregion.
- Additional tagging of Australian herring and monitoring of tag returns will continue throughout 2012/13, supported by the WA Natural Resource Management office.
- A review of correlations between shark sightings and environmental conditions will be completed to determine if there are higher-risk periods for marine users. Information will be compiled and reviewed for an assessment of changes in white shark abundance.
- An updated stock assessment of the status of West Coast demersal scalefish – West Australian dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper – will be completed to provide an assessment of the effectiveness of the 2009 management measures.
- The evaluation of a new net design to further reduce the interactions between dolphins and the Pilbara fish trawl fishery will begin. This will assist in maintaining export approval for the State's most valuable finfish fishery.

- An assessment of oceanic Shark Bay pink snapper stocks will be completed in 2012/13.



Case Study 4 Research and monitoring in focus – solving the circle of life for dhufish

The West Australian dhufish is an iconic WA species, growing to over 25 kilos, with a superb flavour and texture highly prized by commercial and recreational fishers. It is found nowhere else in the world.

Dhufish are one of the key indicators of the status of demersal scalefish (fish that live close to the sea floor) in the West Coast Bioregion. These include the popular fishing species pink snapper and baldchin groper. Pro-active management was introduced several years ago to address sustainability concerns for these major demersal species in the West Coast Bioregion



West Australian dhufish. Photo: Henrique Kwong

(between Kalbarri and Augusta), and Department scientists have been undertaking a major research and monitoring program to help assess the effects of these measures.

The dhufish can be surprising; while a large fish, it is very elusive during the early stages of its lifecycle (larvae and juveniles). Juvenile dhufish, less than 300 mm in length, are rarely seen by fishers, divers and researchers. This has meant scientists lacked a full understanding of the dhufish's lifecycle and habits.

Before the start of recent Natural Resource Management funded research work only a few juveniles had been collected, from a small area off the north-west of Fremantle. These were caught by trawling, a method that provides only limited information on the habitats in which juveniles are found.

As a result, during 2010/11 and 2011/12, Department researchers have started to use more advanced techniques, combined with information provided by commercial and recreational fishers and divers, to identify habitats that may be critical for very young dhufish.

If the major places where juvenile dhufish live can be identified, the researchers will have the chance to examine whether the abundance of these juveniles could be routinely monitored every year. It is possible that such information on recruitment could be used to predict the relative size of adult dhufish stocks that will be available for capture several years in advance.

This is similar to the technique used over the past few decades by the Department's scientists who monitor juvenile rock lobsters (puerulus) to predict the rock lobster catch three to four years later.

A range of high-tech techniques was used in the first year of the juvenile dhufish project, including research trapping and trawling in selected commercial fishing grounds and the use of stereo baited remote underwater video (BRUV) cameras during day and night. This stereo video footage can be used to accurately determine the number and length of dhufish swimming by the cameras.

Towed underwater cameras, producing live video feeds, are also used in conjunction with 'MaxSea' seabed classification software to map and visualise the habitat types where juvenile dhufish are observed.

When the field work started in September 2010 only a handful of juveniles were captured or observed, demonstrating how hard it is to find very young dhufish. These were collected by small fish traps or recorded by BRUVs and were all about one year old. They were predominantly found on sandy habitats near higher-relief reef, where older and larger dhufish occur.

A 99 mm long (total length) specimen was the first of the juveniles caught. A number of other small dhufish (180 – 300 mm) were also collected in trawls and traps and detected by the towed video and filmed by BRUVs during day and night.

Additional video and other information on juvenile dhufish locations have been provided to researchers by fishers and divers. This has included footage of numerous juveniles in low-lying artificial structures in an area off the State's south-west.



Stereo baited remote underwater video (BRUV) cameras about to be deployed.

The success of the first year of the juvenile dhufish project resulted in the October 2011 approval of an additional \$112,000 of State Government Natural Resource Management funding. The extension of the survey to a wider geographical area has allowed researchers to gain a greater understanding of the habitats important to very young dhufish.

Another Department research project, partly funded by the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI), has been collecting information to increase our understanding of WA's dhufish stocks by releasing six satellite-linked drifter buoys between Cape Leeuwin and Cape Naturaliste in February 2011.

The buoys' movements help researchers learn more about the northward-flowing Capes Current that is suspected to affect the dispersal of dhufish eggs and larvae. The main question for researchers is how far the Capes Current could transport the eggs



and larvae from the main dhufish spawning grounds.

The drifter buoys have a 15 m drogue – like a huge sock with holes in it – suspended below the surface and are designed to track ocean surface currents.

It is anticipated the drifter buoys will provide detailed information on the Capes Current's speed, direction of flow and sea surface temperatures, on an hourly basis. They should reveal what could potentially be happening to dhufish eggs and larvae, and the eggs and larvae of other species.

These data, sent to the Department via satellite, will be used to improve oceanographic modelling for the Capes region and provide a better understanding of what scientists call 'along-shelf' and 'cross-shelf' water movements and their potential influences on the dispersal of fish eggs and larvae.

More drifter buoys were deployed in the Capes region in January and February 2012, through a collaboration between CSIRO and the Department, funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC). This project is investigating dhufish spawning locations in the South-west by collecting samples of dhufish eggs and larvae and studying patterns of abundance and dispersal.

This project, in addition to the traditional, time-consuming methods of manually sorting plankton to identify dhufish larvae uses new genetic 'fingerprints' to rapidly determine the presence or absence of dhufish eggs and larvae from a sample.

An updated stock assessment of West Coast demersal scalefish, including dhufish, will be conducted in late 2012. This assessment, partly based on the data obtained from fish skeletons

donated by recreational fishers between 2008/09 and 2010/11 as part of the 'Send Us Your Skeletons' scheme, will indicate whether stocks of demersal species are recovering after the significant management changes introduced several years ago.

The Department still needs recreational fishers to donate the skeletons of dhufish and other indicator species to assist with vital monitoring research as part of the 'Send Us Your Skeletons' scheme. Skeletons currently needed from the West Coast Bioregion are dhufish, baldchin groper, pink snapper, Bight redfish and redthroat emperor. Herring, tailor and whiting (all species) are required from the West Coast and South Coast Bioregions – see www.fish.wa.gov.au/frames for further information.

All this work goes towards completing the Department's knowledge of the lifecycle of dhufish and enhances our ability to monitor their stocks and ensure their long-term sustainability.



Service 4 – Marine Safety Service

The marine safety compliance service is delivered by Fisheries and Marine Officers within the Department's Regional Services Branch on behalf of the Department of Transport.

These services are primarily provided within the Metropolitan Region (Lancelin to Mandurah) and include both at-sea and boat ramp checks to ensure masters and people in charge of vessels are complying with the relevant marine safety legislation. Most of these services target recreational boat users but some commercial inspections are undertaken when the situation permits.

As many of these services are combined with a fisheries compliance service, they are now delivered more effectively and efficiently.

The Department works closely with the Department of Transport on policy matters, such as the introduction of a marine safety single national jurisdiction under the Commonwealth by 2013, which may affect our stakeholders and our own maritime operations.



Fisheries and Marine Officers at work. Photo: Shannon Conway



Corporate Services

Corporate Services Division

The Department's Corporate Service Division, in partnership with the Department of Treasury and Finance – Office of Shared Services (DTFSS), provides corporate services for the Department to deliver its Fisheries Management, Compliance and Education, Research and Monitoring and Marine Safety services.

Shared Corporate Services

With the Government announcement in 2012 that the Office of Shared Services would be decommissioned, the Department of Fisheries began planning for the phased return of human resources and finance functions. During this transition period the Department will continue to work with the DTFSS to maintain service delivery levels.

Human Resource Management

During 2011/2012 there has been a significant change in the Department's human resource management service with the creation of the new People Services Branch, which includes a General Manager position (established and filled in November 2011).

Since the Government announcement of the decommissioning of the DTFSS, some resources have been transferred from the DTFSS to the Department. The People Services Branch has assumed responsibility for the management of recruitment, classification, training, and workers' compensation claims management (including injury management) functions. The payroll and establishment functions will be returned to the Department in late 2013.

The People Services Branch is responsible for the management and co-ordination of organisational development programs and initiatives. An increased focus was placed on employee health and wellness, training and development, performance management, management support and coaching, workplace planning and reporting, and appropriate workplace behaviour. Re-negotiation of the Department's Agency Specific Agreement began and will continue during the 2012/2013 financial year.

Annual staffing level

The annual staffing level for the year as at 30 June 2012 was 447 employees.



Table 18. Department of Fisheries staffing levels for 2011/12

	September 2011	December 2011	March 2012	June 2012
Actual FTE	422	441	444	447

The staffing levels outlined above are a snapshot of the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff paid on the last pay day in each quarter of 2011/12.

The number of FTEs has fluctuated throughout the year due to variations in the number of externally-funded positions, receipt of additional funding for new projects, and as a result of positions being vacant and/or incumbents on unpaid leave during certain reporting periods.

Finance and Administration

In 2011/12 the Finance and Administration Branch focused on improving capacity to meet corporate management needs and ensure strategic financial management was provided to meet the governance and reporting requirements of the Department of Fisheries, the Department of Treasury and the Office of the Auditor General.

Governance was strengthened by developing a new accounting manual and the introduction of new accounting policies.

A new financial management reporting tool, which increased the capacity and skill base of the branch's budgeting and financial analysis services, was introduced, providing an improved service to Department management and staff.

Information Management

The Information Management Branch manages and delivers information services to meet internal Department needs. The branch has three separate areas:

- Corporate Information – managing corporate documents and other information, including compliance with the Department's statutory obligations under the *State Records Act 2000* and *Freedom of Information Act 1992*.
- Information Systems Operations – managing information technology infrastructure (including computers, servers and network equipment), communications and data services (fixed and mobile data and mobile telephones), the corporate operating environment (including desktop and server software) and information technology helpdesk services.
- Application Development – managing and supporting corporate applications including eBrief, SeaStar and the Rock Lobster Quota Management System. This section also manages new application development.

Major achievements for 2011/12

- Health expos for staff were held in metropolitan and regional areas to improve our understanding of health and wellness issues.
- The Department's commitment to the One Life Suicide Prevention Strategy was recognised with a Gold Certificate Award.



- The People Services Branch worked with management to review all occupational safety and health policies and procedures, and appropriate safety management processes.
- Online training for managers and supervisors in their occupational safety and health injury management responsibilities was introduced.
- Significant progress was made towards the objectives set out in the 'Plan for Our People', contributing to the Public Sector Commission's 'Strategic Directions in the Public Sector Workforce'.
- The Department's Karratha Office will be refurbished and new storage facilities constructed in Karratha and Broome to support the Government's \$8.5 million Northern Fisheries Compliance initiative.
- A new Marine Operations Centre will be built in South Perth, which will be the hub of biosecurity and wholesale/retail compliance operations in Western Australia.

Major initiatives for 2012/13

- The roll-out of personnel and payroll services will be continued, including the introduction of a new human resources management information system and associated change management activities such as training and awareness.
- The Community Action Plan will be implemented through the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Working Group. Staff understanding of mental health issues and how they can affect the workplace and private life will be improved.
- The Misconduct Resistance Framework will be publicised and management strategies developed.
- Safety management systems will be accredited against the WorkSafe Plan, as part of the Department's commitment to ongoing safety improvement.



Financial statements

Independent audit opinion on financial statements and key performance indicators



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Parliament of Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accounts and financial statements of the Department of Fisheries.

The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2012, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service, Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service, and Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year then ended, and Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, including Administered transactions and balances.

Director General's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Director General is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Treasurer's Instructions, and for such internal control as the Director General determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Department's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Director General, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Department of Fisheries at 30 June 2012 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Report on Controls

I have audited the controls exercised by the Department of Fisheries during the year ended 30 June 2012.

Controls exercised by the Department of Fisheries are those policies and procedures established by the Director General to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions.

Director General's Responsibility for Controls

The Director General is responsible for maintaining an adequate system of internal control to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of public and other property, and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's Instructions, and other relevant written law.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the controls exercised by the Department of Fisheries based on my audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the adequacy of controls to ensure that the Department complies with the legislative provisions. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement and include an evaluation of the design and implementation of relevant controls.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the controls exercised by the Department of Fisheries are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions during the year ended 30 June 2012.

Report on the Key Performance Indicators

I have audited the key performance indicators of the Department of Fisheries for the year ended 30 June 2012.

The key performance indicators are the key effectiveness indicators and the key efficiency indicators that provide information on outcome achievement and service provision.

Director General's Responsibility for the Key Performance Indicators

The Director General is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such controls as the Director General determines necessary to ensure that the key performance indicators fairly represent indicated performance.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators based on my audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the key performance indicators. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Director General's preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and service provision.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the key performance indicators of the Department of Fisheries are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Department's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2012.

Independence

In conducting this audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Auditor General Act 2006 and Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, and other relevant ethical requirements.

Matters Relating to the Electronic Publication of the Audited Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Department of Fisheries for the year ended 30 June 2012 included on the Department's website. The Department's management is responsible for the integrity of the Department's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Department's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these financial statements or key performance indicators. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators to confirm the information contained in this website version of the financial statements and key performance indicators.

GLEN CLARKE
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
14 September 2012



Certification of financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2012

The accompanying financial statements of the Department of Fisheries have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ending 30 June 2012 and the financial position as at 30 June 2012.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.

THU LANG VO
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Date: 31 August 2012

STUART SMITH
DIRECTOR GENERAL
Date: 31 August 2012



**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012**

	Note	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	6	45,925	40,516
Supplies and services	7	29,179	23,192
Depreciation and amortisation expense	8	3,756	3,790
Finance costs	9	2,405	1,068
Accommodation expenses	10	2,571	2,071
Grants and subsidies	11	935	1,636
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	12	464	170
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	18	367	-
Other expenses	13	496	263
Total cost of services		<u>86,098</u>	<u>72,706</u>
Income			
Revenue			
User charges and fees	14	31,737	30,870
Grants and contributions	15	3,261	2,490
Interest revenue	16	385	491
Other revenue	17	500	-
Total revenue		<u>35,883</u>	<u>33,851</u>
Gains			
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	18	-	24
Total gains		<u>-</u>	<u>24</u>
Total income other than income from State Government		<u>35,883</u>	<u>33,875</u>

	Note	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES		<u>50,215</u>	<u>38,831</u>
Income from State Government	19		
Service appropriations		50,280	32,676
Resources received free of charge		750	499
Royalties for Regions Fund		142	94
Total Income from State Government		<u>51,172</u>	<u>33,269</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		957	(5,562)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	32	(885)	(527)
Gains/(losses) recognised directly in equity		-	-
Total other comprehensive income		<u>(885)</u>	<u>(527)</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		72	(6,089)

See also the 'Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service'.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2012**

	Note	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	33	6,790	3,516
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	20	2,635	1,774
Receivables	21	5,240	6,010
Amounts receivable for services	22	2,746	2,226
Other current assets	23	146	162
Non-current assets classified as held for distribution to owners	24	700	-
Total Current Assets		<u>18,257</u>	<u>13,688</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	20	923	672
Receivables	21	31,760	34,862
Amounts receivable for services	22	6,475	6,349
Property, plant and equipment	25	59,680	58,399
Intangible assets	26	2,672	1,053
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>101,510</u>	<u>101,335</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>119,767</u>	<u>115,023</u>

	Note	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	28	2,211	2,607
Borrowings	29	3,775	3,785
Provisions	30	10,042	9,163
Other current liabilities	31	1,402	1,310
Total Current Liabilities		<u>17,430</u>	<u>16,865</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	29	31,760	34,862
Provisions	30	2,381	2,111
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>34,141</u>	<u>36,973</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>51,571</u>	<u>53,838</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>68,196</u>	<u>61,185</u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	32	57,015	50,076
Reserves	32	13,903	13,514
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	32	(2,722)	(2,405)
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>68,196</u>	<u>61,185</u>

See also the 'Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service'.
The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	Note	Contributed Equity	Reserves	Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit)	Total Equity
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at 1 July 2010	32	44,566	14,041	3,157	61,764
Changes in accounting policy or correction of prior period errors		-	-	-	-
Restated balance at 1 July 2010		44,566	14,041	3,157	61,764
Surplus/(deficit)		-	-	(5,562)	(5,562)
Other comprehensive income		-	(527)	-	(527)
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	(527)	(5,562)	(6,089)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		5,510	-	-	5,510
Other contributions by owners		-	-	-	-
Distributions to owners		-	-	-	-
Total		5,510	-	-	5,510
Balance as at 30 June 2011		50,076	13,514	(2,405)	61,185
Balance at 1 July 2011		50,076	13,514	(2,405)	61,185
Changes in accounting policy or correction of prior period errors		-	-	-	-
Restated balance at 1 July 2011		50,076	13,514	(2,405)	61,185
Surplus/(deficit)		-	-	957	957
Transfer of Asset Revaluation Reserve		-	1,274	(1,274)	-
Other comprehensive income		-	(885)	-	(885)
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	389	(317)	72
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		8,454	-	-	8,454
Other contributions by owners		200	-	-	200
Distributions to owners		(1,715)	-	-	(1,715)
Total		6,939	-	-	6,939
Balance as at 30 June 2012		57,015	13,903	(2,722)	68,196

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012**

	2012	2011
Note	\$'000	\$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT		
Service appropriation	46,888	29,284
Capital contributions	8,454	5,510
Holding account draw-downs	2,746	2,226
Royalties for Regions Fund	342	94
Net cash provided by State Government	<u>58,430</u>	<u>37,114</u>
Utilised as follows:		
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Payments		
Employee benefits	(44,757)	(37,683)
Supplies and services	(28,049)	(16,962)
Finance costs	(2,615)	(253)
Accommodation	(2,571)	(2,071)
Grants and subsidies	(935)	(1,636)
GST payments on purchases	(4,771)	(6,522)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs	(464)	(170)
Other payments	(230)	(5,498)
Receipts		
User charges and fees	32,934	29,986
Grants and contributions	3,261	1,690
Interest received	439	413
Other revenue	500	-
GST receipts on sales	852	547
GST receipts from taxation authority	3,804	5,786
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	33 <u>(42,602)</u>	<u>(32,373)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Payments		
Purchase of non-current assets	(11,515)	(4,414)
Receipts		
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	202	36
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>(11,313)</u>	<u>(4,378)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Payments		
Payments to industry	-	(34,300)
Repayment of borrowings	(2,902)	(562)
Receipts		
Proceeds from industry	2,773	544
Proceeds from borrowings	-	34,300
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	<u>(129)</u>	<u>(18)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	4,386	345
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period	5,962	5,617
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF PERIOD	33 <u>10,348</u>	<u>5,962</u>

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES SCHEDULE OF INCOME AND EXPENSES BY SERVICE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		COMPLIANCE AND EDUCATION		RESEARCH AND MONITORING		MARINE SAFETY		TOTAL	
	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
COST OF SERVICES										
Expenses										
Employee benefits expense	13,004	12,569	18,518	14,849	14,167	12,781	236	317	45,925	40,516
Supplies and services	8,918	6,477	11,543	8,412	8,667	8,198	51	105	29,179	23,192
Depreciation and amortisation	39	38	2,703	2,729	1,014	1,023	-	-	3,756	3,790
Finance costs	2,405	1,068	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,405	1,068
Accommodation expenses	1,669	1,056	645	705	252	300	5	10	2,571	2,071
Grants and subsidies	315	129	11	-	609	1,507	-	-	935	1,636
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs	464	170	-	-	-	-	-	-	464	170
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	4	-	264	-	99	-	-	-	367	-
Other expenses	79	23	11	9	406	231	-	0	496	263
Total cost of services	26,897	21,530	34,695	26,704	25,214	24,040	292	432	86,098	72,706
Income										
User charges and fees	8,815	6,844	11,364	11,139	11,518	12,835	41	52	31,738	30,870
Grants and contributions	1,642	844	300	-	1,319	1,646	-	-	3,261	2,490
Interest revenue	115	104	128	168	141	218	-	1	384	491
Other revenue	-	-	250	-	250	-	-	-	500	-
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	24
Total income other than income from State Government	10,572	7,792	12,042	11,331	13,228	14,699	41	53	36,883	33,875
NET COST OF SERVICES	16,325	13,738	21,653	15,372	11,986	9,341	251	379	50,215	38,831
Income from State Government										
Service appropriation	16,391	19,792	21,591	11,294	12,046	1,468	252	122	50,280	32,676
Resources received free of charge	234	203	294	172	220	123	2	1	750	499
Royalties for Regions Fund	-	2	142	90	-	2	-	-	142	94
Total income from State Government	16,625	19,997	22,027	11,556	12,266	1,593	254	123	51,172	33,269
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD	300	6,259	374	(3,817)	280	(7,748)	3	(256)	957	(5,562)

The Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES SCHEDULE OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY SERVICE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		COMPLIANCE AND EDUCATION		RESEARCH AND MONITORING		MARINE SAFETY		TOTAL	
	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
ASSETS										
<i>Current assets</i>										
Cash and cash equivalents	1,520	800	2,817	1,401	2,194	1,186	259	129	6,790	3,516
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	590	403	1,092	707	852	599	101	65	2,635	1,774
Receivables	4,103	4,192	608	938	473	794	56	86	5,240	6,010
Amounts receivable for services	615	506	1,139	887	887	751	105	82	2,746	2,226
Other current assets	33	37	60	64	47	55	6	6	146	162
Non-current assets classified as hold for distributions to owners	157	-	290	-	226	-	27	-	700	-
Total Current Assets	7,018	5,938	6,006	3,997	4,679	3,385	554	368	18,257	13,688
<i>Non-current assets</i>										
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	207	153	383	267	298	227	35	25	923	672
Receivables	31,760	34,862	-	-	-	-	-	-	31,760	34,862
Amounts receivable for services	1,450	1,444	2,686	2,530	2,092	2,142	247	233	6,475	6,349
Property, plant and equipment	323	905	37,051	33,714	22,251	23,633	55	147	59,680	58,399
Intangible assets	730	16	763	608	1,055	426	124	3	2,672	1,053
Total Non-Current Assets	34,470	37,380	40,883	37,119	25,696	26,428	461	408	101,510	101,335
Total Assets	41,488	43,318	46,889	41,116	30,375	29,813	964	769	119,767	115,023
LIABILITIES										
<i>Current liabilities</i>										
Payables	495	593	918	1,038	714	880	84	96	2,211	2,607
Borrowings	845	861	1,566	1,508	1,220	1,277	144	139	3,775	3,785
Provisions	2,249	2,084	4,165	3,657	3,245	3,092	383	336	10,042	9,163
Other current liabilities	314	298	581	522	453	442	54	48	1,402	1,310
Total Current Liabilities	3,903	3,836	7,230	6,719	5,632	5,691	665	619	17,430	16,865
<i>Non-current liabilities</i>										
Borrowings	31,760	34,862	-	-	-	-	-	-	31,760	34,862
Provisions	533	480	988	842	769	712	91	77	2,381	2,111
Total Non-Current Liabilities	32,293	35,342	988	842	769	712	91	77	34,141	36,973
Total Liabilities	36,196	39,178	8,218	7,561	6,401	6,403	756	696	51,571	53,838
NET ASSETS	5,292	4,140	38,671	33,555	23,974	23,410	259	80	68,196	61,185

The Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT APPROPRIATIONS AND INCOME ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012 Estimate \$'000	2012 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	2012 Actual \$'000	2011 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Delivery of Services						
Item 15 net amount appropriated to deliver services	39,391	49,982	(10,591)	49,982	32,412	17,570
Section 25 transfer of service appropriation						
Amount authorised by other statutes						
- <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	298	298	-	298	264	34
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	39,689	50,280	(10,591)	50,280	32,676	17,604
Capital						
Item 113 Capital appropriations	10,060	8,454	1,606	8,454	5,510	2,944
Other contributions by owners	-	200	(200)	200	-	200
GRAND TOTAL	49,749	58,934	(8,185)	58,934	38,186	20,748
Details of Expenses by Service						
Fisheries Management	17,458	26,897	(9,439)	26,897	21,530	5,367
Compliance and Education	31,671	33,695	(2,024)	33,695	26,704	6,991
Research and Monitoring	23,283	25,214	(1,931)	25,214	24,040	1,174
Marine Safety Service	1,481	292	1,189	292	432	(140)
Total Cost of Services	73,893	89,098	(12,205)	86,098	72,706	13,392
Less Total Income	-	(35,883)	(35,883)	(35,883)	(33,875)	(2,008)
Net Cost of Services	73,893	50,215	(48,088)	50,215	38,831	11,384
Adjustments	-	65	65	65	(6,155)	6,220
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	73,893	50,280	(48,023)	50,280	32,676	17,604
Capital Expenditure						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	13,593	11,515	2,078	11,515	4,414	7,101
Adjustments for other funding sources	-	(3,061)	(3,061)	(3,061)	1,096	(4,157)
Capital appropriations	13,593	8,454	(983)	8,454	5,510	2,944
Details of Income Estimates						
Income disclosed as Administered Income	-	2,636	(2,636)	2,636	-	2,636
	-	2,636	(2,636)	2,636	-	2,636

Adjustments comprise movements in cash balances and other accrual items such as receivables, payables and superannuation.

Note 37 'Explanatory statement' provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2012 and between the actual results for 2012 and 2011.



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES INDEX OF NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

Subject	Policy Note	Disclosure Note	Title of Policy Note
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Subject	Policy Note	Disclosure Note	Title of Policy Note
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This index does not form part of the financial statements.



Subject	Policy Note	Disclosure Note	Title of Policy Note
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Assets	2(g)	25	PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT
Assets	2(h)	26	INTANGIBLE ASSETS
Assets	2(h)	27	IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS
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This index does not form part of the financial statements.



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

1 AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

General

The Department's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2012 have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The term 'Australian Accounting Standards' includes Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

The Department has adopted any applicable new and revised Australian Accounting Standards from their operative dates.

Early adoption of standards

The Department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by Treasurer's Instruction 1101 Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements. There has been no early adoption of Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued or amended (but not operative) by the Department for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2012.

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) General Statement

The Department is a not-for-profit reporting entity that prepares general purpose financial statements in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The *Financial Management Act* and the Treasurer's instructions impose legislative provisions that govern the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

Where modification is required and has had a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and

the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, except for land, buildings and infrastructure which have been measured at fair value.

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements have been consistently applied throughout all periods presented unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

Note 3 'Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies' discloses judgements that have been made in the process of applying the Department's accounting policies resulting in the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Note 4 'Key sources of estimation uncertainty' discloses key assumptions made concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

(c) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Department which has no 'related bodies'.

Mission

The Department's mission is: "To conserve, sustainably develop and share the use of the State's aquatic resources and their ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations."

The Department is funded from revenue collected under the authority of *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, *Pearling Act 1990* and from Parliamentary appropriations. The Department has legislative authority to retain revenues it collects in the respective Trust Accounts administered by the Department.

Services

The budget is framed in terms of services, consequently financial reporting for the year is also analysed in terms of services.



Information about the Department's services is set out in the Schedule of Expenses and Revenue by Service and the Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service.

The services of the Department detailed below closely align with the functional organisational structure of:

- Fisheries Management;
- Compliance and Education;
- Research and Monitoring; and
- Marine Safety Service.

A description of each service is as follows:

Fisheries Management

In accordance with Government Policy, the management of the State's fish and aquatic resources is undertaken within an integrated fisheries management framework – a shift from the management of individual sectors (e.g. the commercial fishing sector) to the holistic management of the aquatic ecosystem. Management, often in association with other related Government agencies, includes the development of policy and procedural frameworks (legislation and management plans), licensing, consultation with stakeholders and the community.

Compliance and Education

Without the support of the community and stakeholders, the Department is unable to effectively manage the aquatic environment. To encourage this support, the Department must raise community awareness and understanding of the issues and of the need to adhere to the rules governing activities in this environment. There also needs to be enforcement of the rules through penalties for non-compliance. The Department plans and implements education and communications programs to raise levels of awareness and understanding of fishery management objectives. It also plans and instigates investigations and enforcement strategies.

Research and Monitoring

The aquatic environment is subject to ongoing change – both natural and man-made. In order to ensure that management arrangements continue to adapt to environmental changes (e.g. climate change impacts) and

community expectations, research and monitoring is required, including innovative science (e.g. impacts of expected climate change, social, and economic research) and the ongoing monitoring of fish stocks.

Marine Safety Service

One of the recommendations of the Machinery of Government Taskforce in 2000 was to increase the efficiency of the delivery of government services. The delivery of marine safety in the metropolitan area was identified as being one of those services that could be delivered more efficiently if it was done by the Department of Fisheries on behalf of the Department of Transport. The Department of Fisheries has been delivering this service – which includes checks by Fisheries and Marine Officers of recreational boats to ensure compliance with the safety requirements – since this time.

(d) Contributed Equity

AASB Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities' requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, to be designated by the Government (the owner) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners according to Treasurer's Instruction 955 Contribution by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

The transfers of net assets to/from other agencies, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal.

(e) Income

Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised and measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

Sale of goods

Revenue is recognised from the sale of goods and disposal of other



assets when the significant risks and rewards of ownership transfer to the purchaser and can be measured reliably.

Provision of services

Revenue is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction. Fees paid for access to managed fisheries are levied on a seasonal, not financial year basis and may be paid in instalments. The revenue for access fees is recognised at the time of receipt.

Interest

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

Service appropriations

Service Appropriations are recognised as revenues at fair value in the period in which the Department gains control of the appropriated funds. The Department gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited to the bank account or credited to the 'Amounts receivable for services' (holding account) held at the Department of Treasury.

Net Appropriation Determination

The Treasurer may make a determination providing for prescribed receipts to be retained for services under the control of the Department. In accordance with the determination specified in the 2011/12 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$4.656 million in 2011/12 (\$6.333 million in 2010/11) from GST receipts on sales and input credits.

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions

Revenue is recognised at fair value when the Department obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions, usually when cash is received.

Other non-reciprocal contributions that are not contributions by owners are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

Where contributions recognised as revenues during the reporting period were obtained on the condition that they will be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the end of the reporting period, the nature of, and

amounts pertaining to, those undischarged conditions are disclosed in the notes.

Where contributions have been recognised as income during the reporting period that were provided specifically for the provision of goods and services over a future reporting period, the nature, amounts and the periods to which they relate are disclosed.

Where contributions have been recognised as income in a previous reporting period that were obtained in respect of the current reporting period, the nature and amounts are disclosed.

Royalties for Regions funds are recognised as revenue at fair value in the period in which the Department obtains control over the funds. The Department obtains control of the funds at the time the funds are deposited into the Department's bank account.

Gains

Realised or unrealised gains are usually recognised on a net basis. These include gains arising on the disposal of non-current assets and some revaluations of non-current assets.

(f) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are expensed when incurred.

(g) Property, Plant and Equipment and Infrastructure

Capitalisation/expensing of assets

Items of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure costing \$5,000 or more are recognised as assets and the cost of utilising assets is expensed (depreciated) over their useful lives. Items of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income, other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total.

Initial recognition and measurement

Property, plant and equipment and infrastructure are initially recognised at cost.

For items of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.



Subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition as an asset, the revaluation model is used for the measurement of land, buildings and infrastructure and the historical cost for all other property, plant and equipment. Land, buildings and infrastructure are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation (buildings and infrastructure only) and accumulated impairment losses. All other items of property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Where market-based evidence is available, the fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of current market buying values determined by reference to recent market transactions. When buildings are revalued by reference to recent market transactions, the accumulated depreciation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount.

In the absence of market-based evidence, the fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of existing use. This normally applies where buildings are specialised or where land use is restricted. Fair value for existing use assets is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, i.e. the depreciated replacement cost. Where the fair value of buildings is determined on the depreciated replacement cost basis, the gross carrying amount and the accumulated depreciation are restated proportionately.

Land and buildings are independently valued annually by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services) and recognised annually to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from the asset's fair value at the end of the reporting period.

Fair value of major boating assets has been determined on the basis of current market buying values determined by reference to recent market transactions. Where no market-based evidence is available, due to the specialised nature of some of these assets, fair value has been determined by reference to the depreciated replacement cost (existing use basis). Independent valuations are obtained every three to five years.

When major boating assets are revalued, the accumulated depreciation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount.

The most significant assumptions in estimating fair value are made in assessing whether to apply the existing use basis to assets and in determining estimated useful life. Professional judgment by the valuer is required where the evidence does not provide a clear distinction between market type assets and existing use assets.

Derecognition

Upon disposal or derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure, any revaluation reserve relating to that asset is transferred to retained earnings within equity.

Asset revaluation reserve

The asset revaluation surplus is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets as described in note 25 'Property, Plant and Equipment'.

Depreciation

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Asset category	Life (years)
Buildings	40
Vessels	5 to 6
Communication equipment	5
Computer equipment	3
Furniture and fittings	10
Infrastructure	30
Motor vehicles	5
Office equipment	5
Other equipment	5 to 10
Plant and equipment	5 to 20

Works of Art controlled by the Department are classified as property, plant and equipment. They are anticipated to have very long and indefinite useful lives. Their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period and consequently no depreciation



has been recognised.

Land is not depreciated.

(h) Intangible Assets

Capitalisation/expensing of assets

Acquisitions of intangible assets costing \$5,000 or more and internally generated intangible assets costing \$50,000 or more are capitalised. The cost of utilising the assets is expensed (amortised) over their useful life. Costs incurred below these thresholds are immediately expensed directly to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation for intangible assets with finite useful lives is calculated for the period of the expected benefit (estimated useful life which is reviewed annually) on the straight line basis. All intangible assets controlled by the Department have a finite useful life and zero residual value. The expected useful lives for each class of intangible asset are:

Licences	up to 10 years
Development Costs	3 to 5 years
Software ^(a)	3 to 5 years
Website Costs	3 to 5 years

^(a) Software that is not integral to the operation of any related hardware.

Licences

Licences have a finite useful life and are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Research and development

Research costs are expensed as incurred. Development costs incurred for an individual project are carried forward when the future economic benefits can reasonably be regarded as assured and the total project costs are likely to exceed \$50,000. Other development costs are expensed as incurred.

Computer software

Software that is an integral part of the related hardware is treated as property, plant and equipment. Software that is not an integral part of the related hardware is treated as an intangible asset. Software costing less than \$5,000 is expensed in the year of acquisition.

Website costs

Website costs are charged as expenses when they are incurred unless they relate to the acquisition or development of an asset when they may be capitalised and amortised. Generally, costs in relation to feasibility studies during the planning phase of a website, and ongoing costs of maintenance during the operating phase are expensed. Costs incurred in building or enhancing a website, to the extent that they represent probable future economic benefits that can be reliably measured, are capitalised.

(i) Impairment of Assets

Property, plant, equipment and infrastructure are tested for any indication of impairment at the end of each reporting period. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised. As the Department is a 'not for profit' entity, unless an asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

The risk of impairment is generally limited to circumstances where an asset's depreciation is materially understated, where the replacement cost is falling or where there is a significant change in useful life. Each relevant class of assets is reviewed annually to verify that the accumulated depreciation/amortisation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of asset's future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from falling replacement costs.

Intangible assets with an indefinite useful life and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment at the end of each reporting period irrespective of whether there is any indication of impairment.

The recoverable amount of assets identified as surplus assets is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and the present value of future cash



flows expected to be derived from the asset. Surplus assets carried at fair value have no risk of material impairment where fair value is determined by reference to market-based evidence. Where fair value is determined by reference to depreciated replacement cost, surplus assets are at risk of impairment and the recoverable amount is measured. Surplus assets at cost are tested for indications of impairment at the end of each reporting period.

(j) Non-current Assets classified as held for distribution to owners

Non-current assets held for distribution to owners are recognised at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell, and are disclosed separately from other assets in the Statement of Financial Position. Assets classified as held for distribution to owner are not depreciated or amortised.

All Crown land holdings are vested in the Department by the Government. The Department of Regional Development and Lands (DRDL) is the only agency with the power to sell Crown land. The Department transfers the Crown land and any attached buildings to DRDL when the land becomes available for sale.

(k) Leases

Finance lease rights and obligations are initially recognised, at the commencement of the lease term, as assets and liabilities equal in amount to the fair value of the leased item or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments, determined at the inception of the lease. The assets are disclosed as plant, equipment and vehicles under lease, and are depreciated over the period during which the Authority is expected to benefit from their use. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability, according to the interest rate implicit in the lease.

The Department holds operating leases for its head office and a number of branch office buildings. Operating leases are expensed on a straight line basis over the lease term as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased properties.

(l) Financial Instruments

In addition to cash, the Department has two categories of financial instrument:

- Loans and receivables; and
- Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost

Financial instruments have been disaggregated into the following classes:

Financial Assets

- Cash and cash equivalents
- Restricted cash and cash equivalents
- Receivables
- Amounts receivable for services

Financial Liabilities

- Payables
- WATC borrowings
- Finance lease liabilities

Initial recognition and measurement of financial instruments is at fair value that normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The fair value of short-term receivables and payables is the transaction cost or the face value because there is no interest rate applicable and subsequent measurement is not required as the effect of discounting is not material.

(m) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalent (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value and bank overdrafts.



(n) Accrued Salaries

Accrued salaries (refer note 31 'Other liabilities') represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the financial year end. The Department considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its net fair value

The accrued salaries suspense account (see note 20 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents') consists of amounts paid annually into a suspense account over a period of 10 financial years to largely meet the additional cash outflow in each eleventh year when 27 pay days occur instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

(o) Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)

The Department receives funding on an accrual basis. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (holding account receivable). The accrued amount receivable is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover leave entitlements and asset replacement.

See also note 19 'Income from State Government' and note 22 'Amounts receivable for services (holding account)'.

(p) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at original invoice amount less an allowance for uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written off against the allowance account. The allowance for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that the Department will not be able to collect the debts. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days. See also note 2(l) 'Financial Instruments' and note 21 'Receivables'.

(q) Payables

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the Department becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as settlement is generally within 30 days. See also note 38 'Financial Instruments' and note 28 'Payables'.

(r) Borrowings

All loans payable are initially recognised at fair value being the net proceeds received. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(s) Provisions

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount and are recognised where there is a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at the end of each reporting period. See also note 30 'Provisions'.

(i) Provisions – Employee benefits

All annual leave and long service leave provisions are in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period.

Annual Leave

The liability for annual leave that is expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Annual leave that is not expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

When assessing expected future payments, consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions, as well as the experience of employee departures and periods of service. The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

The provision for annual leave is classified as a current liability as the Department does not have an unconditional right to the defer



settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

Long Service Leave

The liability for long service leave that is expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Long service leave that is not expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

When assessing expected future payments, consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions, as well as the experience of employee departures and periods of service. The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as the Department does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as non-current liabilities because the Department has an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

Sick Leave

Liabilities for sick leave are recognised when it is probable that sick leave paid in the future will be greater than the entitlement that will accrue in the future.

Past history indicates that, on average, sick leave taken each reporting period is less than the entitlement accrued. This is expected to continue in future periods. Accordingly, it is unlikely that existing

accumulated entitlements will be used by employees and no liability for unused sick leave entitlements is recognised. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income for this leave as it is taken.

Deferred Leave

The provision of deferred leave relates to Public Service employees who have entered into an agreement to self-fund an additional 12 months leave in the fifth year of the agreement. The provision recognises the value of salary set aside for employees to be used in the fifth year. This liability is measured on the same basis as annual leave. Deferred leave is reported as a current provision as employees can leave the scheme at their discretion at any time.

Purchased Leave

The provision of purchased leave relates to Public Service employees who have entered into an agreement to self-fund up to an additional 10 weeks leave per calendar year. The provision recognises the value of salary set aside for employees and is measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. This liability is measured on the same basis as annual leave.

Superannuation

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) administers public sector superannuation arrangements in Western Australia in accordance with legislative requirements. Eligibility criteria for membership in particular schemes for public sector employees varies according to commencement and implementation dates. Eligible employees may contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme closed to new members since 1987, or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme also closed to new members since 1995.

The GSS is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of employees and whole-of-government reporting. However, it is a defined contribution plan for agency purposes because the concurrent contributions (defined contributions) made by the Department to GESB extinguishes the agency's obligations to the related superannuation liability.

The Pension Scheme and the pre-transfer benefit for employees who



transferred to the GSS are defined benefit schemes. These benefits are wholly unfunded and the liabilities for future payments are provided at the end of the reporting period.

The expected future payments are discounted to present value using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

The GSS, the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS), and the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS), where the current service superannuation charge is paid by the Authority to the GESB, are defined contribution schemes. The liabilities for current service superannuation charges under the GSS, the WSS, and the GESBS are extinguished by the concurrent payment of employer contributions to the GESB.

The GSS is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of employees and whole-of-government reporting. However, from an agency perspective, apart from the transfer benefits, it is a defined contribution plan under AASB 119.

Employees commencing employment prior to 16 April 2007 who were not members of either the Pension Scheme or the GSS became non-contributory members of the WSS. Employees commencing employment on or after 16 April 2007 became members of the GESBS. From 30 March 2012, existing members of the WSS or GESBS and new employees became able to choose their preferred superannuation fund. The Authority makes concurrent contributions to GESB or other funds on behalf of employees in compliance with the Commonwealth Government's *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*. Contributions to these accumulation schemes extinguish the Authority's liability for superannuation charges in respect of employees who are not members of the Pension Scheme or GSS.

(ii) Provisions - Other

Employment On-Costs

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses' and are

not included as part of the Department's 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs' provision. See notes 13 'Other Expenses' and 30 'Provisions'.

(t) Superannuation Expense

The superannuation expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income comprises of employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the WSS and the GESBS. The employer contribution paid to the GESB in respect of the GSS is paid back into the Consolidated Account by the GESB.

(u) Resources Received Free of Charge or For Nominal Cost

Resources received free of charge or for nominal cost that can be reliably measured are recognised as income at fair value. Where the resource received represents a service that the Department would otherwise pay for, a corresponding expense is recognised. Receipts of assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position.

Where assets or services are received from another State Government agency, these are separately disclosed under Income from State Government in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

(v) Jointly controlled operations

The Department has interests in joint ventures that are jointly controlled operations. A joint venture is a contractual arrangement whereby two or more parties undertake an economic activity that is subject to joint control. A jointly controlled operation involves the use of assets and other resources of the venturers rather than the establishment of a separate entity. The Department recognises its interests in the jointly controlled operations by recognising the assets it controls and the liabilities that it incurs in respect of the joint venture. The Department also recognises the expenses that it incurs and its share of the income that it earns from the sale of goods or services by the jointly controlled operations.

(w) Comparative Figures

Comparative figures are, where appropriate, reclassified to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year.

(x) Access Fees – Major Commercial Fisheries

The Department and the commercial fishing industry entered into an agreement in 1995 that provided for the Department to recover the costs



associated with the management of major commercial fisheries. The costs were recovered through the annual fee charged for access to the fishery concerned.

Effective 1 July 2010 the use of cost recovery as the mechanism for setting access fees was discontinued. Access fees are now levied as a percentage of the gross value of production of each fishery.

3 JUDGEMENTS MADE BY MANAGEMENT IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements about the application of accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements. The Department evaluates these judgements regularly.

Operating lease commitments

The Department has entered into a number of leases for buildings for branch office accommodation. Some of these leases relate to buildings of a temporary nature and it has been determined that the lessor retains substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. Accordingly, these leases have been classified as operating leases.

Finance lease commitments

The Department had a commercial lease on a patrol vessel and had determined that it retained all the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the property. Accordingly, the lease had been classified as a finance lease.

4 KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. These include:

- Estimating the useful life and residual values of key assets;
- Estimating depreciated replacement cost; and
- Estimating future salary rates, salary inflation, expected future payments, retention rates and discount rates for long service leave.

5 DISCLOSURE OF CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICY AND ESTIMATES

Initial application of Australian Accounting Standards:

The Department has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2011 that impacted on the Department:

AASB 2009-12 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 5, 8, 108, 110, 112, 119, 133, 137, 139, 1023 & 1031 and Int 2, 4, 16, 1039 & 1052].

This Standard makes editorial amendments to a range of Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2010-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 101, 107, 112, 118, 119, 121, 132, 133, 134, 137, 139, 140, 1023 & 1038 and Int 112, 115, 127, 132 & 1042].

This Standard makes editorial amendments to a range of Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations. There is no financial impact.

Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

The Department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements. Consequently, the Department has not applied early the following Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued and which may impact the Department. Where applicable, the Department plans to apply these Standards and Interpretations from their application date.



		Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after	
AASB 9	<i>Financial Instrument</i> This Standard supersedes AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments. The Standard was reissued in December 2010. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.	1 Jan. 2013	AASB 2010-2 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 101, 102, 107, 108, 110, 111, 112, 116, 117, 119, 121, 123, 124, 127, 128, 131, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 1050 & 1052 and Int 2, 4, 5, 15, 17, 127, 129 & 1052]</i> This Standard makes amendments to Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations to introduce reduced disclosure requirements for certain types of entities. There is no financial impact.
AASB 13	<i>Fair Value Measurement</i> This Standard defines fair value, sets out a framework for measuring fair value and requires disclosures about fair value measurements. There is no financial impact.	1 Jan. 2013	AASB 2010-7 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010) [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 120, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 137, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Int 2, 5, 10, 12, 19 & 127]</i> This Standard makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 9 in December 2010. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard
AASB 119	<i>Employee Benefits</i> This Standard supersedes AASB 119 (October 2010). As the Department does not operate a defined benefit plan, the impact of the change is limited to measuring annual leave as a long-term employee benefit. The resultant discounting of the annual leave benefit has an immaterial impact.	1 Jan. 2013	AASB 2011-8 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13 [AASB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 2009-11, 2010-7, 101, 102, 108, 110, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 1004, 1023 & 1038 and Int 2, 4, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 131 & 132]</i> This Standard replaces the existing definition and fair value guidance in other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as the result of issuing AASB 13 in September 2011. There is no financial impact.
AASB 2009-11	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Int 10 & 12].</i> [Modified by AASB 2010-7]	1 Jul. 2013	



AASB 2011-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income [AASB 1, 5, 7, 101, 112, 120, 121, 132, 133, 134, 1039 & 1049] 1 Jul. 2012

This Standard requires to group items presented in other comprehensive income on the basis of whether they are potentially reclassifiable to profit or loss subsequently (reclassification adjustments). The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.

AASB 2011-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 119 (September 2011) [AASB 1, 8, 101, 124, 134, 1049 & 2011-8 and Int 14] 1 Jan. 2013

AASB 2011-11 Amendments to AASB 119 (September 2011) arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements 1 Jul. 2013
This Standard gives effect to Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements for AASB 119 (September 2011). There is no financial impact.

6 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Wages and salaries ^(a)	39,697	35,033
Superannuation - defined contribution plans ^(b)	3,588	3,149
Other related expenses ^(c)	2,640	2,334
	<u>45,925</u>	<u>40,516</u>

^(a) Includes leave entitlements including superannuation contribution component.

^(b) Defined contribution plans include West State, Gold State and GESB Super Scheme (contributions paid).

^(c) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component.

Employment on-costs expenses, such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 13 'Other expenses'.

Employment on-costs liability is included at note 30 'Provisions'.

7 SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Communications	1,374	1,044
Freight and Mail	680	361
Property	1,252	745
Contractors and consultants	7,384	6,087
Payments to stakeholder groups ^(a)	3,749	1,840
Consumables	4,072	3,309
Minor equipment acquisitions	583	399
Repairs and maintenance	2,997	2,481
Travel	2,248	1,865
Electricity and water	514	500
Advertising	85	112
Insurance	763	605
Other lease rentals	2,097	2,164
Other	1,381	1,680
	<u>29,179</u>	<u>23,192</u>

^(a) The legislation governing fisheries management and common law principles associated with "property rights" impose obligations on fisheries managers to consult with affected individuals. The provision of these funds allows the recipient to act as a single point for consultation. Given this the arrangement is a fee for service rather than grant.

8 DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION EXPENSE	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Depreciation		
Buildings	979	970



Marine vessels	1,518	1,398
Communications	15	35
Computing hardware	122	106
Furniture fixtures and fittings	28	47
Office equipment	48	54
Plant and machinery	108	139
Motor vehicles	303	264
Other equipment	86	79
Infrastructure – maritime	80	82
Total depreciation	<u>3,287</u>	<u>3,174</u>
Amortisation		
Computing software	176	176
Leased patrol vessel	293	440
Total amortisation	<u>469</u>	<u>616</u>
Total depreciation and amortisation expense	<u>3,756</u>	<u>3,790</u>
9 FINANCE COSTS	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
WATC Borrowing Charges	2,398	1,042
Finance lease charges	7	26
	<u>2,405</u>	<u>1,068</u>
10 ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Lease rentals	<u>2,571</u>	<u>2,071</u>
11 GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	2012	2011
Recurrent	\$'000	\$'000
Contributions to Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	230	948
Research grants	612	559

Other	93	129
	<u>935</u>	<u>1,636</u>
12 FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEME BUYBACKS	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs	<u>464</u>	<u>170</u>
13 OTHER EXPENSES	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Employment on-costs (see note 6 'Employee benefits expense') ^(a)	(169)	(19)
Other expenses	665	282
	<u>496</u>	<u>263</u>
^(a) Includes workers' compensation insurance on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability is included at note 30 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.		
14 USER CHARGES AND FEES	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Access fees ^(a)	17,223	18,466
Application fees	935	1,303
Recreational licence fees	6,610	6,123
Fees for service	55	68
Diesel fuel rebate	290	220
Insurance recoveries	333	107
Recoup from Indian Ocean Territories	830	905
Recoup of WATC Borrowing Charges	2,398	1,042
Payments from Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	1,349	1,297
Other	1,714	1,339
	<u>31,737</u>	<u>30,870</u>



(a) The Department and the commercial fishing industry entered into an agreement in 1995 that provided for the Department to recover the costs associated with the management of major commercial fisheries. The costs were recovered through the annual fee charged for access to the fishery concerned.

15 GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Department of Commerce ^(a)	1,400	800
State Natural Resource Management (NRM) Office	463	–
WA Marine Science Institution (WAMSI)	612	1,273
Australian Seafood Cooperative Research Centre	268	112
Department of Transport	300	–
Woodside Energy	–	150
Other	218	155
	<u>3,261</u>	<u>2,490</u>

(a) This relates to capital grants for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre.

16 INTEREST REVENUE	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Fisheries Research and Development Account	270	321
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account ^(a)	–	33
Recreational Fishing Account	115	137
	<u>385</u>	<u>491</u>

(a) Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account no longer exists in 2011/12.

17 OTHER REVENUE	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Recoup from Department of Treasury ^(a)	500	–

(a) This is the recoup from Department of Treasury for Shark Mitigation Strategies.

18 NET GAIN/(LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment disposed of during the year	243	153
Cost of disposal of non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	(610)	(129)
Net gain/(loss)	<u>(367)</u>	<u>24</u>

19 INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Appropriation received during the year:		
Service appropriation ^(a)	<u>50,280</u>	<u>32,676</u>

(a) Service appropriations fund the net cost of services delivered. Appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.

Resources Received Free of Charge

Administration expenses	<u>750</u>	<u>499</u>
Resources received free of charge has been determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
Department of Justice	247	321
Western Australian Land Information Authority ^(b)	213	3
Department of Finance	290	175
	<u>750</u>	<u>499</u>



Assets or services received free of charge or for nominal cost are recognised as revenue at fair value of the assets and/or services that can be reliably measured and which would have been purchased if they were not donated. Contributions of assets or services in the nature of contributions by owners are recognised direct to equity.

^(b) The significant increase in the resources received free of charge is the result of obtaining land data.

Royalties for Regions Fund

Regional Community Services Account ^(c)	142	94
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^(c) This is a sub-fund within the over-arching 'Royalties for Regions Fund'. The recurrent funds are committed to projects and programs in WA regional areas.

20 RESTRICTED CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2012	2011
Current	\$'000	\$'000
Fisheries Research Development Corporation Account ^(a)	–	1,406
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account ^(b)	268	231
Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre ^(c)	2,200	–
Bond for aquaculture rentals	94	78
Seizure proceeds pending	73	59
	<u>2,635</u>	<u>1,774</u>
Non-current		
Salaries suspense account ^(d)	923	672
	<u>3,558</u>	<u>2,446</u>

^(a) Monies held in the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account are not available for operations of the Department as they relate to specific research projects. Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account no longer exists in 2011/12.

^(b) Monies held in the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account are only available for use as prescribed by the *Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987*.

^(c) Monies are only to be used for the refurbishment of Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre.

^(d) Amount held in suspense account is only to be used for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years. This amount will next be drawn in 2015/16.

21 RECEIVABLES	2012	2011
Current	\$'000	\$'000
Receivables	1,033	2,018
Less: Allowance for impairment of receivables	(6)	(4)
GST receivable	438	340
	<u>1,465</u>	<u>2,354</u>
Other debtors ^(a)	3,775	3,656
Total current	<u>5,240</u>	<u>6,010</u>
Non-current		
Other debtors ^(a)	31,760	34,862
Total non-current	<u>31,760</u>	<u>34,862</u>
Total receivables	<u>37,000</u>	<u>40,872</u>

Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:

Balance at start of period	4	1
Doubtful debts expense	6	3
Amounts written off during the period	(4)	–
Amounts recovered during the period	–	–



Balance at end of period 6 4

^(a) The 'Other debtors' relates to an advance made to industry. The Department does not hold any collateral or other credit enhancements as security for receivables.

See also note 2(p) 'Receivables' and note 38 'Financial Instruments'.

22 AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR SERVICES (HOLDING ACCOUNT)

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Current	2,746	2,226
Non-current	6,475	6,349
	9,221	8,575

Represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

See note 2(o) 'Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)'.

23 OTHER ASSETS

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Prepayments		
Licences and rentals	90	48
Lease patrol vessel	-	4

Accrued income

Accrued interest	56	110
	146	162

24 NON-CURRENT ASSETS CLASSIFIED AS HELD FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OWNERS

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance		

Property	-	-
Less: write-down from cost to fair value less selling costs	-	-
	-	-

Assets reclassified as held for distribution to owners

Property	700	-
Less: write-down from cost to fair value less selling costs ^(a)	-	-
	700	-

Total assets classified as held for distribution to owners

Property	700	-
Less: write-down from cost to fair value less selling costs	-	-
	700	-

Closing balance

Property	700	-
Less: write-down from cost to fair value less selling costs	-	-
	700	-

^(a) Disclosed as Other expenses.

25 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Land		
Land at fair value ⁽ⁱ⁾	6,519	9,424
Buildings		
At fair value ⁽ⁱ⁾	38,581	33,314
Accumulated depreciation	(28)	-



	38,553	33,314
Marine vessels		
At fair value ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	15,941	14,563
Accumulated depreciation	(6,853)	(5,492)
	9,088	9,071
Communication equipment		
At cost	632	575
Accumulated depreciation	(544)	(541)
	88	34
Computer hardware		
At cost	1,440	1,449
Accumulated depreciation	(1,235)	(1,285)
	205	164
Furniture and fittings		
At cost	1,091	1,021
Accumulated depreciation	(922)	(933)
	169	88
Office equipment		
At cost	493	458
Accumulated depreciation	(361)	(348)
	132	110
Plant and machinery		
At cost	1,930	2,214
Accumulated depreciation	(1,258)	(1,423)
	672	791
Motor vehicles		
At cost	1,925	1,897
Accumulated depreciation	(840)	(620)
	1,085	1,277
Works of art		
At cost	97	97
Other equipment		

At cost	536	532
Accumulated depreciation	(329)	(244)
	207	288
Infrastructure – maritime		
At cost	2,461	2,513
Accumulated depreciation	(1,339)	(1,293)
	1,122	1,220
Leased patrol vessel		
At capitalised cost	–	1,650
Accumulated amortisation	–	(1,357)
	–	293
Capital works in progress		
Buildings ⁽ⁱ⁾	559	1,720
Maritime ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	1,184	508
	1,743	2,228
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	59,680	58,399

⁽ⁱ⁾ Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2011 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2012 and recognised at 30 June 2012. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$4,319,000 (2011: \$6,094,900) and buildings: \$1,590,000 (2011: \$910,000). For the remaining balance, fair value of land and buildings was determined on the basis of depreciated replacement cost. See note 2(g) 'Property, Plant and Equipment and Infrastructure'.

⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ Marine vessels were revalued by the Maritime Engineers Pty Ltd during the year ended 30 June 2008 and recognised at 30 June 2008 at market value based on Asset Protection Criteria. See note 2(g) 'Property, Plant and Equipment and Infrastructure'.



Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the reporting period are set out below:

2012	Carrying amount at start of year	Additions	Disposal	Transfers to DRDL	NCA held for sale	Transfers from WIP	Revaluation	Deprecn. for the year	Carrying amount at end of year
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	9,424	-	-	(1,675)	(685)	-	(545)	-	6,519
Buildings	33,314	6,613	-	(40)	(15)	-	(340)	(979)	38,552
Marine vessels	9,071	2,011	(476)	-	-	-	-	(1,518)	9,088
Communication equipment	34	69	-	-	-	-	-	(15)	88
Computer hardware	164	163	-	-	-	-	-	(121)	205
Furniture fixtures and fittings	88	108	-	-	-	-	-	(28)	169
Office equipment	110	70	-	-	-	-	-	(48)	132
Plant and machinery	791	173	(182)	-	-	-	-	(108)	672
Vehicles	1,277	170	(59)	-	-	-	-	(303)	1,085
Works of art	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
Other equipment	288	5	-	-	-	-	-	(86)	207
Infrastructure – maritime	1,220	-	(18)	-	-	-	-	(81)	1,122
Leased patrol vessel	293	-	-	-	-	-	-	(293)	-
Work in progress									
Buildings	1,720	559	-	-	-	(1,720)	-	-	559
Maritime	508	676	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,184
	58,399	10,616	(735)	(1,715)	(700)	(1,720)	(885)	(3,580)	59,680



2011	Carrying amount at start of year	Additions	Disposal	Transfers to DRDL	NCA held for sale	Transfers from WIP	Revaluation	Deprecn. for the year	Carrying amount at end of year
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	9,335	-	-	-	-	-	90	-	9,424
Buildings	34,900	-	-	-	-	-	(616)	(970)	33,314
Marine vessels	5,860	4,614	(5)	-	-	-	-	(1,398)	9,071
Communication equipment	51	18	-	-	-	-	-	(35)	34
Computer hardware	177	93	-	-	-	-	-	(106)	164
Furniture fixtures and fittings	135	-	-	-	-	-	-	(47)	88
Office equipment	104	61	(1)	-	-	-	-	(54)	110
Plant and machinery	651	278	-	-	-	-	-	(139)	791
Vehicles	853	810	(122)	-	-	-	-	(264)	1,277
Works of art	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
Other equipment	300	67	-	-	-	-	-	(79)	288
Infrastructure – maritime	1,302	-	-	-	-	-	-	(82)	1,220
Leased patrol vessel	733	-	-	-	-	-	-	(440)	293
Work in progress									
Buildings	4	1,716	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,720
Maritime	4,338	657	-	-	-	(4,487)	-	-	508
	58,840	8,313	(128)	-	-	(4,487)	(527)	(3,614)	58,399



26 INTANGIBLE ASSETS	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
COMPUTER SOFTWARE		
At cost	879	879
Accumulated amortisation	(717)	(541)
	162	338
CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS		
Computer software	2,510	715
	2,510	715
Total Intangible Assets	2,672	1,053

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of intangible assets at the beginning and end of the reporting period are set out below:

	Carrying amount at start of year	Additions	Disposal	Transfers from WIP	Revaluation	Deprecn. for the year	Carrying amount at end of year
2012	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Computer software	338	-	-	-	-	(176)	162
Work in progress							
Computer software	715	1,795	-	-	-	-	2,510
	1,053	1,795	-	-	-	(176)	2,672

	Carrying amount at start of year	Additions	Disposal	Transfers from WIP	Revaluation	Deprecn. for the year	Carrying amount at end of year
2011	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Computer software	514	-	-	-	-	(176)	338
Work in progress							
Computer software	30	715	-	(30)	-	-	715
	544	715	-	(30)	-	(176)	1,053



27 IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

There are no indications of impairment of property, plant and equipment, infrastructure or intangible assets at 30 June 2012.

The Department held no goodwill or intangible assets with an indefinite useful life during the reporting period. At the end of the period there were no intangible assets not yet available for use.

28 PAYABLES	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Trade payables	2,211	2,607
	<u>2,211</u>	<u>2,607</u>

See also note 2(p) 'Payables' and note 38 'Financial Instruments'.

29 BORROWINGS	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Finance lease liability (secured) ^(a)	–	129
Borrowings from Western Australian Treasury Corporation	3,775	3,656
	<u>3,775</u>	<u>3,785</u>
Non-current		
Borrowings from Western Australian Treasury Corporation	31,760	34,862
	<u>31,760</u>	<u>34,862</u>

^(a) Lease liabilities are effectively secured as the rights to the leased assets revert to the lessor in the event of default.

Asset pledged as security

The carrying amounts of non-current assets pledged as security are:

Leased patrol vessel	–	293
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30 PROVISIONS

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Employee benefits provision		
Purchased leave	6	7
Deferred leave	1	12
Annual leave ^(a)	4,584	4,322
Long service leave ^(b)	5,407	4,782
	<u>9,998</u>	<u>9,123</u>
Other provisions		
Employment oncosts ^(c)	44	40
	<u>10,042</u>	<u>9,163</u>
Non-current		
Employee benefits provision		
Long service leave ^(b)	2,370	2,102
	<u>2,176</u>	<u>1,877</u>
Other provisions		
Employment oncosts ^(c)	11	9
	<u>2,381</u>	<u>2,111</u>

^(a) Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	4,584	4,322
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(b) Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	2,141	1,875
More than 12 months of the end of the reporting date	5,637	5,009
	<u>7,778</u>	<u>6,884</u>

(c) The settlement of annual and long service leave gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments. The associated expense, apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost), is included in note 13 'Other Expenses'.

Movements in other provisions

Movements in each class of provisions during the financial year, other than employee benefits are set out below:

Employment on cost provision

Carrying amount at start of period	49	67
Additional provisions recognised	6	(18)
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefit	–	–
Carrying amount at the end of period	<u>55</u>	<u>49</u>

The superannuation oncosts are included in the annual and long service leave provisions.

31 OTHER LIABILITIES	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Accrued salaries	820	841
Superannuation accrued	84	44
FBT Accrued	65	59

Other	433	331
Infringement Notice collections payable ^(a)	–	35
	<u>1,402</u>	<u>1,310</u>

(a) This is reclassified to Administered liability. See note 48 'Disclosure of Administered Income and Expenses by service' and note 49 'Administered Assets and Liabilities'.

32 EQUITY

The Government holds the equity interest in the Department on behalf of the community. Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Department. The asset revaluation reserve represents that portion of equity resulting from the revaluation of non-current assets.

ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

Balance at start of period	(2,405)	3,157
Transfer from Asset Revaluation Reserve	(1,274)	–
	<u>(3,679)</u>	<u>3,157</u>
Result for the period	957	(5,562)
Balance at end of period	<u>(2,722)</u>	<u>(2,405)</u>

CONTRIBUTED EQUITY

Balance at start of period	50,076	44,566
<u>Contributions by owners</u>		
Capital appropriation ^(a)	8,454	5,510
<u>Other contributions by owners</u>		
Royalties for Regional Fund – South-West Recreational Fishing Enhancement Structure Pilot Program	200	–



Distributions to owners		
Net assets transferred to Government	(1,715)	–
Balance at end of period	57,015	50,076

^(a) TI 955 Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities designates capital appropriations as contributions by owners in accordance with AASB Interpretation 1038 Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities.

RESERVES

Asset Revaluation Surplus:

Balance at start of period	13,514	14,041
Transfer to accumulated surplus/deficit	1,274	–
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	(545)	89
Buildings	(340)	(616)
Plant, equipment and vehicle	–	–
Balance at end of period ^(a)	13,903	13,514

^(a) The asset revaluation surplus is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets, as described in accounting policy note 2(g) 'Property, Plant and Equipment and Infrastructure'.

Total equity at end of period	68,196	61,185
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33 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000

Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents	6,770	3,494
Cash advances	20	22

Restricted cash and cash equivalents (refer note 20)	3,558	2,446
	10,348	5,962

Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows used in operating activities

Net cost of services	(50,215)	(38,831)
<i>Non Cash Items</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation expense (note 8 'Depreciation and amortisation expense')	3,756	3,790
Doubtful Debt expense	6	3
Resources received free of charge (note 19 'Income from State Government')	750	499
Profit/(Loss) on disposal of assets	367	(24)
Employment on-costs	(169)	(19)
Adjustment for other non-cash items	1,170	–

(Increase)/Decrease in Assets

Accounts receivable – General ^(a)	987	(914)
Prepayments	(38)	28
Accrued income	54	(81)

Increase/(Decrease) in Liabilities

Accrued salaries	(21)	390
Superannuation Accrued	40	(3)
FBT accrued	6	11
Other liabilities	102	16
Liability for employee entitlements	1,149	2,429
Infringement Notice Collections payable	(35)	26
Accounts payable – general	(396)	460

Increase/(Decrease) in GST

Net GST (receipts)/payments ^(b)	(115)	(189)
Change in GST in receivables/payables ^(c)	–	36

Net cash used in operating activities	(42,602)	(32,373)
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^(a) Note that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) receivable/payable in respect of GST and the receivable/payable in respect of the sale/purchase of non-current assets are not included in these items as they do not form part of the reconciling items.

^(b) This is the net GST paid/received, i.e. cash transactions.

^(c) This reverses out the GST in receivables and payables.

34 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE	2012	2011
The commitments below are inclusive of GST where relevant.	\$'000	\$'000

(a) Capital Expenditure Commitments

Capital expenditure commitments, being contracted capital expenditure additional to the amounts reported in the financial statements, are payable as follows:

Within one year	9,673	9,184
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
Later than five years	-	-
	<u>9,673</u>	<u>9,184</u>

(b) Operating Lease commitments

Commitments in relation to non-cancellable leases for accommodation and motor vehicles contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	4,293	3,159
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	13,618	8,712
Later than 5 years	6,588	16,546
	<u>24,499</u>	<u>28,417</u>

(c) Finance Lease Commitments

Minimum lease payments commitments in relation to finance leases are payable as follows:

Within one year	-	133
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
Later than five years	-	-
Minimum lease payments	-	133
Less future finance charges	-	(4)
Present value of finance lease liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>129</u>

The present value of finance leases payables is as follows:

Within one year	-	133
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
Later than five years	-	-
Present value of finance lease liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>133</u>

Included in the financial statements as:

Current (note 29 'Borrowings')	-	129
Non-current (note 29 'Borrowings')	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>129</u>



The operating lease commitments are calculated and forecast based on the information available at the reporting date and do not take into consideration any impacts of future changes arising from market conditions or rental reviews.

These leasing arrangements do not have escalation clauses other than in the event of payment default. There are no restrictions imposed by these leasing arrangements on other financing transactions.

The Department has the option to purchase leased assets at their agreed fair value on expiry of the lease. These leasing arrangements do not have escalation clauses, other than in the event of payment default. There are no restrictions imposed by these leasing arrangements on other financing transactions. Certain finance leases have a contingent rental obligation; however these are not material when compared to the total lease payments made.

The finance lease of leased vessel ended in March 2012.

35 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There are no significant events occurring after the reporting date that require disclosure or adjustment to the financial statements.

36 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

The following contingent liabilities are additional to the liabilities included in the financial statements.

Contaminated sites

Under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*, the Department is required to report known and suspected contaminated sites to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). In accordance with the Act, DEC classifies these sites on the basis of the risk to human health, the environment and environmental values. Where sites are classified as contaminated - remediation required or possibly contaminated - investigation required, the Department may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses.

The Department has reported a suspected contaminated site at the Albany Aquaculture Park to DEC. This has been classified by DEC as requiring further investigation.

In June 2011 the Department received a draft report from Environmental Resources Australia Pty Limited that included findings from a recent site assessment. The draft report advised that the assessments indicate that there are currently no identified potential risks to human health or the environment related to previous activities and as such the site appears suitable for ongoing commercial/industrial use. The draft report is subject to review by the contaminated sites auditor, Coffey Environments Pty Ltd, for work at the Albany Aquaculture Park.

The Department is unable to assess the likely outcome of the classification process until the contamination sites auditor completes an assessment, and accordingly, it is not practicable to estimate the potential financial effect or to identify the uncertainties relating to the amount or timing of any outflows.

The Department may apply for funding from the Contaminated Sites Management Account to undertake further investigative work or to meet remediation costs that may be required.

Litigation in progress

The Department has pending litigation that may affect the financial position. The maximum financial effect is \$6,710,000.



37 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Significant variations between estimates and actual results for income and expense as presented in the financial statement titled 'Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates' are shown below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10% or \$5 millions.

1. Total appropriations provided to deliver services

Significant variance between estimate and actual for 2012

	2012 Actual \$'000	2012 Estimate \$'000	Variance \$'000
Total appropriation provided to deliver services for the period	50,280	39,689	(10,591)

The total variance is due to the additional funding required due to the increase in service expenditure as described below and replenishment of cash balances.

Significant variance between actual results for 2012 and 2011.

	2012 Actual \$'000	2011 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Total appropriation provided to deliver services for the period	50,280	32,676	(17,604)

The total variance is due to the additional funding required due to the increase in service expenditure, new projects commenced in 2011/12 and replenishment of cash balances from the 2010/11 general deficit.

2. Service expenditure

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2012

	2012 Actual \$'000	2012 Estimate \$'000	Variance \$'000
Services			
Fisheries Management	26,897	17,458	(9,439)

The variance is due to additional funding for services approved during the financial year and significant non salary related cost pressures namely, increased borrowing costs, stakeholder group contributions and reclassification of capital items being expensed.



Marine Safety	292	1,481	1,189
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The 2011/12 Budget did not reflect the reduced service delivery in this service from 2010/11. In addition to this the Department changed the way in which costs were recorded against this service. The Department will transition to a more uniform time recording and reporting structure for marine safety in 2012/13.

Significant variances between actual results for 2012 and 2011

	2012	2011	Variance
	Actual	Actual	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Services			
Fisheries Management	26,897	21,530	(5,367)

The variance between the actual 2011/12 and the actual 2010/11 expenditure is due to new projects being undertaken in 2011/12 and significant increased expenditure in existing major projects primarily Marine Biosecurity. Other factors contributing to the variance include significant non salary related cost pressures namely, increased borrowing costs, increased stakeholder group contributions and reclassification of capital items being expensed.

Compliance and Education	33,694	26,704	(6,990)
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The variance between the actual 2011/12 and the actual 2010/11 expenditure is due to new projects being undertaken in 2011/12 primarily the creation of new Marine Parks. Other factors such as significantly increased expenditure in existing major projects like Marine Biosecurity have contributed to the variance.

Marine Safety Service	292	432	140
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This reduction is the result of reduced level of activity in this service.

3. Capital contribution

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2012

	2012	2012	Variance
	Actual	Estimate	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital Contribution	8,654	10,060	1,406

The variance is due to a deferral of funds for a large patrol vessel replacement to 2012/13.



Significant variances between actual results for 2012 and 2011

	2012	2011	
	Actual	Actual	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital Contribution	8,654	5,510	(3,144)
<p>The variance is due to the increase in actual capital expenditure for the Denham Office Building completed during the financial year and for the Entitlement Management System that commenced in 2011/12.</p>			

4. Capital expenditure (purchase of non-current assets)

Significant variances between actual results for 2012 and 2011

	2012	2011	
	Actual	Actual	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital Expenditure	11,515	4,414	(7,101)
<p>The variance is due to the increase in actual capital expenditure on buildings, patrol vessels purchased during the financial year and costs for the Entitlement Management System.</p>			

5. Administered income

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2012

	2012	2011	
	Actual	Actual	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Administered income for shark patrols	2,636	-	(2,636)
<p>The variance is due to the Department receiving administered funding transferred from the Department of Treasury during the financial year for administered payments to Surf Life Saving Western Australia to undertake Shark Patrols.</p>			

6. Supplementary Funding Approved During 2011/12

Recurrent	\$'000
Funding for 2010/11 general deficit to replenish cash balances	4,500
Funding for demand and cost pressures in 2011/12	4,500
Funding for aquaculture zone assessment and environmental approvals	400
Beacon Island Act of Grace payments	308
Decommissioning of OSS HR Services	245
	9,953



38 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Financial risk management objectives and policies

Financial instruments held by the Department are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, loans and receivables, payables, WATC/Bank borrowings, finance leases, and Treasurer's advances. The Department has limited exposure to financial risks. The Department's overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Department's receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Department.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any allowance for impairment as shown in the table at note 38(c) 'Financial instruments disclosures' and note 21 'Receivables'.

Credit risk associated with the Department's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is the amount receivable for services (holding account). For receivables other than government, the Department trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. The Department has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the Department's exposure to bad debts is minimal. At the end of the reporting period there were no significant concentrations of credit risk.

Allowance for impairment of financial assets is calculated based on objective evidence such as observable data in client credit ratings. For financial assets that are either past due or impaired, refer to note 38(c) 'Financial instruments disclosures'.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk arises when the Department is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Department is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business. The Department has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including draw-downs of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates will affect the Department's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The Department does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks. The Department's exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates relates primarily to the long-term debt obligations.

All borrowings are due to the Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC) and are repayable at fixed rates with varying maturities. Other than as detailed in the interest rate sensitivity analysis table at note 38(c), the Department is not exposed to interest rate risk because apart from minor amounts of restricted cash, all other cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash are non-interest bearing and have no borrowings other than the Treasurer's advance (non-interest bearing), WATC borrowings and finance leases (fixed interest rate).

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000

(b) Categories of Financial Instruments

In addition to cash, the carrying amounts of each of the following categories of the financial assets and financial liabilities at the balance sheet date are as follows:

Financial Assets and Liabilities

Financial Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	6,790	3,516
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Restricted cash and cash equivalents	3,558	2,446
Loans and receivables ^(a)	45,696	49,037
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	37,746	41,254

^(a) The amount of loans and receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

(c) Financial Instrument Disclosures

Credit risk

The following table details the Department's maximum exposure to credit risk and the ageing analysis of financial assets. The Department's maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period is the carrying amount of financial assets as shown below. The table discloses the ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired and impaired financial assets. The table is based on information provided to senior management of the Department.

The Department does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancement relating to the financial assets it holds.



Aged analysis of financial assets

	Carrying Amount \$'000	Not past due and not impaired \$'000	Past due but not impaired				Impaired financial assets \$'000	
			Up to 1 month \$'000	1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000		More than 5 years \$'000
2012								
Cash and cash equivalents	6,790	6,790	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	3,558	3,558	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	940	722	97	13	96	12	-	-
Loans and Advances	35,535	35,535	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amounts Receivable for Services	9,221	9,221	-	-	-	-	-	-
	56,044	55,826	97	13	96	12	-	-
2011								
Cash and cash equivalents	3,516	3,516	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,446	2,446	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	1,944	700	980	83	66	115	-	-
Loans and Advances	38,518	38,518	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amounts Receivable for Services	8,575	8,575	-	-	-	-	-	-
	54,999	53,755	980	83	66	115	-	-

^(a) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).



The following table details the Department's interest rate exposure and the contractual maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities. The maturity analysis section includes interest and principal cash flows. The interest rate exposure section analyses only the carrying amounts of each item.

Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Carrying Amount \$'000	Interest rate exposure		Nominal Amount \$'000	Maturity dates				
			Variable interest rate \$'000	Non-Interest Bearing \$'000		Up to 1 month \$'000	1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000
2012										
<i>Financial Assets</i>										
Cash and cash equivalents	4.74%	6,790	6,770	20	6,790	6,790	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	4.74%	3,558	2,635	923	3,558	3,558	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	0.00%	940	-	940	940	940	-	-	-	-
Loans and advances	0.00%	35,535	-	35,535	35,535	-	-	3,775	14,462	17,298
Amounts receivable for services	0.00%	9,221	-	9,221	9,221	-	-	2,746	6,475	-
		56,044	9,405	46,639	56,044	11,288	-	6,521	20,937	17,298
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>										
Payables	0.00%	2,211	-	-	2,211	2,211	-	-	-	-
WATC borrowings	6.20%	35,535	-	-	35,535	-	-	3,775	14,462	17,298
Finance lease liabilities	0.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		37,746	-	-	37,746	2,211	-	3,775	14,462	17,298

^(a) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).



Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Interest rate exposure			Maturity dates					
		Carrying Amount \$'000	Variable interest rate \$'000	Non-Interest Bearing \$'000	Nominal Amount \$'000	Up to 1 month \$'000	1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000
2011										
<i>Financial Assets</i>										
Cash and cash equivalents	5.03%	3,516	3,494	22	3,516	3,516	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	5.03%	2,446	1,774	672	2,446	2,446	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	0.00%	1,944	-	1,944	1,944	1,944	-	-	-	-
Loans and advances	0.00%	38,518	-	38,518	38,518	-	-	3,656	13,615	21,247
Amounts receivable for services	0.00%	8,575	-	8,575	8,575	-	-	2,226	6,349	-
		54,999	5,268	49,731	54,999	7,906	-	5,882	19,964	21,247
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>										
Payables	0.00%	2,607	-	-	2,607	2,607	-	-	-	-
WATC borrowings	6.17%	38,518	-	-	38,518	-	-	3,656	13,615	21,247
Finance lease liabilities	7.66%	129	-	-	129	-	64	65	-	-
		41,254	-	-	41,254	2,607	64	3,721	13,615	21,247

^(a) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).



Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table represents a summary of the interest rate sensitivity of the Department's financial assets and liabilities at the end of the reporting period on the surplus for the period and equity for a 1% change in interest rates. It is assumed that the change in interest rates is held constant throughout the reporting period.

	Carrying Amount \$'000	-100 basic points		+100 basic points	
		Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000	Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000
2012					
<i>Financial Assets</i>					
Cash and cash equivalents	6,770	(68)	(68)	68	68
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,635	(26)	(26)	26	26
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(94)	(94)	94	94

	Carrying Amount \$'000	-100 basic points		+100 basic points	
		Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000	Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000
2011					
<i>Financial Assets</i>					
Cash and cash equivalents	3,496	(35)	(35)	35	35
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	1,774	(18)	(18)	18	18
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(53)	(53)	53	53

Fair Values

All financial assets and liabilities recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, whether they are carried at cost or fair value, are recognised at amounts that represent a reasonable approximation of fair value unless otherwise stated in the applicable notes.



39 REMUNERATION OF SENIOR OFFICERS

The number of senior officers whose total fees, salaries, superannuation, non monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year fall within the following bands are:

	2012	2011
< \$110,000	-	1
\$120,001 - 130,000	-	-
\$140,001 - 150,000	-	1
\$150,001 - 160,000	-	-
\$160,001 - 170,000	-	1
\$170,001 - 180,000	1	1
\$180,001 - 190,000	1	-
\$190,001 - 200,000	-	1
\$200,001 - 210,000	2	-
\$210,001 - 220,000	-	-
\$290,001 - 300,000	-	1
\$360,001 - 370,000	1	-
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of senior officers	<u>1,132</u>	<u>1,016</u>

The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Department in respect of senior officers.

40 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	<u>136</u>	<u>128</u>

The expense is included in note 7 'Supplies and Services'.

41 RELATED BODIES

The Department has no related bodies as defined in the *Financial Management Act 2006* and Treasurer's Instruction 951.

42 AFFILIATED BODIES

The Department has no affiliated bodies as defined in the *Financial Management Act 2006* and Treasurer's Instruction 951.

43 SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000

Write-Offs

During the financial year, debts due to the State were written off under the authority of:

The Accountable Officer	4	29
	<u>4</u>	<u>29</u>

During the financial year these assets were written off the Department's asset register under the authority of:

The Accountable Officer	2	3
Less: Recovered by Insurance	(1)	(2)
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Act of Grace Payments

During the financial year, there is no act of grace payment made under the authority of:

The Minister	-	27
	<u>-</u>	<u>27</u>



44 JOINTLY CONTROLLED OPERATION		2012	2011
		\$'000	\$'000
Name of Operation	Principal Activity	Output	Interest (%)
Marine Operations Centre	Operations Centre for fisheries management and marine safety including marine emergencies, accidents, incidents and complaints.		50%
The following amounts represent the Department's assets employed in the above jointly controlled operation, which is included in the financial statements.			
Non-current assets:			
Property, plant and equipment		3,005	3,076
Infrastructure		144	156
		<u>3,149</u>	<u>3,232</u>

45 JOINTLY CONTROLLED ASSETS		2012	2011
		\$'000	\$'000
Name of Operation	Principal Activity	Output	Interest (%)
Mandurah Marine Operations Centre			50%
The Department has a shared ownership of crown land with Department of Water and the following amount represents the 50% ownership of the crown land, which is included in the financial statements.			
Non-current assets:			
Land		975	975

46 SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNTS

Fisheries Research and Development Account

2011		2012	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
4,426	Balance at start of period		5,584
Receipts			
27,567	Contribution from Consolidated Account	44,022	
18,466	Fisheries access fees	17,223	
1,303	Application fees	935	
299	Interest	302	
1,690	Grants	3,261	
11,175	Other sundry revenue	10,527	76,270
<u>64,926</u>			<u>81,854</u>
Payments			
59,342	Contribution to Fisheries WA operations		72,842
<u>59,342</u>			<u>72,842</u>
<u>5,584</u>	Balance at end of period		<u>9,012</u>

The Fisheries Research and Development Account, which was established under the *Fisheries Act 1905* (repealed), was continued under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA 1994). The purpose of the Account is to hold funds in accordance with section 238 of the FRMA 1994 which may be used and applied by the Minister in such manner and in such proportion as the Minister thinks fit for all or any of the purposes prescribed by section 238(5) of the FRMA 1994 and section 37(3), 41 and 55(4) and (5) of the *Pearling Act 1990*. All revenue and expenditure relating to commercial fishing, fish and fish habitat protection, pearling and aquaculture services is transacted through this account. AFMA Account and Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account no longer exist in 2011/12. The balances of the two funds were transferred to Fisheries Research and Development Account in 2011/12.



Recreational Fishing Account

2011		2012	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
10	Balance at start of period		10
Receipts			
9,453	Contribution from Consolidated Account	14,066	
–	Contribution by owner ^(a)	200	
6,123	Recreational fishing licences	6,610	
114	Interest Revenue	130	21,006
15,700			21,016
Payments			
15,690	Expenditure on recreational fishing – related activities		20,115
15,690			20,115
10	Balance at end of period		901

The Recreational Fishing Account is established under the FRMA 1994. The purpose of the account is to hold funds in accordance with section 239 of the FRMA 1994 which may be applied by the Minister for all or any of the purposes prescribed by section 239(4) of the FRMA 1994. The main revenue sources include contributions from the Consolidated Account and revenue from recreational fishing licences. The funds support activity relating to recreational fishing.

^(a) This is the payment for the South-West Recreational Fishing Enhancement Structure Pilot Program and is formally designated as contribution by owner and will form part of the contributed equity of the Department.

Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account

2011		2012	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
426	Balance at start of period		231

Receipts			
34,844	Borrowing proceeds from Industry for the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes	5,381	
77	Specific State contributions to fisheries adjustment	500	5,881
35,347			6,112
Payments			
35,116	Loan repayment to WATC for the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme	5,381	
–	Unit buy-back State Scheme	463	5,844
35,116			5,844
231	Balance at end of period		268

The purpose of this account is to hold funds in accordance with section 5 of the *Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987* which shall be applied by the Minister for the purposes prescribed by section 6 of that Act.

Fisheries Private Moneys Trust Account

2011		2012	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
66	Balance at start of period		59
Receipts			
–	Proceeds from the sale of seized fish		14
66			73
Payments			
7	Monies paid		–
59	Balance at end of period		73



48 DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTERED INCOME AND EXPENSES BY SERVICE

	General - Not Attributed		Shark Patrol		Total	
	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES						
<i>Expenses</i>						
Other expenses	217	-	2,313	-	2,530	-
Total administered expenses	217	-	2,313	-	2,530	-
Income						
For transfer:						
Other revenue	217	-	-	-	217	-
Income from State Government	-	-	2,419	-	2,419	-
Total administered revenue	217	-	2,419	-	2,636	-

49 ADMINISTERED ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<i>Current Assets</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	121	-
Receivables	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Administered Current Assets	121	-

Non-Current Assets

Property, plant and equipment	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Administered Non-Current Assets	-	-
TOTAL ADMINISTERED ASSETS	121	-

Current Liabilities

Payables		
Other	14	-
Total Administered Current Assets	14	-

Non-Current Liabilities

Other	-	-
Total Administered Non-Current Liabilities	-	-
TOTAL ADMINISTERED LIABILITIES	14	-



Audited key performance indicators

Certification of performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2012

I hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Department of Fisheries performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Department of Fisheries for the financial year ended 30 June 2012.

Stuart Smith

Accountable Authority

September 2012

Government goal

Social and environmental responsibility: Ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State.

Government's desired outcome for the Department of Fisheries: Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.

Contribution to Government goal

The Department works towards the achievement of the Government goal and its Department-level outcome through the provision of four key services:

Service 1 – Fisheries Management

This service provides management, policy development, licensing and legislation related to the State's commercial and recreational fisheries, pearling, aquaculture, fish processing, the charter boat industry, customary fishing and protection of aquatic ecosystems. These services are provided through the Aquatic Management Division and Licensing and Registry Services Branch of the Regional Services Division.



Service 2 – Compliance and Education

This service provides Statewide fisheries compliance and community education, in accordance with the provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the *Pearling Act 1990*. These services are provided through the Regional Services Division.

Service 3 – Research and Monitoring

This service provides timely, quality scientific knowledge and advice to support the conservation and sustainable use of the State’s fish resources and aquatic ecosystems. The service is provided through the Research Division.

Service 4 – Marine Safety Service

This service provides the coordination of at-sea marine safety compliance services by the Department’s Fisheries and Marine Officers under a service level agreement with the Department of Transport. The service is provided through the Marine Operations Section of the Regional Services Division.

Government goal			
Social and environmental responsibility: Ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State.			
Government’s desired outcome for the Department of Fisheries: Conservation and sustainable development of the State’s fish resources.	Effectiveness indicators	Services	Efficiency indicators
	The proportion of fish stocks identified as being ‘at risk’ or vulnerable through exploitation.	Fisheries Management	Average cost per hour of management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments).
	The proportion of fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved.	Compliance and Education	Average costs per hour of compliance and education.
	The percentage of fisheries or fished sectors where current catch shares are known and where catch share allocations are in process or in place.	Research and Monitoring	Average costs per hour of research and monitoring.
	The gross value of State fisheries’ production.	Marine Safety Service	Average costs per hour for delivery of marine safety services.
The participation rate in recreational fishing.			



1.1 The proportion of fish stocks identified as being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation

Annual stock assessments of the fisheries that are subject to management are undertaken by the Department's Research Division. These assessments, together with trends in catch and fishing activity, have been used to determine the sustainability status of the State's most significant commercial fisheries (full details of which are in the companion *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia 2011/12*).

Performance is measured as the proportion of fisheries (which have sufficient data) for which the breeding stocks of each of the major target or indicator species are being maintained at levels that ensure catches could be sustained at desirable levels given effort levels and normal environmental conditions; or they are recovering from a depleted state at an appropriate rate following management intervention. The Department's 2011/12 Budget Papers state that the target is for the proportion of fisheries with breeding stocks at risk to be less than fourteen per cent (14%).

For the 2011/12 performance review, 38 fisheries have been utilised, which is the same as in 2010/11.

For the 38 fisheries reviewed, the 'Stock Status and Catch Ranges for Major Commercial Fisheries' section of the Annual Report records that breeding stock assessments are available for the major species taken in 36 (94 per cent) of these fisheries. For the other two fisheries, insufficient data were available on the target species to make a critical assessment. In situations where unmonitored stocks are assessed as having

the potential to become overfished, they are given priority for new research and/or management.

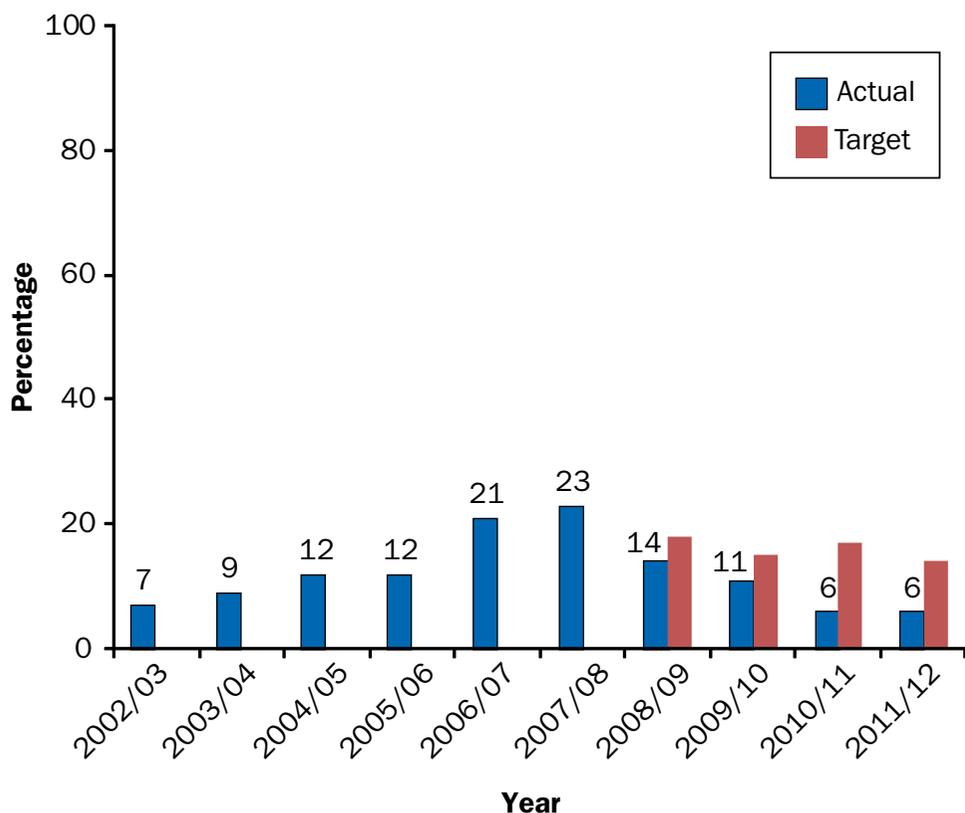
Within the group of 36 assessed fisheries, 31 involve stocks that were considered to have adequate breeding stock levels (86 per cent of fisheries). Three additional fisheries have breeding stocks considered to be recovering at acceptable rates (West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery, Shark Bay Snapper Fishery, Southern Shark Fishery). These are all relatively long-lived species so their recovery takes a number of years to complete following the introduction of additional management restrictions.

The reductions in catch levels for Shark Bay Snapper and the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery have now been in place for a number of years and more detailed reassessments are scheduled to be undertaken in 2012/13 to determine the extent to which these actions have been successful. For the Southern Shark Fishery, a detailed review of catch and effort data and a re-assessment of the stocks have revealed that previous management interventions have had a positive impact on the sustainability of dusky sharks and whiskery sharks, but their full recovery will take further time. In conclusion, a combined total of six per cent of fisheries have breeding stock management that is not considered satisfactory (KPI Figure 1), which is better than the target level.

Of the two remaining fisheries, while the catch of sandbar sharks in the Northern Shark Fishery is currently zero, uncertainty regarding long-term management of this fishery is still required. Finally, research to examine the status of the



stocks of herring in the South-west region will determine whether the recent low catch levels result from environmental conditions, a reduction in the breeding stock leading to lowered recruitment, reduced fishing effort, or some combination of the above. This result should be known before the end of 2012.



KPI Figure 1 The proportion (%) of fisheries where breeding stocks of the major target species are both assessed and considered to be at risk.

1.2 The proportion of fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved

A target catch or effort range has been determined for each of the major commercial fisheries (see the ‘[Stock Status and Catch Ranges for Major Commercial Fisheries](#)’ section of the Annual Report) by the Department’s Research Division. This indicator provides an assessment of the success of the Department’s management plans and regulatory activities in keeping fish catches at appropriate levels (including those in a recovery phase). The Department’s 2011/12 Budget Papers state that the target is 94 per cent.

For most of the fisheries in WA, each management plan seeks to directly control the amount of fishing effort applied to stocks, with the level of catch taken providing an indication of the effectiveness of the plan. Where the plan is operating effectively, the catch by the fishery should fall within a projected range. The extent of this range reflects the degree to which normal environmental variations affect the recruitment of juveniles to the stock which cannot be ‘controlled’ by the management plan. An additional consideration is that market conditions, fleet rationalisation or other factors may result in ongoing changes to the amount of effort expended in a fishery which will, in turn, influence the appropriateness of acceptable catch ranges for certain fisheries.

For quota-managed fisheries, the measure of success for the management arrangements is firstly that the majority of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is achieved, but additionally that it has been possible to take this catch using an acceptable



amount of fishing effort. If an unusually large expenditure of effort is needed to take the TAC, or the industry fails to achieve the TAC by a significant margin, this may indicate that the abundance of the stock is significantly lower than anticipated. For these reasons, an appropriate range of fishing effort to take the TAC has also been incorporated for assessing the performance of quota-managed fisheries (see 'Stock Status and Catch Ranges for Major Commercial Fisheries' section of the Annual Report).

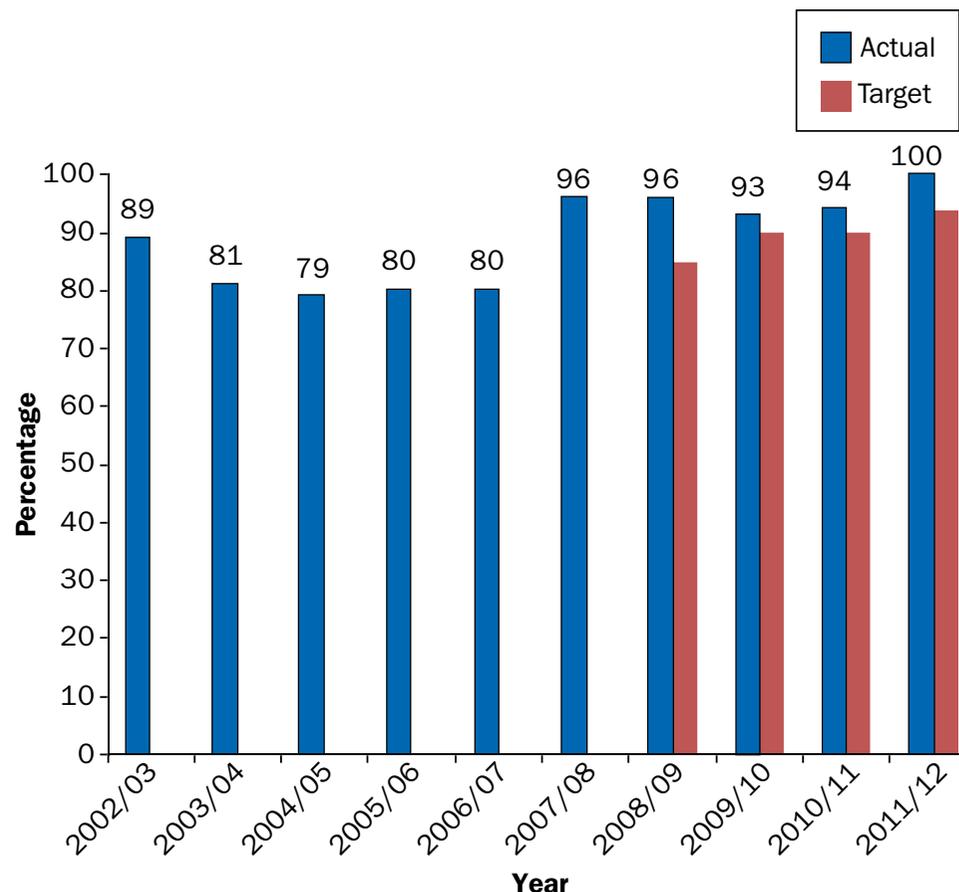
Comparisons between the actual catches (or effort) with the target ranges have been undertaken for 32 of the 38 fisheries referred to in 'Stock Status and Catch Ranges for Major Commercial Fisheries' section – one fewer than the number used last year. The fisheries which have target catch or effort ranges account for most of the commercial value of WA's landed catch.

Of the 32 fisheries where 'target ranges' were available and a material level of fishing was undertaken in 2010/11, ten were catch-quota managed (through a TAC allocated through Individually Transferable Quotas (ITQ) with 22 subject to effort control management.

All of the ITQ-managed fisheries operated within, or acceptably below, their target effort/catch ranges.

In the 22 effort-controlled fisheries, all 22 produced catches that were within (13) or acceptably above (2) or below (7) their target catch ranges. Given the changes in the operations of the Pilbara trawl fishery, this fishery was not assessed this year as there is some uncertainty about the impact on gear efficiencies following the introduction of new bycatch-reduction devices to minimise protected species interactions.

In summary, all 32 fisheries assessed (100 per cent) were considered to have met their performance criteria, or were affected by factors outside the purview of the management plan/arrangements (KPI Figure 2), which is above the target level.



KPI Figure 2 The proportion (%) of fisheries where the catch or effort reported is acceptable relevant to the target management range being applied.



1.3 The percentage of fisheries or fished sectors where current catch shares are known and where catch share allocations are in process or in place

The primary object of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* is 'to conserve, develop and share the fish resources of the State for the benefit of present and future generations'. This indicator has been developed to allow reporting on the 'sharing' of fish resources in Western Australia. In the context of this indicator, 'sharing' means to allocate the fish resources of the State, within sustainability limits, on an equitable basis to various sectoral user groups.

Previously, WA's fish resources were shared mainly on an implicit basis, with no explicit setting of catch shares within an overall total allowable catch or corresponding total allowable effort. The Department is now implementing an Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) approach where the aggregate effects of all fishing sectors are taken into account. This involves the use of a framework in which decisions on optimum resource use (i.e. allocation and re-allocation of fish resources) are determined and implemented within a total sustainable catch for each fishery or fished stock. IFM is being progressively phased in and it is likely to take some 10 years to bring the majority of the State's shared fisheries under this new framework.

The indicator is presented in two parts:

- the percentage of fisheries or fished stocks for which current estimates of catch shares are available; and
- the percentage of those fisheries or fished stocks for which catch sharing allocations are in progress or in place.

The 74 per cent target in the Department's 2011/12 Budget Papers relates to the percentage of fisheries or fished stocks for which current estimates of catch shares are available. The 2011/12 Budget Papers do not yet provide a target for the percentage of those fisheries or fished stocks for which catch sharing allocations are in progress or in place, but the Department has a target of 25 per cent of catch sharing allocations in progress or in place by 2015.

'Fisheries or fished stocks' can either be a managed fishery for a particular species (e.g. western rock lobster) or a spatially managed area of fishing activity encompassing a number of species (e.g. west coast estuaries). A 'current estimate' (of catch) is defined as being within the past five years (i.e. after 2005/06). Finally, a 'sharing allocation' is defined as a percentage of a total allowable catch or effort.

For the purposes of this indicator, 22 fisheries or stocks have been identified as having both a 'material' commercial and recreational catch share. Over time, the indicator may need to expand to include reference to fisheries or stocks for which there are other 'material' sectoral shares (e.g. customary fishing).

The most recent catch share data used for the first part of the indicator will be reported in the Department's *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia 2011/12*. The main reason for the decline in production is the drop in catch levels of the North Coast Demersal fisheries (NSDF). This is due to the NDSF coming back to be close to its acceptable range and the continued lower catches in the Pilbara trawl following effort reductions and trials of new gear to



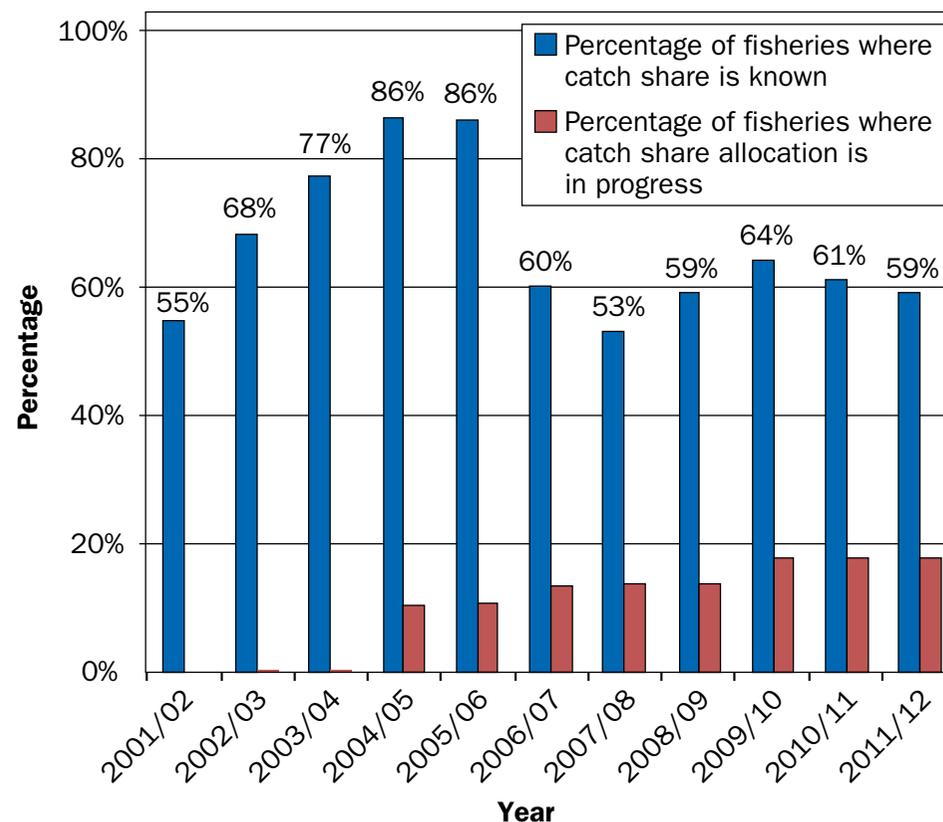
minimise interactions with protected species.

These shares are currently based on commercial catch data and from the results of recreational surveys undertaken by the Department’s Research Division within the last five years. The Department has made no assessment of whether these current shares are optimal or equitable with regard to community benefit and it acknowledges that this indicator does not include shares allocated implicitly or otherwise to the conservation sector (via ‘no-take’ areas) or to other sectors (e.g. Indigenous).

On this basis, the share of catch attributable to the commercial sector and the recreational sector for 2011/12 has been estimated for 13 of the 22 fisheries (59 per cent). This is a decline on the previous year which means that the target value of 74 per cent was not reached. The difference between the actual and target percentage of fisheries with current estimates results from a number of previous surveys now being beyond the fiveyear period (KPI Figure 3) and the results of the Statewide boat-based recreational survey are not yet available. While the survey was completed in early 2012 the analyses will not be finalised and ready for release until the end of 2012.

The second part of the indicator only relates to those fisheries expected to have both ongoing and significant commercial and recreational sectors into the future. For these fisheries, the IFM initiative will generate explicit allocations and/or re-allocations to specific sectors using a formal and structured allocation process. This process has already been completed for western rock lobster and metropolitan abalone fisheries, is currently underway for the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery and the IFM process for the Gascoyne region will now

wait until the West Coast IFM process has been completed. The proportion of fisheries or fished stocks with formal share allocations should increase over time and we are on track to meet the 2015 target level of 25 per cent.



KPI Figure 3 The proportion (%) of fisheries or fished stocks where estimates of catch shares are known and the proportion (%) of fisheries or fished stocks where catch sharing allocations are in progress or in place.



2.1 The gross value of State fisheries production

The Department seeks to manage the State's fisheries in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. This performance indicator deals with the economic component of the 'triple bottom line' approach. Sustainably managed commercial fisheries provide benefits to the State as a result of significant local sales and export earnings from fish and fish products. Commercial fisheries that are not managed sustainably will suffer a reduced value of production as fewer fish products will be available to the catching and marketing sectors.

The value, at first point of sale, of the production from WA's commercial and pearling/aquaculture sectors is published by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) annually, based on data supplied by industry to the Department's Research Division. Information for the years 2007/08 to 2010/11 in broad groupings is provided in KPI Table 1. The target is for production and value to be stable or increasing.

The overall tonnage of commercially caught crustaceans in 2010/11 was down slightly compared to 2009/10 due largely to the use of quotas to limit catches for the lobster fishery at 5,500 t. Improvements in the price of lobsters helped to increase the landed value back to levels seen in 2008/09 and to ameliorate the effects of the poor exchange rate.

The production and value of the molluscan fisheries in 2010/11 increased from the low levels obtained in 2009/10. This improvement was primarily due to increased catches of scallops by the Abrolhos Islands trawl fishery.

The finfish catch is generated from a large number of separate fisheries and stocks. The annual production and value in 2010/11 decreased again from that in 2009/10, with a value now close to \$30 million. The main reason for the decline in production is the drop in catch levels of the North Coast Demersal fisheries. This is due to the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery coming back to be close to its acceptable range and the continued lower catches in the Pilbara Trawl Fishery following effort reductions and trials of new gear to minimise interactions with protected species.

The value of pearl production in 2010/11 improved for the first time since the downturn in global economic activity due to an improvement in market conditions. The production level and value of non-pearl aquaculture for 2010/11 increased from the previous year to be above \$13 million.

In summary, due to the overall tonnage of production in 2010/11 being very similar to 2009/10, but the increased value of some commodities, the total value of WA fisheries increased to \$397 million, which is higher than both 2009/10 and 2008/09. The WA commercial fishing sector will continue to be affected by a combination of significant external influences on market values and from the impacts of natural fluctuations in the abundances of key species.



**KPI Table 1 Western Australian fisheries production – years
2007/08 to 2010/11**

	2007/08 (e)		2008/09 (e)		2009/10 (e)		2010/11 (f)	
	t	\$ m						
Crustaceans	12615	250	11074	224	9999	219	9716	226.1
Molluscs	5520	41	3918	37	3055	21	3736	28.3
Fish	10153	34	10159	32	9944	31	9148	29.9
Other (a)	n/a	n/a	160	0.5	171	0.5	107	0.3
Pearling (b, c)	n/a	113	n/a	90	n/a	85*	n/a	99.1
Aquaculture (d)	1013	10	1017	10	1107	10	1332	13.4
TOTAL PRODUCTION	29301	448	26328	394	24276	367	24288	397.1

Footnotes:

- (a) Miscellaneous invertebrates, e.g. beche-de-mer and sea urchins, previously reported under molluscs
- (b) Pearl oyster products other than pearls are included under molluscs.
- (c) Method of estimating the value of pearl production has been updated.
- (d) Excludes hatchery production and algae production for beta carotene.
- (e) Figures have not been adjusted to account for late production returns and validation of databases, so may differ slightly from values published elsewhere.
- (f) Figures current as at end of financial year.

n/a Not applicable.

Tonnage values are calculated from the Catch and Effort Statistics (CAES) data supplied by fishers on a monthly/trip basis, or quota returns supplied on a daily basis. The market values (except pearls) are obtained from surveys of the main seafood purchasers/processors.

* When this KPI was reported in the 2010/11 Annual Report, it included a pearling production figure of \$99 million for the 2009/10 financial year. In this year's report, the 2009/10 pearling production figure has been revised downwards to \$85 million because some of the value of pearl production from 2010/11 was incorrectly included in the 2009/10 figure.

Sources: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES); Department of Fisheries, Western Australia

Annual Community Perceptions Survey

Information for performance indicators 3.1 to 3.3 was derived from an annual community perceptions survey to assess the satisfaction of the Western Australian community and recreational fishers. These results are used to monitor, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the Department of Fisheries programs, activities and functions.

The objectives of the survey were to:

- assess the level of recall and awareness of the Department of Fisheries information and promotional activities;
- assess the understanding and support of the community for the Department of Fisheries management strategies across the four key fisheries management areas (commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, protection of the aquatic environment and aquaculture and pearling); and
- examine key aspects of community fishing and appreciation of the aquatic environment.

An external research company conducted the telephone survey of Western Australian households during June 2012. Telephone numbers were selected randomly from the White Pages. Respondents were males and females older than 17 years and residing in Western Australia. The total sample of 700 completed interviews comprised:

- 507 from major cities;
- 87 from inner regional;



- 106 from outer regional/remote/very remote/migratory.

The Stock Assessment and Data Analysis Branch of the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories performed the analysis of the survey data. The sample was weighted to reflect the actual population based on 2011 population statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The survey provided estimates for the 2011/12 reporting year.

3.1 The participation rate in recreational fisheries

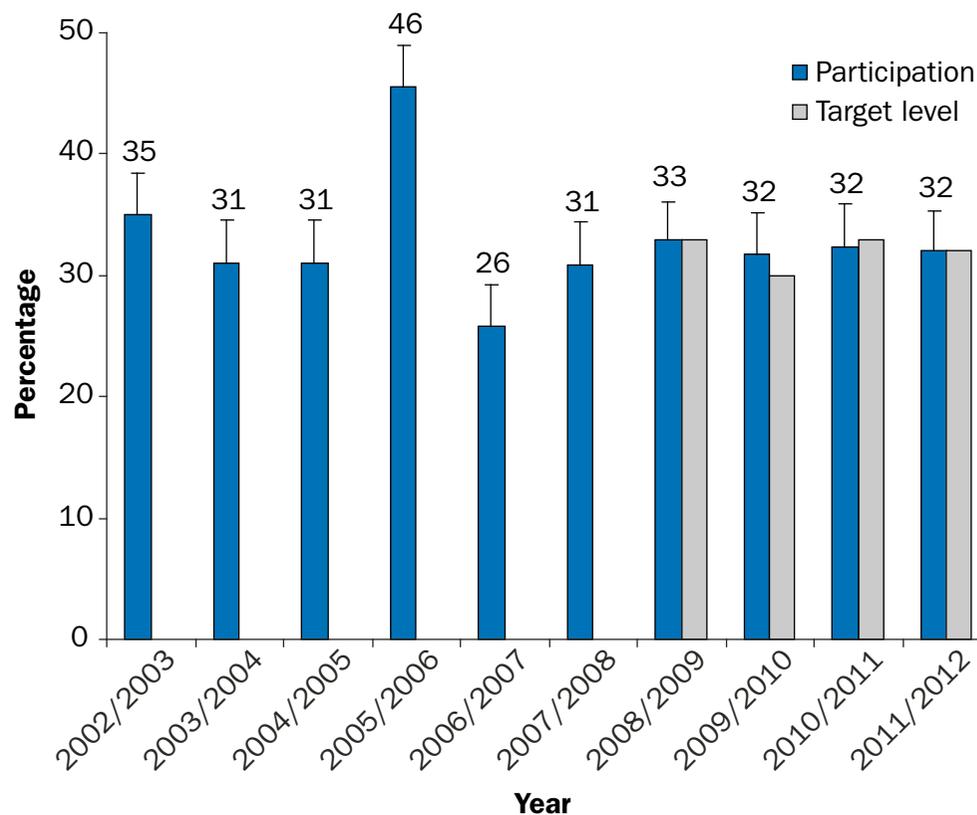
The level of participation in recreational fisheries and how often respondents participate is a measure of the utilisation of this community resource. The provision of recreational fisheries has a social and economic benefit. The more people that participate, the greater the social benefit. The tackle industry relies on people participating in recreational fishing. Recreational fishing is also important for boating, tourism and other industries.

The Department's 2011/12 Budget Papers state that the target for the participation rate in recreational fisheries is thirty two per cent (32%). The participation rate for recreational fishing in Western Australia was estimated as 32% in 2011/2012 and has been constant for the last three years (KPI Figure 4). The improved response rates, (calculated as percentage of contacts that resulted in a completed interview) of about 20% achieved since 2007/08, has provided a less biased estimate of the participation rate than for some earlier years.

The number of people in Western Australia who went recreational fishing at least once in the previous 12-month period was 691,000. This was estimated as 32% of the State's

population older than four years of age (using Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates from the 2011 census). It was assumed that persons four years of age or younger did not fish and the participation rate was constant for the population over four years of age.

KPI Figure 4 Participation rate in recreational fisheries 2002/2003 - 2011/2012

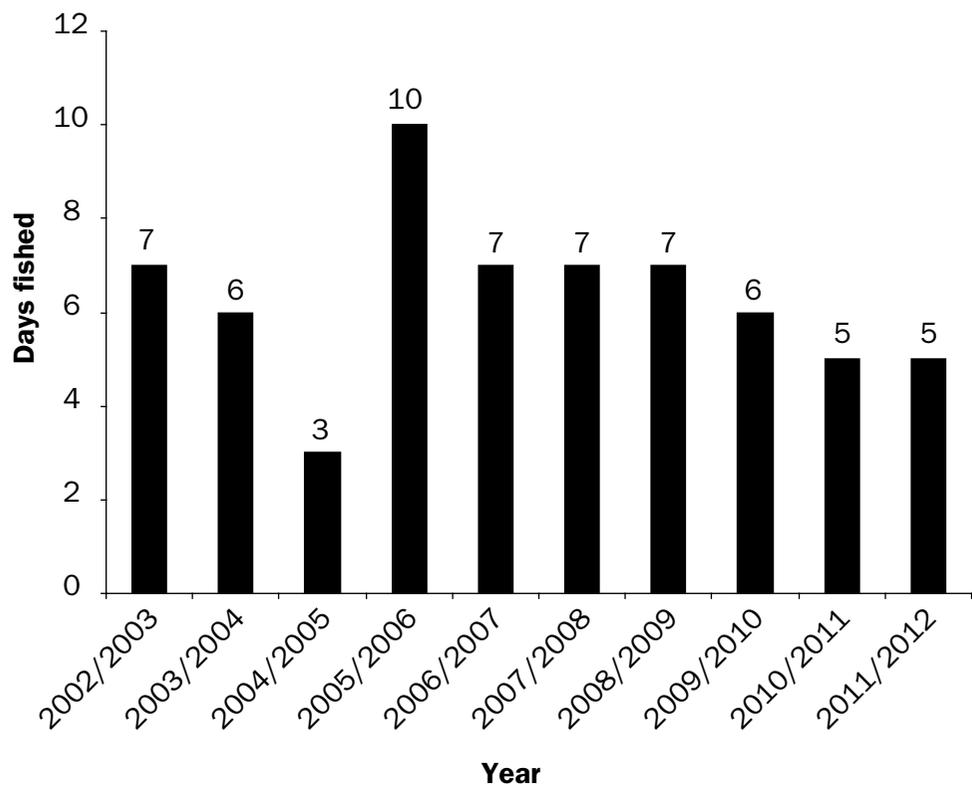




Days Fished

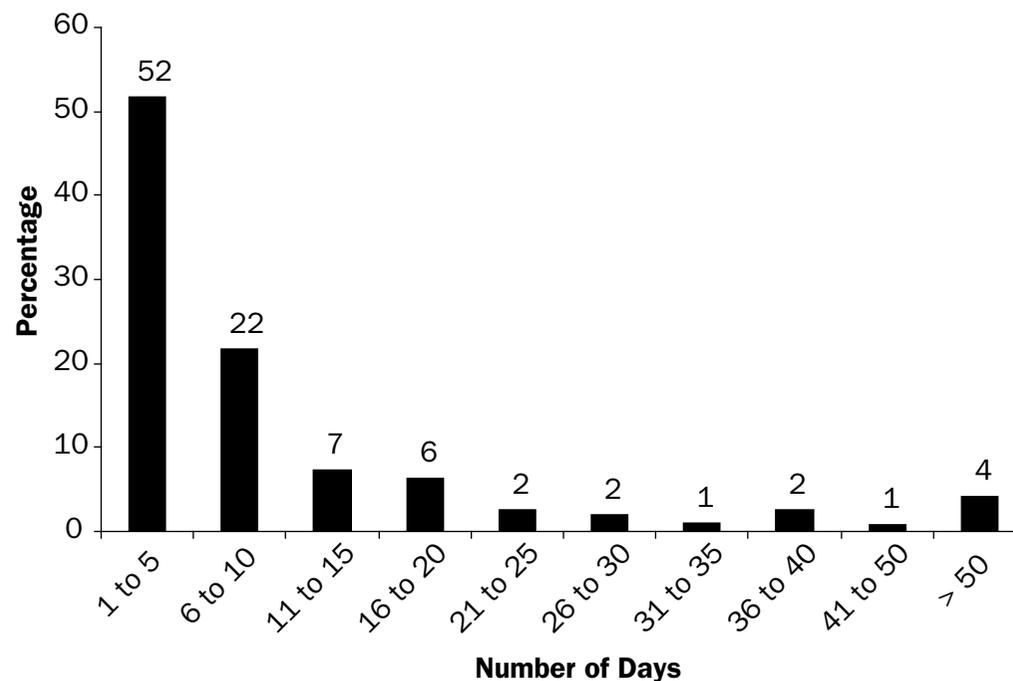
The median number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last twelve months was five days (KPI Figure 5). The median number of days fished was five in 2010/2011 and six in 2009/2010.

KPI Figure 5 Median number of days fished by recreational fishers 2002/2003 – 2011/2012



The number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last twelve months ranges from one to 184 days. The mean number of days fishing was 12 days. Most (52%) recreational fishers in Western Australia fished between one and five days. However, some fished for considerably more days giving a skewed frequency distribution (Figure 6).

KPI Figure 6 Distribution for number of days fished by recreational fishers



The Perth Metropolitan area from Yanchep to Mandurah was most popular for recreational fishing with 35% of effort.



Other areas that people fished were West Coast other than the Perth Metropolitan area (23%), South Coast – Marine (23%), South Coast – Freshwater (3%), Gascoyne (11%), Pilbara/ Kimberley – Marine (5%), and Pilbara/Kimberley – Freshwater (<1%).

3.2 Satisfaction index for persons participating in recreational fishing.

The Department manages fisheries on the basis of conservation of fish stocks and sustainability of fishing practices. The satisfaction index is a combination of knowledge of management measures and confidence in the management of fisheries. An awareness of the rules and regulations by recreational fishers is required for the sustainability of fishing practices. Confidence is indicated by satisfaction with recreational fisheries managed by the Department. This is measured by the quality of the recreational fishing experience assessed by satisfaction with the last fishing trip. Satisfaction is important for a recreational activity since participants are unlikely to repeat the experience if they are not satisfied.

Management = the level of the person’s awareness of rules and regulations.

Confidence = the level of the person’s satisfaction with the number, size and variety of fish caught on their last trip and satisfaction with the overall fishing trip.

Satisfaction Index = Mean (Management + Confidence)

KPI Table 2 Satisfaction index for recreational fishers

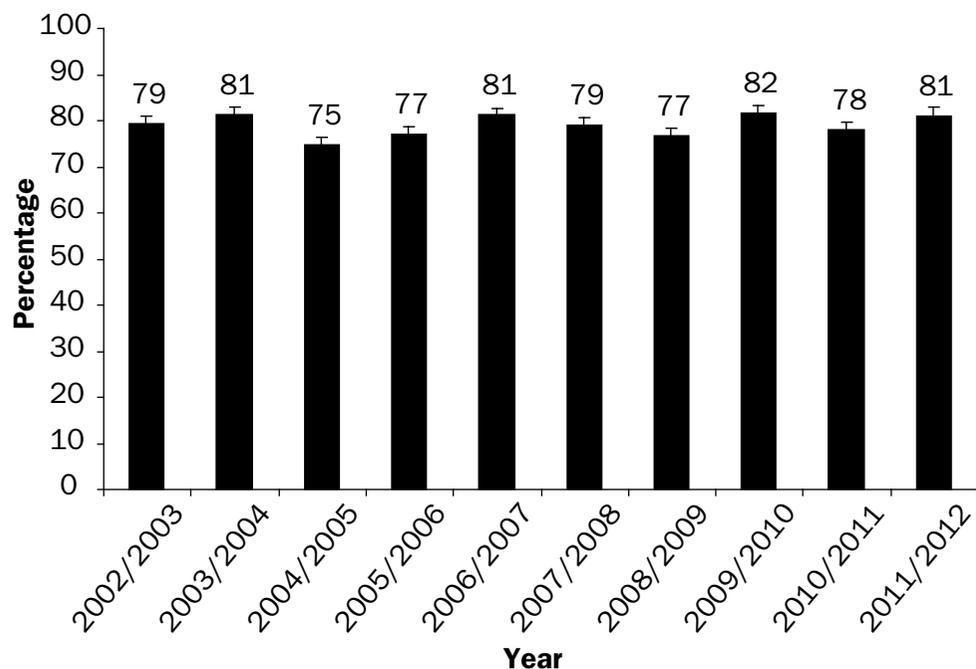
	Number of respondents	Satisfaction %	Assessment
Management			
Awareness of rules & regulations	700	95.3	Knowledgeable
Bag limits	220	81.4	Knowledgeable
Size limits	221	86.1	Knowledgeable
Boat limits	169	75.6	Knowledgeable
Confidence			
Number of fish caught	215	68.6	Satisfied
Variety of fish caught	211	70.1	Satisfied
Size of fish caught	216	70.2	Satisfied
Environment where fishing	216	94.2	Satisfied
Overall fishing trip	219	91.1	Satisfied
Satisfaction index		81.4	

(Note: can’t say/neither responses were excluded from the calculation of the satisfaction index)

The satisfaction index for recreational fishing was 81.4% with a 95% confidence interval between 79.7% and 83.1% (KPI Figure 7). The satisfaction index is significantly higher than the value of 78.0% for 2010/2011. This was predominantly due to a higher level of satisfaction with the number of fish caught.



KPI Figure 7 Satisfaction index for persons participating in recreational fishing 2002/2003 – 2011/2012



3.3 Satisfaction rating of the broader community and stakeholders as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving sustainable fisheries management objectives.

This is a measure of the Department’s achievement of objectives of conservation and sustainable fish resources. The satisfaction of the community and stakeholders with the Department’s management across the four key fisheries management areas of commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, protection of the

aquatic environment, and aquaculture and pearling is assessed. Only respondents that were aware the Department of Fisheries was responsible for a management area were asked to rate the Department’s performance for that management area.

Satisfaction Rate = Average (proportion of respondents satisfied with the Department’s management of commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, protection of the aquatic environment and aquaculture and pearling).

KPI Table 3 Satisfaction rate for the community

Key fisheries management areas	Number of respondents	Satisfaction %
1) Commercial fisheries	166	82.8
2) Recreational fisheries	199	85.8
3) Aquatic environment	137	81.6
4) Aquaculture & pearling	100	90.2
Satisfaction rate across four management areas		85.1

(Note: can’t say/neither responses were excluded from the calculation of the satisfaction rate)

The Department of Fisheries was given a satisfaction rate of 85.1% by the Western Australian public across these four fisheries management areas. The 95% confidence interval for the satisfaction rate given by the community was between 82.2% and 88.0%. The satisfaction rating for this financial year is significantly higher than the rate of 80.7% for 2010/11 (KPI Figure 8). This was mainly due to a higher level of satisfaction with the management of commercial and recreational fishing. The satisfaction rate given the Department by the community ranges from 66.1% for 2005/2006 to 85.1% for this year.

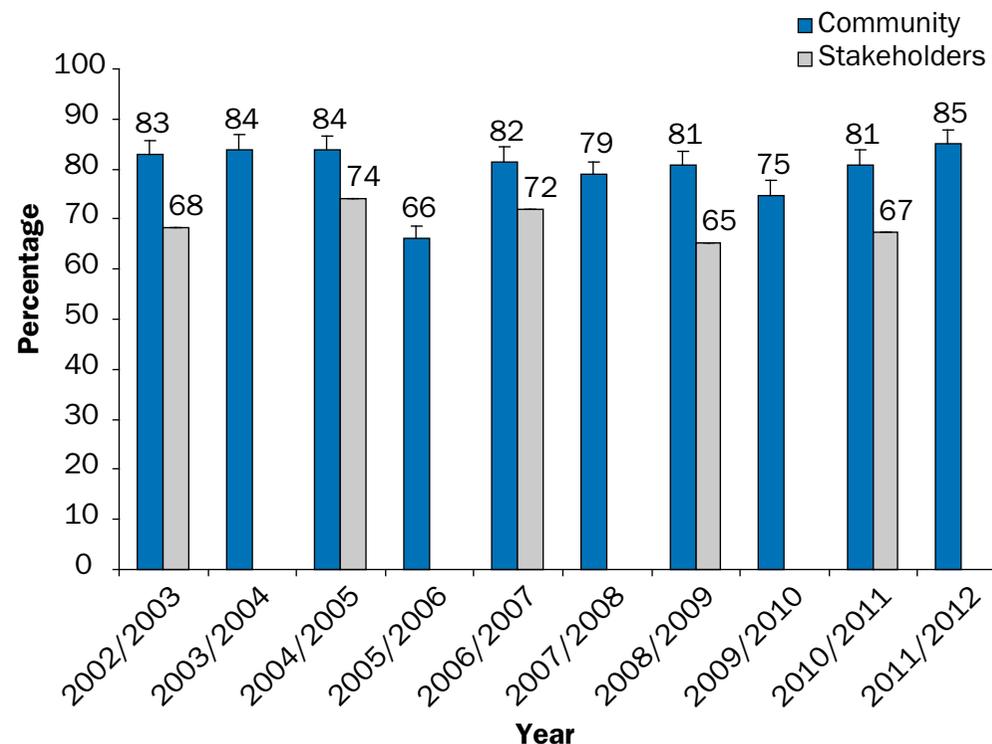
During 2002/03, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2008/09 and



2010/2011 an additional survey was conducted to measure the satisfaction of Department of Fisheries' stakeholders. The 2011 survey comprised 152 interviews with representatives from commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, the aquatic environment and aquaculture and pearling. The Department of Fisheries was given a satisfaction rate of 67.4% by Department of Fisheries' stakeholders (KPI Figure 8). The 95% confidence interval for the satisfaction rate is between 63.2% and 71.7%. The satisfaction rate is not significantly different than the value of 65.1% from the 2008 stakeholder survey (Baharthah, 2009).

The satisfaction rating of stakeholders was significantly lower than the satisfaction rating of the broader community. The satisfaction rating was 67.4% for stakeholders and 85.1% for the broader community as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving sustainable fisheries management.

KPI Figure 8 Satisfaction rating of the broader community and department's stakeholders 2002/2003 – 2011/2012



Efficiency indicators

The Department's efficiency indicators have been calculated by dividing the total service cost in a functional area by the hours delivered in that functional area.

The measures enable analysis of variance in costs from year-to-year and provide a benchmark for comparison against like service delivery.

The reported hourly cost includes a component to cover



fixed indirect costs.

In calculating the efficiency indicator targets, it is assumed that the Department will operate at full capacity (i.e. all positions occupied) for the full year. This is not normally the case and consequently the target cost per hour is normally less than the actual cost. This fact is demonstrated in the closer alignment between the actual results from one year to the next.

Explanations for those variances greater than 10 per cent have been included within each service.

Outcome: Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.

Service 1: Fisheries Management

Service Description:

Fisheries management includes licensing, the development of policy and procedural frameworks for the management of the State's fisheries, aquaculture and the aquatic environment including legislation and management plans, consultation with fishing industry stakeholders and the community.

Efficiency in Service 1 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered excluding payments for grants and fisheries adjustment schemes.

KPI Table 4 – Service 1

Service 1. Fisheries Management	Actual 2008/09	Actual 2009/10	Actual 2010/11	Target 2011/12	Actual 2011/12
Average cost per hour of management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments)	\$112	\$117	\$152	\$123	\$167

Explanation of Significant Variances between 2011/12 Target and Actual

The variances are mainly attributable to non-salary costs associated with cost pressures that have been allocated to fisheries management and new initiatives such as biosecurity.

Service 2: Compliance and Education

Service Description:

Through the compliance and education service the Department raises community awareness and understanding of fisheries and aquatic management issues and the need to adhere to the rules governing these activities. This service enforces fishing rules and also plans and instigates investigations and enforcement strategies.

Efficiency in Service 2 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered as outlined in the following table.

KPI Table 5 – Service 2

Service 2. Compliance and Education	Actual 2008/09	Actual 2009/10	Actual 2010/11	Target 2011/12	Actual 2011/12
Average cost per hour of compliance and education	\$229	\$164	\$186	\$153	\$185



Explanation of Significant Variances between 2011/12 Target and Actual

The hourly rate variances are mainly attributable to:

- non-capitalised repairs and maintenance of Abrolhos Island airstrips to meet safety and operational requirements and a major refitting of a large patrol vessel;
- new initiatives such as shark mitigation; and
- compliance and education activities in new marine parks.

Service 3: Research and Monitoring

Service Description:

The research and monitoring service provides scientific knowledge for the sustainable management of the State's fisheries and aquatic resources and the associated environment.

Efficiency in Service 3 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered within each of the three functional areas as outlined in the following table.

KPI Table 6 – Service 3

Service 3. Research and Monitoring	Actual 2008/09	Actual 2009/10	Actual 2010/11	Target 2011/12	Actual 2011/12
Average cost per hour of research and monitoring	\$137	\$118	\$126	\$127	\$130

Service 4: Marine Safety

Service Description:

The marine safety service is delivered on behalf of the Department of Transport. This service includes checks by

Fisheries and Marine Officers of recreational boats to ensure compliance with the safety requirements.

Efficiency in Service 4 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered within each of the three functional areas as outlined in the following table.

KPI Table 7 – Service 4

Service 4. Marine Safety	Actual 2008/09	Actual 2009/10	Actual 2010/11	Target 2011/12	Actual 2011/12
Average cost per hour for delivery of marine safety services	\$134	\$143	\$134	\$117	\$115

Explanation of Significant Variances between 2010/11 Actual and 2011/12 Actual

The Budget hourly rate is set on the basis that full staffing levels are maintained during the financial year. As vacancies will invariably occur, the Budget rate will in most cases be fewer than the actuals in any financial year.

The hourly rate variances are mainly attributable to differences between how hours have been budgeted and actually recorded and reported for marine safety fieldwork. The Department will transition to a more uniform time recording and reporting structure for marine safety in 2012/13. This will bring the Budget and Actual rates closer into alignment and will be reflected in the actual results from one year to the next.



Financial disclosures

Capital works program

The 2011/12 capital works program has funded a number of routine vessels, plant and equipment replacements. Additional programs also received funding, including the Fish Eye licensing and entitlement system, vessels for newly established marine parks and completion of a marine operations centre in Denham.

Where actual spending is less than planned expenditure, adjustments are made to the capital works program for future years. The table below covers key areas of infrastructure to assist the Department of Fisheries in providing services.

Table 19. Capital works program 2011/12

Asset class	Planned expenditure \$'000	Actual expenditure ¹ \$'000
Information systems	7,967	2,539
Plant and equipment	203	586
Buildings and infrastructure	2,123	5,566
Vessels	3,300	2,824
TOTAL: Capital works program	13,593	11,515

¹ Expenditure reported on a cash basis.

Information systems

The 2011/12 actual expenditure related mainly to activities supporting the Fish Eye program and routine information technology upgrades.

The development of the Fish Eye licensing and entitlement management system required new software, a significant upgrade of the Department's communications infrastructure and the relocation of its central computing assets.

Buildings and infrastructure

A new marine operations centre in Denham was completed in March 2012.

The new centre enables the Department to provide key services, including fisheries and marine protected area management in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area. It accommodates staff from the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Shark Bay Volunteer Sea Rescue Group.

Vessels

The capital program for 2011/12 funded the continuing upgrade of a variety of vessels to support the Department's compliance and education services, and research and monitoring program.

A new 6 metre rigid inflatable boat, based in Broome, at a



cost of \$172,650 was added to the existing fleet. The boat will be used by officers from Fisheries and the Department of Environment and Conservation to patrol the Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park. Construction of a new patrol vessel for the Capes Marine Park commenced during the year. It is due for completion in early 2012/13; at an expected total cost of around \$580,000.

The large vessel *PV Hamelin*, previously leased by the Department, was purchased (\$1,200,000) and repainted (\$180,449). It will continue to provide officers with 'at sea' capacity for compliance patrols in marine parks, shark-related activities and marine safety monitoring.

Major vessel replacements during the year included the 8.5 metre research vessel *RV George Cassells* based in Hillarys (\$148,176); two 7.5 metre rigid inflatable boats – the FD 68 based in Albany (\$239,089) and FD 47 based in Denham (\$239,089); and a 5.8 metre rigid inflatable boat for the Special Operations Unit.

Routine outboard replacements were completed on the small patrol vessel FD 35 based in Bunbury (\$27,427) and FD 50 PV Waterman based in Hillarys (\$54,225).

Dinghies with outboard motors were replaced at Karratha (\$50,245) and Albany (\$17,773).

All replacements were to the Department's existing fleet, in keeping with the rationalisation of the State's vessel assets.

Pricing policy for services provided

The Department operates in an environment where a significant proportion of operating revenue is received from sources other than the Consolidated Account.

Non Consolidated Account sources of revenue include regulatory fees and charges related to commercial fishing, aquaculture and recreational fishing. These fees are set in accordance with government policy.

The basis for setting of these regulatory fees is determined by the nature of the transaction. It can be set at full cost recovery (registry transactions), partial cost recovery (recreational licence fees) and, in the case of commercial access to fish resources and water, at an amount to reflect an appropriate payment to the community for that access.

As the Department has developed significant specialist service delivery capacity it is often requested to support activities of other State and Commonwealth agencies. These services are provided on a full cost recovery basis.

Where the Department charges for goods and services rendered on a full or partial cost recovery basis, these fees and charges are determined in accordance with *Costing and Pricing Government Services: Guidelines for Use by Agencies in the Western Australian Public Sector* published by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Regulations specifying commercial fisheries access and other fees charged by the Department are published in the Government Gazette – see Appendix 3.



Legal requirements

Advertising and sponsorship

In compliance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Department of Fisheries reports on expenditure incurred during the financial year in relation to advertising agencies, market research organisations, polling organisations, direct mail organisations and media advertising organisations.

The details of the report are:

Expenditure with advertising agencies	\$0.00
Expenditure with market research agencies	\$0.00
Expenditure with polling agencies	\$0.00
Expenditure with direct mail agencies	\$0.00
Expenditure with media advertising agencies	\$0.00
Adcorp (expenditure includes recruitment advertising)	\$59,635.49
WA Media	\$1,181.82
WA Billboards	\$1,250.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$62,067.31

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Through its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, the Department is committed to delivering services for people with disabilities. The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan ensures equality of access to the

Department’s services including fisheries management, compliance and education, research and monitoring, and marine safety.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan ensures that people with disabilities:

- have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, the Department;
- have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Department;
- receive information from the Department in a format that will allow ready access to;
- receive the same level and quality of service from the Department;
- have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Department; and
- have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the Department.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan identifies six outcomes for the Department to achieve:



Outcome 1

The Department is committed to ensuring all events are planned using the Accessible Events Checklist, which is available on the intranet.

Standard wording for all information bulletins and event invitations has been developed, enabling attendees to indicate their access requirements.

Outcome 2

The Department has ongoing audits to identify any access barriers to its premises.

Outcome 3

The redevelopment of the Department's website was carried out with the aim of complying with the WA Government's Website Governance Framework including its accessibility and recordkeeping requirements (which includes W3C, WCAG, and the *Records Keeping Act*). The Department continues to be committed to improving community awareness of information by making it available in alternative formats.

Outcome 4

The Department is committed to improving staff awareness of disability and access issues with the aim of providing improved service delivery.

Outcome 5

The Department is committed to ensuring that complaints procedures and policies are accessible to people with disabilities.

Outcome 6

The Department monitors the progress of its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. Improvements in the delivery of its services will continue to be made, particularly to the special needs of those with a disability.

The Department also supports the fishing workshops for the disabled operated by the Fishers with Disabilities Association Incorporated and provides a grant to assist the association meet its administration and insurance costs.

In addition to initiating the fishing workshops program for Fishers with Disabilities several years ago through its volunteer program, the Department provides several members of staff to the association's board. The Department allows these members to attend board meetings and conduct association-related business during working hours. The Department has also supported employees who have volunteered to assist in conducting fishing workshops operated by the association.

Public sector compliance and ethical codes

The Department's policies are written to support the achievement of its Plan for Our People initiatives and to comply with legislative and public sector directives. All policies are accessible to Department staff through the intranet.



For 2011/12 the Department reported the following compliance issues:

Table 20. Compliance issues with public sector ethical codes

Compliance issues	Reported for 2011/12
Public sector standards in human resource management breach claims	3
Non-compliance with the Western Australian Code of Ethics	0
Allegations of misconduct under the disciplinary provisions of the Public Sector Management Act 1994	1

Compliance with relevant written laws

Enabling legislation

The Department of Fisheries is established under Section 35 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

Legislation administered

The Department assists the Minister in the administration of legislation under five State Acts of Parliament (see the [Profile of the Department of Fisheries](#) section of this Annual Report).

The Department also manages the majority of fishing adjacent to Western Australia in the Australian Fishing Zone under the provisions of Part 5 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* of the Commonwealth and Part 3 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Legislation affecting Department outcomes

In the performance of its functions, the Department complies with the following written laws:

- *Animal Welfare Act 2002*
- *Auditor General Act 2006*
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003*
- *Credit Act 1984*
- *Disability Services Act 1993*
- *Electronic Transactions Act 2003*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- *Financial Management Act 2006*
- *Firearms Act 1973*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1992*
- *Government Employees' Housing Act 1964*
- *Government Financial Responsibility Act 2000*
- *Industrial Relations Act 1979*
- *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*
- *New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*
- *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*
- *Occupiers Liability Act 1985*
- *Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972*
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2003*



- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*
- *Spent Convictions Act 1988*
- *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004*
- *State Records Act 2000*
- *State Superannuation Act 2000*
- *State Supply Commission Act 1991*
- *State Trading Concerns Act 1916*
- *Trade Practices Act 1974*
- *Volunteers and Food and Other Donors (Protection from Liability) Act 2002*
- *Western Australian Marine Act 1982*
- *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*
- *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004.*

Numerous other State and Federal laws also impact the Department's activities.

Reporting on record keeping plans

(*State Records Act 2000, Section 61 and State Records Commission Standards, Standard 2, Principle 6*)

The Department's Record Keeping Plan was approved in April 2011. The next formal review is due in April 2016. In October 2011, the Corporate Information Branch upgraded the Department's record keeping system from TRIM Captura (a paper-based system) to HP TRIM 7 (TRIM), which provides electronic document records management.

The Department's use of a functional thesaurus to classify

records has been analysed and a draft business classification scheme developed. Over the next year, there are plans to move to a new business classification scheme, across the Department, within TRIM. Security, access controls and retention schedules will be linked to the business classification scheme which, in turn, will streamline the information classification process.

The Department's functional retention and disposal schedule expired in 2008. A new schedule, based on the new business classification scheme, was drafted and submitted to the State Records Office in April 2012. It is anticipated the State Records Commission will approve the Department's new retention and disposal schedule during 2012. This will then be available and applied to all records generated within and migrated to TRIM.

Following a review of record keeping and Freedom of Information training, a new program was developed and implemented which involved:

- TRIM upgrade training; metropolitan officers were invited to attend one of seven half-day sessions at head office, the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys and the Fremantle District Office. A DVD was sent to the regional branches to demonstrate the new functionality.
- Regional visits; the Corporate Information Branch conducted workshops on the use of TRIM and broader record keeping requirements at Albany, Bunbury, Mandurah, Geraldton and Broome.
- Induction training; new employees located at Hillarys and head office received individual TRIM and record keeping training. The Corporate Information Branch also provided a 30-minute presentation on record keeping during induction training days.



- Online training; online training was used to deliver the Record Keeping Aware course to all new staff, and an associated refresher course to staff every twelve months. Also, a new Freedom of Information course was implemented this year with more than 50 per cent of staff completing this within the first three months.

As a result of the training schemes and system upgrade, there have been improvements to the Department’s record keeping and associated compliance levels, as seen in the figures below.

Table 21.

Recordkeeping tasks	2010/11	2011/12	
Documents created in TRIM	7,203	18,642	
Files created in TRIM	4,825	5,377	
Archive boxes created in TRIM	749	590	
Training			
Face-to-face training	Number of sessions held	Number of staff who completed	
Record keeping – metropolitan area	10	63	
Record keeping – regional areas	5	16	
Induction	16	50	
Freedom of Information – at Office of the Information Commissioner	1	3	
Freedom of Information – for Corporate Executive	1	7	
Online training	Number of staff enrolled 2011/12	Number of staff who completed	Percentage
Record keeping awareness	122	81	66%
Record keeping awareness – refresher	200	135	68%
Freedom of Information	439	270	62%

Public Interest Disclosures

(Public Interest Disclosures Act 2003, S23 (1) (f))

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* came into effect on 1 July 2003, requiring the Department to:

- facilitate the disclosure of public interest information;
- provide protection for those who make disclosures; and
- provide protection for those who are the subject of a disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, the Department has duly appointed Public Interest Disclosure Officers and has published internal policies and procedures related to its obligations.

No Public Interest Disclosures were received during 2011/12.



Government policy requirements

Substantive equality

The Department of Fisheries is committed to the principles of substantive equality and demonstrates this by developing an Aboriginal fishing strategy and adopting a customary fishing policy.

Recent amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* allow the Department to make regulations that recognise customary fishing rights and practices within sustainable fisheries management. Further, the Department's integrated fisheries management policy provides resource allocations for customary purposes.

The Department also meets its substantive equality responsibilities by producing recreational fishing information in the Vietnamese language. For an example, see [Crabbing in the Gascoyne Region](#), available from the Department's website.



The recently upgraded website includes a translation option allowing visitors to view the site in more than 30 languages.

The next stage of the priority service area will be a Needs and Impact Assessment regarding the licensing of aquatic charter activities of Aboriginal and minority ethnic groups. A scoping document was developed during 2009/10 outlining the background to current management arrangements for Aboriginal fishing tour operators. The Needs and Impact Assessment will be part of the overall review of the aquatic charter industry which is due to be completed by the end of 2012.

Occupational safety and health and injury management

The Department is committed to supporting the health, safety and welfare of all its employees and others who may be associated with its operational activities. The Department aims to engage in 'best practice' safety and health management practices, including education, training, reporting and accountability.

The Occupational Safety and Health Committee meets bi-monthly and comprises regional and metropolitan representatives. Safety and health issues can be raised with the representatives through the Department's Hazard/Accident/Incident Report (HAIR) process.

To ensure employees are kept informed about occupational



safety and health matters, the Department’s intranet is regularly updated and an occupational safety and health bulletin is distributed to all staff following each committee meeting.

Table 22. Occupational safety and health and injury management performance against key indicators

Measure	Actual Results		Results against target	
	2010/11	2011/12	Target	Comments
Number of fatalities	Zero	Zero	Zero	Target achieved
Lost time injury/ disease (LTI/D) incidence rate	1.2%	0.91%	Zero or 10% improvement on the previous three years	The Department had four lost time injuries for the year
Lost time injury severity rate	40%	25%	Zero or 10% improvement on the previous three years	One of the four lost time injuries had lost time exceeding 60 days
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within (i) 13 weeks (ii) 26 weeks	60% (returned to work within 28 weeks)	(i) 75% (ii) 100%	Greater than or equal to 80% return to work within 26 weeks	Target achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within (iii) 13 weeks (iv) 26 weeks	32% (returned to work within 28 weeks)	(iii) 75% (iv) 100%	Greater than or equal to 80% return to work within 26 weeks	Target achieved
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	7%	44%	Greater than or equal to 80%	An online training course for managers was implemented across the Department in March 2012.

Ministerial directives

No Ministerial directives were received during the financial year.

Governance disclosures

Contracts with senior officers

At the date of reporting, other than normal contracts of employment, no senior officers, or firms of which senior officers are members, or entities in which senior officers have substantial interests, had any interests in existing or proposed contracts with the Department of Fisheries and senior officers.



Appendix 1 Advisory committees

Advisory/other committees

(Section 41 and 42, Fish Resources Management Act 1994)

- Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee
- Aquatic Advisory Committee
- Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

(Section 11, Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987)

- West Australian Trawl and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management
- Wetline and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management



Appendix 2 Major publications produced by the Department of Fisheries during 2011/12

Websites

The five websites co-ordinated, designed and maintained by the Department form the backbone of its communications. During 2011/12, the corporate website (www.fish.wa.gov.au) was extensively overhauled to increase its customer focus and more actively and effectively communicate the Department's role and achievements.

The other five websites are:

- **Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre** – www.nmdc.com.au
- **MarineWATERS Western Australian Teacher Education Resources** – <http://marinewaters.fish.wa.gov.au/>
- **The national fisheries website for Ecological Sustainable Development**, sponsored by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation – <http://www.fisheries-esd.com>
- **'Sharing the Fish' conference** – www.fishallocation.com
- **Freshwater Fish Distribution in Western Australia** – freshwater.fish.wa.gov.au

Publications

In addition to this Annual Report to Parliament, the Department publishes a range of printed and online publications which are reviewed each year.

These include:

- **Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia** (formerly *State of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Report* and *State of the Fisheries Report*) annual report – <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Publications/Pages/State-of-the-Fisheries-report.aspx>
- **Recreational Fishing Guides** – www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Publications/Recreational-Fishing/Pages/Recreational-Fishing-Guides.aspx
- **Species Identification Guides** – <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Publications/Recreational-Fishing/Pages/Species-Identification-Guides.aspx>
- **Licensed Recreational Fisheries Brochures** (rock lobster, abalone, marron, net fishing, freshwater angling, recreational fishing from boat) – www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Publications/Recreational-Fishing/Pages/Licences.aspx



The Department also publishes a range of management and research documents each year. In 2011/12 these were:

Fisheries Occasional Publications

- No. 99** Review of the Western Australian Rock Lobster Stock Assessment Report to Western Australian Department of Fisheries (August 2011)
- No. 100** Indian Ocean Territories Aquaculture Development Plan (August 2011)
- No. 101** Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery. An operator's guide to the management arrangements 1 November 2011 – 31 August 2012 (August 2011)
- No. 102** Improving Commercial Fishing Access Rights in Western Australia (September 2011)
- No. 106** Research, Monitoring, Assessment and Development Plan 2011-2012 (March 2012)

Fisheries Management Papers

- No. 250** A Five-Year Management Strategy for the Recreational Trout Fishery (September 2011)
- No. 251** Draft Management Plan for the Mackerel Managed Fishery (August 2011)
- No. 252** A Resource-based Management Approach for Recreational Fishing in Western Australia 2011-2015 (February 2012)
- No. 253** Licensing and Allocation under a New Management Plan for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (February 2012)
- No. 254** West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Harvest Strategy and Decision Rules Framework Proposals under a Quota Management System (February 2012)

- No. 255** Operational and Compliance Elements of a New Management Plan for The West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (February 2012)

Fisheries Research Reports

- No. 219** Status of the Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery
- No. 221** Pilot Evaluation of the Efficacy of Electronic Monitoring on a Demersal Gillnet Vessel as an Alternative to Human Observers
- No. 222** The 'Marine Heatwave' off Western Australia during the Summer of 2010/11
- No. 223** Assessing and Managing Interactions of Protected and Listed Marine Species with Commercial Fisheries in Western Australia. FRDC Report – Project 2007/059
- No. 224** Spatial Distribution of Shore-based Fishers in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area over Summer 2010/11. Final NRM Report – Project No. 09040
- No. 225** Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Case Study Report West Coast Bioregion
- No. 227** Assessment of the Risks Associated with the Release of Abalone Sourced from Abalone Hatcheries for Enhancement or Marine Grow-out in the Open Ocean Areas of WA

Fisheries Research Contract Reports

- No. 23** Boat-based Recreational Fishing Catch and Effort in Cockburn Sound and Owen Anchorage during 1996/97, 2001/02 and 2005/06. (20 April 2012)



Appendix 3 Legislative amendments and new legislation

Summary

Fish Resources Management Act 1994

Act Amendments – 3
Regulation Amendments – 11
Management Plan Amendments – 15
New Management Plans – 1
New Orders – 1
Amendments to Existing Orders – 15
Revoked Orders – 5
Notices – 15
Corrections – 2

Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987

Regulations – 1

Pearling Act 1990

Regulations – Nil
Pearling Notices – 7
Pearling Notice Revocations - 1

Listing

1. Fish Resources Management Act 1994

*Fish Resources Management Amendment (Fees) Act 2011
No. 21 of 2011*

Proclamation: The Governor signed this proclamation on 26 July 2011. Published on 29 July 2011 in Government Gazette Number 145 on page 3127.

Fish Resources Management Amendment (Fees) Act (No. 2) 2011 No. 22 of 2011

Proclamation: The Governor signed this proclamation on 26 July 2011. Published on 29 July 2011 in Government Gazette Number 145 on page 3127.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Act 2011 No. 43 of 2011

Proclamation: The Governor signed this proclamation on 1 November 2011. Published on 4 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 211 on page 4629.

2. Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 7) 2011

The amendment regulations:

- insert a new Division 4A in part 17 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* to provide for the granting of replacement managed fishery licences; and
- effect two minor consequential amendments to the West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993.



Published on 1 July 2011 in Government Gazette Number 123 on pages 2721 - 2723.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 6) 2011

The purpose of the amendments is to prohibit the use of abalone as bait, and make it an offence to remove the shell from an abalone or be in possession of abalone material (other than a whole abalone) near the ocean, or an estuary, river or inlet.

Published on 2 August 2011 in Government Gazette Number 147 on pages 3166 - 3168.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 8) 2011

The purpose of the amendments is to amend the fishing season for the West Coast Zone (Perth Metropolitan) Roe's Abalone Recreational Fishery [Fishery] (Abalone Zone 1 in the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*). The fishing season for 2011/12 will be structured with one hour fishing periods to be held on the first Sunday morning of consecutive months, commencing in November 2011 and, subject to catch levels, concluding in March 2012.

Published on 2 August 2011 in Government Gazette Number 147 on pages 3168 – 3169.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 10) 2011

The purpose of the amendments is to:

- include an exception to the requirement to hold a Recreational (Boat) Fishing Licence when on a fishing tour;
- list the weedy seadragon as a totally protected fish; and
- amend the Managed Fishery Licence fees for the 2011/12 fishing season.

Published on 24 August 2011 in Government Gazette Number 161 on pages 3405 - 3409.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 11) 2011

The purpose of the amendment is to prescribe the fee payable in respect of the grant or renewal of an authorisation in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.

Published on 9 September 2011 in Government Gazette Number 172 on pages 3682 - 3683.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 9) 2011

The purpose of the amendment is to:

- allow commercial fishing licence holders to also hold recreational fishing licences and make it an offence for a person to fish for a recreational purpose from a licensed fishing boat (unless on a fishing tour);
- change bag limits and the restrictions on fishing equipment for trout and amend the closed fishing seasons for trout and other freshwater fish;
- introduce a Statewide prohibition on the use of bait bands (with some exceptions for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery);
- introduce a defence for a person taking a weedy seadragon; and
- amend the provisions regarding the possession of abalone material and the shucking of abalone so there is an exception for a person acting under the authority of a managed fishery licence, and introduce modified penalties for such offences.

Published on 2 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number



210 on pages 4619 - 4625.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 12) 2011

The purpose of the amendment is to:

- prescribe a minimum unit holding to determine the authority conferred by a Fishing Boat Licence; and
- specify the lengths under which western rock lobster will be totally or commercially protected.
- Published on 18 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 220 on pages 4809 - 4810.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 13) 2011

The purpose of the amending regulations is to declare which rights, entitlements or authorities under the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* are not personal property for the purposes of the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009* (Commonwealth).

Published on 22 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 222 on pages 4847 - 4848.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 14) 2011

The purpose of the amending regulations is to:

- change the times in which nets may be set in the Peel-Harvey Estuary; and
- reduce the bag and possession limits for marron in non trophy waters.

Published on 20 December 2011 in Government Gazette Number

247 on pages 5374 - 5375.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 1) 2012

The purposes of the amendments are to:

- list all rays in Hamelin Bay as totally protected fish;
- correct the common and scientific names for mud crabs; and
- introduce new modified penalties for the unlawful take of commercially protected fish.

Published on 24 February 2012 in Government Gazette Number 27 on pages 801-803.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 3) 2012

The purposes of the amendments are to:

- prescribe a value per unit weight for rock lobster; and
- prohibit recreational fishing by means of a set net in the Pilbara and Kimberley;
- permit recreational fishing for prawns by throw net; and
- amend an incorrect heading.

Published on 22 June 2012 in Government Gazette Number 105 on pages 2778 - 2779.

3. Management Plans

Shark Bay Crab Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2011

The purpose of the amendment is to extend the management plan and amend the fees.

Published on 5 August 2011 in Government Gazette Number 148 on page 3191.



Shark Bay Scallop Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2011

The purpose of the amendment is to implement catch share arrangements for different classes of licence.

Published on 9 August 2011 in Government Gazette Number 149 on pages 3208 - 3209.

West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment (No. 3) 2011

The purpose of the amendment is to:

- introduce new catch limits pursuant to a revised Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC);
- remove closures applying to weekends, Christmas Day, New Year's Day; and
- introduce ability of fishers to pay by instalments.

Published on 9 September 2011 in Government Gazette Number 172 on pages 3689 - 3692.

Abalone Management Plan Amendment 2011

The purpose of the amendment is to advise that a nominated diver must not fish for abalone in the waters of Area 7 on any Saturday, Sunday or public holiday.

Published on 16 September 2011 in Government Gazette Number 176 on page 3773.

West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment (No. 4) 2011

The purpose of the amendment includes:

- a reduction in the number of units from 63 to 60;
- provisions to allow the grant of new Managed Fishery Licences with as little as one unit of usual entitlement;

- the removal of the requirement to hold a Fishing Boat Licence for the grant of a new licence;
- a prohibition on fishing in the fishery unless the details of a boat associated with a Fishing Boat Licence are recorded on the Managed Fishery Licence; and
- the correction of a typographical error in the table to Schedule 8 of the Plan.

Published on 11 October 2011 in Government Gazette Number 193 on pages 4323 - 4324.

West Coast Estuarine Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2011

The purpose of the amendment is to extend the expiry date to 6 May 2013 and implements the access fee.

Published on 4 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 211 on page 4649.

West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment (No.5) 2011

The purpose of the amendment is to:

- simplify the information requirements for Catch and Disposal Record forms;
- introduce an Interactive Voice Response system which will assist in further reinforcing the integrity of the catch monitoring system;
- remove the daily limit on the number of lobster that can be retained for personal consumption by masters and crew;
- reduce the entitlement of a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence (a Licence) should a person be convicted of an offence that was intended to defraud the catch monitoring system;



- allow fishers to hold lobsters in approved landing areas;
- increase the flexibility relating to the tagging of containers of lobsters being held at the Abrolhos Islands;
- prohibit a person operating in the fishery where they have reached or exceed their catch limit; and
- allow the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries (the Department) to permit fishing in excess of a person's catch limit due to an error in the catch reporting process.

Published on 11 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 218 on page 4785 - 4789.

West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2011

The purpose of the amendment is to:

- provide for the two tonnes of combined quota for champagne and giant crabs to be separated from the 20 tonnes of crystal crab quota per permit and made transferable in its own right;
- permit the use of wood batten traps to target champagne and giant crabs;
- permit the use of experimental traps to target crystal crabs at a rate of two per cent (i.e. no greater than two traps per 100-trap line);
- allow the use of bait as defined in the West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan;
- correct a degree of longitude (128 degrees 58' E) that was listed in clause (17) of the plan, this error has now been rectified by inserting the correct degree of longitude (126 degrees 58' E);

- include Hamelin Bay and Augusta as additional ports for fishers to land deep sea crustaceans; and
- introduce a consequential change to the access fee from one based on a fee per permit to an access fee of \$16.00 per Class A (crystal crab) unit and \$3.50 per Class B (champagne and giant crab) unit.

Published on 22 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 222 on pages 4855 - 4858.

Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2011

The purpose of the amendment is to increase the commercial fishing season by two and a half months, extend the fishing time to a 12-hour period and lower the male crab minimum size.

Published on 2 December 2011 in Government Gazette Number 232 on page 5082.

West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2011

The purpose of the amendment is the replacement of former cost recovery arrangements with access fees payable for the 2012 fishing season as follows:

- removal of Vessel Monitoring System clauses from the WCDSF Interim Management Plan deemed no longer relevant to compliance requirements;
- removal of references to the Mackerel (Interim) Management Plan 2004; and
- formal recognition of Fishing Boat Licences permitted to operate in the South West Coast Beach Bait Net Fishery to store or transport, sell, purchase, or deal in demersal scalefish.



Published on 13 December 2011 in Government Gazette Number 244 on pages 5286 - 5287.

West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment 2012

The purpose of the amendment is to:

- restrict the operation of only one West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence from a boat on any fishing trip;
- require all lobsters to be acquitted at the end of a fishing trip before another Managed Fishery Licence can be used by the licensed fishing boat;
- change the Abrolhos Islands fishing season to 15 March to 30 September 2012;
- permit Zone A fishers to nominate whether they wish to fish in Zone A or Zone B (to take any uncaught catch entitlement) after 30 June 2012;
- provide grounds to refuse the temporary transfer of entitlement should there be insufficient unfished entitlement to cover the transfer;
- provide a capacity for Zone A fishers to have an additional Designated Holding Area at the Abrolhos Islands;
- increase the defence to prosecution for exceeding an individual catch limit from 10 kilograms to 30 kilograms; and
- correct a minor typographical error in clause 15 of the plan which creates a ground to refuse the permanent transfer of entitlement, where the catch taken by the transferor is equal to or less than the catch limit. The intention was for the ground to refuse transfer to apply where the catch taken by the transferor is equal to or greater than the catch limit.

Published on 13 April 2012 in Government Gazette Number 60 on pages 1667 - 1668.

West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2012

The purpose of the amendments is to update the Joint Authority Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (JASDGDLF), West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (WCDGDLF) and West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery (WCDSF) plans consistent with the Minister for Fisheries decisions. The effect of the amendments is that the operations of the JASDGDLF, WCDGDLF and WCDSF will be simpler (in relation to the Vessel Monitoring System requirements and the Abrolhos Islands closure) and more flexible (in regard to authority and transfer of all entitlements). The new fees for the JASDGDLF will allow the Department to collect the appropriate access fees.

Published on 4 May 2012 in Government Gazette Number 70 on pages 1865 - 1867.

Joint Authority Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Managed Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2012

The purpose of the amendments is to update the Joint Authority Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (JASDGDLF), West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (WCDGDLF) and West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery (WCDSF) plans consistent with the Minister for Fisheries decisions. The effect of the amendments is that the operations of the JASDGDLF, WCDGDLF and WCDSF will be simpler (in relation to the Vessel Monitoring System requirements and the Abrolhos Islands closure) and more flexible (in regard to authority and transfer of all entitlements). The new fees for the JASDGDLF will allow the Department to collect the appropriate access fees.

Published on 4 May 2012 in Government Gazette Number 70 on pages 1867-1869.



West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2012

The purpose of the amendments is to update the Joint Authority Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (JASDGDLF), West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (WCDGDLF) and West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery (WCDSF) plans consistent with the Minister for Fisheries decisions. The effect of the amendments is that the operations of the JASDGDLF, WCDGDLF and WCDSF will be simpler (in relation to the Vessel Monitoring System requirements and the Abrolhos Islands closure) and more flexible (in regard to authority and transfer of all entitlements). The new fees for the JASDGDLF will allow the Department to collect the appropriate access fees.

Published on 4 May 2012 in Government Gazette Number 70 on page 1869.

Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2012

The purpose of the amendments removes the following out-dated and/or *ultra vires* provisions:

- restrictions on which licence holders can nominate as an operator of the licence;
- restrictions on the number of crew;
- provisions for non-licence holders to fish using nets;
- requirements for nets to be registered with the Department;
- restrictions on transfer of licences;
- requirements for the licence holder to be on board the vessel;
- provisions for applications and fees; and
- requirements for records to be kept.

It also provides for the following amendments to the management arrangements:

- strengthening of compliance arrangements relating to the requirements for a licence to operate in the fishery, and restrictions on the use of boats;
- setting a closing date for applications for a licence;
- providing criteria for the Chief Executive Officer to be able to issue a new licence to a former licence holder who failed to renew their licence;
- updating the details which are to be specified on a licence;
- clarifying restricted activities during the seasonal closure;
- providing greater clarity around the closed area to fishing at Thangoo Creek;
- correcting an error in the closure to fishing in the Fitzroy River;
- transitioning a closure to fishing in Whistle Creek and Admiral Bay from a Fisheries Notice to the Management Plan;
- amending the mesh size for the bait net (at the request of licence holders) and requiring that this net must be hauled;
- requiring nets to have an end float marked with the licensed fishing boat number;
- providing for licence holders to have the option of paying fees in instalments;
- providing for breaches of particular clauses to be considered offences; and
- clarifying the description of the waters of the fishery.

Published on 13 June 2012 in Government Gazette Number 94 on pages 2475 - 2478.



4. **New Management Plans**

Mackerel Managed Fishery Management Plan 2011

The plan replaces the interim plan.

Published on 13 December 2011 in Government Gazette Number 244 on pages 5288 - 5302.

5. **Orders**

Prohibition on Taking Abalone (North of Moore River) Order 2011

Order No. 6 of 2011

The purpose of this order was to advise the closure to all persons fishing (commercial and recreational) for abalone due to the significant mortalities of abalone stock due to an unprecedented marine 'heat wave'.

Published on 30 September 2011 in Government Gazette Number 184 on page 3943.

6. **Amendments to Existing Orders**

Lancelin Island Lagoon Fish Habitat Protection Area Amendment Order 2011

The purpose of this order was to correct the boundaries.

Published on 5 August 2011 in Government Gazette Number 148 on page 3191.

Prohibition on Fishing (Lancelin Island Lagoon) Amendment Order 2011

Order No. 1 of 2011

The purpose of the order was to give legislative effect to fishing restrictions within the waters of the Fish Habitat Protection Area by correcting the boundary coordinates to reflect the change from

the Australian Geodetic Datum (AGD) to the Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 94

Published on 4 October 2011 in Government Gazette Number 186 on pages 3955 - 3956.

Prohibition on Recreational Fishing (Rowley Shoals Marine Park) Amendment Order 2011

The purpose of the order is to revoke certain prohibitions on recreational fishing in the Rowley Shoals Marine Park.

Published on 29 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 227 on page 4947.

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Rowley Shoals Marine Park) Amendment Order 2011

The purpose of the order is to revoke certain prohibitions on commercial fishing in the Rowley Shoals Marine Park.

Published on 29 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 227 on page 4947 - 4948.

Prohibition on Recreational Fishing (Barrow Island Marine Park and Montebello Islands Marine Park) Amendment Order 2011

The purpose of the order is to revoke certain prohibitions on recreational fishing in the Montebello Islands Marine Park.

Published on 29 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 227 on page 4948 - 4949.

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Barrow Island Marine Park and Montebello Islands Marine Park) Amendment Order 2011

The purpose of the order is to revoke certain prohibitions on commercial fishing in the Montebello Islands Marine Park.

Published on 29 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number



227 on page 4949.

Prohibition on Recreational Fishing for Crabs (Cockburn Sound) Amendment Order 2011

Order No. 15 of 2011

The recreational fishery operates in Cockburn Sound targeting blue swimmer crabs. The Cockburn Sound crab stock has been rebuilding in recent years and consequently there is a larger yield to be taken. The amendment to the order provides a four month (1 April to 31 August) extension to the recreational fishing season.

Published on 2 December 2011 in Government Gazette Number 232 on pages 5082 - 5083.

Closed Waters Recreational Netting Restrictions (Rivers, Estuaries, Inlets and Lakes South of 23° Latitude) Amendment Order 2012

The purpose of the order is to reduce, in the Peel-Harvey estuary, recreational set gill netting to a period from 4.30pm to midnight. The effect of the order is to further limit net fishing time. The control is one of several measures proposed by the Peel-Harvey Resource Sharing Group to improve understanding and compliance with the fisheries management controls.

Published on 20 January 2012 in Government Gazette Number 11 on page 514.

Prohibition on Line Fishing (Metal in Lines and Traces) Amendment Order 2012

Order No. 3 of 2012

The purpose of the order is to approve all reference to the Interim Plan be removed and replaced with the Mackerel Managed Fishery Management Plan 2011 in:

- prohibition on Fishing by Line from Fishing Boats (Pilbara

Waters) Order 2006; and

- prohibition on Line Fishing (Metal in Lines and Traces) Order 2008.

Published on 27 March 2012 in Government Gazette Number 50 on page 1527.

Prohibition on Fishing by Line from Fishing Boats

(Pilbara Waters) Amendment Order 2012

Order No. 4 of 2012

The purpose of the order is to approve all reference to the Interim Plan be removed and replaced with Mackerel Managed Fishery Management Plan 2011 in:

- prohibition on Fishing by Line from Fishing Boats (Pilbara Waters) Order 2006; and
- prohibition on Line Fishing (Metal in Lines and Traces) Order 2008.

Published on 27 March 2012 in Government Gazette Number 50 on pages 1527 - 1528.

Prohibition on Fishing (Coral, 'Live Rock' and Algae) Amendment Order 2012

Order No. 7

The purpose of the order is to extend the trial period dates.

Published on 3 April 2012 in Government Gazette Number 52 on page 1570 - 1571.

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Lake Argyle) Order 2012

Order No. 2



The purpose of the Order is to provide an integrated sustainable fisheries management framework for the Lake Argyle Silver Cobbler Fishery. The notice also revokes the *Lake Argyle Fishery Notice 1994* (Notice No. 665).

Published on 15 June 2012 in Government Gazette Number 97 on page 2557.

Prohibition on Fishing by Net (North West Areas) Amendment Order 2012

Order No. 6

The purpose of the order is to:

- include a prohibition on net fishing in Spillway Creek;
- reflect the definition of 'Lake Argyle' as provided for in the Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Lake Argyle) Order 2012; and
- reflect the authorised Fishing Boat Licences that are permitted to operate in the Lake Argyle Silver Cobbler Fishery.

The order also includes a revocation of areas 7 and 8 from the Netting Carnarvon and Onslow Areas (Notice Number 204), which will remove a recreational net fishing restriction in a small area around Onslow, and result in consistent recreational netting rules throughout the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

Published on 15 June 2012 in Government Gazette Number 97 on page 2558.

Prohibition on Fishing (Diving) Amendment Order 2012

Order No. 9

The purpose of the order is to allow for a Commercial Fishing Licence holder to fish recreationally from a recreational boat, or

from the shore, by diving and using compressed air subject to the normal fishing rules that apply to all recreational fishers.

Published on 22 June 2012 in Government Gazette Number 105 on page 2801.

Netting Restrictions (Pilbara and Kimberley) Revocation and Amendment Order 2012

Order No. 8 of 2012

The purpose of the Order is to revoke the following:

North West and Kimberley Recreational Netting Restrictions Notice 1995 (Notice Number 691);

Closed Waters Netting (Point Samson) Notice 1994 (Notice Number 654);

Netting Recreational Fishers, Port Hedland Area (Notice Number 134); and

Areas 3 and 4 from the Netting – Prohibition on Fishing by Net (Kimberley Region) (Notice Number 197).

Published on 22 June 2012 in Government Gazette Number 105 on pages 2801 - 2802.

7. Revoked Orders

Prohibition on Fishing (Trout) Revocation Order 2011

Order No. 7 of 2011

The purpose of the *Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No.9) 2011* revokes the Prohibition on Fishing (Trout) Order 1999. The 1999 order is redundant as a consequence of the Minister's approval of 'A Five-Year Strategy for the Recreational Trout Fishery' and the enactment of *Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No.9) 2011*.



Published on 18 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 220 on page 4828.

Revocation of Ministerial Policy Guidelines

The purpose is to revoke 'Foreign interests in rock lobster processing authorisations (Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 2, July 1996)' and 'Assessment of applications for rock lobster processing authorisations and imposing licence conditions (Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 18, July 2003)'.

Published on 22 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 222 on page 4858.

Prohibition on Recreational Fishing (Barrow Island Marine Management Area) Revocation Order 2011

The purpose of the order is to revoke certain prohibitions on recreational fishing in the Barrow Island Marine Management Area.

Published on 29 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 227 on page 4950.

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Barrow Island Marine Management Area) Revocation Order 2011

The purpose of the order is to revoke certain prohibitions on commercial fishing in the Barrow Island Marine Management Area.

Published on 29 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 227 on page 4950.

Recreational Net Fishing (Attendance and Cleaning Requirements) Revocation Order 2011

Order No. 8 of 2011

Due to the *Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations*

(No.14) 2011 (amendments dealing with the recreational net fishery in the Peel-Harvey Estuary) the Recreational Net Fishing (Attendance and Cleaning Requirements) Notice 1993 is redundant.

Published on 20 December 2011 in Government Gazette Number 247 on page 5415.

8. Notices

Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993

Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns

Notice No. 2 of 2011

This notice prohibits fishing for prawns in those parts of the Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery between the times and dates as specified in this notice.

Published on 22 July 2011 in Government Gazette Number 138 on pages 3030 - 3031.

Pilbara Trap Managed Fishery Management Plan 1992

Determination of the capacity of the Pilbara Trap Managed Fishery for the 2012 licensing period

This notice advises the determination of the capacity of the Pilbara Trap Managed Fishery for the 2012 licensing period.

Published on 26 July 2011 in Government Gazette Number 140 on page 3051.

Intention to determine a Management Plan for the Mackerel Managed Fishery

The notice advises of the intent to determine a management plan for the Mackerel Managed Fishery.



Published on 19 August 2011 in Government Gazette Number 157 on pages 3333 – 3334.

Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery Management Plan 2000

Notice of Determination

Capacity of Area 2 of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery for the 2012 licensing period

This notice advises the capacity of Area 2 of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery shall be limited to 985.6 fishing days for the period commencing 1 January 2012 and ending on 31 December 2013.

Published on 2 December 2011 in Government Gazette Number 232 on page 5083.

Notice of Approved Automatic Location Communicators

No. 1 of 2012

The purpose of this notice is to advise of the approved automatic location communicators, subject to the conditions specified in the Schedule.

Published on 20 January 2012 in Government Gazette Number 11 on pages 514 – 515.

Joint Authority Southern (Demersal) Gillnet and (Demersal) Longline Managed Fishery

Notice of approved automatic location communicators

No. 1 of 2012

The purpose of this notice is to advise of the automatic location communicators conditions specified in the schedule.

Published on 20 January 2012 in Government Gazette Number 11

on page 515.

West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean (Interim) Management Plan 2007

Approved fish processors

The purpose of this notice is to advise the names of approved fish processors.

Published on 27 January 2012 in Government Gazette Number 14 on page 578.

Determination

Abalone Management Plan 1992

The purpose of this determination is with regard to the maximum quantity of abalone that may be taken from relevant areas and during the licensing period commencing 1 April 2012.

Published on 2 March 2012 in Government Gazette Number 30 on page 864.

Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993

Closures of areas within the fishery

The purpose of this notice is to set out the dates, times and areas that fishing is prohibited.

Published on 9 March 2012 in Government Gazette Number 33 on page 933.

Shark Bay Scallop Management Plan 1993

Closures of areas within the fishery

The purpose of this notice is to set out the dates, times and areas that fishing is prohibited.

Published on 9 March 2012 in Government Gazette Number 33 on



pages 933.

Wetline and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Variation Notice 2012

The purpose of this notice is to amend dates.

Published on 23 January 2012 in Government Gazette Number 48 on page 1374.

Broome Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1999

Areas closed to fishing for prawns

Notice No. 1 of 2012

The purpose of this notice is to prohibit fishing as described from the date of gazettal.

Published on 27 March 2012 in Government Gazette Number 50 on page 1526.

Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993

Areas closed to fishing for prawns

Notice No. 1 of 2012

The purpose of this notice is to prohibit fishing between the times and dates as described.

Published on 27 March 2012 in Government Gazette Number 50 on pages 1526 - 1527.

Approved directions for automatic location communicators

Notice No. 1 of 2012

The purpose of this notice is to specify approved directions for the installation, use and testing of automatic location communicators.

Published on 4 May 2012 in Government Gazette Number 70 on pages 1864 - 1865.

West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean (Interim) Management Plan 2007

Approved fish processors

The purpose of this notice is to advise the names of approved fish processors.

Published on 29 June 2012 in Government Gazette Number 113 on page 2970.

9. Corrections

Correction

Mackerel Managed Fishery Management Plan 2011

In clause 2 delete '2011' and insert '2012'.

Published on 20 December 2011 in Government Gazette Number 247 on page 5415.

Correction

Fish Resources Management Act 1994

West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan 1997

Delete and replace Schedule 4 – Closed Waters.

Published on 22 May in Government Gazette Number 79 on page 2175.

10. Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987

Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Regulations 2009



Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Amendment Regulations 2011

The amendment is to provide for the repayment of fees in respect of three (voluntary) fisheries adjustment schemes, and to specify the fees payable.

Published on 5 July 2011 in Government Gazette Number 127 on pages 2823-2825.

11. Pearling Notices

Grant of aquaculture lease

The purpose is to advise that an aquaculture lease was issued to MPA Fish Farms Pty Ltd for a term of 21 years.

Published on 13 September 2011 in Government Gazette Number 173 on page 3721.

Grant of pearl oyster farm lease

The purpose is to advise that the Department have issued Clipper Pearls Pty Ltd a pearl oyster farm lease, in respect of an area of water located in the vicinity of James Prices Point.

Published on 16 September 2011 in Government Gazette Number 176 on page 3773.

Cancellation of pearl oyster farm lease and grant of pearl oyster farm lease

The purpose to grant an application by Paspaley Pearling Co Pty Ltd to cancel an existing lease and conditionally issue a new pearl oyster farm lease in the same vicinity of the previous lease of a larger size.

Published on 8 November 2011 in Government Gazette Number 213 on page 4687.

Pearling (Annual Fees) Notice 2011

Annual fees for farm leases, pearling licences, hatchery licences and permits.

Published on 13 December 2011 in Government Gazette Number 244 on pages 5287 - 5288.

Restriction of Pearling and Hatchery Activities

(Holding Sites) Notice 2012

The notice advises that a person must not undertake any pearling or hatchery activities in the waters described and for the periods specified.

Published on 20 January 2012 in Government Gazette Number 11 on pages 516 - 518.

Notice of Cancellation of Pearl Oyster Farm Leases and the Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Leases

The notice advises of the cancellation of pearl oyster farm leases and the grant of pearl oyster farm leases.

Published on 20 January 2012 in Government Gazette Number 11 on page 518.

Grant of Pearling Lease

The notice advises of the grant of a pearl oyster farm lease for BR & LM Brown in respect of an area of water located at Shenton Bluff, valid until 12 January 2013.

Published on 11 May 2012 in Government Gazette Number 73 on pages 2072 - 2073.

12. Pearling Notice revocations

Restriction of Pearling and Hatchery Activities (Holding Sites) Revocation Notice 2012



The notices specified in the schedule are revoked.

Published on 20 January 2012 in Government Gazette Number 11
on page 516.

13. Gazettal not required

Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993

Determination of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns

Determination No. 1 of 2012

Shark Bay Scallops Managed Fishery Management Plan 1994

Determination of Areas Closed to Fishing for Scallops

Determination No. 1 of 2012

Nichol Bay Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1991

Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns

Notice No. 1 of 2012

Onslow Prawn Managed Fishery Management 1991

Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns

Notice No. 1 of 2012

Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1989

Notice of Permitted and Prohibited Areas to Fish for Prawns

Notice No. 1 of 2012



Appendix 4 State Register of Authorisations, Exemptions and Aquaculture Leases

The State Register of Authorisations, Exemptions and Aquaculture Leases is available to the public on application to the Registrar and payment of appropriate fees – see section 125 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA)*.

One aquaculture lease has been granted during the reporting period.

At 30 June 2012, there were 149,912 recreational fishing licences recorded on the register. Although details of recreational licences are recorded on the State Register, the Registrar is prohibited from making these available for public search – see section 125(6) of the *FRMA*.

A recreational licence can be made up of a number of different licensed fishing activities (i.e. in one case a licence could be issued just for rock lobster fishing, but in another it could be issued for rock lobster and abalone fishing) and a summary of these (by type) for 2011/12 is given below. As a result, the total number of individual recreational fishing licensed activities will be significantly higher than the number of licences issued.

At 30 June 2012, there were 409 aquaculture licences recorded on the State Register.

At 30 June 2012, there were 5,768 commercial authorisations recorded on the State Register, made up of the following:

Total interim managed fishery licences 99 (NB – previously 109 and incorrect)	
Pilbara Fish Trawl	10
Shark Bay Crab	5
West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean	7
West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Long Line	16
West Coast Estuarine	2
West Coast Demersal Scalefish	59
Total managed fishery licences	1,264
Abalone	45
Abrolhos Mid Trawl	10
Broome Prawn	5
Cockburn Crab	12
Cockburn Fish Net	1
Cockburn Line & Pot	13
Cockburn Mussel	2
Esperance Rock Lobster	8
Exmouth Prawn	15
Gascoyne Demersal Scale Fish	46
Kimberley Gill Net and Barramundi	7
Kimberley Prawn	124
Mackerel	61
Marine Aquarium Fish Corporate	1
Marine Aquarium Fish Individual	11



Nickol Bay Prawn	14
Northern Demersal	15
Onslow Prawn	30
Pilbara Trap	6
Shark Bay Beach Seine	11
Shark Bay Prawn	18
Shark Bay Scallop	29
South Coast Estuarine	24
South Coast Purse Seine	33
South Coast Salmon	18
South West Salmon	6
South West Trawl	13
Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline	50
Specimen Shell	34
Warnbro Crab	0
West Coast Beach Bait Fish	1
West Coast Purse Seine	12
Windy Harbour /Augusta Rock Lobster	2
West Coast Rock Lobster	587
Total other licences	4,395
Commercial Fishing Licence	2,129
Fish Processing (Land)	120
Fish Processing (Sea)	114
Fishing Boat Licence	1,361
Aquatic Eco Tour	2
Fishing Tour Operators Licence	188
Restricted Fishing Tour	44
Permit to Construct a Fish Processing Establishment	409
Rock Lobster Pot Licence	28
Total recreational fishing licensed activities	207,307
Recreational Fishing from Boat	123,011
Rock Lobster	33,386

Abalone	17,230
Marron	10,674
Freshwater Angling	8,563
Net Fishing	14,443

Fees to access the State Register and obtain copies of entries in, and extracts from, the register are prescribed in Schedule 1 Part 1 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*.

Total transactions on the Register	662
Extracts	434
Searches	3
Notation of security interest	97
Removal of security interest	107
Variation of security interest	21

The Registrar recorded two convictions against five authorisations in the relevant period, pursuant to the statutory obligation under section 224 (1) of the *FRMA*.

There were no authorisations cancelled (under section 224 (2) of the *FRMA*) as a result of the recording of three convictions within 10 years against the authorisation.

The Registrar provided no certificates under section 212 of the *FRMA* for the purposes of proceedings for offences under the *FRMA*.

State Register of Exemptions 2011/12

Exemption No:	1910
Applicant:	Professor Malcolm McCulloch, Taryn Foster and Jessie Short
Period of Exemption:	06/07/2011 - 31/10/2012
Provisions:	Section 43, 46 (a) and (b), 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	For the purposes of studying the effects of ocean acidification on calcification rates of corals and calcifying algae in Western Australia.



Exemption No: 1911

Applicant: Western Australia 2011 Pty Ltd
 Period of Exemption: 01/12/2011 - 18/12/2011
 Provisions: Order 11 of 2007 and Clause 5 and 10 of the South West Trawl Management Plan
 Purpose: To make the area in Schedule 2 more suitable for the operation of yacht races and regatta arranged with the exemption holder.

Exemption No: 1912

Applicant: 888 Abalone Pty Ltd
 Period of Exemption: 30/06/2011 - 01/07/2014
 Provisions: Sections 50 and 51 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, Regulations 117 and 121 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* and clauses 4 (1) and 21 of the Abalone Management Plan 1992.
 Purpose: For the purposes of collecting the species listed in Schedule 2 for use as broodstock for aquaculture purposes.

Exemption No: 1913

Applicant: Jane Chambers, Steven Goynich, Phillip Good, Mirela Tulbure, Belinda Robson and other staff and students
 Period of Exemption: 18/07/2011 - 31/08/2011
 Provisions: Sections 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 124 and 124B of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* and the Swan River closure notice.
 Purpose: To collect species, using 50 micron mesh sieve with tube and bilge pump sampler for water column sampling to a maximum 15 metre depth, for no longer than 30 minutes per site at a maximum of 20 sites in the Swan-Avon River.

Exemption No: 1914 – Cancelled

Applicant:
 Period of Exemption:
 Provisions:
 Purpose:

Exemption No: 1915

Applicant: Mr Aldo Mendolia and active crew of Topgun Charters
 Period of Exemption: 18/07/2011 - 30/06/2012
 Provisions: Section 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological specimens of important demersal scalefish species to understand key aspects of their biology, including age, growth and reproduction.

Exemption No: 1916

Applicant: Department of Water employees as described in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 02/08/2011 – 31/07/2012
 Provisions: Sections 43, 46 (a) and (b), 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: Studying the impact of the Kent Street Weir on water quality and aquatic fauna.

Exemption No: 1917

Applicant: Robert Cossart of Department of Water, Rebecca Dobbs of University of Western Australia and students
 Period of Exemption: 03/08/2011 - 31/07/2012
 Provisions: Section 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and Regulations 44, 64K, 64ZG, 124 and 124B from the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
 Purpose: Developing the Kimberley Waterways recovery program.



Exemption No: 1918

Applicant: Persons as listed in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 11/08/2011 - 31/12/2013
 Provisions: Section 7 (3) (a) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: Scientific Research.

Exemption No: 1919

Applicant: Persons as listed in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 11/08/2011 - 30/11/2012
 Provisions: Section 7 (3) (a) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: To enable Wetlands Research and Management, under contract to Landcorp, to conduct baseline surveys of fish and invertebrate species. To assess baseline conditions and allow assessment of impacts from future development activity.

Exemption No: 1920

Applicant: Dr Fiona Valesini and Dr James Tweedley of Murdoch University and 30 Girl Guides
 Period of Exemption: 15/08/2011 - 20/08/2011
 Provisions: Sections 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 64F, 64K and 124 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
 Purpose: Studying how the fish fauna respond to differences in environmental quality.

Exemption No: 1921

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 17/08/2011 - 14/09/2011
 Provisions: Sections 43, 46, 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: Studying the biological oceanography of western rock lobster.

Exemption No: 1922

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 17/08/2011-31/04/2014
 Provisions: Sections 46, 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 64F and 124 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
 Purpose: Re-assessing the diet of Little Penguins during breeding and studying the ongoing viability of the whitebait nursery.

Exemption No: 1923

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 27/08/2011 - 03/09/2011
 Provisions: Sections 46, 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 64F and 124 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
 Purpose: For teaching purposes.

Exemption No: 1924

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 09/08/2011 - 31/10/2011
 Provisions: Section 7 (3) (a) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: Scientific research.

Exemption No: 1925

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 18/08/2011 - 30/06/2013
 Provisions: Sections 43, 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 64F, 124 and 124B of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
 Purpose: For teaching purposes.



Exemption No: 1926

Applicant: Brendan Goggins, Wesley Goodlet and Amit Hosany
Period of Exemption: 18/10/2011 - 22/10/2011
Provisions: Section 43 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 64F, 64L and 124 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
Purpose: For teaching purposes.

Exemption No: 1927

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 25/08/2011 - 30/11/2011
Provisions: Section 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 64F, 64K and 124 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
Purpose: To capture, record, tag and release freshwater sawfish (*Pristis microdon*) and dwarf sawfish (*Pristis clavata*).

Exemption No: 1928

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 13/10/2011 - 28/10/2011
Provisions: Section 43, 50 (3) and 51 (2) and 74 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulation 124B of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
Purpose: Surveying the marine biodiversity of Buccaneer and Bonaparte archipelagos and surrounding waters and conducting an inventory on species with relative abundance.

Exemption No: 1929

Applicant: Stephen Beatty
Period of Exemption: 30/08/2011 - 29/08/2013
Provisions: Section 43 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 63, 64, & 124 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
Purpose: For the purpose of scientific research.

Exemption No: 1930

Applicant: Nils Stokke
Period of Exemption: 17/10/2011 - 04/11/2011
Provisions: Section 74 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.

Exemption No: 1931

Applicant: Matthew Fong
Period of Exemption: 17/10/2011 - 04/11/2011
Provisions: Section 74 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: Assisting the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.

Exemption No: 1932

Applicant: Terry Ash
Period of Exemption: 17/09/2011 - 04/10/2011
Provisions: Section 74 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: Assisting the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.

Exemption No: 1933

Applicant: James Chandler
Period of Exemption: 17/10/2011 - 4/11/2011
Provisions: Section 74 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: Assisting the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.



Exemption No: 1934

Applicant: Antonino Paratore
Period of Exemption: 17/10/2011 - 04/11/2011
Provisions: Section 74 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: Assisting the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.

Exemption No: 1935

Applicant: Steve McLeary
Period of Exemption: 17/09/2011 - 04/10/2011
Provisions: Section 74 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: Assisting the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.

Exemption No: 1936

Applicant: Danny Wimpres
Period of Exemption: 13/08/2011 - 31/12/2011
Provisions: Section 43 (3) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.

Exemption No: 1937

Applicant: Ian Keay
Period of Exemption: 13/08/2011 - 31/12/2011
Provisions: Section 43 (3) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.

Exemption No: 1938

Applicant: Dion Keith Boddington
Period of Exemption: 13/08/2011 - 31/12/2011
Provisions: Section 43 (3) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.

Exemption No: 1939

Applicant: Ryan Thipthorpe
Period of Exemption: 01/09/2011 - 31/12/2011
Provisions: Section 43 (3) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.

Exemption No: 1940

Applicant: Amanda Bramford
Period of Exemption: 18/07/2011 - 14/01/2012
Provisions: Sections 43, 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 64F, 640 and 123 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
Purpose: For the purpose of educational and community awareness programs.

Exemption No: 1941

Applicant: Hayden Webb
Period of Exemption: 06/07/2011 - 06/07/2014
Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* and its subsidiary legislation, in particular the North West and Kimberley Recreational Netting Restrictions Notice 1995
Purpose: To take fish for bait, namely mullet and sand whiting, for commercial purpose.



Exemption No: 1942

Applicant: Tycraft Pty Ltd
 Period of Exemption: 22/07/2011 - 31/07/2013
 Provisions: Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 (WA)(CK)
 Purpose: For the collection of clam broodstock for aquaculture purposes.

Exemption No: 1943

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 16/09/2011 - 22/09/2012
 Provisions: Sections 43, 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: For the purposes of studying the habitat use and migration patterns of sharks in north-western Australia.

Exemption No: 1944

Applicant: Department of Transport
 Period of Exemption: 22/09/2011 - 22/09/2012
 Provisions: Order number 11 of 2007 - Prohibition on Fishing (Coral, 'Live Rock' and Algae) and Clause 5 and 10 of the South West Trawl Management Plan
 Purpose: Taking by trawl sea-grass, kelp and other marine plants and algae.

Exemption No: 1945

Applicant: Jane Prince and Rachel Binks
 Period of Exemption: 25/09/2011 - 30/09/2011
 Provisions: Sections 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.
 Purpose: To collect, using sieves, sort and count and retain a maximum of one individual per species per site, intertidal infaunal molluscs from the Princess Royal Harbour in Albany.

Exemption No: 1946

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 22/09/2011 - 30/09/2012
 Provisions: Section 43, 46 (a) and (b), 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulation 63, 64F, 64K, 123 and 124B of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*.
 Purpose: To collect, and release as many as possible, fish, including those in Table 1, from 8 sites listed in Table 2, using a 21.5m seine net in the Swan estuary.

Exemption No: 1947

Applicant: Amanda Buckland and Alan Cottingham
 Period of Exemption: 22/09/2011 - 31/12/2011
 Provisions: Section 43 (a), (b) and (c), 46 (a) and (b), 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulation 63, 64F, 64K, 123 and 124B of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
 Purpose: To collect a maximum of 200 individuals per species of the following species *Acanthopagrus butcheri*, *Leptatherina wallacei*, *Mugil cephalus*, *Platycephalus endrachtensis*, *Pomatomus saltatrix* and *Pseudogobius olorum*, using a 21.5 and 41.5m seine net.

Exemption No: 1948

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 16/10/2011 - 31/12/2012
 Provisions: Section 43, 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: For the purposes of determining the abundance and distribution of a native gastropod (*Bedeva paivae*) and an invasive gastropod (*Batillaria australis*) at three sites in the Swan River.



Exemption No: 1949

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 01/03/2011 - 01/03/2013
Provisions: From the provisions of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Management Plan 2010 only to the extent that would otherwise prevent those persons from undertaking only the activities.
Purpose: To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery Licence, or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder, to retain demersal scalefish taken by trawl net as a part of authorised prawn trawl fishing operations.

Exemption No: 1950

Applicant: The holder of MFL 2678
Period of Exemption: 12/10/11 - 31/12/12
Provisions: Section 7 (3) (a) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* do hereby exempt the persons listed in Schedule 1 from the provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: To determine the calculation of fishing day utilisation during fishing trips involving the collection of demersal scalefish samples for the long-term monitoring of the 2009 Montara oil spill.

Exemption No: 1951

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 12/10/2011 - 31/03/2012
Provisions: Section 7(3)(a) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purpose of scientific research.

Exemption No: 1952

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 17/10/2011 - 31/01/2014
Provisions: Sections 43, 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 64F, 64K, 124 and 124B of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
Purpose: For the purposes of detecting the spatial and temporal variability in selected metals in an urban estuary.

Exemption No: 1953

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 01/04/2011 - 28/02/2013
Provisions: Sections 43, 46 (a) and (b), 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of quantitatively sampling both the fish and crayfish populations in the Swan-Canning tributaries.

Exemption No: 1954

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 19/10/2011 - 31/12/2011
Provisions: Sections 43, 46, 50 (3), 51 (2) and 74 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For conducting translocation experiments in cooperation with Fisheries Research to assist recovery of Roe's abalone stocks decimated by the recent 'marine heatwave', and to ascertain the genetic source of assisted and naturally restored populations.

Exemption No: 1955

Applicant: Alan Cottingham and Amanda Buckland
Period of Exemption: 01/12/2011 - 01/04/2012
Provisions: Section 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of determining whether recruitment of black bream in the Blackwood River estuary, south-western Australia, has occurred in recent years.



Exemption No: 1956

Applicant: Conservation Council of Western Australia
 Period of Exemption: 31/10/2011 - 01/11/2012
 Provisions: Schedule 1 from any netting closure made under section 43 (1) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and other relevant fisheries legislation
 Purpose: To use plankton nets to calculate the abundance of amphipods as an indicator of potential environmental threats as a component of a community science monitoring program.

Exemption No: 1957

Applicant: Mr Colin Wimpress
 Period of Exemption: 04/11/2011-31/12/2011
 Provisions: Section 43 (3) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.

Exemption No: 1958

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 04/11/2011-31/12/2011
 Provisions: Section 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulation 124B of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*.
 Purpose: For the purposes of studying the demography and ecology of demersal rays at Ningaloo Reef.

Exemption No: 1959

Applicant: Fremantle Octopus Pty Ltd
 Period of Exemption: 03/11/2011 - 03/11/2014
 Provisions: Clause 2 of the Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462) and clause 4 of the Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677)
 Purpose:

- i. To commercially explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology of that activity.
- ii. To gather baseline data about octopus stocks within WA waters under a controlled management regime.

Exemption No: 1960

Applicant: J. and E. Macdonald
 Period of Exemption: 03/11/2011 - 03/11/2014
 Provisions: Section 7 (3) (c) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, and clause 2 of the Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462) and clause 4 of the Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677)
 Purpose:

- i. To commercially explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology of that activity.
- ii. To gather baseline data about octopus stocks within WA waters under a controlled management regime.

Exemption No: 1961

Applicant: R.L. and M.A. Alexander
 Period of Exemption: 03/11/2011 - 03/11/2014
 Provisions: Section 7 (3) (c) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, and clause 2 and 4 of the Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462)
 Purpose:

- i. To commercially explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology of that activity.
- ii. To gather baseline data about octopus stocks within WA waters under a controlled management regime.



Exemption No: 1962
 Applicant: Managed Fishery Licence holders as listed in Schedule 1 of this exemption.
 Period of Exemption: 04/11/2011 - 14/01/2013
 Provisions: Regulation 117(1) of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*, clause 4(1)(b) of the West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993, and clause 12 and 12A of the West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993
 Purpose: The application for exemption to allow Managed Fishery Licence holders to continue to operate during the 2011/13 season with less than 60 usual units has been initiated by the Department of Fisheries.

Exemption No: 1963
 Applicant: Terry and Bruce Cockman
 Period of Exemption: 09/11/2011 - 31/10/2012
 Provisions: Sections 43, 46, 50, 51 and 74 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 12 (1) and (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
 Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division in determining the dietary preferences of western rock lobsters in a range of depths in the centre of the fishery.

Exemption No: 1964
 Applicant: Kimberley Training Institute
 Period of Exemption: 10/11/2011 - 31/11/2013
 Provisions: Sections of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, regulations of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* and clauses of other subsidiary legislation.
 Purpose: For the purposes of collection of broodstock for aquaculture, and collection of baitfish for broodstock feed.

Exemption No: 1965
 Applicant: Sebastian Schmidt-Roach
 Period of Exemption: 17/11/2011 - 31/12/2011
 Provisions: Section 43, 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: For the purposes of understanding the speciation in the coral genus *Pocillopora*.

Exemption No: 1966
 Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 17/11/2011 - 22/09/2102
 Provisions: Section 43, 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: Animal Tagging and Monitoring System biological monitoring, including behavioural and physical data such as the depth, temperature, salinity and movement effort of individual marine animals of the marine environment for the Integrated Marine Observing initiative.

Exemption No: 1967
 Applicant: Pauline Hewitt and Glenn Hyndes
 Period of Exemption: 01/01/2012 - 31/07/2012
 Provisions: Section 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 64F, 123 and 124B of the *Fish Resources Management Resources 1995*
 Purpose: For the purposes of contributing to the Lake MacLeod Biodiversity Project.



Exemption No: 1968

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 17/11/2011 - 30/11/2011
Provisions: Section 43 (3), 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 64K, 123 and 124B of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*,
Purpose: For the purposes of surveying the environmental conditions, nutrient status and fish and benthic macroinvertebrate faunas of the Vasse-Wonnerup RAMSAR-protected wetland.

Exemption No: 1969

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 17/11/2011 - 30/06/2013
Provisions: Section 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 123 and 124B of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
Purpose: For the purposes of studying vision and light detection in Chondrichthyes species.

Exemption No: 1970

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 22/11/2011 - 30/06/2012
Provisions: Section 7(2)(a) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purpose of research.

Exemption No: 1971

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 28/11/2011 - 29/02/2012
Provisions: Section 43 (3), 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 64K, 123 and 124B of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
Purpose: For the purposes of surveying the environmental conditions, nutrient status and fish and benthic macroinvertebrate faunas of the Vasse-Wonnerup RAMSAR-protected wetland.

Exemption No: 1972

Applicant: Northern Demersal Scalefish Area 2 licence holders
Period of Exemption: 01/01/2012 - 31/12/2012
Provisions: Section 7(2)(e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and subclause 21(4), clause 22 and subclauses 25(2), 25(7) and 25(8) of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery Management Plan 2000
Purpose: For a commercial purpose under the provision of Section 7 (2) (e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Exemption No: 1973

Applicant: Chief Executive Officer, Department of Fisheries and delegates
Period of Exemption: 10/11/2011 - 10/11/2012
Provisions: Section 54 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, which would otherwise prevent the Chief Executive Officer or delegated officers from conducting the activity described in Schedule 1, for the period and purpose set out in Schedule 2.
Purpose: For the purpose of allowing unused entitlement to be fished in all unutilised fisheries.

Exemption No: 1974

Applicant: Ocean Grown Abalone Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption: 01/12/2011 - 01/12/2013
Provisions: Section 90 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: To allow Ocean Grown Abalone Pty Ltd to undertake scientific research on aquaculture abalone at two sites, each approximately 0.2 ha area, within Flinders Bay.



Exemption No: 1975

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 01/12/2011 - 14/04/2013
Provisions: Regulation 38 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* and clause 14 of the West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993
Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division in determining the complete size range of lobsters present in the various water depths and areas of fishery.

Exemption No: 1976

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 01/12/2011 - 31/01/2015
Provisions: Section 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of ongoing stock assessment of target invertebrates at Ningaloo Reef, recruitment dynamics of coral and fish fauna and the algal dynamics of the Ningaloo Lagoon system.

Exemption No: 1977

Applicant: All registered receivers and persons acting on behalf of the receiver
Period of Exemption: 13/11/2011 – 01/01/2013
Provisions: Section 46 (b) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: To enable registered receivers and holding depots to assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting data on tagged lobsters by allowing those persons to have in their possession tagged lobsters that are below the legal size.

Exemption No: 1978

Applicant: Master and crew of all vessels authorised to operate in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.
Period of Exemption: 13/11/2011 - 01/01/2013
Provisions: Section 46 (a), 46 (b) and 46 (d) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulation 12 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
Purpose: To enable members of the commercial fishing industry to assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in recapturing tagged lobsters by allowing those persons to have them in their possession, for return to their usual processing factory.

Exemption No: 1979

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 24/12/2009 - 24/12/2999
Provisions: Provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, in particular section 46.
Purpose: Public safety

Exemption No: 1980

Applicant: Dr Jennifer Verduin and volunteers under direct supervision
Period of Exemption: 15/12/2011 - 30/10/2012
Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of seagrass rehabilitation studies for the seagrass research and rehabilitation plan.

Exemption No: 1981

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 12/12/2011 - 31/12/2012
Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of a study into the ecological role of echinoderms and molluscs on sediment habitats in Cockburn Sound.



Exemption No: 1982

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 12/12/2011 - 31/12/2012
Provisions: Fish Resources Management Act 1994
Purpose: For the purposes of studying the location and transport of early life stages of dhufish (*Glaucosoma hebraicum*).

Exemption No: 1983

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 12/12/2011 - 31/12/2012
Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of a study into the ecological role of echinoderms and molluscs on sediment habitats in Cockburn Sound.

Exemption No: 1984

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 15/12/2011 - 31/12/2012
Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of a study to investigate the effects of climate change on the marine fauna in Western Australia

Exemption No: 1985

Applicant: South West Trawl Managed Fishery Licence Holders
Period of Exemption: 15/12/2011 - 15/12/2014
Provisions: Section 7 (2) (e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and clause 11 (3) (a) of the South West Trawl Managed Fishery Management Plan 1989
Purpose: To assess the operational and economic efficiencies of specific fishing gear within the South West Trawl Managed Fishery for commercial purposes.

Exemption No: 1986

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 25/01/2012 - 31/05/2012
Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of a pilot study to implement a monitoring regime using fish-based estuarine health indices.

Exemption No: 1987

Applicant: Federico Vitelli
Period of Exemption: 20/12/2011 - 31/08/2012
Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of determining the feeding ecology of Pomacentridae and its ecological role in fish herbivory in temperate algal-dominated reefs.

Exemption No: 1988

Applicant: Mr Aldo Turco and Mr Federico Vitelli
Period of Exemption: 20/12/2011 - 30/01/2014
Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of determining the role of Kyphosus species in algal herbivory in reef ecosystems, and the factors affecting their grazing activity.

Exemption No: 1989

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 01/01/2012 - 31/12/2013
Provisions: Section 7 (2) (e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: To permit the persons in Schedule 1 to carry out the activity described in Schedule 2, pursuant to section 7 (2) (e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.



Exemption No: 1990

Applicant: Stephen Beatty
Period of Exemption: 16/12/2011 - 16/12/2013
Provisions: Sections 43, 47, 50, 51, 79 and 82 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 16N, 10, 43, 44, 44A, 64F, 64G, 64H, 64I, 64J, 64K, 64OD, 64Q, 64S, 64T, 64ZAA, 117, 121, and 144 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
Purpose: For the purpose of research.

Exemption No: 1991

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 01/01/2012 - 31/12/2012
Provisions: Section 46 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*,
Purpose: To permit the persons in Schedule 1 to land pink snapper which were legally taken from waters north of 31° 00' south latitude in areas south of 31° 00' south latitude.

Exemption No: 1992

Applicant: Holders of Fishing Boat Licence 2103
Period of Exemption: 16/12/2011 - 16/12/2014
Provisions: Section 7 (2) (e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* do hereby exempt the holder of Fishing Boat Licence 2103 from Clause 4 of the Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677)
Purpose: To enable the holder of Fishing Boat Licence 2103 or persons acting on their behalf to use fish traps to take finfish only in line with Condition 74 previously held by Pretar Pty Ltd.

Exemption No: 1993

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 22/12/2011 - 31/12/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of quantitative genetics of sperm performance in the Australian sea urchin *Heliocidaris erythrogramma*.

Exemption No: 1994

Applicant: Trevor Price
Period of Exemption: 01/01/2012 - 31/12/2014
Provisions: Section 7 (2) (e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: To fish with a net hauled from the shore in the waters of Flinders Bay between Cape Leeuwin and the mouth of the Hardy Inlet.

Exemption No: 1995

Applicant: Patrick Stubberfield
Period of Exemption: 15/12/2011 - 30/12/2014
Provisions: Section 47 of the *Fish Resources Management Act* and regulation 117
Purpose: For the commercial purpose of allowing redfin perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) to be taken, removed and sold from privately owned dams in WA. For the commercial purpose of fishing on privately-owned dams in Western Australia from a vessel without a Fishing Boat Licence.



Exemption No: 1996

Applicant: J. and E. MacDonald
 Period of Exemption: 13/12/2011 - 03/11/2014
 Provisions: Section 7(2)(e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* do hereby exempt J. and E. MacDonald from Clause 2 of the Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462) and from Clause 4 of the Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677)
 Purpose: To explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology of that activity for a commercial purpose. To gather baseline data about octopus stocks within WA waters under a controlled management regime.

Exemption No: 1997

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 05/01/2012 - 31/12/2012
 Provisions: Section 46 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: To permit the persons in Schedule 1 to land pink snapper which were legally taken from waters north of 31° 00' south latitude in areas south of 31° 00' south latitude

Exemption No: 1998

Applicant: Commercial Fishery Licence holders 6500, 88204, 1395, 13833 and 3349
 Period of Exemption: 01/02/2012 - 31/01/2015
 Provisions: Persons who are authorised to fish under the Commercial Fishing Licence (CFL) Numbers described in Schedule 1, from the provisions of Order No 15 of 2008
 Purpose: To take land hermit crabs for a commercial purpose

Exemption No: 1999

Applicant: Amanda Buckland and Alan Cottingham
 Period of Exemption: 16/01/2012 - 31/01/2013
 Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: For the purposes of dietary and stable isotope analysis to enable historical comparisons of food-webs in the Swan-Canning estuary.

Exemption No: 2000

Applicant: One Sea Pty Ltd
 Period of Exemption: 17/01/2012 - 17/01/2013
 Provisions: Section 7 (2) (e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* do hereby exempt One Sea Pty Ltd from Fisheries Notice 366 of 1988, the Prohibition on Fishing (Diving) Order (Number 3 of 1999) and Clause 11 of the South West Trawl Management Plan 1989
 Purpose: To allow for diving for scallops for a commercial purpose, as an alternative scallop fishery method in the waters of the South West Trawl Managed Fishery. To gather data about scallop stocks and their distribution within the waters of the South West Trawl Managed Fishery.

Exemption No: 2001

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
 Period of Exemption: 23/01/2012 - 31/03/2013
 Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
 Purpose: For the purposes of studying the impacts of ocean warming and acidification on coral in the early life stages.



Exemption No: 2002

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 23/01/2012 - 31/01/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of studying the effects of ocean acidification on calcification rates of corals and coralline algae in Western Australia

Exemption No: 2003

Applicant: Gary Wilson
Period of Exemption: 17/01/2012 - 31/12/2013
Provisions: Clauses 5 and 12 (1) of the *Specimen Shell Management Plan 1995*
Purpose: For the purpose of operating in the Specimen Shell Managed Fishery to develop and explore deepwater specimen shell fishing using a remote controlled underwater vehicle for a commercial purpose.

Exemption No: 2004

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 23/01/2012 - 31/12/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of studying the effects of ocean acidification on calcification rates of corals and coralline algae in Western Australia.

Exemption No: 2005

Applicant: Sinclair Knight Mertz
Period of Exemption: 01/02/2012-30/05/2012
Provisions: The Prohibition on Fishing (Coral, 'Live Rock' and Algae) Order 2007 (Order No 11)
Purpose: To provide information on coral reproduction and contribute to research towards understanding the impact of plumes (associated with port-related dredging activity) on coral spawning.

Exemption No: 2006

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 13/01/2012 - 31/05/2013
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of recording and mapping the abundance of feral and native fish and crayfish species present in the different regions of the Vasse-Wonnerup wetland.

Exemption No: 2007

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 01/02/2012 - 31/01/2015
Provisions: Fish Resources Management Act 1994
Purpose: For the purposes of education and monitoring of finfish and shellfish stocks in the Albany region.

Exemption No: 2008

Applicant: Mr Dan Pedersen and Mr Wayne Young
Period of Exemption: 02/02/2012 - 20/02/2013
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, to monitor for introduced marine pest crab species at Dampier Port.

Exemption No: 2009

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 02/02/2012 - 28/02/2015
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of the neuro-ecology of visual information processing in crabs.



Exemption No: 2010

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 02/02/2012 - 28/02/2015
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of 'Teaching - Ecological Field Methods' demonstration to students of fish sampling methodology (via bank-mounted electro-fishing), fish handling protocols and data acquisition.

Exemption No: 2011

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 02/02/2012 - 20/02/2013
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, to monitor for introduced marine pest crab species at Fremantle Port.

Exemption No: 2012

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 02/02/2012 - 20/02/2013
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations.
Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, to monitor for introduced marine pest crab species at the port of Port Hedland.

Exemption No: 2013

Applicant: Persons operating on behalf of the Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research.
Period of Exemption: 03/02/2012-31/03/2013
Provisions: Schedule 1, from sections 50, 51 and 90 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations 16CA, 121 and 123 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*.
Purpose: To take western school prawns for a commercial purpose (broodstock).

Exemption No: 2014

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 10/02/2012 - 17/02/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of teaching – 'Marine and Estuarine Biology' field camp.

Exemption No: 2015

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 16/02/2012 - 31/12/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations.
Purpose: For the purposes of recording and describing the diversity of native mangrove snails belonging to the families *Stenothyridae*, *Iravadiidae* and *Calopiidae* and examining their genetic diversity and evolutionary relationships.

Exemption No: 2016

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 17/02/2012 - 26/03/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of dissection in comparative neurobiology practical classes.

Exemption No: 2017

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 20/02/2012-31/12/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of conducting translocation experiments in cooperation with Fisheries Research to assist recovery of Roe's abalone stocks decimated by the recent 'marine heatwave', and to ascertain the genetic source of assisted and naturally restored abalone.



Exemption No: 2018

Applicant: Marine Farms Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption: 28/02/2012 - 28/02/2015
Provisions: Regulations 117, 121 and Division 1, Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* and any provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purpose of enabling the collection of aquaculture broodstock.

Exemption No: 2019

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 12/03/2012 - 16/03/2012
Provisions: Section 7(2)(a) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* do hereby exempt the persons from Oceanica Consulting Pty Ltd named in Schedule 1 from the provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and associated subsidiary legislation.
Purpose: Collection of mussels

Exemption No: 2020

Applicant: Persons as named in Schedule 1 of this exemption
Period of Exemption: 06/03/2012-06/03/2013
Provisions: Section 7 (2) (a) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* do hereby exempt the persons from Oceanica Consulting Pty Ltd named in Schedule 1 from the provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and associated subsidiary legislation.
Purpose: Collection of macroalgae, seagrass and macroinvertebrates.

Exemption No: 2021

Applicant: Employees of GHD Consulting
Period of Exemption: 09/03/2012-09/03/2012
Provisions: Section 7 (2) (a) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* do hereby exempt the persons from GHD Consulting in Schedule 1 from the provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and associated subsidiary legislation.
Purpose: For the purpose of scientific research being undertaken by the Water Corporation of WA.

Exemption No: 2022

Applicant: Fremantle Octopus Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption: 08/03/2012 - 03/11/2014
Provisions: Section 7 (2) (e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* do hereby exempt Fremantle Octopus Pty Ltd from Clause 2 of the Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462), Clause 4 of the Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677) and regulations.
Purpose: To commercially explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology of that activity and to gather baseline data about octopus stocks within WA waters under a controlled management regime.

Exemption No: 2023

Applicant: Curtin University of Technology
Period of Exemption: 14/03/2012 - 31/10/2012
Provisions: Section 7 (2) (a) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* do hereby exempt the persons from Curtin University named in Schedule 1 from the provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and associated subsidiary legislation.
Purpose: For the purpose of scientific research.



Exemption No: 2024

Applicant: The holder of a Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Licence.
Period of Exemption: 08/03/2012 - 08/03/2015
Provisions: Section 7 (2) (e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* do hereby exempt the persons listed in Schedule 1 from the provisions of Clause 19 (3) (c) of the Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993.
Purpose: To commercially fish for prawns in the Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery using approved replacement boats equipped for trawling as specified in the Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993, where the net mesh size is greater than 50mm.

Exemption No: 2025

Applicant: Mark Ainsworth
Period of Exemption: 20/03/2012 - 31/10/2012
Provisions: Section 7 (2) (e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* do hereby exempt Mr Mark Ainsworth from Clause 5 of the Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery Management Plan 1989,
Purpose: For the purpose of enabling Mr Mark Ainsworth to continue to fish for a commercial purpose in the Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Managed Fishery without holding a Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Managed Fishery Licence.

Exemption No: 2026

Applicant: Jennifer Chaplin, Lynnath Beckley and Myrto Robert
Period of Exemption: 21/03/2012 - 31/12/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of development of molecular and morphological tools for the identification of ichthyoplankton in coastal waters in south-western Australia.

Exemption No: 2027

Applicant: Australian Institute of Marine Science
Period of Exemption: 21/03/2012 - 31/08/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations.
Purpose: For the purposes of describing the seasonal reproduction of corals in the Kimberley.

Exemption No: 2028

Applicant: University of Western Australia
Period of Exemption: 21/03/2012 - 31/03/2014
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of investigating the growth and symbiont community of a small range of Scleractinian corals species living in the tidal range and the environmental fluctuations that is a result thereof.

Exemption No: 2029

Applicant: Sana Dandan and others listed in Schedule 1 from the University of Western Australia
Period of Exemption: 21/03/2012 - 31/03/2014
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of investigating the growth and symbiont community of a small range of Scleractinian corals species living in the tidal range and the environmental fluctuations that is a result thereof.

Exemption No: 2030

Applicant: Andrew Heyward and others listed in Schedule 1 from the Australian Institute of Marine Science
Period of Exemption: 21/03/2012 - 31/08/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: For the purposes of describing the seasonal reproduction of corals in the Kimberley.



Exemption No: 2031

Applicant: Nathan Hart
Period of Exemption: 23/03/2012-23/03/2015
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and associated subsidiary legislation
Purpose: For the purpose of scientific research.

Exemption No: 2032

Applicant: Andrew Story
Period of Exemption: 23/03/2012 - 31/03/2014
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and associated subsidiary legislation
Purpose: For the purpose of scientific research.

Exemption No: 2033

Applicant: Sinclair Knight Mertz
Period of Exemption: 23/03/2012 - 23/03/2013
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and associated subsidiary legislation
Purpose: To provide information on invasive marine species within Western Australian waters both on vessels and other immersible equipment, biofouling Port infrastructure, and dredge spoil.

Exemption No: 2034

Applicant: Esperance Octopus Fishery
Period of Exemption: 26/03/2012 - 03/11/2014
Provisions: Section 7 (2) (e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* do hereby exempt Esperance Octopus Fishery from Clause 2 of the Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462), Clause 4 of the Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677) and regulations.
Purpose: To commercially explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology of that activity and to gather baseline data about octopus stocks within WA waters under a controlled management regime.

Exemption No: 2035

Applicant: Department of Fisheries
Period of Exemption: 03/04/2012 - 31/03/2014
Provisions: Notice 366, Schedule 2, Part 2 Division 5 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*, Clauses 9(3) and 12(2) of the Marine Aquarium Fish Management Plan 1995 and from the provisions of Orders No's 3 of 1999; 7 of 2004; 13 of 2005 and 11 of 2007.
Purpose: To take invertebrates, seagrass and algae for a commercial purpose. Managed Fishery Licence numbers 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2576, 2587 and 2588.



Exemption No: 2036

Applicant: Department of Fisheries
Period of Exemption: 03/04/2012 - 31/03/2015
Provisions: Clauses (7), (13) (a), (13) (g) and (15) of the Specimen Shell Management Plan 1995 and the licence conditions. Section 7 (2) (e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.
Purpose: To allow current Specimen Shell Managed Fishery Licence holders to fish with exemption from clauses 7, 13 (a), 13 (g) and 15 of the Specimen Shell Management Plan 1995 and the licence conditions while long-term management arrangements can be developed.

Exemption No: 2037

Applicant: Abby Mitchell
Period of Exemption: 04/04/2012 - 31/08/2014
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: Determining the impacts of flow dynamics, currents and waves on the distribution and morphology of *Posidonia sinuosa* in Shoalwater Bay, Rockingham.

Exemption No: 2038

Applicant: Nominated persons of Bindoon Primary School.
Period of Exemption: 04/04/2012 - 10/12/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: Discovering what native fish species still live and breed in Spoonbill Waterhole.

Exemption No: 2039

Applicant: Peter Cook and nominated students of the University of Western Australia
Period of Exemption: 04/04/2012 - 13/04/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: Teaching sampling in marine and estuarine environments - mussels/oysters.

Exemption No: 2040

Applicant: Jane Prince and Rachel Binks of the University of Western Australia
Period of Exemption: 04/04/2012 - 13/04/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: Teaching sampling in marine and estuarine environments – molluscs.

Exemption No: 2041

Applicant: Jordan Stoate, Chris Rawson and Simon Longbottom of Curtin University
Period of Exemption: 04/04/2012-30/12/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations
Purpose: Investigating the impacts of dredging on sea urchin larval survival and recruitment.

Exemption No: 2042

Applicant: URS Australia Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption: 02/04/2012 - 02/04/2013
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: Exemption to monitor and sample for invasive marine pests using hand collection, visual surveys around gas and mining developments. Inspections on vessels and other immersible equipment that enter WA waters for indication of invasive pests.

Exemption No: 2043

Applicant: Department of Fisheries
Period of Exemption: 18/04/2012 - 31/01/2015
Provisions: Order No. 15 of 2008.
Purpose: The take of land hermit crabs, *Coenobita variabilis*, north of 22° 30' South (Exmouth Gulf).



Exemption No: 2044

Applicant: Fremantle Octopus Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption: 17/04/2012-03/11/2014
Provisions: Clause 2 of the Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462), Clause 4 of the Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677) and Regulation 118A of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
Purpose: To explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.

Exemption No: 2045

Applicant: Trevor Wheatcroft
Period of Exemption: 19/04/2012 - 03/11/2014
Provisions: Clause 2 of the Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462), Clause 4 of the Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677) and Regulation 118A of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*
Purpose: To commercially explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology of that activity. To gather baseline data about octopus stocks within WA waters under a controlled management regime.

Exemption No: 2046

Applicant: Shane Penny
Period of Exemption: 24/04/2012 - 31/12/2013
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and associated subsidiary legislation
Purpose: To conduct research on the phylo and population genetics of giant clams across northern Australia.

Exemption No: 2047

Applicant: Abrolhos Pearls (WA) Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption: 30/04/2012 - 01/05/2013
Provisions: Sections 90 and 91 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of conducting hatchery operations for pearl oysters on the barge.

Exemption No: 2048

Applicant: Sinclair Knight Mertz
Period of Exemption: 08/05/2012 - 31/05/2013
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and associated subsidiary legislation
Purpose: To provide data on coral spawning and health to assist in predicting future spawning events and recruitment estimates from the date of signing until 31 May 2013.

Exemption No: 2049

Applicant: Coral World Australia Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption: 09/05/2012 - 30/04/2013
Provisions: Order 11 of 2007, the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* and any subsidiary legislation
Purpose: To create a 'living coral reef' exhibit for a commercial purpose.

Exemption No: 2050

Applicant: Murdoch University – Science and Engineering Division
Period of Exemption: 03/05/2012 - 30/06/2012
Provisions: Sections 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
Purpose: For the purposes of teaching marine ecology and examining the biodiversity and ecology of marine organisms in coral reefs, rocky intertidal platforms, plankton and fish.



Exemption No: 2051
Applicant: University of Western Australia and the Department of Water
Period of Exemption: 04/05/2012 - 31/12/2014
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and subsidiary legislation thereunder which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully pursuing the activity
Purpose: Delivering the Waterways Education Program and the National Environmental Research Program of waterway health monitoring with indigenous rangers and communities.

Exemption No: 2052
Applicant: Murdoch University
Period of Exemption: 02/05/2012 - 17/10/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully pursuing the activity.
Purpose: For the purposes of studying the biology of *Pelates octolineatus* (western striped grunter).

Exemption No: 2053
Applicant: Curtin University
Period of Exemption: 01/05/2012 - 30/09/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully pursuing the activity.
Purpose: For the purposes of investigating the impacts of dredging on sea urchin larval survival and recruitment.

Exemption No: 2054
Applicant: University of Western Australia
Period of Exemption: 01/05/2012 - 19/04/2015
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully pursuing the activity.
Purpose: For the purposes of investigating the impact of Binningup Desalination Plant outfall on benthic marine communities.

Exemption No: 2055
Applicant: Marion Cambridge and others listed in Schedule 1 from the University of Western Australia
Period of Exemption: 01/05/2012 - 19/05/2015
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully pursuing the activity.
Purpose: For the purposes of investigating the impact of Binningup Desalination Plant outfall on benthic marine communities.

Exemption No: 2056
Applicant: MG Kailis Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption: 10/05/2012-31/12/2014
Provisions: Parts of clauses 3 and 11 of the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1989
Purpose: To improve the overall operational efficiency of the Exmouth Gulf fleet for commercial purposes through the development of fishing technology.



Exemption No: 2057

Applicant: Michael Stat of the Australian Institute of Marine Science and others listed in Schedule 1 from Cygnet Bay Research Station and the University of Western Australia

Period of Exemption: 23/04/2012 - 31/10/2014

Provisions: *The Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully pursuing the activity.

Purpose: For the purposes of a genotypic and phenotypic characterisation of WA corals.

Exemption No: 2058

Applicant: Rebecca Dobbs of the University of Western Australia and others listed in Schedule 1 from the University of Western Australia and the Department of Water.

Period of Exemption: 04/05/2012 - 21/12/2014

Provisions: *The Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and subsidiary legislation thereunder which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully pursuing the activity.

Purpose: For the purposes of delivering the Waterways Education Program and National Environmental Research Program of waterway health monitoring with indigenous rangers and communities.

Exemption No: 2059

Applicant: Lauren Veale and others listed in Schedule 1 of Murdoch University.

Period of Exemption: 02/05/2012 - 17/10/2012

Provisions: *The Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully pursuing the activity.

Purpose: For the purposes of studying the biology of *Pelates octolineatus* (western striped grunter).

Exemption No: 2062

Applicant: Jordan Stoate, Chris Rawson and Simon Longbottom of Curtin University

Period of Exemption: 01/05/2012 - 30/09/2012

Provisions: *The Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully pursuing the activity.

Purpose: For the purposes of investigating the impacts of dredging on sea urchin larval survival and recruitment.

Exemption No: 2063

Applicant: Marion Cambridge and G.R. Bastyan

Period of Exemption: 13/04/2012 - 30/04/2014

Provisions: *The Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations

Purpose: For the purposes of assessing the extent of seagrass (*Posidonia*) colonising macro-algal beds (*Cladophora*) in Princess Royal Harbour, Albany.

Exemption No: 2064

Applicant: Marion Cambridge and G.R. Bastyan

Period of Exemption: 13/04/2012 - 30/04/2014

Provisions: Cancelled

Purpose: For the purposes of teaching marine ecology, examining biodiversity and ecology of marine organisms in coral reefs, rocky intertidal platforms, plankton and fish.

Exemption No: 2065

Applicant: Dr Mike Van Keulen and others listed in Schedule 1 from Murdoch University

Period of Exemption: 03/05/2012 - 30/06/2012

Provisions: Sections 50 (3) and 51 (2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*

Purpose:



Exemption No: 2066

Applicant: Dr Rhys Leeming and Dr Keith Hayes
Period of Exemption: 25/05/2012 - 30/06/2014
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and subsidiary legislation
Purpose: For the purposes of investigating the variance in nitrogen isotopes in kelp and seabird feathers in relation to their nutrient uptake and trophic status.

Exemption No: 2067

Applicant: Fiona Cosgrove and others as listed in Schedule 1 from Murdoch University
Period of Exemption: 28/05/2012 - 31/12/2013
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and subsidiary legislation
Purpose: For the purposes of examining colonisation of new jetty pilings.

Exemption No: 2068

Applicant: Dr Navid Moheimani and others as listed in Schedule 1 from Murdoch University
Period of Exemption: 05/06/2012 - 03/12/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and subsidiary legislation
Purpose: For the purposes of investigating the response of seagrass species to altered oceanic pH and the analysis of growth and rate of photosynthesis.

Exemption No: 2069

Applicant: Noel Smith and others as listed in Schedule 1
Period of Exemption: 07/06/2012 - 21/06/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and subsidiary legislation
Purpose: For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, to undertake pink snapper stock assessment survey in the eastern gulf of Shark Bay.

Exemption No: 2070

Applicant: No exemption
Period of Exemption:
Provisions:
Purpose:

Exemption No: 2071

Applicant: Associate Professor Lynnath Beckley, Steven Goynich and Ian McKernan of Murdoch University
Period of Exemption: 07/06/2012 - 31/08/2014
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and subsidiary legislation
Purpose: For the purposes of training university students in zooplankton sampling methods.

Exemption No: 2072

Applicant: Dr Tim Dempster and others as listed in Schedule 1 from Melbourne University
Period of Exemption: 07/06/2012 - 30/09/2015
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and associated subsidiary legislation
Purpose: To conduct research on the freshwater fish of the Kimberley region.



Exemption No: 2073

Applicant: Christine Best and Simon Lukies from GHD Consulting
Period of Exemption: 13/06/2012 - 13/09/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and associated subsidiary legislation.
Purpose: To conduct research on the freshwater fish and macroinvertebrates.

Exemption No: 2074

Applicant: Ngalang Boodja Enterprises Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption: 21/05/2012- 31/12/2013
Provisions: Sections 47, 48, 50, 51, 90 and 92A of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulation 10, Schedule 2 Part 1 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* and any other provision of the legislation
Purpose: For the purpose of enabling the aquaculture, harvest and sale of marron without an Aquaculture Licence.

Exemption No: 2075

Applicant: Dr Jane Chambers, Dr Belinda Robson and students from Murdoch University
Period of Exemption: 25/06/2012 - 02/11/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and subsidiary legislation
Purpose: For the purposes of an educational ecological assessment of urban wetlands.

Exemption No: 2076

Applicant: Dr Jane Chambers and others as listed in Schedule 1 from Murdoch University
Period of Exemption: 25/06/2012 - 07/08/2012
Provisions: The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and subsidiary legislation
Purpose: For the purposes of training in plankton sampling methods and identification.



Appendix 5 Department of Fisheries offices and addresses

Head office

T: (+61) 08 9482 7333
T: [FishWatch](http://fishwatch.wa.gov.au) 1800 815 507
A: 3rd Floor, The Atrium, 168-170 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000,
Post: Locked Bag 39, Cloisters Square WA 6850
F: (+61) 08 9482 7389
E: headoffice@fish.wa.gov.au
ABN: 55 689 794 771

Regional and district offices

Offices marked * are open at irregular hours, so please phone before visiting.

Gascoyne Region

Carnarvon District Office (and Gascoyne Regional Office)

T: 08 9941 1185
A: 59 Olivia Terrace, Carnarvon WA 6701
Post: PO Box 774, Carnarvon WA 6701
F: 08 9941 1951

Denham District Office*

T: 08 9948 1210
A: Knight Terrace, Denham WA 6537
F: 08 9948 1154

Exmouth District Office*

T: 08 9949 2755
A: Cnr Payne & Riggs streets, Exmouth WA 6707
F: 08 9949 1558

Metropolitan Region

Fremantle District Office (and Metropolitan Regional Office)

T: 08 9432 8000
A: 14 Capo D'Orlando Drive,
South Fremantle WA 6162
F: 08 9432 8060

Hillarys District Office*

T: 08 9203 0111
T: (a/hours): 0419 969 415
A: WA Fisheries and Marine Research
Laboratories, 39 Northside Drive,
Hillarys WA 6025
F: 08 9203 0110



Lancelin District Office*

T: 08 9655 1111

A: Gingin Road, Lancelin WA 6044

F: 08 9655 1734

Mandurah District Office

T: 08 9583 7800

A: 107 Breakwater Parade, Mandurah Marina
Mandurah WA 6210

F: 08 9583 8020

Rockingham District Office

T: 08 9527 3699

A: Suite 4, Commerce House, 3 Benjamin Way,
Rockingham WA 6168

Post: PO Box 7070, Safety Bay WA 6169

F: 08 9527 9776

Midwest Region

Geraldton District Office (and Midwest Regional Office)

T: 08 9921 6800

A: 69-75 Connell Road, Geraldton WA 6530,

Post: PO Box 1171, Geraldton WA 6530

F: 08 9921 3617

Dongara District Office*

T: 08 9927 1187

A: Fishing Boat Harbour, McIntyre Cove,

Dongara WA 6525

Post: PO Box 63, Dongara WA 6525

F: 08 9927 2019

Jurien Bay District Office*

T: 08 9652 1048

A: Harbour Office Complex, Jurien Harbour,
Jurien WA 6516

F: 08 9652 1408

Northern Region

Broome District Office (and Northern Regional Office)

T: 08 9193 8600

A: Port of Pearls House, 401 Port Drive,
Broome WA 6725

Post: PO Box 71, Broome WA 6725

F: 08 9193 8688

Karratha District Office*

T: 08 9144 4337

A: Unit 1/17-19 Crane Circle,
Karratha WA 6714

F: 08 9144 4348

Kununurra District Office*

T: 08 9168 4243

A: C/- Department of Environment and
Conservation, Lot 248 Ivanhoe Road,

Kununurra WA 6743

Post: PO Box 2483, Kununurra WA 6743

F: 08 9168 2179

Southern Region

Albany District Office (and Southern Regional Office)

T: 08 9845 7400

A: Suite 7 Frederick House, 70-74 Frederick St,
Albany WA 6330

F: 08 9845 7457

Bunbury District Office*

T: 08 9721 2688

A: 96 Stirling Street, Bunbury WA 6230

F: 08 9791 1862

Busselton District Office*

T: 08 9752 2152

A: 48a Bussell Hwy, Busselton WA 6280

Post: PO Box 671, Busselton WA 6280

F: 08 9752 4721

Esperance District Office*

T: 08 9071 1839

A: Bandy Creek Boat Harbour,
Esperance WA 6450

Post: PO Box 798, Esperance WA 6450

F: 08 9071 4122



Other Department of Fisheries offices, branches and facilities

Aquaculture and Native Fish Breeding Laboratory

Located at The University of Western Australia's (UWA) Shenton Park Field Centre (please note there is no public access).

T: 0419 928 889

E: craig.lawrence@fish.wa.gov.au

Aquaculture Research and Development Group

T: (+61) 08 9203 0220

A: 39 Northside Drive, Hillarys WA 6025

F: (+61) 08 9203 0199

Aquatic Animal Health Unit

T: (+61) 08 9368 3357

A: Fish Health Laboratories, c/o Animal Health Laboratory, Department of Agriculture and Food, 3 Barron-Hay Court, South Perth, WA 6151

Post: Fish Health Laboratories, Department of Fisheries, PO Box 20, North Beach WA 6920

F: (+61) 08 9474 1881

Biosecurity Unit

T: (08) 9482 7333

E: biosecurity@fish.wa.gov.au

Fisheries and Marine Library

T: (+61) 08 9203 0120

A: 39 Northside Drive, Hillarys WA 6025

Post: PO Box 20, North Beach WA 6920

F: (+61) 08 9203 0199

Fleet Maintenance

T: (+61) 08 9432 8000

A: 14 Capo D'Orlando Drive, South Fremantle WA 6162

F: (+61) 08 9432 8060

Interlibrary loans and document delivery

T: (+61) 08 9203 0118

F: (+61) 08 9203 0199

Marine Operations Centre

T: (+61) 08 9432 8000

A: 14 Capo D'Orlando Drive, South Fremantle WA 6162

F: (+61) 08 9432 8060

Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre

T: (+61) 08 9203 0339

T: (+61) 08 9203 0112 (school bookings)

A: 39 Northside Drive, Hillarys WA 6025

E: nmdc@fish.wa.gov.au

W: www.nmdc.com.au

Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre

T: (+61) 08 9776 1044

A: Pump Hill Road, Pemberton WA 6260

Post: PO Box 91, Pemberton WA 6260

F: (+61) 08 9776 1182

E: TroutHatchery@fish.wa.gov.au

Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories

T: (+61) 08 9203 0111

A: 39 Northside Drive, Hillarys WA 6025

Post: PO Box 20, North Beach WA 6920

F: (+61) 08 9203 0199