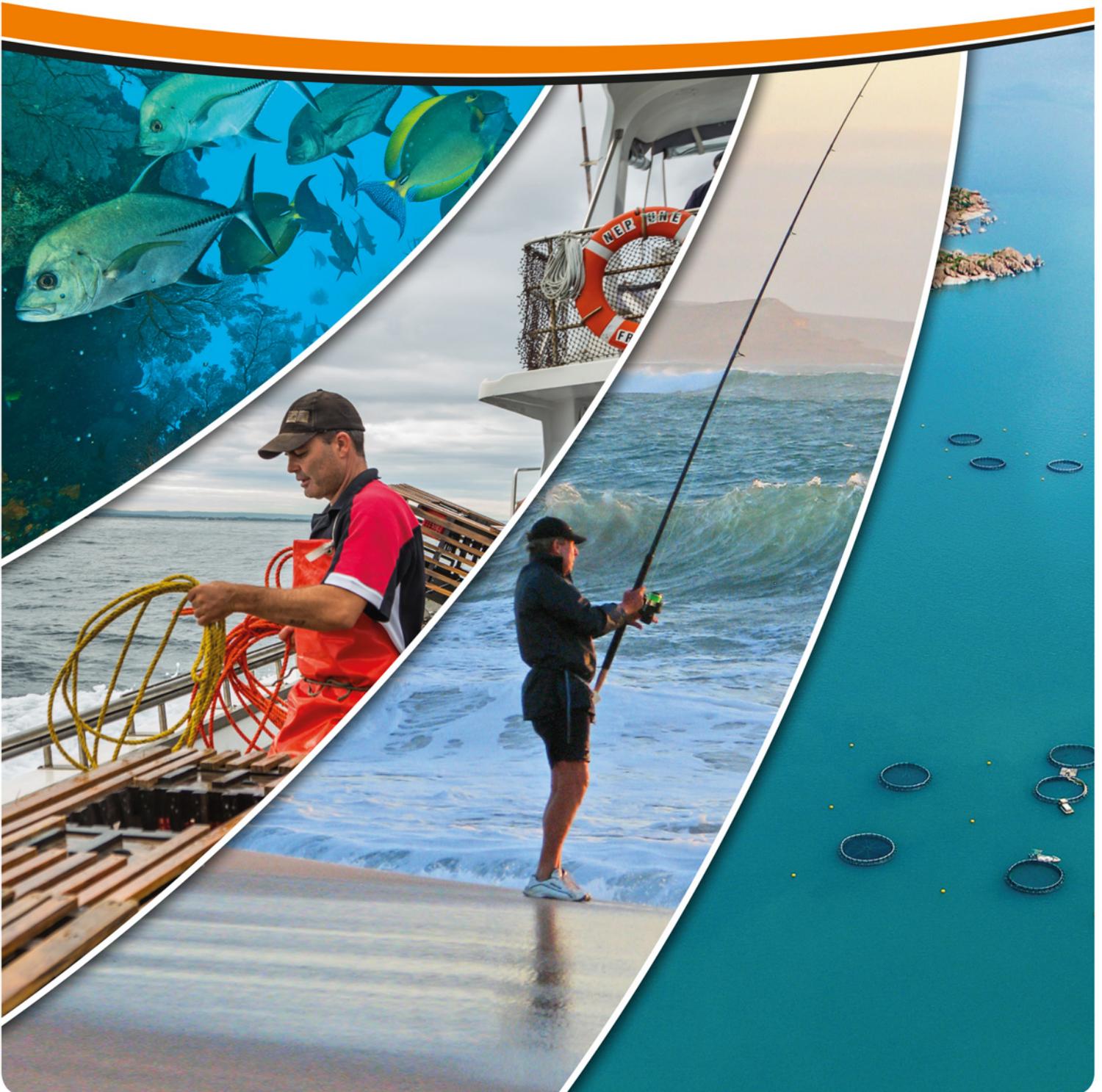




Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fisheries**

Department of Fisheries

Annual Report to Parliament 2016/17



Feedback and queries

Each year we strive to improve on our previous year's Annual Report to ensure the current publication is as reader-friendly, relevant and engaging as possible.

We would welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have about how we can improve on this report – please send any comments or queries to customerservice@fish.wa.gov.au or by post to the address below.

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Welcome to our 2016/17 Annual Report

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the Department, its operations and its performance over the past financial year (ending 30 June 2017). For a brief summary of our achievements in 2016/17, [go to our year at a glance section](#) on page 13. More detailed information on the agency's operations and performance can be found in the following sections:

- [Go to our Department overview](#) on page 8
- [Go to How we operate](#) on page 27
- [Go to How we performed](#) on page 43
- [Go to Disclosures and legal compliance](#) on page 68
- [Go to the Appendices \(including the status of fisheries and aquatic resources table\)](#) on page 174

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the Public Sector Commission's *Annual reporting framework – 2016/17 reporting year*.

Making this report accessible

Ensuring our publications are accessible to all our readers is a high priority for us. In this regard, we have been careful to ensure this report meets the accessibility requirements in the Public Sector Commission's Annual reporting framework – 2016/17 reporting year and the State Government Access Guidelines for Information, Services and Facilities.

We have made the information in the report clear and easy to understand.

The design and content ensure it is accessible to people using assistive technologies and we have included clear explanations of photographs and graphs through 'alternative text' descriptions, as well as captions.

To meet the communication requirements of people with disabilities, this report is also available in alternative formats on request.

Statement of compliance

To the Hon Dave Kelly, MLA Minister for Fisheries

Sir,

In accordance with section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and section 263 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA), I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Department of Fisheries for the financial year ending 30 June 2017.

The Department also produces the companion publication *Status Reports of the fisheries and aquatic resources of Western Australia*, as required by section 263 (a) of the FRMA. This annual report 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 2016/2017*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruno Mezzatesta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'B'.

Bruno Mezzatesta

Reporting Officer

Executive summary

The 2016/17 financial year saw a continuation of the outstanding results achieved in fisheries management to ensure the continued sustainability of the State's aquatic resources. It was also a year in which the Department worked closely with key stakeholders to prepare for the future legislative and administrative frameworks within which the agency will provide future services to the State of Western Australia.

This year, 95 per cent of our fisheries were assessed as not at risk from fishing with the remaining fisheries impacted largely by environmental factors and subject to recovery programs.

A major milestone was reached during 2016/17 with the passage through Parliament of the *Aquatic Resources Management Bill 2015*. Royal Assent was given on 29 November 2016 as Act No. 53 of 2016. The *Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016* (ARMA) is a once-in-a-generation change that provides a modern, innovative framework that will provide a sound basis for effective, efficient and integrated fisheries and aquatic resource management for decades to come. It is based on the principles of ecologically sustainable development, and will provide the legal framework for improved governance.

The ARMA provides the legal framework for improved governance in eight key policy areas:

- ensuring ecological sustainability;
- risk-based assessment and transparent outcome-focused resource use planning;
- integration of resource protection and use across all sectors;
- security of resource access and allocation of proportional harvest entitlements for the fishing sectors;
- management of aquaculture and pearling activities;
- protection from the negative impacts of aquatic disease and harmful organisms (biosecurity);
- devolution and delegation of decision-making, and deregulation; and
- co-operative management arrangements with the non-government sector.

A key feature of the ARMA is that it is based around the aquatic resource – rather than the traditional approach based on a fishery or fishing activity. This enables an integrated approach to providing secure fishing access rights for all sectors, with resource sustainability at its core. The ARMA allows for existing management arrangements and resource access rights to remain effective for the State’s commercial fishing and pearling industries, until each is separately migrated to the new legislative framework.

The ARMA provides for substantial deregulation of the fish processing sector, and incorporates new powers that allow the Minister for Fisheries to enter cooperative management arrangements with, or delegate specific responsibilities to, accountable non-government organisations. This framework will allow for far greater flexibility in the long-term for the use of fishing access rights and for developing effective deregulated arrangements to achieve improved environmental, economic and social outcomes.

The Department is working with stakeholders towards achieving a structured implementation of ARMA, but it is important to understand that the transition to management arrangements facilitated under the ARMA will be evolutionary. For most commercial and recreational fishers, there will be no immediate significant change when the ARMA commences.

The Department has continued to harness the enthusiasm of the fishing sector for implementation of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification program for fisheries. The deep-sea crab fishery and abalone fishery were certified by MSC in 2016 as sustainable seafood suppliers. These fisheries join other MSC-certified fisheries in Western Australia including west coast rock lobster, Shark Bay prawn, Exmouth Gulf prawn and the Peel-Harvey sea mullet and blue swimmer crab fisheries.

The Government’s 90-day regulation mapping project identified opportunities to streamline approval processes within the aquaculture sector. Collaboration between the Department and the Department of Finance’s Economic Reform Unit has led to the identification of regulatory changes to cut ‘red tape’ and to simplify and streamline processes without compromising high biosecurity standards.

In 2016, the Government announced a project to develop an ‘investment-ready’ aquaculture development zone along Western Australia’s south coast. The area covered includes the South West, Great Southern and Goldfields-Esperance regions. The south coast aquaculture development zone will support large-scale development of the aquaculture industry by attracting investment and jobs into the region. Planning for the zone has commenced in liaison with key stakeholders.

The work to establish a marine shellfish hatchery at the Albany Aquaculture Park is progressing on schedule. On-site works have commenced and are expected to be concluded by October 2017. The hatchery, when operational, will underpin growth of the marine shellfish sector, particularly oysters and mussels, by providing mass quantities of spat to grow-out farms.

Another red tape reduction involves relaxing rock lobster catching restrictions on fishing charter boats. This initiative is aimed at the tourism sector by allowing fishing charter operators to pull a small number of lobster pots to provide seafood to tourists on their boats or at accredited restaurants. This year also saw a trial to allow 12,500 additional western rock lobsters to be sold to the local market. This trial allows commercial rock lobster fishers to catch and tag an additional 50 lobsters each year for local sale.

During the year, the Government approved nine new Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund projects including the development of artificial reefs for Esperance, Dampier and Exmouth. Two 12-metre-high fish towers will be deployed between Rottnest and Garden islands to attract pelagic species such as Samson fish, yellowtail kingfish and yellowfin tuna.

The Department contributed to the Government’s shark hazard mitigation strategies by upgrading obsolete components of the Shark Monitoring Network (SMN) and maintaining ‘real time’ alerts to Sharksmart, Surf Life Saving (SLSWA) and Twitter. Funding was also secured for a continuation of the aerial and beach surveillance services provided by SLSWA. The Department also maintained its shark hazard monitoring and operational response capability. Most recently, the Department has worked to implement a number of new government priorities including a rebate program for those purchasing approved personal deterrent devices, expansion of the SMN and early planning for a beach emergency numbering system.

The Department launched a comprehensive operation codenamed *Bagana* with a focus on offending in the rock lobster fishery, particularly in relation to interference with other people's fishing gear. This was in response to an upward trend in reports from the community over previous seasons. As part of the operation an innovative education and deterrent campaign was launched using a seized vessel with unique branding which was displayed at various boat ramps and other locations to remind people of the potential consequences of breaking the rules. Ten vessels have been seized over the course of the operation to date, with a number of offenders facing prosecution for a range of rock lobster related offences.

A coordinated response by the Department to a positive detection in Queensland of White Spot Syndrome Virus has reduced the risk of White Spot Disease in Western Australian crustacean populations. Arrangements were put in place to ensure that only products with an acceptable risk profile were allowed into the State. In addition, statewide biosecurity messaging was distributed to recreational fishers to assist with identification of the disease and to reduce the risk of the disease in Western Australia's aquaculture ventures and iconic commercial and recreational fisheries.

During 2016, the Department undertook many projects to implement a digital transformation program to improve the customer experience of interactions with Fisheries. This included continued work on online reporting systems for reporting catch data for west coast rock lobster fishers as well as simplifying and standardising catch reporting for many other fisheries. The Department also improved systems to allow online licensing transactions. A mobile application to provide Fisheries and Marine Officers (FMOs) with access to recreational fishing licence details while in the field has enhanced the compliance capability of the agency.

The achievements for the year are testament to the commitment and dedication of the Department's staff. Thank you to all. I would also like to thank the previous Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Joe Francis MLA, and his office for the support and guidance provided in his tenure as the Minister for Fisheries. Since the election of the new Government in March 2017, we have welcomed the support of our new Minister, the Hon Dave Kelly MLA and his staff.

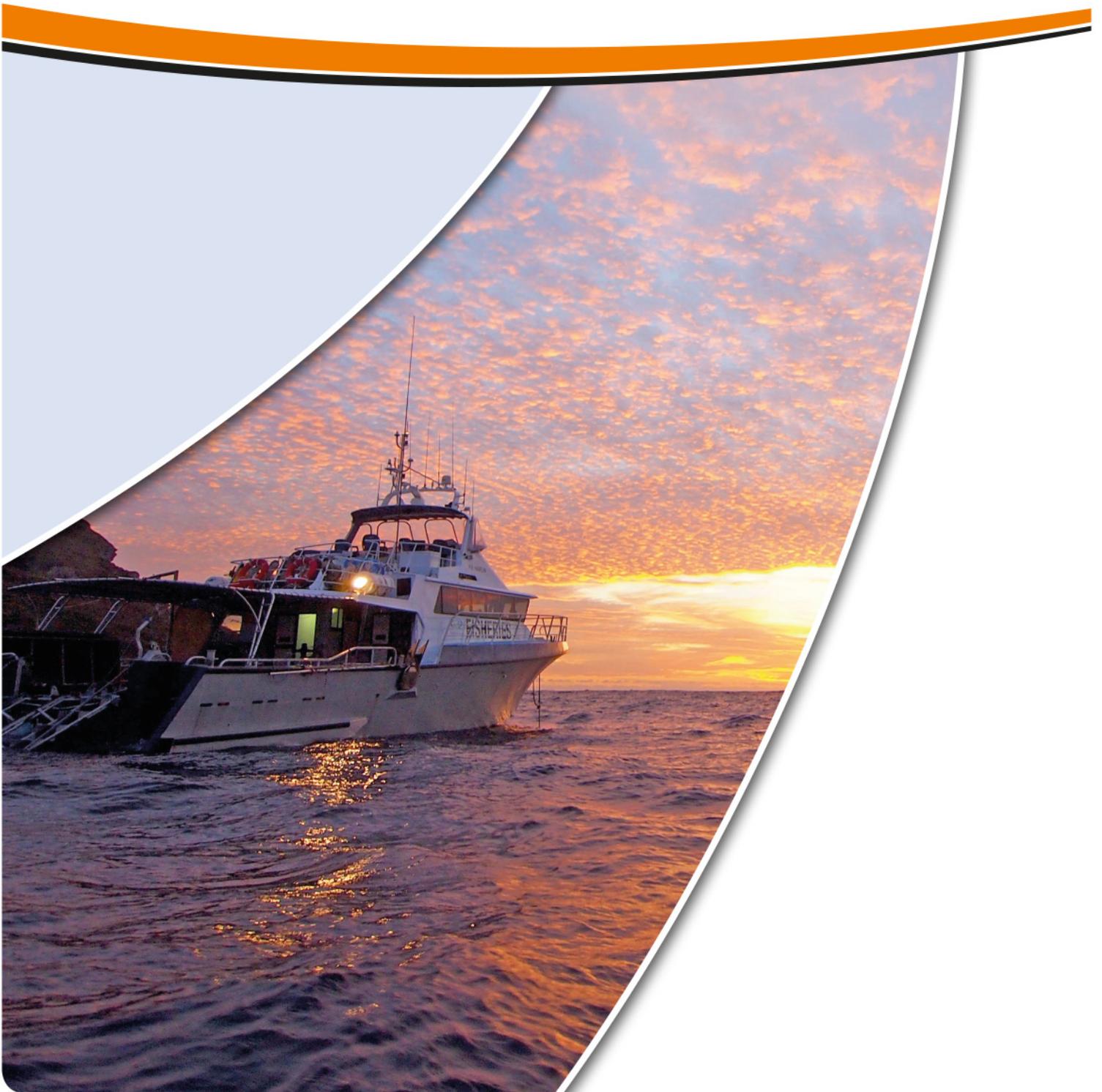
In closing, this is the final Annual Report for the Department of Fisheries, with the Department to become part of the new Department of Primary Industries and

Regional Development (DPIRD) from 1 July 2017. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution the Department and its staff have made to the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Western Australia over some 30 years. I would also like to thank our many stakeholders for working with us to achieve sustainable fisheries, valuable industries and healthy ecosystems. We should all be justifiably proud of our achievements. I look forward to the opportunities provided with the formation of DPIRD and to continuing to provide high-quality services and outcomes for the Western Australian community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Brayford', written in a cursive style.

Heather Brayford
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Department overview



About us

The Department of Fisheries' mandate is set by Parliament through the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, and the objects of which are:

To develop and manage fisheries and aquaculture in a sustainable way; and

To share and conserve the State's fish and other aquatic resources and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations.

We do this through managing fisheries and aquatic ecosystems, fish stock assessment and monitoring, enforcement and education, biosecurity management and commercial and recreational fishing licensing, including commercial aquaculture.

A variety of complex issues impact on the sustainable management of the State's fish and aquatic resources. To meet these challenges we employ an integrated approach to the planning, priority setting and project management of our key service areas:

Fisheries management; covering policy development, licensing and legislation related to the State's commercial and recreational fisheries, pearling, aquaculture, the aquatic charter industry, customary fishing and protection of aquatic ecosystems, including safeguarding our aquatic biosecurity.

Enforcement and education; covering statewide fisheries compliance, communications and community education.

Research and assessment; providing timely, high-quality scientific knowledge and objective advice to support the management, conservation and sustainable use of the State's fish resources and aquatic environment.

These services are delivered by our four divisions, under the management of the Corporate Executive:

- Strategy and aquatic resources;
- Science and resource assessment;
- Regional services; and
- Corporate services.

Our vision

We aspire to be recognised and respected by the WA community for our leadership in fisheries and aquatic resource management.

Our purpose

To deliver sustainable management and development of the State's fisheries and aquatic resources by being responsive, resilient and results-focused.

Our values

In working with our stakeholders and our colleagues, we demonstrate:

- **Excellence in everything we do** – delivery of sustained high performance that meets or exceeds the expectations of clients.
- **Unity by working together for a common purpose** – working with a shared purpose with a culture of collaboration and support.
- **Respect through working with integrity and courtesy** – valuing each other and all contributions to the Department both internal and external.
- **Innovation by developing new ways and embracing change** – being open to challenges and working to find solutions.
- **Leadership by showing the way** – empowering and developing staff to be motivated and creative in their work.

Our objectives

- **Community and stakeholder benefits** – working together to provide value to, and to be valued by, the community and our stakeholders.
- **Sustainability** – sustainably managing WA's aquatic resources and fisheries through a risk-based, dynamic and adaptive approach; and supporting resilient aquatic resources and ecosystems by being responsive to changing conditions and management needs.
- **Management excellence** – striving for excellence through strong accountability and governance systems, and effective and efficient practices across all areas of the Department.

What we do

We are required by the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* to conserve fish and protect their environment. In doing so, the Act recognises that sustainable fisheries management is inextricably linked to the protection of the rich and diverse ecosystems that support healthy fish stocks and, therefore, *fish for the future*.

By agreement with the Commonwealth, our responsibilities extend seaward beyond the three nautical mile limit of the State to the 200 nautical mile limit of the Australian Fishing Zone.

To achieve our objectives and meet our legislative requirements, we undertake:

- ecosystem-based fisheries management;
- pearling and aquaculture management;
- fisheries research and assessment, enforcement and education services;
- biosecurity management;
- licensing; and
- management of fish habitat protection areas and the Houtman Abrolhos Islands.

We are also responsible for providing fisheries management and education services to the communities at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, under Commonwealth legislation that mirrors the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Our other responsibilities include providing at-sea marine safety compliance services on behalf of the Department of Transport and implementation of the Government's shark hazard mitigation strategy.

Our stakeholders

We regard anyone who values Western Australia's extensive and diverse aquatic ecosystems as our stakeholder. Stakeholders have a role to play in ensuring fish stocks and their habitats are protected, now and into the future. We encourage stakeholders to participate in consultation about the management and use of aquatic resources to ensure sustainable and balanced outcomes for the community.

We identify the following groups as stakeholders with an interest in ensuring there will be *fish for the future*:

- the community of Western Australia;
- commercial, recreational and customary fishers;
- the pearling and aquaculture industries;
- charter fishing operators;
- fish processors and others involved in the commercial use of Western Australia's aquatic resources;
- fisheries volunteers;
- environmental groups and passive users;
- businesses and communities directly and indirectly dependent upon fishing and aquaculture activities;
- the offshore oil and gas sector; and
- other state, national and international government agencies and tertiary institutions.

We are committed to consultation with our stakeholders and to ensure efficient and effective decisions are made.

The year at a glance



How we benefit the community of Western Australia

We strive to manage Western Australia's important fish resources sustainably while optimising the economic and social benefits and values of their use for the community. Just some of the benefits sustainable fisheries management bring to our community are highlighted below.

Table 1: Benefits of sustainable fisheries management to the WA community.

Amount	Benefit
86%	The percentage of the community satisfied that the Department is achieving its aquatic resource management objectives. We continue to enjoy the support and confidence of Western Australians for our fisheries and aquatic resource management programs.
95%	The percentage of fish stocks in Western Australia that are not at risk from fishing.
\$1.2 billion	The contribution to WA's Gross State Product from the commercial and recreational fishing sectors. Our fisheries continue to contribute to the Western Australian economy.
\$490 million	The value of the State's commercial fisheries and aquaculture production. These sectors continue to contribute significantly to State and regional economies.
\$77 million	The amount the Government spent on managing commercial fishing and aquaculture around the State. Government investment in commercial fishing and aquaculture continues to pay dividends in terms of jobs and economic activity.
3	The number of aquaculture zones we are engaged in establishing. The Kimberley, Mid-West and South Coast zones will provide 'investment-ready' platforms for aquaculture businesses and play a significant role in helping to grow the sector.
6,044	The number of commercial fishing authorisations we issued. Our fisheries sector continues to be a significant employer.

Amount	Benefit
17	The number of consecutive years WA's West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery has been certified 'sustainable' by the Marine Stewardship Council – a global benchmark for sustainable fisheries management.
1st	In two recent world first achievements, Western Australia's Peel-Harvey blue swimmer crab recreational fishery became the first recreational fishery to be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council. Our south sea pearl fishery was the first gem fishery to complete Marine Stewardship Council certification. Western Australia's west coast rock lobster fishery was the first commercial fishery to be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in 2000.
671,000	The number of West Australians estimated to have fished recreationally in the reporting period. Recreational fishing in Western Australia continues to have considerable social value as a popular WA lifestyle activity.
249,020	The number of recreational fishing licences we issued for specific recreational fishing activities. All revenue raised from licence fees goes back into recreational fishing management.
\$17 million	The amount the Government spent on managing recreational fishing around the State. The Government continues to invest a significant amount of human and financial resources in this ever popular pastime.
155,374	The number of contacts our Community Education and Fisheries and Marine officers made with fishers. These officers 'in the field' help get the <i>fish for the future</i> message across to hundreds of fishers face-to-face every day.

Stand-out achievements

Aquatic Resources Management Act

The *Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016* (ARMA) passed through Parliament in November 2016 following a five-year development phase. The ARMA replaces the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the *Pearling Act 1990* to provide a modern, innovative framework that will provide a sound basis for effective, efficient and integrated fisheries and aquatic resource management. It is based on the principles of ecologically sustainable development, and will provide the legal framework for improved governance.

The ARMA has a 1 January 2019 implementation date, although the transition to management frameworks facilitated under the ARMA will be an evolutionary one. For most commercial and recreational fishers, there will be no immediate significant change. Department staff are working with key stakeholders to develop ARMA related policies.

As a priority project for the Department, groups across the agency have been busily developing subsidiary legislation, policy and systems to allow for the implementation of the ARMA.

The pearl oyster (*Pinctada maxima*) resource will be the first to be declared an aquatic resource and transitioned to an 'Aquatic Resource Management Strategy' framework when the ARMA commences as the currently separate pearling legislation will be consolidated under the ARMA.

Making improvements in the rock lobster fishery

As part of the red tape reduction program, the Government approved the relaxing of rock lobster catching restrictions to enhance the tourism experience by allowing fishing charter operators to pull a small number of lobster pots to allow holiday-makers the chance to catch and eat rock lobster while on a fishing charter boat. The changed regulations also allow accredited accommodation facilities to provide fish storage facilities for their guests and for accredited restaurants to cook lobster for recreational fishers and fishing charter clients.

The Government approved a trial to allow 12,500 additional western rock lobsters to be sold to the local market. This trial allows commercial rock lobster fishers to catch and tag an additional 50 lobsters each year for local sale to provide locals and tourists new opportunities to enjoy seafood over the summer and festive season.

After being the first fishery in the world to achieve MSC certification back in 2000, and holding its accreditation ever since, WA's western rock lobster fishery is also now celebrating the renewal of its certification for a further five years.

The Department launched a comprehensive operation codenamed *Bagana* with a focus on offending in the rock lobster fishery, particularly in relation to interference with other people's fishing gear. This was in response to an upward trend in information reports from the community over previous seasons. Ten vessels were seized over the course of the operation in the reporting period, with a number of offenders facing prosecution for a range of rock lobster related offences.

Aquaculture

The Department anticipates the Minister for Fisheries will declare Western Australia's second aquaculture development zone in the mid-west Region in late 2017.

The Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone is now fully allocated. The two licence holders in the zone, MPA Fish Farms Pty Ltd and Aarli Mayi Aquaculture Project Pty Ltd, are authorised to grow, respectively, 15,000 and 5,000 tonnes of barramundi per annum.

The work to establish a marine shellfish hatchery at the Albany Aquaculture Park is progressing on schedule. On-site works have commenced and are expected to be concluded by October 2017. The hatchery, when operational, will underpin growth of the marine shellfish sector, particularly oysters and mussels, by providing mass quantities of spat to grow-out farms.

Government is also committed to enhancing fish health services to support aquaculture development with planning well underway for a new state-of-the-art laboratory within the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre at Watermans Bay.

The Department is working to streamline aquaculture approval processes through implementation of the recommendations from the Department of Finance's 90 Day

Red Tape Review. The Department (of Fisheries) has prepared an implementation plan, has completed one recommendation through revision of the Administrative Guideline for assessing applications and is in the process of implementing the remainder.

The Department is undertaking a major project in coastal waters off the south coast. The aim of the project is to identify areas and zones suitable for large-scale aquaculture development and to facilitate investment within the sector. Having identified these locations, the project will also seek to secure the relevant planning and environmental approvals necessary in order to provide an 'investment ready' platform for aquaculture proponents.

Digital transformation

We undertook a digital transformation program to transition the Department's business processes away from manual processes towards online (digital) platforms, including the initiatives outlined below.

We developed a new online application portal which allows members of public to apply for new commercial fishing licences anytime at their convenience. The development of a new online lodging system, embedded within the Fish Eye Online Services, now allows fish receivers to upload returns/lodgements onto our system for processing. The next electronic catch reporting system will be implemented in the commercial marine aquarium fishery.

We opened up access to aggregated data to communicate shark hazard information, as part of Western Australia's shark notification and response system. Our shark monitoring system provides 'real time' information on shark sightings and detections to response agencies and the public so they can make an informed decision about their water use.

To assist in the day-to-day activities of Fisheries and Marine Officers a new mobile application, nicknamed 'Marlin', was developed to check recreational fishing licences. The data records are updated every 24 hours to ensure an officer in the field has the latest information. In addition, the recently released Infringement Payment Portal will allow payments to be made by members of the public online.

Our finance systems were updated including system processes, interfaces and activities to allow managers to review and track monthly and year to date expenditure against budget improving financial management within the Department. The integration of human resource system with the IT-user directory allows for up to date information about users within the Department. We implemented digital workflows to improve transparency, turn-around time and integration with the IT service desk system. We developed a set of tools to assist fisheries officers and their managers to track hours worked annually to assist in accurate reporting.

The *State Records Act 2000* requires agencies to have an approved Recordkeeping Plan (RKP) and for this to be reviewed every five years. The Department's review of its 2011 RKP was tabled at the State Records Commission meeting in August. Our review provided evidence of our progress towards better practice recordkeeping. Subsequently to the review, the Department submitted its amended RKP for approval by the State Records Commission. The amended RKP demonstrates the Department's significant improvements in its recordkeeping practices and a commitment to progress and maintain its recordkeeping to meet both legislative and business requirements.

Investing in our people

This year the Department invested in further defining and developing the Department's values. Through a consultative approach run across the Department, we have been able to develop a behavioural charter, enabling us to translate the values into a shared understanding of the appropriate behaviours that should guide our decision making and conduct.

In addition, the Department participated in an evaluation of its misconduct management arrangements, run by the Public Sector Commission (PSC). The evaluation reviewed our misconduct management framework, procedures and processes. The outcomes of the evaluation were positive and provide us with an opportunity to further enhance those currently in place.

Similar to previous years, the Department has continued its investment in leadership, with the development of our 'Women in Leadership' speaker series. The series

invited experienced leaders from across the sector to speak to our staff about their leadership journey and experience, and was very well received.

In recognition of our continued commitment to initiatives within the workplace that support positive mental health, the Department was proud to have been nominated as a finalist for the Mentally Healthy Workplace Award at the WA Mental Health Awards.

Significant issues for the Department

New legislation

The new *Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016* was passed by Parliament on 17 November 2016 and will provide significant opportunities for us to enhance fisheries management arrangements in Western Australia for long-term sustainability, including a focus on risk-based resource management and strengthening of access rights for the commercial and recreational sectors. The new legislation will also provide enhanced capacity for aquaculture and biosecurity management. The Act will commence on 1 January 2019.

Growing the aquaculture sector

During the year, all the water earmarked for aquaculture use in the Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone was fully allocated with the potential to increase annual barramundi production to 20,000 tonnes

In addition, the work to establish the Mid West Aquaculture Development Zone is nearing completion. The Department anticipates the Minister for Fisheries will declare Western Australia's second Aquaculture Development Zone in the Mid West Region in late 2017. A major project is also under way to identify areas and zones suitable for large-scale shellfish aquaculture on the south coast and to facilitate investment at those areas.

Capital infrastructure to support aquaculture includes the development of a state-of-the-art fish health laboratory and construction of a shellfish hatchery near Albany.

Third-party fishery sustainability certification

Following the achievement of a world first for the certification of a recreational fishery (Peel-Harvey blue swimmer crab fishery) and an Australia first certification of a finfish fishery (Peel-Harvey commercial sea mullet fishery) in June 2016, Western Australian fishers also secured the certification of an export-based fishery, the west coast deep sea crab fishery. The deep sea crab fishery operates from Carnarvon to Bremer Bay and has an annual harvest quota of 140 tonnes. The majority of the catch is exported to Asian markets with about 30 per cent exported to China. Some six Western Australian fisheries are now fully assessed for MSC certification.

Environmental fluctuations and major climatic events

A three-year Fisheries Research and Development Corporation-funded project, which examined the potential effects of climate change on the marine environment and key fisheries, as well as management implications, has now been completed. The study identified that climate changes such as decadal shifts and extreme events were already having a major impact on fish stocks that required significant shifts in management. New management policies will be developed in consultation with stakeholders over time to deal with climate change effects on fish stocks.

The Department is a key collaborator in the National RedMap (Range Extension Database and Mapping project) project which uses a citizen-science approach to document range extensions of a number of key, climate-change affected species. Understanding shifts in populations is likely to be increasingly important to adaptive fisheries management.

The management of nearshore resources, given their vulnerability to environmental change and their value to multiple stakeholders, continues to be a focus.

Performance summary

Key performance indicators (KPIs)

The outcomes of the Department's services are measured by KPIs designed to measure our effectiveness and efficiency.

[Go to the audited Key performance indicators section](#) of this annual report on page 132 for a detailed commentary on all effectiveness and efficiency measures, including comparisons with previous years.

A summary of our performance during the year is provided below.

Table 2: Summary of target and results against key performance indicators and services.

Key performance indicator/Service	Target	Result
KPI 1.1 The proportion of fish stocks identified as not being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation. For more details go to page 133.	97%	95%
KPI 1.2 The proportion of commercial fisheries where catches or effort levels are acceptable. For more details go to page 135.	95%	93%
KPI 1.3 The proportion of recreational fisheries where catches or effort levels are acceptable. For more details go to page 137.	85%	100%
KPI 2.1 The volume of State commercial fisheries (including aquaculture) production (tonnes). For more details go to page 139.	21,000	21,229
KPI 3.1 The participation rate in recreational fishing. For more details go to page 142.	30%	27.5%

Key performance indicator/Service	Target	Result
KPI 3.2 (community) The satisfaction rating of the broader community as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving aquatic resource management objectives. For more details go to page 147.	85%	85.7%
KPI 3.2 (stakeholders) The satisfaction rating of stakeholders as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving aquatic resource management objectives. For more details go to page 148.	75%	80%
Service 1 Fisheries Management – average cost per hour for management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments). For more details go to page 150.	\$179	\$165
Service 2 Enforcement and Education – average cost per hour of enforcement and education. For more details go to page 151.	\$159	\$145
Service 3 Research and Assessment – average cost per hour of research and assessment. For more details go to page 152.	\$116	\$110

Financial summary

Table 3 below provides a comparison of our financial performance against financial targets and outcomes included in the 2016/17 State Budget Papers and reflected in the Resource Agreement between the Minister for Fisheries, the Treasurer and the Director General of the Department of Fisheries.

Table 3: Comparison of our financial performance against financial targets and outcomes

	2016/17 Target \$'000	2016/17 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Notes
Total cost of services (expense limit) (details from Statement of Comprehensive Income)	87,465	93,696	6,231	Note 1
Net cost of services (details from Statement of Comprehensive Income)	52,261	54,220	1,959	Note 2
Total equity (details from Statement of Financial Position)	91,123	85,603	(5,520)	Note 3
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held (details from Statement of Cash Flows)	(2,192)	136	2,328	Note 4

Table 4: Comparison of approved full-time (FTE) staff level against actual FTE staff employed

	Approved	Actual	Variance	Notes
Approved FTE staff level	453	467	14	Note 5

Notes

These notes should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended June 2017. [Go to the Notes to the Financial Statements](#) on page 82.

Note 1: Total cost of services

In reviewing the 2016/17 budget it became apparent that activity levels would result in expenditure above the approved expenditure limit. After a series of reviews, an

increased expenditure limit of \$93m was approved which was funded from increases in own sourced revenue and cash balances.

Note 2: Net cost of services

The increase in net cost of service is due to an increase in total cost of services as detailed in note 1, which was significantly offset by growth in commercial access fees revenue.

Note 3: Total equity

The reduction in total equity was primarily due to a downward revaluation of the Fremantle Marine Operation Centre building.

Note 4: Net decrease in cash held

The target reduction in cash was due to the planned use of internal cash balances to fund the planned capital program. During the course of the year it became apparent that the capital program could only be achieved with additional funding. Approval was given to increase the drawdown of cash from the holding accounts.

Note 5: Approved full-time equivalent (FTE)

The increase in FTEs is reflective of activity levels being greater than approved expenditure levels as described in note 1 above.

How we operate



Governance

Our Corporate Executive



The Department's Corporate Executive: (left to right) Darren Foster (Darren left the Department in March 2017), Bruno Mezzatesta, Heather Brayford, Kieth Van Dongen and Dr Rick Fletcher

Heather Brayford BSc, MBA

Director General

Heather Brayford was appointed Director General of the Department in April 2015. Previously, she held the position of Deputy Director General. Heather has more than 30 years' experience in fisheries and aquatic resource management, and aquaculture management. She also held the position of Executive Director of Fisheries in the Northern Territory and has been a two-term Director of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

Darren Foster BA, Grad. Dip. Arts (History)

Deputy Director General

Darren Foster was appointed Deputy Director General in November 2015, with responsibility for aquaculture, aquatic management, legal services, environment and

biosecurity. Darren left the Department on a secondment to Premier and Cabinet in March 2017.

Dr Rick Fletcher, BSc (Hons), PhD

Executive Director, Science and Resource Assessment

Dr Rick Fletcher was appointed as Executive Director, Science and Resource Assessment, in 2006. This position is responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of our science and assessment group, which provides the information needed to underpin our successful aquatic resource management programs. Rick has more than 30 years' experience conducting and managing science and governance programs for fisheries and aquaculture-related issues across multiple jurisdictions in Australia and the South Pacific, including in the position of Director of Research for New South Wales Fisheries. His recent research focus has been on 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 our Regional Services Division, which includes community education and compliance, licensing and communications. Before this role, Bruno was Director of our Corporate Services Division. He has more than 30 years' experience in the public sector, including periods with the Office of the Auditor General and the Department of Treasury.

Kieth Van Dongen, BA, Grad. Dip. Criminal Investigation,

Grad. Cert. (Forensic Archaeology)

Executive Director, Corporate Services

Kieth Van Dongen is responsible for our Corporate Services Division, which includes people services, information communication technology, records, finance, assets, procurement and internal audit. Before this role, Kieth was Regional Manager, Gascoyne Region. He has more than 25 years' experience in the public sector, including periods with the Office of the Public Advocate, Ministry of Justice and the Northern Territory Police Service.

Management Committee

The Management Committee is responsible for assisting the Corporate Executive in setting the Department's work agenda against identified fisheries and aquatic management priorities within a five-year plan. Taking a strategic and risk-based approach to establishing priorities, the committee's role includes setting clear objectives and allocating associated budgets; coordinating project planning, management, monitoring and reporting; and ensuring effective, efficient and accountable service delivery across the organisation.

The committee includes our four executive directors and the Director, Aquatic Management.

Internal Audit Committee

The Internal Audit Committee maintains and manages our internal audit function on behalf of the Director General. The committee assists the Director General to identify and quantify risks to the Department in achieving our goals, and to guide the development and implementation of risk-mitigation strategies.

Joint Consultative Committee

The Joint Consultative Committee acts as a consultative mechanism between management and nominated 'workplace' representatives of the Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association of WA (CPSU/CSA) for the exchange of information regarding decisions that impact staff.

Occupational Safety and Health Committee

The Department has an active and engaged Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Committee made up of elected employee representatives and management representatives. The committee discusses OSH issues, policies and procedures and makes recommendations for continuous improvement in the area of staff wellbeing.

Our organisational structure

Figure 1: The Department of Fisheries organisational structure.

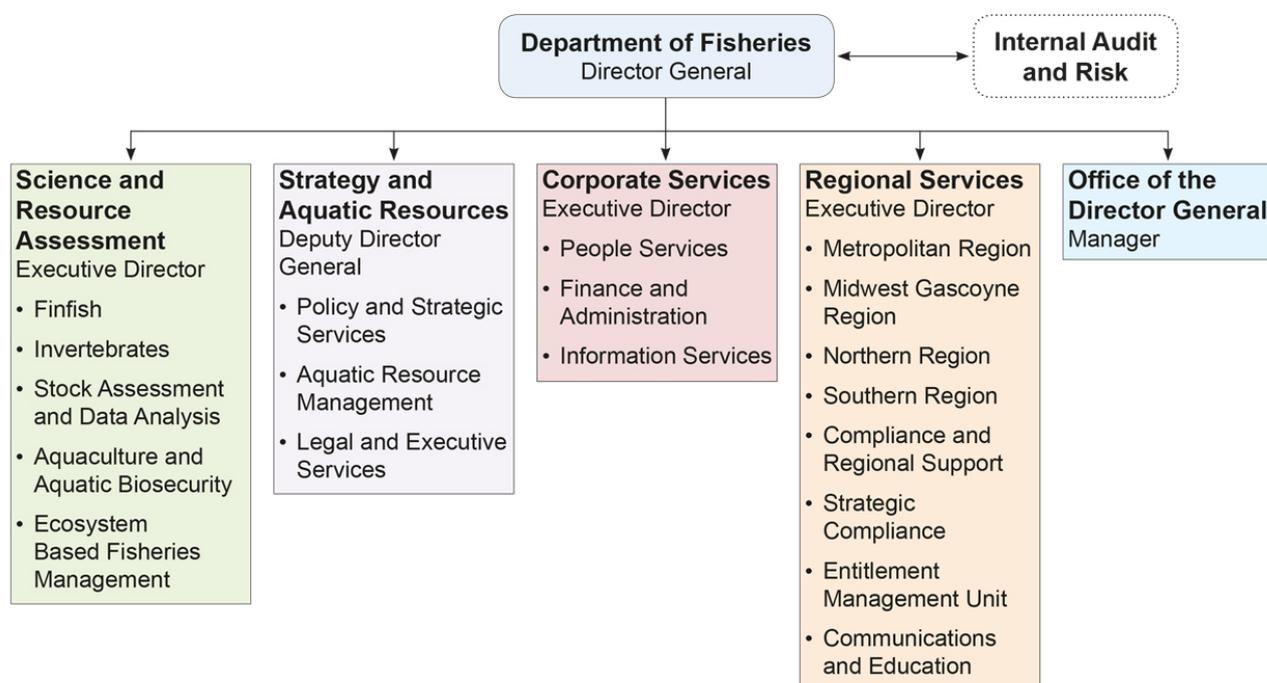


Figure 1 above illustrates our organisational structure. The Director General (with the Corporate Executive) has responsibility for overseeing the Department’s strategic direction and performance in line with our desired outcome: The conservation and sustainable development of the State’s fish resources. The Department’s Internal Audit and Risk function and Corporate Executive, led by the Director General, further ensures the desired outcome is collectively achieved by the Department’s four key divisions:

1. **Strategy and Aquatic Resources Division** – overseen by the Deputy Director General and includes the Policy and Strategic Services, Aquatic Resources Management, and Legal and Executive Services branches.
2. **Regional Services Division** – overseen by Executive Director Regional Services and includes the Metropolitan Region, Mid-West/Gascoyne Region, Northern Region, Southern Region, Compliance Management, Strategic Compliance, Entitlement Management Unit, and Communications and Education branches.
3. **Science and Resource Assessment Division** – overseen by the Executive Director Science and Resource Assessment and includes the Finfish, Invertebrates, Stock Assessment and Data Analysis, Aquaculture and Aquatic Biosecurity, and Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management branches

4. **Corporate Services Division** – overseen by the Executive Director Corporate Services and includes the People Services, Finance and Administration, and Information Services branches.

Our divisions

Strategy and Aquatic Resources Division

Our Strategy and Aquatic Resources Division works with our Science and Resource Assessment and Regional Services divisions to develop, implement and review management strategies aimed at ensuring the sustainability of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems. We carry out fisheries management through the branches below.

Our **Aquatic Resources Management Branch** manages the State's commercial, recreational and customary fishing covering an array of fish, crustacean and molluscs and stretching across temperate and tropical waters. In addition, the branch is responsible for managing the pearling industry, land and marine-based aquaculture, and the aquatic charter industry, as well as overseeing statewide fisheries administration.

It manages and regulates Western Australia's aquaculture industry, which is currently showing signs of substantial growth.

The **Policy and Strategic Services Branch** provides input to the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC), which advises the Minister for Fisheries on fish resource allocations between commercial, recreational and customary users. It develops policy and procedures to protect fish and their habitats throughout WA. This includes protecting aquatic biodiversity and safeguarding the State's aquatic biosecurity.

It also provides advice for environmental impact assessments and contributes to state, Commonwealth and regional marine planning initiatives. Freshwater fish protection and management are part of its remit.

Our **Legal and Executive Branch** oversees and develops the Department's legislative framework. It provides the Department with legal and strategic policy advice, legal interpretation, litigation services and management of matters coming before the State Administrative Tribunal.

It coordinates our regulatory 'gate-keeping' requirements and collaborates with the State Law Publisher to maintain up-to-date versions of the Department's legislation on its website for the benefit of stakeholders and the wider community.

Regional Services Division

Our Regional Services Division is responsible for our communications, education, enforcement and licensing activities. These activities ensure fishing rules are understood and followed, helping us meet our fish for the future objective.

The various activities are developed and delivered by the branches below:

Our **Regional Services Branches** deliver fisheries compliance and education in recreational and commercial fisheries, the pearling and aquaculture industries, and in fish habitat protection areas and marine parks.

Enforcement activities carried out by the branch include marine, land and sea patrols, aerial surveillance, covert operations, high profile mobile patrols and intelligence driven operations. The branch has four regional offices – Mid-West/Gascoyne, Metropolitan, North and South each having a number of district offices and metropolitan specialist units. The regionally-based staff deliver statewide biosecurity, shark hazard and fish kill responses.

These regional operational areas are supported by our Perth-based Central Support Services, Strategic Compliance Policy and Shark Response Unit sections.

The Regional Services Division also supports marine safety initiatives through marine safety, compliance and education on behalf of the Department of Transport.

Our **Entitlement Management Branch** provides and oversees licensing for commercial fishing, recreational fishing, pearling and aquaculture. It manages our licensing systems (FLAMS and Navigate) and online renewal and payment services. It also maintains a register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases, as required under Part 12 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*. The branch also manages the compliance with quota allocations in fisheries managed against a set quota.

Our **Communications and Education Branch** builds community knowledge, values and attitudes to promote behaviour that supports a healthy aquatic environment.

The branch does this through a range of online, digital and printed communication tools and engagement activities. Through these channels the branch informs the local community and visitors about developments in fisheries management, marine science and compliance to promote adherence to fishing rules and support of our fish for the future ethos.

Science and Resource Assessment Division

The primary role of our Science and Resource Assessment Division is to provide scientific research information and objective risk-based advice to support the management, conservation and sustainable use of the State's fishery resources and aquatic environment.

Ongoing monitoring and assessment programs support the management of the State's major fish stocks and the marine ecosystems that underpin these resources.

The Division works in collaboration with various other organisations with an interest in the maintenance of sustainable fisheries and marine ecosystems including universities, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australian Institute of Marine Science, Western Australian Museum, Department of Parks and Wildlife, other State agencies that operate in the marine environment, Commonwealth fisheries and environment agencies and border protection agencies.

The Science and Resource Assessment Division is organised into the five branches below.

Our **Invertebrate Branch** undertakes scientific programs to assess and monitor the crustacean, molluscan and other invertebrate stocks that constitute the State's major fisheries including rock lobsters, prawns, pearl oysters, scallops, abalone and crabs. These fisheries support export values of over \$400 million as well as valuable recreational fisheries.

Our **Finfish Branch** undertakes scientific programs to assess and monitor the State's diverse finfish resources. Some of the species monitored include West Australian dhufish, pink snapper and red emperor – all indicator species for the health of demersal scalefish resources. Other indicator species monitored and assessed include other temperate and tropical shallow water and deep water demersal species, sharks, and estuarine and nearshore species such as bream, whiting and Australian herring.

These species are harvested by commercial fishers (supplying local, national and overseas seafood markets), the recreational fishing sector and the managed recreational charter fishing sector.

Our **Aquaculture and Aquatic Biosecurity Branch** undertakes research and monitoring activities in order to provide evidence-based advice relating to aquatic animal health,

biosecurity and aquaculture. The branch oversees the State's aquatic biosecurity and fish pathology monitoring services, undertakes freshwater fish production research, manages the production of trout and native fish species, supports the development of marine aquaculture industry and is responsible for the management of the Department's marine aquarium facilities. It also provides chemical and molecular testing and environmental data collection and analytical support for the wider division and maintains the Department's statewide fish kill response program.

Our **Surveys, Assessments and Data Analyses Branch** (SADA) is responsible for statistical design and analysis, resource risk assessment, data management, monitoring of fishery catch and effort, recreational fishing and community surveys, and Departmental library services.

SADA collects and maintains fisheries catch and effort data. The branch develops and implements databases to improve the capture and maintenance of the Department's extensive data from long-term commercial fisheries, recreational and charter boat sectors. Combining fishery data with biological data, the branch undertakes statistical analysis and risk assessment of fisheries and their associated resources.

This branch also organises and conducts all major recreational fishing catch and community and stakeholder attitude surveys, the results of which are used for some of our key performance indicators.

Our **Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Branch** (EBFM) is a new branch with dedicated staff that support and help coordinate the compilation of information and inputs needed to support the submissions required to meet Marine Stewardship Council full assessment and annual audit criteria. The branch also monitors the health of marine ecosystems including benthic (seabed and reef) habitats plus the levels of bycatch and interactions of fisheries with listed and protected species.

Corporate Services Division

Our Corporate Services Division provides a range of professional services and support systems in human resources (HR) management, finance and administration, and information technology and knowledge management to assist the Department in delivering its services effectively and efficiently meeting its statutory reporting requirements.

Our **People Services Branch** provides services across a range of strategic and transactional functional areas. We manage our own in-house payroll service and HR management system plus operational HR services including recruitment, job design and classification, and workforce data reporting. The branch delivers HR policy, strategy and program development, workforce planning, training and development services, occupational safety and wellbeing programs. The People Services Branch also provides management advisory services covering all HR areas, including employee conduct and behaviour, industrial relations and performance management.

Our **Finance and Administration Branch** provides accounting services including the payment of invoices, receipt of payments, preparation of financial statements, bank account reconciliations, management of credit cards and maintenance of the asset register. The budget area coordinates the preparation of State budget papers, manages the interaction with Treasury and coordinates internal budgets and management reporting processes. The administration group looks after the Department's building assets, accommodation leases, facilities management, asset maintenance, vehicle fleet management and asset investment program.

The **Information Services Branch** delivers services to ensure that departmental decisions are based on the best information available within the Department. To this end, the Information Services Branch delivers support for the management of records and their supporting databases, information and communications technology and software used by the Department.

Our operations

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

- Our Science and Resource Assessment Division operates out of our Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories in Hillarys, the Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre and at our Fish Health Section in South Perth.
- Our Communications and Education Branch is based at our Hillarys centre and our Regional Services Branch also runs some compliance operations from there.
- Our Marine Operations Centre and the Metropolitan Regional Office are in premises in Capo D'Orlando Drive in Fremantle.

- Our Regional Services Division has four regional offices – Broome, Geraldton, Fremantle and Albany – and 15 district offices located throughout the State. We operate the Saville Kent Centre field station on Rat Island at the Houtman Abrolhos Islands. The Abrolhos Islands Research Institute is located at Separation Point in Geraldton.
- Our Fisheries Operations Centre in South Perth is where our Biosecurity Compliance Unit and the Rock Lobster Quota Management Unit is located.

The Watermans Bay Marine Centre has been refurbished as part of a collaborative project with the Australian Institute of Marine Science, CSIRO and the Oceans Institute at the University of Western Australia. It opened in 2015, forming part of the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre and will bring together more than 200 researchers carrying out projects in oceanography, fisheries and marine ecology, technologies and engineering.

Addresses and contact details for all our offices can be found on our website in the 'Contact us' section. [View the contact us section on our website.](#)¹

¹ <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Contact-Us/Pages/default.aspx>

Performance management framework

The Department directly contributes to 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'. Our services are aimed at achieving 'the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources', the Government's stated 'desired outcome' for the Department.

Successfully managing the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources and aquatic environment is based on a continuing interchange of information between fisheries managers, researchers and fishers. Robust legislation, targeted enforcement and community education programs play a crucial role in achieving these outcomes.

When these elements combine effectively, fisheries and their environments are usually sustainable. If they do not, fish resources and aquatic environments can be put at significant risk.

Our services are organised to ensure the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources and the aquatic environment. We do this through the following service areas.

Service 1 – Fisheries management includes the development of policy and procedural frameworks for the management of the State's fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic environment including legislation and management plans, consultation with fishing industry stakeholders and the community.

Service 2 – Enforcement and education 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.

Service 3 – Research and assessment provides scientific knowledge for the sustainable management of the State's fisheries and aquatic resources and the associated environment.

Performance evaluation and reporting

We report on our performance through key performance indicators that contain a mix of high level effectiveness and efficiency indicators.

Effectiveness indicators show the extent to which we achieved our goal of conserving and sustainably developing the State's aquatic resources.

Efficiency indicators are a measure of the cost of resources used in the delivery of individual services.

Measuring effectiveness in fisheries management presents challenges to fisheries management agencies worldwide. Therefore, we use dynamic scientific modelling and robust reporting and assessment systems to estimate the abundance of fish and measure our effectiveness in achieving the sustainability of fish stocks and the aquatic environment. The results of this work are published annually in our *Status reports of the fisheries and aquatic resources of Western Australia* (the Status Reports). [View the Status Reports](#)² on our website.

The Status Reports form a snapshot of fisheries sustainability over the preceding 12 to 18 months. We use it, in consultation with stakeholders' feedback, to review fisheries past management results. Together with current scientific observations, it informs decisions about the priorities for fisheries and environmental management, research, compliance and education in the year under review and future years.

The Status Reports document is tabled in Parliament along with our Annual Report. [Go to the Stock status and catch ranges for major fisheries](#) in Appendix 1 on page 174 for a summary from the Status Reports' fisheries sustainability results for 2016/17.

² <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Publications/Pages/State-of-the-Fisheries-report.aspx>

Outcome-based management structure

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.’

Objectives	Key performance indicators
‘Conservation and sustainable development of the State’s fish resources’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of fish stocks identified as at risk or vulnerable through exploitation. • The proportion of commercial fisheries where catches or effort levels is acceptable. • The proportion of recreational fisheries where catches or effort levels is acceptable. • The volume of State commercial fisheries (including aquaculture) production. • The participation rate in recreational fishing. • The satisfaction rating of the broader community and stakeholders as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department is achieving aquatic resource management objectives.
Fisheries management	The average cost per hour of management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments)
Enforcement and education	The average cost per hour of enforcement and education
Research and assessment	The average cost per hour of research and assessment

Table 3: How the Department’s outcome-based management structure works.

Table 3 above illustrates the Government’s Outcome Based Managed Framework for the Department of Fisheries. The Department’s ‘Desired Outcome’ for ‘the conservation and sustainable development of the State’s fish resources’ sits under the Government 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. Key indicators are a measure of our effectiveness in achieving the conservation and sustainable development of the State’s fish resources. They also measure the efficiency of the delivery of our services by the average cost per hour of our fisheries management,

enforcement and education and research and assessment services that we deliver on behalf of the community.

The Department also participated in cross-agency initiatives with the Department of Parks and Wildlife to manage the State's marine parks at Lalang-garrum (Camden sound), Ngari Capes and the Great Kimberley Marine Park.

Contribution to other Government goals

During 2016/17, we also contributed to achieving the following Government goals:

Financial and economic responsibility

We continue to achieve more efficient use of the Government's marine patrol vessels by collaborating on management, compliance and research responsibilities in the marine environment with other government agencies including the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Department of Transport and the Western Australian Museum.

Stronger focus on the regions

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

About 75 per cent of departmental expenditure is allocated to activities of benefit to regional communities.

How we performed



Outcomes

Below we outline the environmental, economic, social and internal management outcomes achieved during 2016/17. They are presented against the objectives and strategies of our *Strategic Plan 2016-2020*, which is designed to achieve the Government's 'Desired Outcome' for the Department of Fisheries: 'The conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.'

Objective 1: Community and stakeholder benefits

Working together to provide value to, and to be valued by, the community and stakeholders.

Strategy 1.1 Promote sustainable management of aquatic resources and ecosystems to the community.

- Three fisheries successfully completed the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification process including the South Sea pearl industry, WA Abalone Fishery, and the West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery.
- The West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery was recertified by MSC for the third time in May 2017.
- The Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed fisheries underwent the first annual audit of their MSC Certification. Most conditions were on target with one condition 'closed out' (complete) for each fishery at first audit.
- We completed an abalone harvest strategy in consultation with stakeholders during 2016/17.
- The Department undertook a comprehensive review of finfish size limits in consultation with our stakeholders and, in 2016, we adopted a formal policy that provides a framework for the application of size limits in Western Australia.
- In March 2017, we extended our social media program to include corporate Facebook and Twitter accounts, further promoting awareness of the Department's leadership in fisheries and aquatic resource management. Communicating through these platforms has also strengthened our capacity to build relationships with customers, communities and other stakeholders, providing an opportunity for two-way engagement with clients and stakeholders. In its first four months, our Facebook and Twitter pages have built up a sizeable audience with nearly 4,000 followers on Facebook and nearly 500 on

Twitter. Our audience is actively engaged, with each post and tweet consistently resulting in an audience reach in the tens of thousands and sometimes more.

- We continued to send out our e-newsletter, *Catch!* (sent to more than 85,000 recreational fishers every two months), providing information on a range of topics from fishing rules updates to updates on the status of popular fish stocks. The newsletter is open to all subscribers and is directly offered to people purchasing or renewing a recreational fishing licence on our website. In addition, we send out our *Fish eNews* e-newsletter, which provides news on the State, national and international commercial fishing industry to anyone involved, or interested, in the WA fishing and seafood industries.
- We completed a three-year Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund project that adopted a Citizen Science approach to engage local crabbing communities in the Swan-Canning Estuary, the Leschenault Estuary and Geographe Bay to develop cost-effective methods that deliver information annually on recreational crabbing in these fisheries.
- The number of interactions between whales and rock lobster gear was contained to a relatively low level of four in 2016, reflecting the success of the gear modifications introduced in 2014.
- We successfully implemented and completed an observer program in conjunction with industry and the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council on south coast purse seine fishery vessels to quantify seabird interactions and mortalities, in accordance with MSC pre-assessments and reflecting our Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management approach.
- We delivered aquatic biosecurity training workshops to traditional owners in the Kimberley, as part of the broader Great Kimberley Marine Park education program. More than 60 indigenous rangers attended, supported by the Kimberley Land Council, the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Yawuru, Dambimangari and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal ranger groups in Broome and further north. The training enables the rangers to identify and report aquatic pests, diseases and fish kills in the north of the State. The Department and Dambimangari rangers also delivered aquatic biosecurity classes to junior rangers and over 60 students at the Derby District High School.
- In 2016, working in partnership with the University of Western Australia (UWA), we published research showing the endemic freshwater western minnow assists in the control of mosquito-borne disease in south-west WA by predated upon mosquito larvae. With UWA and the Department of Health, we evaluated mosquito larvae

predation by estuarine species in the Peel-Harvey region to control mosquito-borne disease.

- In 2016, in collaboration with university researchers (Murdoch University and UWA), we identified that half of the endemic freshwater fish in south-west WA are now listed as threatened. The study also identified that the remaining endemic species, not yet listed as threatened, are now absent from most permanent waterbodies on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Strategy 1.2 Ensure appropriate consultation and funding arrangements with stakeholders.

- In 2016, we established an Aquaculture Research Management Group, to work collaboratively with the Aquaculture Council of WA (ACWA) to ensure a joined-up industry/government approach to prioritising the research and development needs of the developing Western Australian Aquaculture industry.
- We developed and implemented stakeholder engagement guidelines to provide increased opportunities for stakeholder engagement in the Department's decision-making processes

Strategy 1.3 Provide frameworks and supporting systems to enable growth and development of fisheries and aquaculture resources.

- During 2016/17, our aquaculture research focused on the development of bivalve aquaculture in the State with work undertaken at the Albany multi-species hatchery. This has involved identifying suitable bivalve species for aquaculture development, as well as addressing issues associated with bivalve spat settlement and off-migration. In addition, significant work has been undertaken on assessing the genetic diversity of various bivalve species (e.g. scallops and edible oyster species) to provide science-based policy guidance to the developing industry on likely permissible scenarios for animal movements that will not pose unacceptable genetic consequences.
- In early 2017, a million-dollar State Government commitment was made to support the Development of the Watermans Fish Health Laboratory, a state-of-the-art facility specifically designed to deliver research and investigative needs of the developing Western Australian aquaculture industry, with a focus on aquatic animal health. The facility will provide a key hub for interaction with industry, providing a range of support, training and advisory services and for supporting and coordinating collaborative

government, academic and industry research programs in the field of aquaculture and aquatic animal health.

- In 2016, we produced and stocked around 500,000 fish for public recreational fishing, particularly in artificial impoundments, and in 2017, we established a breeding population of marron to support research that can potentially lead to the enhancement of the recreational marron fishing experience. The hatchery production and stocking for these sustainable recreational fisheries is funded by licence revenue.
- The Department submitted its strategic proposal for the Mid West Aquaculture Development Zone under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* public environmental review process. As a component of the environmental assessment, the strategic proposal was published as a fisheries publication with public comment and input invited for consideration by the Environmental Protection Authority (go to our [Fisheries in action](#) section on page 57 for more information).
- We are reviewing a three-year quota management trial for scallops in Shark Bay. The quota system has provided industry and the Department with certainty around total annual catch for the recovering stock and increased security of access for licence holders.

Strategy 1.4 Work with national, state and regional partners, and with stakeholders to achieve government outcomes and priorities

- The invertebrate trawl staff assisted with sample collection from key prawn fisheries for a national traceability project, funded through the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) national prawn industry partnership agreement.
- We have continued to support FRDC's national *Status of Australian Fish Stocks* reporting process in delivering the third biennial report in 2016 – this included leading or contributing to 45 national species reports.
- A research workshop was held with partners of the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre (UWA, Australian Institute of Marine Science and the Department) to identify areas of current and future collaborations between the partners.
- Our biosecurity research team continued to lead work at national and international levels to ensure a joined-up approach to biosecurity research and the development of state-of-the art surveillance methods, now being implemented throughout the state to greatly increase our capacity for the early detection of unwanted marine pest species.
- We are working with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) to align with developing national management arrangements for

biofouling and ballast water on vessels, under the federal *Biosecurity Act 2016*.

Workshops with multiple state agencies and other stakeholders were held to ensure the national arrangements fit with state legislative requirements and protect high-value State assets.

- In line with a WA Government commitment to provide services to the Indian Ocean Territories (IOTs), there continues to be a service level agreement between the Minister for Fisheries and the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to provide fisheries management, research, community education and compliance services at the IOTs.
- The Department is working with the Department of Premier and Cabinet and other government departments on the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions (SAPPR). The SAPPR is a WA Government priority which seeks to streamline approvals (particularly Commonwealth) for major developments over the next 20 years in the Perth and Peel Regions, taking into account forecast population growth and matters of national environmental significance.
- The Department worked with the Shark Monitoring Systems company, local government, Curtin University and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to trial the 'Clever Buoy' shark detection technology at City Beach (go to our [Fisheries in action](#) section on page 59 for more information).
- In 2017, we implemented the WA Government's rebate scheme for purchasers of approved shark deterrent devices and expanded the State's shark monitoring system by deploying two new satellite-linked receivers off the coast of Esperance (go to our [Fisheries in action](#) section on page 59 for more information).
- We have continued to support the establishment of artificial reefs funded through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund to enhance recreational fishing opportunities (go to our [Fisheries in action](#) section on page 64 for more information).
- In February 2017, the Department undertook a new initiative to survey community and stakeholder views on licence sanctions to assist in the preparation of sanction guidelines. The survey indicated overwhelming community support for the use of licence sanctions for a range of serious offences.

Strategy 1.5 Have regard for social and economic considerations in addition to ecological outcomes in decision making.

- We undertook a collaborative project with a number of Shark Bay Prawn Fishery licence holders to identify ways to improve the economic performance of the fishery

through bio-economic modelling of the daily costs and revenue of fishing and assessing the value of closures near the full moon periods.

- The Department worked with the Western Rock Lobster Council (WRLC) in a trial initiative in late 2016, to enable local residents, tourists and local businesses to access fresh, locally caught rock lobster in regional Western Australia. The trial, which concluded in April 2017, allowed the master of an active fishing boat to sell 50 rock lobster locally and in some cases from the back of the boat. Eight tonnes of rock lobster entered local markets and communities in this way. The trial received positive community feedback and we are working with WRLC with a view to continuing and developing the initiative. We also relaxed rules relating to taking rock lobsters on fishing charters. This will allow the fishing charter industry to offer a broader range of fishing and seafood related experiences.
- The Department launched *Operation Bagana* with a focus on rock lobster fishery offences, particularly those that involved interfering with other people's fishing gear. The 'Don't risk your boat' campaign was complemented by the use of sophisticated surveillance and other compliance checks on land and sea, day and night. We partnered with other environmental and law enforcement agencies to help gather intelligence and target offenders, as well as appealing to the community through a variety of media and communication channels to encourage them to come forward with information to support the operation (go to our [Fisheries in action](#) section on page 66 for more information).
- Two draft harvest strategies (for the Gascoyne demersal scalefish resource and the Australian herring resource) were developed and released for public comment during 2016/17.
- In early 2017, the Shark Bay Crab Stock Assessment Working Group, comprised of Department staff and industry representatives, was established to develop a harvest strategy for the fishery that will guide annual total allowable commercial catch recommendations and overall management decisions.

Objective 2: Sustainability

Sustainably managing WA's aquatic resources and fisheries through a risk-based, dynamic and adaptive approach, and supporting resilient aquatic resources and ecosystems by being responsive to changing conditions and management needs.

Strategy 2.1 Ensure all significant impacts on aquatic resources and ecosystems are understood and managed according to risk.

- The monitoring of invertebrate stocks affected on the extreme marine heatwave of the summer of 2010/11 has shown the recovery of scallop stocks in Shark Bay and the Abrolhos Islands, the crab stocks in Shark Bay and the tiger prawn stocks in Exmouth Gulf (go to our [Fisheries in action](#) section on page 60 for more information).
- A reassessment of the risks for the full set of aquatic resources identified for Western Australia through the Ecosystem Based Fishery Management (EBFM) initiative was completed in 2016/17. These 80 regional-level risks are taken into account for the Department's planning processes to determine appropriate adjustments in agency-wide priorities and activities.
- A risk assessment of the western rock lobster fishery, based on EBFM principles, was undertaken assessing ecological, economic and social factors relating to the fishery's management as well as associated governance issues.
- We changed management from effort controls to catch quota controls for Shark Bay scallop and crab fisheries to make the fishery more sustainable and resource-sharing between the prawn trawl fishery, scallop trawl fishery and crab trap fishery more equitable. The new approach also provides fishers with greater flexibility around when they fish the resource.
- In 2016/17, the Department continued to progress the south coast line and net fishery review and, in September 2016, we released the *Review of South Coast Commercial Fish Trap, G-net and Open-Access Line, Net and Squid Jig Fisheries – South Coast Independent Access Panel's (IAP) draft report* for public comment. After feedback on the draft, the IAP provided its final report to the Department in November 2016. The Department continues to work on the review with a view to establishing new management plans for south coast line, fish trap, squid jig and net fisheries by the end of 2018.
- A review of abalone aquaculture was undertaken with a subsequent paper published in May 2017.
- Fishing resumed in the Abrolhos Island and Mid-West Trawl Managed Fishery for scallops after a five-year closure due to adverse environmental conditions with over 100 tonnes of scallop meat landed and positive signs for fishing in 2018. A scallop stock enhancement project is also taking place at the Abrolhos, with scallops tagged and translocated from recovering areas to historical areas of abundance that have

shown limited signs of recovery (go to our [Fisheries in action](#) section on page 60 for more information).

- There were a number of fish kill responses launched in 2016/17, including repeated fish kill events in the Murray River.
- The Department worked closely with state and federal stakeholders in an emergency response to the significant threat posed by the white spot disease outbreak which occurred in Queensland during 2016/17. This involved increased levels of surveillance of imported product, regulatory control, national representation and stakeholder education in order to effectively mitigate the risk to Western Australia (go to our [Fisheries in action](#) section on page 62 for more information).
- We continued to work closely with industry stakeholders (Chevron Australia, Ports WA and Curtin University) to continue to validate and implement new marine surveillance tools. This new program uses both passive and active surveillance measures with the objective of identifying the first stages of any marine pest invasion.
- Our biosecurity staff managed an incident in which Asian green mussel, a nationally significant marine pest not established in Australia, had been detected on the hull of a cruise ship. We worked with the cruise company and port authorities to minimise the risk of the mussels spreading into WA. Multiple dives, supervised by specialist biosecurity compliance staff, took place to remove any pest mussels. This reduced the risk sufficiently to enable the vessel to continue operating until it could be fully cleaned when subsequently dry-docked. The response balanced the need to protect the State's marine environment and the importance of cruise ship stop-overs to our regional towns and their economies.
- We ran Operation SAKAR in February 2017 over a two-week period targeting the importation to WA of noxious and high-risk fish through the domestic airport. The level of trade, value and fish species coming into the State was not previously known and this information will assist with the formation of policy in this area and inform the development of regulations under the new *Aquatic Resource Management Act* and future biosecurity management.
- We launched the completed version of 'Vessel Check', an online biofouling risk assessment tool for stakeholders to assess the risk of marine pests on incoming vessels to WA. The fully automated tool is now state standard for biofouling risk assessment, and is available online to all commercial stakeholders such as shipping managers, biofouling inspectors, and the environmental managers in the oil and gas

sector. This tool empowers stakeholders to take responsibility for managing marine biosecurity risks for themselves.

Strategy 2.2 Share the State's aquatic resources and ecosystems in an equitable, open, transparent and sustainable manner.

- Aarli Mayi Aquaculture Project Pty Ltd was granted a licence and lease for a site in the Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone and MPA Fish Farms Pty Ltd was granted approval to expand its operational area within the zone. The zone is now fully allocated with MPA Fish Farms Pty Ltd and Aarli Mayi Aquaculture Project Pty Ltd authorised to grow, respectively, 15,000 and 5,000 tonnes of barramundi per annum.
- In November 2016 the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee released its draft allocation report on its proposals for the allocation of the *Pinctada maxima* pearl oyster resource. At the same time, the Department released its integrated fisheries management resource report on the *P. maxima* resource.

Strategy 2.3 Ensure legislation meets contemporary fisheries and aquatic resource management requirements.

- The new *Aquatic Resources Management Act* was passed by Parliament on 17 November 2016 and will provide significant opportunities for us to enhance fisheries management arrangements in Western Australia for long-term sustainability, including a focus on risk-based resource management and strengthening of access rights for the commercial and recreational fishing sectors. The new legislation will also provide enhanced capacity for aquaculture and aquatic biosecurity management. The Act will commence on 1 January 2019.
- The Department is working to streamline aquaculture approval processes through implementation of the recommendations from the Department of Finance's '90 day red tape review'. The Department has prepared an implementation plan, revised the administrative guidelines for assessing applications and is in the process of implementing other recommendations identified in the review.

Objective 3: Management excellence

Striving for excellence through strong accountability and governance systems, and effective and efficient practices across all areas of the Department.

Strategy 3.1 Use risk-based approaches for all agency resource management and planning decisions.

- The Department reached formal agreement with the Shark Bay Prawn Trawler Operator's Association for the provision of aggregated VMS information to assist and enhance the management of voluntary area closures within the fishery. The arrangement has been successful in improving both voluntary and statutory closed area compliance. Using a risk-based approach this has supported decision making for increased use of voluntary closures to manage both economic and sustainability closures, thereby reducing statutory resourcing and costs. It has also increased operational flexibility for licensees.
- During 2016/17, the Department led a national project to build a model for measuring the effectiveness of compliance effort to ensure that resources are efficiently deployed.
- During the year, the Department transitioned a further 29 commercial fisheries into a licensing system capable of facilitating electronic transaction processing by clients.
- A portal to allow fishers to apply for commercial fishing licences online was implemented and a payment portal was introduced during 2016/17 to allow for online payments for infringement notices.

Strategy 3.2 Promote and maintain a high performance, agile culture with staff working together to achieve our priorities.

- During 2016/17, the Department refreshed its performance management system and greatly increased the number of staff engaging in performance management.
- Our Corporate Services Division continued to support and coach managers dealing with workplace performance and other issues, making managers more confident and capable.
- In 2016/17, the Department continued work to support women in leadership, with a series of events featuring presentations from inspirational women in leadership positions.
- We increased our use of online training, engaging with a new flexible online learning platform, to ensure efficient delivery of tailored information to all staff. We continued to support the development of senior managers attending and participating in whole of sector training courses and seminars.
- We progressed the Department's recordkeeping program with a review of the recordkeeping plan and the development and implementation of policies and

procedures. Consultation, training and support was conducted across the Department including within regional offices.

Strategy 3.3 Develop and align strategy and resource management of finances, our staff, physical infrastructure, information and technology to support the delivery of Department priorities.

- Electronic catch reporting through our *Fish Eye* system has been developed for the Marine Aquarium Fishery and is included as an operational part of a new integrated management plan.
- In 2016/17, we enhanced the integration of our finance and payroll systems including system processes, interfaces and activities to allow managers to review and track monthly and year-to-date expenditure against budget improving financial management within the Department.
- In 2016, we launched *Map Portal*, a simple-to-use interactive map viewer that provides staff with access to fishing and other government location information for better situation awareness.
- We have continued to manage staff leave to reduce agency leave liability, while ensuring the Department's high priority activities continue and strategic objectives are met.
- In the 2016/17 financial year, through comprehensive analysis and management of leave records, following disengagement from the now defunct Shared Services system, the Department was able to satisfy the Office of the Auditor General that our employee benefit calculations are reliable.
- Our digital transformation continued in 2016/17 with improved online application and data capture systems for commercial fishers and receivers. We enhanced our enforcement capacity with a new mobile application to check recreational fishing licenses. We improved access to shark monitoring for the public and simplified some administrative processes by creating online forms, simplified charts and process maps.
- In 2016/17, we launched a *Go Digital* program to move the Department towards a wholly digital recordkeeping environment. This has improved access to information and reduced the risk of losing it as well as improving the security and confidentiality of records. An environmentally friendly measure, it has also substantially reduced the use of paper, ink and toner.

Strategy 3.4 Ensure that our greatest asset (our people) are valued and their welfare is a priority.

- We refreshed our Strategic Plan during the year, with an emphasis on involvement of staff from across the Department. A collaborative review of corporate values and an internal communications plan followed, which were implemented within the year.
- We continued to develop and implement our mental health strategy with a broadened focus from suicide prevention to general mental health. We were named as finalists in the 2017 Mentally Healthy Workplace Awards.
- RUOK? Day was promoted in 2016 with the theme 'Look Deeper to Support a Colleague'.
- Following our Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) audit and Silver Worksafe Accreditation, our risk-based OSH improvement plan is in place, and work is under way to address priorities.
- Our grievance management policy and procedures have been reviewed and updated, introducing a new complaint form to enable easier reporting. These are available for employees on our Intranet.
- We have incorporated a dedicated gift and secondary employment declaration process into our conduct and behaviour policy and procedure, to facilitate reporting and decision making.

Fisheries in action



Cutting red tape to help grow the aquaculture industry



Aerial photo of an Abrolhos island near to the site of the proposed Mid-West aquaculture development.

Western Australia's second large-scale aquaculture development zone was recommended for approval by the Environmental Protection Authority in April – a significant step in developing the WA industry's aquaculture production capacity.

The 3,000 hectare Mid-West Aquaculture Development Zone (MWADZ), to be located at the Abrolhos Islands, will use floating sea cages to grow marine finfish that naturally occur within the region.

Critical for the proposal's approval, the zone will have set limits on tonnes of fish to be cultured and stocking densities to mitigate against any negative environmental impacts resulting from the operations.

As part of its commitment to developing a sustainable marine aquaculture industry, Government continues to support the establishment of aquaculture development zones for marine finfish. An aquaculture development zone is a designated area of water selected for its suitability for a specific aquaculture sector (in this case, marine finfish).

These zones provide 'investment ready' platforms with strategic environmental approvals and management policies already in place, allowing commercial aquaculture operations to be set up without the need for lengthy, complex and expensive approval processes.

Consequently, opportunities for existing aquaculture operations (fish farms) to expand are being created and for new ones to be established, with the objective of providing economic benefits to the local community through job creation and regional economic diversification.

Protecting ocean-users from sharks



Government adopted a renewed focus on effective measures to reduce the likelihood of a shark attack.

Government has implemented a number of initiatives to help improve community awareness of shark activity, provide protection at WA's most popular beaches and provide community safety information to allow ocean-users to make informed decisions about participating in ocean-based activities.

More than \$33 million has been invested in a broad range of shark hazard mitigation strategies, including initiatives such as helicopter and beach patrols, science, education and awareness, emerging technologies, and beach enclosures.

And, in May 2017, Government adopted a renewed focus on effective measures to reduce the likelihood of a shark attack occurring, by providing additional protection for those at most risk, including divers and surfers. These measures include a trial rebate for independently verified personal shark deterrents, funding for a beach emergency numbering system, using drones to support helicopter and beach patrols, and extending the shark monitoring network to Esperance. Funding for Surf Life Saving WA aerial and beach patrols was also secured.

Recovering the Abrolhos Islands and Shark Bay scallop fisheries



Scallops have recovered well in the Abrolhos Islands and Shark Bay fisheries following the 2010/11 marine heatwave.

In 2017, we were able to reopen the Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl Managed Fishery following an extended five-year closure after the ‘marine heatwave’ event in 2010/11.

In addition, the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery, which reopened in late 2015 after three years of closure, continued to recover well from the heatwave’s destructive impact.

During the heatwave, in some areas, temperatures rose more than 5°C above average, causing a dramatic decline in scallop stocks and prompting us to close the fisheries as the first step in a recovery program.

In late 2015, having recorded a significant increase in scallop recruitment, we were able to open Denham Sound in Shark Bay to a moderate level of commercial scallop fishing once

again under a trial quota management system limiting the overall catch to sustainable levels.

Taking a precautionary approach, northern Shark Bay remained closed to fishing, as scallop recruitment in the area had not yet increased to levels sustainable for fishing, unlike in Denham Sound.

Monitoring in 2015 again showed increased recruitment and, from a post-season workshop with commercial scallop fishers, the Shark Bay Scallop Working Group was formed to develop a total allowable commercial catch limit (TACC) for the fishery and the associated fishing arrangement recommendations.

Both Denham Sound and northern Shark Bay were opened for the 2016/17 season and a total of 163 tonnes (meat weight) were landed out of a TACC of 166 tonnes, valued at over \$6 million. By the end of 2016, Denham Sound had completely recovered with scallop abundances at the higher end of the historical range, although northern Shark Bay remained in the lower end of its historical abundance range.

As a result, the approved catch limit increased to 330 tonne meat weight (valued at more than \$12 million) for the 2017/18 season.

In the Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl Managed Fishery, after years of monitoring and sampling, our research scientists identified catch rates high enough in the southern grounds of the fishery to allow commercial fishing to recommence during 2017. More than 100 tonnes were landed in 2017, valued at in excess of \$4 million.

Prior to the closure five years ago, the Gross Value of Production of this fishery was highly variable (\$1-15 million), with an average of approximately \$6 million per year.

We continue to work closely with the commercial operators involved in scallop fishing in these fisheries to monitor the resource's status and to review management measures as stock recovery continues.

Preventing white spot syndrome virus infecting WA crustaceans



A prawn infected with white spot syndrome virus.

Following an outbreak of white spot syndrome virus at prawn farms in South East Queensland, working in close consultation with our Eastern states counterparts, we introduced tight import controls for crustaceans and worms from Queensland and New South Wales to prevent potential movement into Western Australia.

While white spot does not pose a threat to human health or food safety, if not managed it could pose a serious threat to WA stocks of prawns, crabs, lobsters and marron.

The tighter import requirements we introduced prohibit the entry into WA of all live and uncooked crustaceans and worms from north of Rockhampton, QLD, to south of Coffs Harbour in NSW (for NSW, this was a precautionary measure as white spot has not been detected there). Cooking destroys the virus, so all cooked products are still able to be imported into WA.

At the same time, we issued a white spot alert, a number of media releases and social media posts urging recreational fishers to not use food-grade prawns as bait and to report to us any signs of white spot through our FishWatch hotline.

Consequently, the outbreak has so far been successfully contained to South East Queensland.

Enhancing recreational fishing opportunities



Each year about \$20 million is spent on the management and improvement of WA recreational fisheries.

A number of projects designed to enhance the recreational fishing experience in Western Australia were launched and funded through recreational fishing licence fees throughout the year.

These projects included the deployment of two 12-metre-high 'fish tower' structure' artificial reefs between Rottnest and Garden islands – purpose-built for attracting pelagic fish such as Samson fish, yellowtail kingfish and yellowfin tuna, and providing good fishing opportunities for boat-based anglers.

The Minister for Fisheries reinvests the equivalent of 25 per cent of recreational fishing licence fees (more than \$2 million each year) into the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF) providing opportunities for individuals, research institutions, clubs, organisations and community groups for projects and research that directly benefit recreational fishing.

Other projects to benefit from RFIF funding include additional artificial reefs projects off Exmouth, Esperance and Dampier, a blue swimmer crab stocking trial, bringing oyster reefs back to Albany's Oyster Harbour and increasing opportunities for disabled fishers through the 'Fishability Capacity Building Project.'

Each year about \$20 million is spent on the management and improvement of WA recreational fisheries. Recreational fishers contribute about \$8.5 million to this cost through licence fees, all of which is spent on recreational fishing.

The State Government contributes the remaining \$11.5 million to ensure the continuation of sustainable management of recreational fishing in Western Australia.

The revenue from recreational fishing licence fees is set to increase with the first price rise for recreational licences in seven years announced by the incoming State Government in June. The \$5 increase from July will provide an additional \$1 million annually for recreational fishing management and initiatives.

Tackling fishing offences in the rock lobster fishery



The seized display boat branded with the words, ‘Seized by Fisheries – Commit a serious offence and risk losing your boat and fishing gear.’

In response to a large increase in reported rock lobster pot interference, we launched *Operation Bagana*, a comprehensive compliance and community education campaign focusing on fishing offences in the rock lobster fishery.

Interfering with others’ pots and taking their catch causes great angst in the fishing community and both State peak bodies for commercial and recreational fishing favour a strong stance against this offence.

Subsequently, one of *Operation Bagana*’s principal objectives was to send out a strong deterrent message by pressing for seizure of offenders’ fishing boats in the case of the most serious rule breaches.

Ten vessels were seized over the course of the operation, with a number of offenders facing prosecution for a range of rock lobster-related offences.

Forfeiture of boats used in carrying out these offences has received overwhelming support from the recreational and commercial fishing sectors.

To highlight the potential consequences of breaking the rules, we branded one of the seized boats with the message, 'Seized by Fisheries – Commit a serious offence and risk losing your boat and your fishing gear'.

We toured the branded boat at various boat ramps, boat shows and coastal events highlighting the tough stance against gear interference and the potential consequences for offenders if caught.

The surveillance component of the campaign was complemented by the use of sophisticated surveillance and other compliance checks on land and sea, day and night, sometimes in collaboration with other environmental and law enforcement agencies.

Operation Bagana has also allowed us to focus on a range of other offences in the recreational rock lobster fishery, including exceeding bag limits, taking or possessing totally protected species, using excess or illegal gear and obstructing Fisheries officers.

Disclosures and legal compliance



Financial statements

Independent audit opinion of the 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

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Department of Fisheries which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2017, 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.

In my opinion, the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the operating results and cash flows of the Department of Fisheries for the year ended 30 June 2017 and the financial position at the end of that period. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Department in accordance with the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibility of the Reporting Officer for the Financial Statements

The Department of Fisheries ceased to exist as a department under the *Financial Management Act 2006* on 30 June 2017. The Treasurer appointed a Reporting Officer under section 68 of the Act who was responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the agency's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Reporting Officer.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Reporting Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the agency's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Report on Controls

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Department of Fisheries. The controls exercised by the Department 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 (the overall control objectives).

My opinion has been formed on the basis of the matters outlined in this report.

In my opinion, in all material respects, 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 2017.

The Director General's Responsibilities

The Director General was responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining controls to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*, the Treasurer's Instructions and other relevant written law.

Auditor General's Responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of the controls as designed. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform my procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives and the controls, necessary to achieve the overall control objectives, were implemented as designed.

An assurance engagement to report on the design and implementation of controls involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the design of controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of those controls. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks that controls are not suitably designed or implemented as designed. My procedures included testing the implementation of those controls that I consider necessary to achieve the overall control objectives.

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

Limitations of Controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and implemented as designed, once the controls are in operation, the overall control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or noncompliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of the suitability of the design of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become unsuitable because of changes in conditions.

Report on the Key Performance Indicators**Opinion**

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of the Department of Fisheries for the year ended 30 June 2017. The key performance indicators are the key effectiveness indicators and the key efficiency indicators that provide performance information about achieving outcomes and delivering services.

In my opinion, in all material respects, 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 2017.

The Reporting Officer's Responsibility for the Key Performance Indicators

The Reporting Officer 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 internal control as the Reporting Officer determines necessary to enable the preparation of key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the key performance indicators, the Reporting Officer is responsible for identifying key performance indicators that are relevant and appropriate having regard to their purpose in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 904 *Key Performance Indicators*.

Auditor General's Responsibility

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators. The objectives of my engagement are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the agency's performance and whether the key performance indicators are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion.

I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the key performance indicators. It also involves evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators against the criteria and guidance in Treasurer's Instruction 904 for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and the efficiency of service delivery. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the engagement in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

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

My Independence and Quality Control Relating to the Reports on Controls and Key Performance Indicators

I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements. In accordance with ASQC 1 *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements*, the Office of the Auditor General maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory 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 2017 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.



SANDRA LABUSCHAGNE
ACTING DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
// September 2017

Certification of financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2017

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 2017 and the financial position as at 30 June 2017.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruno Mezzatesta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'B'.

Bruno Mezzatesta

Reporting Officer

11 September 2017

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE

		2017	2016
			Restated*
	Note	\$'000	\$'000
Cost of services			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	6	54,580	55,453
Supplies and services	8	22,789	20,291
Depreciation and amortisation expense	9	5,253	5,207
Finance costs	10	1,725	1,962
Accommodation expenses	11	5,076	4,901
Grants and subsidies	12	1,610	1,797
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	13	40	63
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	20	67	19
Other expenses	14	2,556	2,007
Total cost of services		93,696	91,700
Income			
Revenue			
User charges and fees	16	33,828	30,444
Grants and contributions	17	1,054	1,656
Interest revenue	18	180	204
Other revenue	19	4,414	4,556
Total revenue		39,476	36,860
Total income other than income from State Government		39,476	36,860
NET COST OF SERVICES		54,220	54,840
Income from State Government			
Service appropriations	21	49,668	49,161
Services received free of charge		552	863
Royalties for Regions Fund		807	930
Grants and Contributions		53	75
Total Income from State Government		51,080	51,029
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(3,140)	(3,811)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus/(deficit)	34	(5,687)	9,899
Total other comprehensive income		(5,687)	9,899
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(8,827)	6,088

*Refer Note 5b 'Correction of Prior Year Error'.

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

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE

		2017	2016
			Restated*
	Note	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	35	1,034	1,513
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	22	4,160	3,709
Receivables	23	6,637	6,191
Amounts receivable for services	24	1,766	1,778
Other current assets	25	4,609	4,342
Total Current Assets		18,206	17,533
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	22	164	-
Receivables	23	20,814	25,605
Amounts receivable for services	24	19,428	16,561
Property, plant and equipment	26	62,559	70,000
Intangible assets	28	10,672	11,990
Total Non-Current Assets		113,637	124,156
TOTAL ASSETS		131,843	141,689
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	30	3,089	2,028
Borrowings	31	4,791	4,523
Provisions	32	13,226	13,611
Other current liabilities	33	1,651	987
Total Current Liabilities		22,757	21,149
Non-Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	31	20,814	25,605
Provisions	32	2,669	2,916
Total Non-Current Liabilities		23,483	28,521
TOTAL LIABILITIES		46,240	49,670
NET ASSETS		85,603	92,019
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	34	89,486	87,181
Reserves	34	16,056	21,743
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	34	(19,939)	(16,905)
TOTAL EQUITY		85,603	92,019

* Refer Note 5b 'Correction of Prior Year Error'

See also the 'Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service'.

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE**

	Contributed equity	Reserves	Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	Total equity
Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at 1 July 2015	86,927	11,844	(12,924)	85,847
Correction of prior period error	-	-	(170)	(170)
Restated balance at 1 July 2015	86,927	11,844	(13,094)	85,677
Surplus/(deficit)*	-	-	(3,811)	(3,811)
Other comprehensive income*	-	9,899	-	9,899
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	9,899	(3,811)	6,088
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:				
Capital appropriations	210	-	-	210
Other contributions by owners	44	-	-	44
Distributions to owners	-	-	-	-
Equity transferred from Administered	-	-	-	-
Total	254	-	-	254
Balance at 30 June 2016	87,181	21,743	(16,905)	92,019
Balance at 1 July 2016	87,181	21,743	(16,905)	92,019
Correction of prior period error	-	-	106	106
Restated balance at 1 July 2016	87,181	21,743	(16,799)	92,125
Surplus/(deficit)	-	-	(3,140)	(3,140)
Other comprehensive income	-	(5,687)	-	(5,687)
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	(5,687)	(3,140)	(8,827)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:				
Capital appropriations	2,305	-	-	2,305
Other contributions by owners	-	-	-	-
Distributions to owners	-	-	-	-
Equity transferred from Administered	-	-	-	-
Total	2,305	-	-	2,305
Balance at 30 June 2017	89,486	16,056	(19,939)	85,603

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

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE

	Note	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		43,191	42,558
Capital contributions		2,305	210
Holding account drawdowns		3,622	2,007
Grants and contributions		53	75
Royalties for Regions Fund		807	930
Net cash provided by State Government		49,978	45,780
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(54,925)	(56,315)
Supplies and services		(21,960)	(23,066)
Finance Costs		(1,785)	(2,019)
Accommodation		(5,076)	(4,717)
Grants and subsidies		(1,610)	(1,797)
GST payments on purchase		(3,340)	(2,856)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs		(40)	(63)
Other payments		(1,364)	(1,377)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		33,704	30,386
Grants and contributions		1,624	1,656
Interest received		187	204
Other receipts		4,872	6,088
GST receipts on sales		286	483
GST receipts from taxation authority		3,008	2,906
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	35	(46,419)	(50,487)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Purchase of non-current assets		(3,498)	(3,285)
Receipts			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		75	61
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(3,423)	(3,224)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Repayments of borrowings		(4,523)	(4,271)
Receipts			
Proceeds from borrowing		-	964
Proceeds from industry		4,523	3,463
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		-	156
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		136	(7,775)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		5,222	12,997
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	35	5,358	5,222

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

**SCHEDULE OF INCOME AND EXPENSES BY SERVICE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE**

COST OF SERVICES	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION		RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT		TOTAL	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
		Restated*		Restated*		Restated*		Restated*
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses								
Employee benefits expense	9,921	9,551	27,917	28,553	16,742	17,350	54,580	55,453
Supplies and services	9,228	7,817	7,227	6,726	6,335	5,748	22,789	20,291
Depreciation and amortisation	1,945	1,976	2,288	2,260	1,020	971	5,253	5,207
Finance costs	1,725	1,962	-	-	-	-	1,725	1,962
Accommodation expenses	2,406	2,420	1,714	1,593	956	888	5,076	4,901
Grants and subsidies	1,489	1,795	121	-	-	2	1,610	1,797
FAS buybacks	40	63	-	-	-	-	40	63
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	-	-	60	18	7	1	67	19
Other expenses	39	19	1,856	1,627	661	360	2,556	2,007
Total cost of services	26,793	25,603	41,183	40,777	25,721	25,319	93,696	91,700
Income								
User charges and fees	9,165	8,445	15,179	13,567	9,484	8,432	33,828	30,444
Grants and contributions	-	301	80	485	974	870	1,054	1,656
Interest revenue	180	57	-	91	-	56	180	204
Other revenue	746	1,542	2,881	2,058	788	956	4,414	4,556
Total income other than income from State Government	10,091	10,345	18,139	16,201	11,246	10,315	39,476	36,860
NET COST OF SERVICES	16,702	15,258	23,044	24,577	14,475	15,005	54,220	54,840
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT								
Service appropriation	15,862	15,302	20,806	20,881	13,000	12,978	49,668	49,161
Resources received free of charge	158	188	243	430	152	245	552	863
Royalties for regions	58	277	694	596	55	57	807	930
Grants and contributions	-	-	-	-	53	75	53	75
Total income from State Government	16,078	15,766	21,742	21,907	13,260	13,355	51,080	51,028
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(624)	508	(1,301)	(2,670)	(1,215)	(1,650)	(3,140)	(3,811)

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

**SCHEDULE OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY SERVICE
AS AT 30 JUNE**

	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION		RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT		TOTAL	
	2017	2016 Restated*	2017	2016 Restated*	2017	2016 Restated*	2017	2016 Restated*
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS								
Current assets								
Cash and cash equivalents	296	596	454	621	284	296	1,034	1,513
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	3,051	2,676	49	658	1,060	375	4,160	3,709
Receivables	5,319	5,146	811	708	507	337	6,637	6,191
Amounts receivable for services	505	701	776	730	485	347	1,766	1,778
Other current assets	290	1,711	398	1,783	3,921	848	4,609	4,342
Total Current Assets	9,461	10,830	2,488	4,500	6,257	2,203	18,206	17,533
Non-current assets								
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	47	-	72	-	45	-	164	-
Receivables	20,814	25,605	-	-	-	-	20,814	25,605
Amounts receivable for services	5,558	6,527	8,536	6,800	5,333	3,235	19,428	16,561
Property, plant and equipment	2,782	3,278	30,589	36,936	29,188	29,786	62,559	70,000
Intangible assets	8,823	9,744	1,271	1,591	578	655	10,672	11,990
Total Non-Current Assets	38,024	45,154	40,468	45,327	35,145	33,675	113,637	124,156
Total Assets	47,485	55,984	42,956	49,827	41,402	35,878	131,843	141,689
LIABILITIES								
Current liabilities								
Payables	884	643	1,357	670	848	318	3,089	1,631
Borrowings	4,791	4,523	-	-	-	-	4,791	4,523
Provisions	3,784	5,364	5,811	5,588	3,632	2,659	13,226	13,611
Other current liabilities	1,203	546	275	568	172	270	1,651	1,384
Total Current Liabilities	10,662	11,076	7,443	6,826	4,651	3,247	22,756	21,149
Non-current liabilities								
Borrowings	20,814	25,605	-	-	-	-	20,814	25,605
Provisions	764	1,149	1,173	1,197	732	570	2,669	2,916
Total Non-Current Liabilities	21,578	26,754	1,173	1,197	732	570	23,483	28,521
Total Liabilities	32,240	37,830	8,616	8,023	5,384	3,817	46,240	49,670
NET ASSETS	15,245	18,154	34,340	41,804	36,018	32,061	85,603	92,019

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

**SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT APPROPRIATIONS AND INCOME ESTIMATES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE**

	2017 Estimate \$'000	2017 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	2017 Actual \$'000	2016 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Delivery of Services						
Item 65 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	49,592	49,316	(276)	49,316	48,818	(498)
Royalties for Region	1,516	807	(709)	807	930	123
Amount authorised by other statutes - <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	352	352	-	352	343	(9)
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	51,460	50,475	(985)	50,475	50,091	(384)
Capital						
Item 136 Capital appropriations	1,005	2,305	1,300	2,305	210	(2,095)
Other contributions by owners	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Capital	1,005	2,305	1,300	2,305	210	(2,095)
Administered Transactions						
Section 25 administered capital appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Administered	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	52,465	52,780	315	52,780	50,301	(2,479)
Details of Expense by Service						
Fisheries Management	21,686	26,793	5,107	26,793	25,603	(1,190)
Enforcement and Education	40,912	41,183	271	41,183	40,777	(406)
Research and Assessment	24,867	25,721	854	25,721	25,319	(402)
Total Cost of Services	87,465	93,696	6,231	93,696	91,700	(1,996)
Less Total Income	(35,204)	(39,476)	(4,272)	(39,476)	(36,860)	2,616
Net Cost of Services	52,261	54,220	1,959	54,220	54,840	620
Adjustments	(801)	(3,082)	(2,281)	(3,082)	(4,749)	(1,667)
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	51,460	51,138	(322)	51,138	50,091	(1,047)
Capital Expenditures						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	5,528	3,498	(2,030)	3,498	3,285	(213)
Adjustments for other funding sources	(4,523)	(1,193)	3,330	(1,193)	(3,075)	(1,882)
Capital appropriations	1,005	2,305	1,300	2,305	210	(2,095)
Details of Income Estimates						
Income disclosed as Administered Income	-	323	323	323	313	(10)
	-	323	323	323	313	(10)

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

Note 39 'Explanatory statement' provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2017 and between the actual results for 2016.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

1 AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

General

The Department's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2017 have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The term 'Australian Accounting Standards' includes Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standard 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 TI 1101 *Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements*. There has been no early adoption of any Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued or amended (but not operative) by the Department for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2017.

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 AASB 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 2006* 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 AASB.

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 and buildings 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."

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 Income and Expenses 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;
- Enforcement and Education; and
- Research and Assessment.

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.

Enforcement 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 objective. It also plans and instigates investigations and enforcement strategies.

Research and Assessment

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.

(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 TI 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 most recent determination, as quantified in the 2016-17 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$39.476 million in 2017 (\$36.860 million in 2016) from the following:

- proceeds from fees and charges;
- sale;
- Commonwealth specific purpose grants and contributions;
- Interest revenue.

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 specified manner, and those conditions had yet to be made at the end of the reporting period, the amounts and nature of, and the conditions attaching to them are to be disclosed in the notes.

Where contributions recognised as revenues during the reporting period were obtained specifically for the provision of goods or services over a future period, the amounts and nature of, and the periods to which they relate are to be disclosed.

Where contributions recognised as revenues in a previous reporting period were obtained in respect of the current reporting period, the amounts and nature are to be 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 cost, the cost is the fair value at the date of acquisition.

Subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition of an asset, the revaluation model is used for the measurement of land and buildings and historical cost for all other property, plant and equipment. Land and buildings are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation (buildings 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 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, 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. Fair value for restricted use land is determined by comparison with market evidence for land with similar approximate utility (high restricted use land) or market value of comparable unrestricted land (low restricted use land).

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.

The most significant assumptions and judgements 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.

De-recognition

Upon disposal or de-recognition of an item of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure, any revaluation surplus relating to that asset is retained in the asset revaluation surplus.

Asset revaluation surplus

The asset revaluation surplus is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets as described in note 26 '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 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	20 to 40
Vessels	5 to 6
Communication equipment	5
Computer equipment	3
Furniture and fittings	10
Infrastructure	30
Motor vehicles	3 to 7
Office equipment	5
Other equipment	5 to 10
Plant and equipment	10

Works of Art controlled by the Department are classified as property, plant and equipment. These are anticipated to have 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 \$5,000 or more are capitalised. The cost of utilising the assets is expensed (amortised) over their useful lives.

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 10 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 recognised as property, plant and equipment. Software that is not an integral part of the related hardware is recognised 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 that can be reliably measured, are capitalised to the extent that they represent probable future economic benefits.

(i) Impairment of Assets

Property, plant, equipment, infrastructure and intangible assets 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. Where an asset measured at cost is written down to recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss. Where a previously revalued asset is written down to recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement in other comprehensive income. 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 (or disposal groups) classified as held for sale

Non-current assets (or disposal groups) held for sale 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 sale are not depreciated or amortised.

All Crown land holdings are vested in the Department by the Government. The Department of Lands (DoL) is the only agency with the power to sell Crown land. The Department transfers the Crown land and any attached buildings to DoL 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 Department 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 which 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.

(n) Accrued Salaries

Accrued salaries (refer note 33 '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 22 '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 21 'Income from State Government' and note 24 '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 23 '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 2(l) 'Financial Instruments' and note 30 '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 32 'Provisions'.

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

Annual leave that is not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the reporting period and is therefore considered to be other long-term employee benefits'. The annual leave liability 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 defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

Long Service Leave

Long service leave is not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the reporting period and is therefore 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 undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Superannuation

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) and other fund providers administer public sector superannuation arrangements in Western Australia in accordance with legislative requirements. Eligibility criteria for membership in particular schemes for public sector employees vary according to commencement and implementation dates.

Eligible employees 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.

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 West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS). Employees commencing employment on or after 16 April 2007 became members of the GESB Super Scheme (GESB).

From 30 March 2012, existing members of the WSS or GESB and new employees have been able to choose their preferred superannuation fund provider. The Department makes contributions to GESB or other fund provider on behalf of employees in compliance with the Commonwealth Government's Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992. Contributions to these accumulation schemes extinguish the Department's liability for superannuation charges in respect of employees who are not members of the Pension Scheme or GSS.

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 Department has no liabilities under the Pension Scheme or the GSS. The liabilities for the unfunded Pension Scheme and the unfunded GSS transfer benefits attributable to members who transferred from the Pension Scheme, are assumed by the Treasurer. All other GSS obligations are funded by concurrent contributions made by the Department to the GESB.

The GESB makes all benefit payments in respect of the Pension Scheme and GSS, and is recouped from the Treasurer for the employer's share.

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 14 '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, the GESBS, or other superannuation funds. The employer contribution paid to the GESB in respect of the GSS is paid back into the Consolidated Account by the GESB.

(u) Assets and services received free of charge or for nominal cost

Assets or services received free of charge or for nominal cost that the department would otherwise purchase if not donated, are recognised as income at the fair value of the assets or services where they can be reliably measured. A corresponding expense is recognised for services received. Receipts of assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position. Assets or services received from other State Government agencies are separately disclosed under Income from State Government in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

(v) Jointly controlled operations

The Department has interests in joint arrangements that are joint operations. A joint arrangement is a contractual arrangement whereby two or more parties undertake an economic activity that is subject to joint control. A joint operation involves the use of assets and other resources of the operators rather than the establishment of a separate entity. The Department recognises its interests in the joint operations by recognising the assets it controls and the liabilities that it incurs in respect of the joint arrangements. 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 joint 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.

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

a. Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard:

The Department has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards effective, or adopted, for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2016 that impacted on the Department:

AASB 1057 - Application of Australian Accounting Standards

This Standard lists the application paragraphs for each other Standard (and Interpretation), grouped where they are the same. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2014-3 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations [AASB 1 & 11]

The Department establishes Joint Operations in pursuit of its objectives and does not routinely acquire interests in Joint Operations. Therefore, there is no financial impact on application of the Standard.

AASB 2014-4 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 & 138]

The adoption of this Standard has no financial impact for the Department as depreciation and amortisation is not determined by reference to revenue generation, but by reference to consumption of future economic benefits.

AASB 2014-9 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements [AASB 1, 127 & 128]

This Standard amends AASB 127, and consequentially amends AASB 1 and AASB 128, to allow entities to use the equity method of accounting for investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates in their separate financial statements. As the Department has no joint ventures and associates, the application of the Standard has no financial impact.

AASB 2015-1 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Annual Improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012 2014 Cycle [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 110, 119, 121, 133, 134, 137 & 140]

These amendments arise from the issuance of International Financial Reporting Standard Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2012 2014 Cycle in September 2014, and editorial corrections. The Department has determined that the application of the Standard has no financial impact.

AASB 2015-2 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101 [AASB 7, 101, 134 & 1049]

This Standard amends AASB 101 to provide clarification regarding the disclosure requirements in AASB 101. Specifically, the Standard proposes narrow-focus amendments to address some of the concerns expressed about existing presentation and disclosure requirements and to ensure entities are able to use judgement when applying a Standard in determining what information to disclose in their financial statements. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2015-6 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, 124 & 1049]

The amendments extend the scope of AASB 124 to include application by not-for-profit public sector entities. Implementation guidance is included to assist application of the Standard by not-for-profit public sector entities. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2015-10 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 & 128

This Standard defers the mandatory effective date (application date) of amendments to AASB 10 & AASB 128 that were originally made in AASB 2014 10 so that the amendments are required to be applied for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 instead of 1 January 2016. There is no financial impact.

b. Correction of Prior Year Error

In prior financial year, Indian Ocean Research Centre (IOMRC – Asset ID 10001260) was understated in the department's asset book. Landgate valued the asset at \$11.5 million for the purpose of 30 June 2016 reporting, however only \$4.9 million was recognised due to the department's contribution toward building improvement. This resulted in an understatement of \$6.6 million, representing 5% of the total asset balance as at 30 June 2016.

Accordingly, the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Comprehensive Income have been restated as follow -

	Note	Actual 2016 \$'000	Correction of error \$'000	Restated 2016 \$'000
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION				
Other current assets	25	492	3,850	4,342
Property, plant and equipment	26	63,393	6,607	70,000
Reserves	34	11,232	10,511	21,743
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	34	(16,851)	(54)	(16,905)
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Depreciation and amortisation expense	9	5,337	(130)	5,207
Accommodation expenses	11	4,717	184	4,901
Changes in asset revaluation surplus/(deficit)	34	(612)	10,511	9,899

c. 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* or by an exemption from TI 1101. By virtue of a limited exemption, the Department has early adopted *AASB 2015 7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Disclosures of Not for Profit Public Sector Entities*. Where applicable, the Department plans to apply the following Australian Accounting Standards from their application date.

**Operative for
reporting periods
beginning on/after**

AASB 9 - Financial Instruments

1 Jan 2018

This Standard supersedes AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.

The mandatory application date of this Standard is currently 1 January 2018 after being amended by AASB 2012 6, AASB 2013-9, and AASB 2014 1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.

AASB 15 - Revenue from Contracts with Customers

1 Jan 2019

This Standard establishes the principles that the Department shall apply to report useful information to users of financial statements about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from a contract with a customer.

The Department's income is principally derived from appropriations which will be measured under AASB 1058 Income of Not for Profit Entities and will be unaffected by this change. However, the Department has not yet determined the potential impact of the Standard on 'User charges and fees' and 'Sales' revenues. In broad terms, it is anticipated that the terms and conditions attached to these revenues will defer revenue recognition until the Department has discharged its performance obligations.

AASB 16 - Leases

1 Jan 2019

This Standard introduces a single lessee accounting model and requires a lessee to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is of low value.

Whilst the impact of AASB 16 has not yet been quantified, the entity currently has operating lease commitments for \$22,220,000. The worth of non-cancellable operating leases which the Department anticipates most of this amount will be brought onto the statement of financial position, excepting amounts pertinent to short term or low value leases. Interest and amortisation expense will increase and rental expense will decrease.

AASB 1058 - Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

1 Jan 2019

This Standard clarifies and simplifies the income recognition requirements that apply to not for profit (NFP) entities, more closely reflecting the economic reality of NFP entity transactions that are not contracts with customers. Timing of income recognition is dependent on whether such a transaction gives rise to a liability, or a performance obligation (a promise to transfer a good or service), or, an obligation to acquire an asset. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.

AASB 2010-7 - 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]

1 Jan 2018

This Standard makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 9 in December 2010.

The mandatory application date of this Standard has been amended by AASB 2012 6 and AASB 2014 1 to 1 January 2018. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.

AASB 2014-1 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards

1 Jan 2018

Part E of this Standard makes amendments to AASB 9 and consequential amendments to other Standards. It has not yet been assessed by the Department to determine the application or potential impact of the Standard.

**Operative for
reporting periods
beginning on/after**

AASB 2014-5 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15

1 Jan 2018

This Standard gives effect to the consequential amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) arising from the issuance of AASB 15. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.

AASB 2014-7 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014)

1 Jan 2018

This Standard gives effect to the consequential amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) arising from the issuance of AASB 9 (December 2014). The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.

AASB 2014-10 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture [AASB 10 & 128]

1 Jan 2018

This Standard amends AASB 10 and AASB 128 to address an inconsistency between the requirements in AASB 10 and those in AASB 128 (August 2011), in dealing with the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture. The mandatory effective date (application date) for the Standard has been deferred to 1 January 2018 by AASB 2015 10. The Department has determined that the Standard has no financial impact.

AASB 2015-8 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of AASB 15

1 Jan 2019

This Standard amends the mandatory effective date (application date) of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers so that AASB 15 is required to be applied for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 instead of 1 January 2017. For Not For Profit entities, the mandatory effective date has subsequently been amended to 1 January 2019 by AASB 2016 7. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of AASB 15.

AASB 2016-2 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 107

1 Jan 2017

This Standard amends AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows (August 2015) to require disclosures that enable users of financial statements to evaluate changes in liabilities arising from financing activities, including both changes arising from cash flows and non-cash changes. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2016-3 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarifications to AASB 15

1 Jan 2018

This Standard clarifies identifying performance obligations, principal versus agent considerations, timing of recognising revenue from granting a licence, and, provides further transitional provisions to AASB 15. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact.

AASB 2016-4 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Recoverable Amount of Non-Cash-Generating Specialised Assets of Not-for-Profit Entities

1 Jan 2017

This Standard clarifies that the recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact.

AASB 2016-7 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Deferral of AASB 15 for Not-for-Profit Entities

1 Jan 2017

This Standard amends the mandatory effective date (application date) of AASB 15 and defers the consequential amendments that were originally set out in AASB 2014 5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15 for not for profit entities to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019, instead of 1 January 2018. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2016-8 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities

1 Jan 2019

This Standard inserts Australian requirements and authoritative implementation guidance for not for profit entities into AASB 9 and AASB 15. This guidance assists not-for-profit entities in applying those Standards to particular transactions and other events. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2017-2 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Further Annual Improvements 2014 2016 Cycle

1 Jan 2017

This Standard inserts Australian requirements and authoritative implementation guidance for not-for profit entities into AASB 9 and AASB 15. There is no financial impact.

Note 6: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Wages and salaries ^(a)	47,554	48,404
Superannuation - defined contribution plans ^(b)	4,809	4,667
Other related expenses ^(c)	2,217	2,382
	54,580	55,453

(a) Includes the value of leave entitlements including superannuation contribution component.

(b) Defined contribution plans include West State (\$3.788m), Gold State (\$1.021m) and other eligible funds.

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

Employment on-costs expenses, such as workers' compensation insurance, are included at note 14 'Other expenses'. The employment on costs liability is included at note 32 'Provisions'.

Note 7: COMPENSATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

	2017	2016
Compensation Band (\$)		
380,001 - 390,000	1	1
220,001 - 230,000	1	-
210,001 - 220,000	-	1
200,001 - 210,000	2	1
190,001 - 200,000	-	1
180,001 - 190,000	1	-
130,001 - 140,000	-	1
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-term employee benefits	923	910
Post-employment benefits	258	204
Other long-term benefits	21	23
Termination benefits	-	-
Total compensation of senior officers	1,203	1,137

Note 8: SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Communications	1,391	949
Freight & Mail	236	237
Contractors & Consultants	9,171	8,190
Payments to stakeholder groups ^(a)	2,334	1,752
Consumables	2,382	2,659
Minor equipment acquisitions	509	208
Travel	1,377	1,572
Advertising	359	452
Insurance	1,267	970
Other lease rentals	1,592	1,743
Licence Fees & Registration	1,291	678
Catering	37	43
Other	842	838
	22,789	20,291

(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.

Note 9: DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION EXPENSE

	2017	2016
	\$'000	Restated* \$'000
<u>Depreciation</u>		
Buildings	1,543	1,177
Marine Vessels	946	1,051
Communications	47	58
Computing Hardware	243	533
Furniture Fixtures & Fittings	232	233
Office Equipment	82	105
Plant & Machinery	120	143
Motor Vehicles	167	191
Other Equipment	215	170
Infrastructure - Maritime	184	178
Total Depreciation	<u>3,779</u>	<u>3,839</u>
<u>Amortisation</u>		
Computing Software	1,474	1,368
Total amortisation	<u>1,474</u>	<u>1,368</u>
Total Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	<u>5,253</u>	<u>5,207</u>

Note 10: FINANCE COSTS

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
WATC Borrowing Charges	1,725	1,962
	<u>1,725</u>	<u>1,962</u>

Note 11: ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES

	2017	2016
	\$'000	Restated* \$'000
Lease rentals	3,213	3,486
Property Cleaning	253	251
Repairs & Maintenance	1,610	1,164
	<u>5,076</u>	<u>4,901</u>

Note 12: GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Recurrent		
Research grants ^(a)	1,519	1,720
Other	91	77
	<u>1,610</u>	<u>1,797</u>

(a) Includes grants provided to TAFE (\$18,000).

Note 13: FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEME BUYBACK

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	40	63
	<u>40</u>	<u>63</u>

Note 14: OTHER EXPENSES

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Repairs and Maintenance	2,336	1,895
Other expenses ^(a)	220	112
	<u>2,556</u>	<u>2,007</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 32 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

Note 15: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Department is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Western Australia. In conducting its activities, the Department is required to pay various taxes and levies based on the standard terms and conditions that apply to all tax and levy payers to the State and entities related to State.

Related parties of the department include:

- all Ministers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- all senior officers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- other departments and public sector entities, including related bodies included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements;
- associates and joint ventures, that are included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements; and
- the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

Significant transactions with government related entities

Significant transactions include:

- service appropriations (Note 21);
- capital appropriations (Note 34);
- services received free of charge from other state government agencies (Note 21);
- Royalties for Regions Fund (Note 22);
- superannuation payments to GESB (Note 6);
- lease rentals payments to the Department of Finance (Note 11);
- grants provided to TAFE colleges (Note 12); and
- remuneration for services provided by the Auditor General (Note 41)

Material transactions with related parties

The Department had no material related party transaction with Ministers/senior officers or their close family members or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities for disclosure.

Note 16: USER CHARGES AND FEES

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Access fees	24,907	21,084
Application fees	711	1,447
Recreational Licence fees	7,612	7,661
Fees for service	2	7
Regulatory fees	472	187
Other	124	58
	<u>33,828</u>	<u>30,444</u>

Note 17: GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	517	627
Pilbara Development Commission	-	278
Curtin University	107	200
Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research	54	264
Other	376	287
	<u>1,054</u>	<u>1,656</u>

Note 18: INTEREST REVENUE

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Recreational Fishing Account	180	204
	<u>180</u>	<u>204</u>

Note 19: OTHER REVENUE

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Rental revenue	809	605
Diesel Fuel Rebate	279	313
Insurance Recoveries	47	252
Indian Ocean Territories	865	839
WATC Borrowing Charges	1,725	1,818
Employee FBT contribution	72	68
Recoups	279	301
Others	339	360
	<u>4,414</u>	<u>4,556</u>

Note 20: NET GAIN/(LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
<i>Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets</i>		
Property, plant and equipment	75	61
<i>Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed</i>		
Property, plant and equipment	(142)	(80)
Net gain/(loss)	<u>(67)</u>	<u>(19)</u>

Note 21: INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Appropriation received during the year:		
Service appropriation ^(a)	49,668	49,161

(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 budgeted depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.

Services Received Free of Charge from other State government agencies during the period

Services Received Free of Charge ^(b)	552	863
Department of Attorney General	420	326
Western Australian Land Information Authority	3	291
Department of Finance	125	242
Department of Agriculture and Food	4	4
	552	863

(b) 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.

Royalties for Regions Fund

Regional Community Services Account ^(c)	807	930
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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.

Grants and Contributions

Department of Health	48	-
Department of Transport	5	2
Department of the Environment	-	73
	53	75

Note 22: RESTRICTED CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Current		
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account ^(a)	551	631
RFIF Recreational Fishing Initiatives Funds	2,500	2,045
Research Grants	1,060	375
Royalties for Regions	49	658
	4,160	3,709
Non-current		
Salaries suspense account ^(b)	164	-
	4,324	3,709

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

(b) 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.

Note 23: RECEIVABLES

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Receivables	426	480
Less: Allowance for impairment of receivables	(6)	(6)
GST receivable	366	360
	786	834
Other debtors ^(a)	5,851	5,357
Total current	6,637	6,191
Non-Current		
Other debtors ^(a)	20,814	25,605
Total non-current	20,814	25,605
Total receivables	27,451	31,796

Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:

Balance at start of period	6	6
Doubtful debts expense	8	-
Amounts written off during the period	(8)	-
Amounts recovered during the period	-	-
Balance at the end of the period	6	6

(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 40 'Financial Instruments'

Note 24: AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR SERVICES (HOLDING ACCOUNT)

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Current	1,766	1,778
Non-current	19,428	16,561
	21,194	18,339

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)'

Note 25: OTHER ASSETS

	2017	2016
	\$'000	Restated* \$'000
Prepayments		
Licence and rentals	4,564	4,290
Accrued Income		
Accrued Interest	45	52
	<u>4,609</u>	<u>4,342</u>

Note 26: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2017	2016
	\$'000	Restated* \$'000
LAND		
Land at fair value ⁽ⁱ⁾	6,180	6,530
	<u>6,180</u>	<u>6,530</u>
BUILDINGS		
At fair value ⁽ⁱ⁾	40,447	46,931
Accumulated depreciation	-	-
	<u>40,447</u>	<u>46,931</u>
MARINE VESSELS		
At cost	18,629	17,299
Accumulated depreciation	(11,387)	(10,523)
	<u>7,242</u>	<u>6,776</u>
COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT		
At cost	714	730
Accumulated depreciation	(660)	(624)
	<u>54</u>	<u>106</u>
COMPUTER HARDWARE		
At cost	3,807	3,682
Accumulated depreciation	(3,344)	(3,190)
	<u>463</u>	<u>492</u>
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS		
At cost	2,929	3,173
Accumulated depreciation	(1,503)	(1,384)
	<u>1,426</u>	<u>1,789</u>
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
At cost	599	703
Accumulated depreciation	(454)	(464)
	<u>145</u>	<u>239</u>
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	\$'000	\$'000
PLANT AND MACHINERY		
At cost	2,012	2,000
Accumulated depreciation	(1,318)	(1,275)
	<u>694</u>	<u>725</u>
MOTOR VEHICLES		
At cost	1,495	1,525
Accumulated depreciation	(1,047)	(956)
	<u>448</u>	<u>569</u>

Note 26 PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

WORKS OF ART

At cost	97	97
	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>

OTHER EQUIPMENT

At cost	1,541	1,370
Accumulated depreciation	(942)	(735)
	<u>599</u>	<u>635</u>

INFRASTRUCTURE - MARITIME

At cost	5,586	5,511
Accumulated depreciation	(2,029)	(1,845)
	<u>3,557</u>	<u>3,666</u>

CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS

Buildings	1,176	473
Other Equipment	26	-
Marine vessel	5	972
	<u>1,207</u>	<u>1,445</u>

Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>62,559</u>	<u>70,000</u>
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(i) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2016 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2017 and recognised at 30 June 2017. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$1,903,900 (2016: \$1,988,900) and buildings: \$3,105,000 (2016: \$3,063,000). 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'.

Note 26: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

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

	Carrying amount at start of year	Additions	Disposal	Transfers In/Out	Adjustment	Transfers from WIP	Revaluation	Depreciation for the year	Carrying amount at end of year
2017	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1. Land	6,530	-	-	-	-	-	(350)	-	6,180
2. Buildings	46,931	30	(14)	-	-	380	(5,337)	(1,543)	40,447
3. Marine Vessels Communication	6,776	114	(24)	(13)	-	1,335	-	(946)	7,242
4. Equipment	106	23	(1)	(27)	-	-	-	(47)	54
5. Computer Hardware Furniture Fixtures & Fittings	492	353	(1)	(138)	-	-	-	(243)	463
6. Fittings	1,789	38	(46)	(715)	-	592	-	(232)	1,426
7. Office Equipment	239	64	(1)	(75)	-	-	-	(82)	145
8. Plant & Machinery	725	143	(23)	(49)	-	18	-	(120)	694
9. Vehicles	569	77	(30)	(14)	-	13	-	(167)	448
10. Works of Art	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
11. Other Equipment Infrastructure -	635	194	(2)	(13)	-	-	-	(215)	599
12. Maritime	3,666	75	-	-	-	-	-	(184)	3,557
13. Work in progress									
Buildings	473	1,700	-	-	(25)	(972)	-	-	1,176
Other Equipment	-	44	-	-	-	(18)	-	-	26
Boating	972	381	-	-	-	(1,348)	-	-	5
	70,000	3,236	(142)	(1,044)	(25)	-	(5,687)	(3,779)	62,559

Note 26: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

		Carrying amount at start of year	Additions	Disposal	Transfers In/Out	Adjustment Restated*	Transfers from WIP Restated*	Revaluation	Depreciation for the year	Carrying amount at end of year
2016		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1.	Land	6,967	-	-	-	-	-	(437)	-	6,530
2.	Buildings	36,494	-	-	-	-	1,278	10,336	(1,177)	46,931
3.	Marine Vessels Communication Equipment	7,476	195	-	-	-	156	-	(1,051)	6,776
4.	Computer Hardware	153	11	-	-	-	-	-	(58)	106
5.	Furniture Fixtures & Fittings	895	130	-	-	-	-	-	(533)	492
6.	Office Equipment	1,920	91	-	-	-	11	-	(233)	1,789
7.	Plant & Machinery	250	98	(4)	-	-	-	-	(105)	239
8.	Vehicles	792	93	(38)	21	-	-	-	(143)	725
9.	Works of Art	627	159	(35)	-	-	9	-	(191)	569
10.	Other Equipment	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
11.	Infrastructure - Maritime	534	274	(3)	-	-	-	-	(170)	635
12.	Work in progress	3,579	138	-	(21)	-	148	-	(178)	3,666
13.	Buildings	5,329	615	-	-	(4,034)	(1,437)	-	-	473
	Other Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Boating	539	598	-	-	-	(165)	-	-	972
		65,652	2,402	(80)	-	(4,034)	-	9,899	(3,839)	70,000

Note 27: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Assets measured at fair value:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value at end of period
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2017				
Land (note 26)	-	1,904	4,276	6,180
Buildings (note 26)	-	3,105	37,342	40,447
	-	5,009	41,618	46,627
2016				
Land (note 26)	-	1,989	4,541	6,530
Buildings (note 26)	-	3,063	43,868	46,931
	-	5,052	48,409	53,461

There are no transfers between Level 1, 2 or 3 during the period.

Valuation techniques to derive Level 2 fair values

Level 2 fair values of Land and Buildings (Office Accommodation) are derived using the market approach. Market evidence of sales prices of comparable land and buildings (office accommodation) in close proximity is used to determine price per square metre.

Fair Value Measurement using unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Land	Buildings
	\$'000	\$'000
2017		
Fair value at start of period	4,541	43,868
Additions	-	409
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other	(350)	(5,337)
Comprehensive income	-	-
Transfers (from/(to) Level 2)	85	(42)
Disposals	-	(15)
Depreciation expense	-	(1,541)
Fair value at end of period	4,276	37,342
2016		
Fair value at start of period	4,724	33,189
Additions	-	1,278
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive income	(437)	10,336
Comprehensive income	-	-
Transfers (from/(to) Level 2)	254	242
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation expense	-	(1,177)
Fair value at end of period	4,541	43,868

Note 27: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)

Valuation processes

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period. Transfers in and out of a fair value level are recognised on the date of the event or change in circumstances that caused the transfer. Transfers are generally limited to assets newly classified as non-current assets held for sale as Treasurer's instructions require valuations of land, buildings and infrastructure to be categorised within Level 3 where the valuations will utilise significant Level 3 inputs on a recurring basis.

Fair value for existing use specialised buildings is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, i.e. the depreciated replacement cost. Depreciated replacement cost is the current replacement cost of an asset less accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired economic benefit, or obsolescence, and optimisation (where applicable) of the asset. Current replacement cost is generally determined by reference to the market observable replacement cost of a substitute asset of comparable utility and the gross project size specifications.

Fair value for restricted use land is based on market value, by either using market evidence of sales of comparable land that is unrestricted less restoration costs to return the site to a vacant and marketable condition (low restricted use land), or, comparison with market evidence for land with low level utility (high restricted use land).

Significant Level 3 inputs used by the Department are derived and evaluated as follows:

Historical cost per square metre floor area (m²)

The costs of constructing specialised buildings with similar utility are extracted from financial records of the Department, then indexed by movements in CPI.

Consumed economic benefit/obsolescence of asset

These are estimated by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services).

Selection of land with restricted utility

Fair value for restricted use land is determined by comparison with market evidence for land with low level utility. Relevant comparators of land with low level utility are selected by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services).

Basis of Valuation

In the absence of market-based evidence, due to the specialised nature of some non-financial assets, these assets are valued at Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy on an existing use basis. The existing use basis recognises that restrictions or limitations have been placed on their use and disposal when they are not determined to be surplus to requirements. These restrictions are imposed by virtue of the assets being held to deliver a specific community service.

Information about significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) in fair value measurements

Description	Fair value 2017 \$'000	Fair value 2016 \$'000	Valuation techniques	Unobservable inputs
Land	\$4,276	\$4,541	Market approach	Selection of land with similar approximate utility
Buildings	\$37,342	\$43,868	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Consumed economic benefit/obsolescence of asset Historical cost per square metre floor area (square metre)

Reconciliations of the opening and closing balances are provided in Note 26.

Note 28: INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
COMPUTER SOFTWARE		
At cost	16,723	16,386
Accumulated amortisation	(6,051)	(4,577)
	10,672	11,809
CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS		
Computer Software	-	181
	-	181
Total Intangible Assets	10,672	11,990

Reconciliations:	Carrying amount at start of year \$'000	Additions \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Adjustment \$'000	Transfers from WIP \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Depreciation for the year \$'000	Carrying amount at end of year \$'000
2017								
Computer Software	11,809	77	-		260		(1,474)	10,672
Work in progress								
Computer Software	181	92	-	(13)	(260)	-	-	-
	11,990	169	-	(13)	-	-	(1,474)	10,672
2016								
Computer Software	12,416	718	-	-	43	-	(1,368)	11,809
Work in progress								
Computer Software	-	224	-	-	(43)	-	-	181
	12,416	942	-	-	-	-	(1,368)	11,990

Note 29: IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

There are no indications of impairment of any property, plant and equipment, infrastructure or intangible assets at 30 June 2017.

There are no indications of impairment of any other property, plant and equipment, infrastructure or intangible assets at 30 June 2017.

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.

There are no surplus assets held for sale or written off as at 30 June 2017. Therefore, no surplus assets at 30 June 2017 have been reclassified as assets held for sale or written off.

Note 30: PAYABLES

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Current		
Trade payables	2,561	1,631
Accrued Salaries	228	-
Accrued Superannuation	14	-
Accrued FBT	72	75
Accrued Expenses	214	322
	<u>3,089</u>	<u>2,028</u>

See also note 2(q) 'Payables' and note 40 'Financial Instruments'.

Note 31: BORROWINGS

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Current		
Borrowings from Western Australian Treasury Corporation	4,791	4,523
	<u>4,791</u>	<u>4,523</u>
Non-current		
Borrowings from Western Australian Treasury Corporation	20,814	25,605
	<u>20,814</u>	<u>25,605</u>

Note 32: PROVISIONS

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Current		
Employee benefits provision		
Purchased leave	2	11
Deferred leave	98	37
Annual Leave ^(a)	5,284	5,964
Long service leave ^(b)	7,712	7,465
	<u>13,096</u>	<u>13,477</u>
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	130	134
	<u>130</u>	<u>134</u>
	<u>13,226</u>	<u>13,611</u>
Non-current		
Employee benefits provision		
Long service leave ^(b)	2,643	2,887
	<u>2,643</u>	<u>2,887</u>

Other provisions

Employment on-costs ^(c)

	26	29
	26	29
	2,669	2,916

(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 period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	3,369	3,622
More than 12 months after the reporting period	1,915	2,342
	5,284	5,964

(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	3,103	2,675
More than 12 months after the reporting period	7,252	7,677
	10,355	10,352

(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 14 '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 provisions

Carrying amount at start of period	163	158
Additional provisions recognised	-	5
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefit	(7)	-
Carrying amount at the end of the period	156	163

The superannuation on-costs are included in the annual and long service leave provisions.

Note 33: OTHER LIABILITIES

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Accrued WATC charges	1,023	933
Accrued Employee Claims	58	54
Grants in Advance	570	-
	1,651	987

Note 34: EQUITY

The Western Australian 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 surplus represents that portion of equity resulting from the revaluation of non-current assets.

	2017	2016
	\$'000	Restated* \$'000
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		
Balance at start of period	(16,905)	(12,924)
Prior period adjustment	106	(170)
Transfer from Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	-
	<u>(16,799)</u>	<u>(13,094)</u>
Result for the period	(3,140)	(3,811)
Balance at end of period	<u>(19,939)</u>	<u>(16,905)</u>
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY		
Balance at start of period	87,181	86,927
Contributions by owners		
Capital appropriation ^(a)	2,305	210
Other contributions by owners		
Other contributions	-	44
Total contribution by owners	<u>2,305</u>	<u>254</u>
Distributions to owners	-	-
Balance at end of period	<u>89,486</u>	<u>87,181</u>
<p>(a) TI 955 <i>Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities</i> designates capital appropriations as contributions by owners in accordance with AASB Interpretation 1038 <i>Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities</i>.</p>		
RESERVES		
Asset Revaluation Surplus:		
Balance at start of period	21,743	11,844
Transfer to Accumulated Surplus/Deficit	-	-
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	(350)	(437)
Buildings	(5,337)	10,336
Plant, Equipment and Vehicle	-	-
Balance at end of period ^(b)	<u>16,056</u>	<u>21,743</u>
Total Equity at end of period	<u>85,603</u>	<u>92,019</u>

(b) 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'.

Note 35: NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

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:

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	1,034	1,513
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (refer to note 22)	4,324	3,709
	<u>5,358</u>	<u>5,222</u>

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

Net cost of services	(54,220)	(54,840)
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Non-Cash Items

Depreciation and amortisation expense (note 9 'Depreciation and amortisation expense')	5,253	5,337
Services received free of charge (note 21 'Income from State Government')	552	863
Expense of prior year capitalised assets	1041	54
(Gain)/loss on disposal of PPE (note 20 'Net gain/loss on disposal of non-current assets')	(75)	19

(Increase)/Decrease in Assets

Accounts receivable - General ^(a)	48	519
Prepayments	(267)	(355)
Accrued Income	(226)	182

Increase/(Decrease) in Liabilities

Accrued salaries	228	(1,509)
Superannuation Accrued	14	(152)
FBT Accrued	(3)	75
Other Liabilities	660	(1,076)
Liability for employee entitlements	(628)	817
Accounts payable - General	865	(703)
Change in GST in receivables/(payables) ^(b)	339	282
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>(46,419)</u>	<u>(50,487)</u>

(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 reverses out the net GST in receivables and payables.

Note 36: COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

Non-cancellable 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:

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Within 1 year	5,654	6,741
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	12,105	5,251
Later than 5 year	4,461	4,329
	<u>22,220</u>	<u>16,321</u>

The Department has entered into a property lease which is a non-cancellable lease with a five year term, with rent payable monthly in advance. Contingent rent provisions within the lease agreement require that the minimum lease payments shall be increased by 4% CPI per annum.

The commitments below are inclusive of GST where relevant.

Capital Expenditure Commitments

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

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Within 1 year	637	1,067
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	204	531
Later than 5 year		-
	841	1,598

Note 37: EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

As a result of the change in Machinery of Government, the Department will cease to operate on 30 June 2017 and will be amalgamated as part of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development from 1 July 2017.

Note 38: 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 Regulation (DER). In accordance with the Act, DER 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 previously reported a suspected contaminated site at the Albany Aquaculture Park to DER. This has been classified by DER as requiring further investigation.

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, in consultation with the relevant authorities, is in the process of finalising a re-write of the original (1998) Preliminary Site Investigation report and the Site Management Plan in accordance with the 'Assessment and management of contaminated sites (Contaminated Sites guidelines) 2014' under provisions of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003.

Negotiations in progress

The Department is negotiating on behalf of the Minister for Fisheries the settlement of amounts of compensation payable under Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997. The maximum financial effect is \$1,975,000.

Note 39: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Major variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2017 and between the actual results for 2016 and 2017 are shown below. Major variances are considered to be those compared to the estimate or prior year actual for a line item, which are generally greater than;

- 5% and \$1,874,000 for the Statements of Comprehensive Income and Cash Flows; and
- 5% and \$2,637,000 for the Statement of Financial Position.

	Variance note	Original budget 2017	Actual 2017	Actual 2016	Variance Estimate and actual	Variance Actual for 2017 and 2016
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cost of services						
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense		55,112	54,580	55,453	(532)	(873)
Supplies and services	1,A	15,984	22,789	20,291	6,805	2,498
Depreciation and amortisation expense		6,869	5,253	5,207	(1,616)	46
Finance costs		1,480	1,725	1,962	245	(237)
Accommodation expenses		3,296	5,076	4,901	1,780	175
Grants and subsidies		1,727	1,610	1,797	(117)	(187)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks		500	40	63	(460)	(23)
Loss on disposal of non-current assets		26	67	19	41	48
Other expenses		2,471	2,556	2,007	85	549
Total cost of services		87,465	93,696	91,700	6,231	1,996

Note 39 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

	Variance note	Original budget 2017 \$'000	Actual 2017 \$'000	Actual 2016 \$'000	Variance Estimate and actual \$'000	Variance Actual for 2017 and 2016 \$'000
Income						
Revenue						
User charges and fees	2,B	29,165	33,828	30,444	4,663	3,384
Grants and contributions		2,666	1,054	1,656	(1,612)	(602)
Interest revenue		1,844	180	204	(1,664)	(24)
Other revenue	3	1,529	4,414	4,556	2,885	(142)
Total revenue		35,204	39,476	36,860	4,272	2,616
Total income other than income from State Government		35,204	39,476	36,860	4,272	2,616
NET COST OF SERVICES		52,261	54,220	54,840	1,959	(620)
Income from State Government						
Service appropriations		49,944	49,668	49,161	(276)	507
Services received free of charge		1,112	552	863	(560)	(311)
Royalties for Regions Fund		1,516	807	930	(709)	(123)
Grants and Contributions		-	53	75	53	(22)
Total Income from State Government		52,572	51,080	51,029	(1,492)	51
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD)		311	(3,140)	(3,811)	(3,451)	671
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Changes in asset revaluation surplus/(deficit)		-	(5,687)	9,899	(5,687)	(15,586)
Total other comprehensive income		-	(5,687)	9,899	(5,687)	(15,586)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		311	(8,827)	6,088	(9,138)	(14,915)

Note 39 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

	Variance note	Original budget 2017 \$'000	Actual 2017 \$'000	Actual 2016 \$'000	Variance Estimate and actual \$'000	Variance Actual for 2017 and 2016 \$'000
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION						
ASSETS						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		2,415	1,034	1,513	(1,381)	(479)
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		3,379	4,160	3,709	781	451
Receivables	4	2,683	6,637	6,191	3,954	446
Amounts receivable for services		2,637	1,766	1,778	(871)	(12)
Other current assets		4,799	4,609	4,342	(190)	267
Total Current Assets		15,913	18,206	17,533	2,293	673
Non-Current Assets						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		227	164	-	(63)	164
Receivables	C	19,943	20,814	25,605	871	(4,791)
Amounts receivable for services	D	20,802	19,428	16,561	(1,374)	2,867
Property, plant and equipment	5,E	67,239	62,559	70,000	(4,680)	(7,441)
Intangible assets		9,512	10,672	11,990	1,160	(1,318)
Total Non-Current Assets		117,723	113,637	124,156	(4,086)	(10,519)
TOTAL ASSETS		133,636	131,843	141,689	(1,793)	(9,846)

Note 39 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)					Variance	Variance
	Variance	Original budget	Actual	Actual	Estimate and	Actual for 2017
	note	2017	2017	2016	actual	and 2016
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Payables		3,118	3,089	2,028	(29)	1061
Borrowings		4,748	4,791	4,523	43	268
Provisions	6	9,990	13,226	13,611	3,236	(385)
Other current liabilities		2,424	1,651	987	(773)	664
Total Current Liabilities		20,280	22,757	21,149	2,477	1,608
Non-Current Liabilities						
Borrowings	F	19,896	20,814	25,605	918	(4,791)
Provisions		2,337	2,669	2,916	332	(247)
Total Non-Current Liabilities		22,233	23,483	28,521	1,250	(5,038)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		42,513	46,240	49,670	3,727	(3,430)
NET ASSETS		91,123	85,603	92,019	(5,520)	(6,416)
EQUITY						
Contributed equity		88,507	89,486	87,181	979	2,305
Reserves	7,G	12,428	16,056	21,743	3,628	(5,687)
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		(9,812)	(19,939)	(16,905)	(10,127)	(3,034)
TOTAL EQUITY		91,123	85,603	92,019	(5,520)	(6,416)

Note 39 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

				Variance	Variance	
	Variance note	Original budget 2017 \$'000	Actual 2017 \$'000	Actual 2016 \$'000	Estimate and actual \$'000	Actual for 2017 and 2016 \$'000
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS						
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriation		43,467	43,191	42,558	(276)	633
Capital contributions	H	1,005	2,305	210	1,300	2,095
Holding account drawdown		1,778	3,622	2,007	1,844	1,615
Royalties for Regions Fund		1,615	807	930	(808)	(123)
Grants and contributions			53	75	53	(22)
Net cash provided by State Government		47,865	49,978	45,780	2,113	4,198

Utilised as follows:

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Payments

Employee benefits		(55,112)	(54,925)	(56,315)	187	1,390
Supplies and services		(14,639)	(21,960)	(23,066)	(7,321)	1,106
Finance Costs		(1,521)	(1,785)	(2,019)	(264)	234
Accommodation		(3,296)	(5,076)	(4,717)	(1,780)	(359)
Grants and subsidies		(1,727)	(1,610)	(1,797)	117	187
GST payments on purchases		(3,848)	(3,340)	(2,856)	508	(484)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs		(500)	(40)	(63)	460	23
Other payments		(2,962)	(1,364)	(1,377)	1,598	13

Receipts

User charges and fees		29,013	33,704	30,386	4,691	3,318
Grants and contributions		2,666	1,624	1,656	(1,042)	(32)
Interest received		1,885	187	204	(1,698)	(17)
Other receipts		1,330	4,872	6,088	3,542	(1,216)
GST receipts on sales		581	286	483	(295)	(197)
GST receipts from taxation authority		3,267	3,008	2,906	(259)	102
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(44,863)	(46,419)	(50,487)	(1,556)	4,068

Note 39 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

				Variance	Variance	
	Variance note	Original budget 2017 \$'000	Actual 2017 \$'000	Actual 2016 \$'000	Estimate and actual \$'000	Actual for 2017 and 2016 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Purchase of non-current assets	8	(5,528)	(3,498)	(3,285)	2,030	(213)
Receipts						
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		334	75	61	(259)	14
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(5,194)	(3,423)	(3,224)	1,771	(199)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Repayments of borrowings		(4,522)	(4,523)	(4,271)	(1)	(252)
Receipts						
Proceeds from borrowing		-	-	964	-	(964)
Proceeds from industry		4,522	4,523	3,463	1	1,060
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		-	-	156	-	(156)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(2,192)	136	(7,775)	2,328	7,911
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		8,069	5,222	12,997	(2,847)	(7,775)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD		5,877	5,358	5,222	(519)	136

Note 39: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Major variance Narratives

Variances between estimate and actual

- 1) Supplies and Services overspent by \$6.8 million (43.0%) due to actual expenditure reallocation from Capital Expenses, along with increased peak body payments to Industry.
- 2) User charges and fees was higher than budget by \$4.7 million (16.0%) mainly due to the increase of the West Coast Rock Lobster licence fees.
- 3) Other revenue was higher than budget by \$2.9 million (189.0%) due to reclassifying of some grants from 'Grants and Contributions'. Similarly, fees paid for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes were reclassified from interest.
- 4) Receivables were higher than budget by \$3.9 million (147.0%) due to inclusion of WATC Industry receivable loans. In the Budget these have been included under Other Current Assets.
- 5) Property Plant and Equipment was lower than budget by \$4.7 million (7.0%) due to significant loss in revaluation of buildings.
- 6) Provision was higher than budget by \$3.2 million (32.0%) due to the actual employee entitlements were not taken during the year at the anticipated rate.
- 7) Reserves were higher than budget by \$3.6 million (29.0%) due to correction to prior period understatement of the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre (IOMRC).
- 8) Purchase of non-current assets was \$2.0 million (37.0%) less than expected due to delays in building projects and other capital programs.

Variances between actual results for 2017 and 2016

- A) Supplies and Services increased by \$2.5 million (12.0%) due to actual expenditure reallocation from Capital Expenses, along with increased peak body payments to Industry.
- B) User charges and fees increased by \$3.3 million (11.0%) mainly due to the increased of the West Coast Rock Lobster licence fees.
- C) Receivables decreased by \$4.8 million (19.0%) due to reduction of repayment amount of WATC industry loan.
- D) Amount Receivable for Services increased by \$2.9 million (17.0%) because the appropriation into the holding account exceeded the amount drawn to fund capital program.
- E) Property Plant and Equipment decreased by \$7.4 million (11.0%) due to significant loss in revaluation of buildings.
- F) Borrowings decreased by \$4.8 million (19.0%) due to reduction of repayment amount of WATC industry loan.
- G) Reserves decreased by \$5.7 million (26.0%) due to significant loss in revaluation.
- H) Capital contribution increased by \$2.1 million (998.0%) due to increase capital works projects.

Note 40: 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 40(c) 'Financial instruments disclosures' and note 23 '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 40(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 drawdown 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 40(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).

(b) Categories of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of the financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting date are as follows.

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,034	1,513
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	4,324	3,709
Loans and receivables ^(a)	47,264	49,827
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	28,694	34,019

(a) The amount of loans and receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

(c) Financial Instrument Disclosures

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.

Note 40: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

Ageing analysis of financial assets

	Carrying Amount \$'000	Not past due and not impaired \$'000	Past due but not impaired			
			Up to 1 month \$'000	Up to 1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000
2017						
Cash and cash equivalents	1,034	1,034	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	4,324	4,324	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	465	136	219	47	69	(6)
Loans and Advances	25,605	25,605	-	-	-	-
Amounts Receivable for Services	21,194	21,194	-	-	-	-
	52,622	52,565	219	47	69	(6)
2016						
Cash and cash equivalents	1,513	1,513	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	3,709	3,709	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	526	417	101	1	-	7
Loans and Advances	30,962	30,962	-	-	-	-
Amounts Receivable for Services	18,339	18,339	-	-	-	-
	55,049	54,940	101	1	-	7

(a) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable)

Note 40: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

Liquidity risk and interest rate risk exposure

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.

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Carrying Amount \$'000	Interest Rate Exposure		Nominal Amount \$'000	Maturity Dates				
			Fixed Interest Rate \$'000	Non- Interest Bearing \$'000		Up to 1 month \$'000	Up to 1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000
2017										
Financial Assets										
Cash and cash equivalents	-	1,034	-	1,034	1,034	1,034	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	1.98	4,324	4,324	-	4,324	4,324	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	-	465	-	465	465	465	-	-	-	-
Loans and Advances	-	25,605	-	25,605	25,605	-	-	4,791	20,814	-
Amounts Receivable for Services	-	21,194	-	21,194	21,194	-	-	1,766	19,428	-
		52,622	4,324	48,298	52,622	5,823	-	6,557	40,242	-
Financial Liabilities										
Payables	-	3,089	-	3,089	3,089	3,089	-	-	-	-
WATC borrowings	5.42	25,605	25,605	-	25,605	-	-	4,791	20,814	-
Financial lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		28,694	25,605	3,089	28,694	3,089	-	4,791	20,814	-

Note 40: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Carrying Amount \$'000	Interest Rate Exposure		Nominal Amount \$'000	Maturity Dates				
			Fixed Interest Rate \$'000	Non- Interest Bearing \$'000		Up to 1 month \$'000	Up to 1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000
2016										
Financial Assets										
Cash and cash equivalents	-	1,513	-	1,513	1,513	1,513	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2.27	3,709	3,709	-	3,709	3,709	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	-	526	-	526	526	526	-	-	-	-
Loans and Advances	-	30,962	-	30,962	30,962	834	-	4,523	23,655	1,950
Amounts Receivable for Services	-	18,339	-	18,339	18,339	-	-	2,007	16,332	-
		55,049	3,709	51,340	55,049	6,582	-	6,530	39,987	1,950
Financial Liabilities										
Payables	-	2,958	-	2,958	2,958	2,958	-	-	-	-
WATC borrowings	5.42	31,061	31,061	-	31,061	933	-	4,523	23,655	1,950
Financial lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		34,019	31,061	2,958	34,019	3,891	-	4,523	23,655	1,950

(a) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable)

Note 40: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

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 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000	Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000
2017					
Financial Liabilities					
Loans and Advances	25,605	(256)	(256)	256	256
Total Increase/(Decrease)	25,605	(256)	(256)	256	256

	Carrying Amount \$'000	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000	Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000
2016					
Financial Liabilities					
Loans and Advances	31,061	(311)	(311)	311	311
Total Increase/(Decrease)	31,061	(311)	(311)	311	311

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.

Note 41: REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Auditing the accounts, controls, financial statements and performance indicators	167	165

The expense is included in note 8 'Supplies and Services'.

Note 42: RELATED BODIES

The Department has no related bodies as defined in the *Financial Management Act 2006* and Treasurer's Instruction 951.

Note 43: AFFILIATED BODIES

The Department has no affiliated bodies as defined in the *Financial Management Act 2006* and Treasurer's Instruction 951.

Note 44: SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000

Write-Offs

During the financial year, debts due to the State were written off under the authority of:

The Accountable Officer	8	-
	<u>8</u>	<u>-</u>

Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

During the financial year these assets were written off the Department's asset register under the authority of:

The Accountable Officer	1	15
Less: Recovery by Insurance	(1)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>15</u>

Note 45: JOINTLY CONTROLLED OPERATION

Name of Operation	Output Interest (%)
Fremantle Marine Operations	50

The following represents the Department's 50% ownership interest in the Fremantle Marine Operations with the Department of Transport.

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Non-current assets		-
Property, plant and equipment	3,630	3,931
Infrastructure	90	101
	<u>3,720</u>	<u>4,032</u>

Note 46: JOINTLY CONTROLLED ASSETS

Name of Operation	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.

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Non-current assets		
Land	700	705
	700	705

Note 47: SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNTS

2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000
----------------	----------------

Fisheries Research and Development Account

10,515	Balance at start of period	2,546
	Receipts	
33,664	Contribution from Consolidated Account	41,067
855	Royalties for Regions	732
21,278	Fisheries Access Fees	25,260
1,447	Application Fees	832
1,731	Grants and Contributions	1,677
9,237	Other Receipts	6,572
157	Interest	187
68,369		78,873
	Payments	
76,338	Contributions to Fisheries WA operations	76,566
76,338		76,566
2,546	Balance at end of period	2,307

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.

Note 47: SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

	2016	2017
	\$'000	\$'000

Recreational Fishing Account

	1,420	Balance at start of period	2,045
		Receipts	
	11,111	Contribution from Consolidated Account	8,051
	7,661	Recreational Fishing Licences	7,612
	75	Royalties for Regions - recurrent	75
	47	Other Receipts	-
	<u>18,894</u>		<u>17,783</u>
		Payments	
	<u>18,269</u>	Expenditure on recreational fishing related activities	<u>15,283</u>
	18,269		15,283
	<u>2,045</u>	Balance at end of period	<u>2,500</u>

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.

Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account

	1,062	Balance at start of period	631
		Receipts	
	4,667	Repayments from Industry for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes	6,117
	-	Specific State contributions to fisheries adjustment	-
	<u>4,667</u>		<u>6,117</u>
		Payments	
	5,035	Loan repayment, Interests and guarantee fees to WATC for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes	6,157
	63	Unit buy back State Scheme	40
	<u>5,098</u>		<u>6,197</u>
	<u>631</u>	Balance at end of period	<u>551</u>

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.

Note 48: CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

2016		2017
\$'000		\$'000
19	Balance at start of period	2
	Income	
-	Application fees and Recreational Boat Licences	
839	Payments from the Commonwealth	865
6	Other	3
<u>845</u>		<u>868</u>
	Expenditure	
294	Salaries	282
246	Travel & Accommodation	265
322	On-costs	309
<u>862</u>		<u>856</u>
<u>2</u>	Balance at end of period	<u>14</u>

In October 2001, the Department of Fisheries entered into a Service Delivery Agreement (SDA) with the Commonwealth. The SDA provides for the delivery of a range of services by the Department of Fisheries in the Indian Ocean Territories including the management of commercial fishing, recreational fishing, aquaculture, fish health and community education and awareness programs. The Department provides these services on behalf of the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department, formerly on behalf of Department of Transport and Regional Services under Fish Resources Management Act (1994) (WA) (CI) (CKI).

Note 49: DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTERED INCOME AND EXPENSES BY SERVICE

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Income		
For Transfer:		
User charges and fees	<u>323</u>	313
Total administered income	<u>323</u>	<u>313</u>
COST OF SERVICE		
Expenses		
Transfer to Consolidated Account	<u>313</u>	313
Total administered expenses	<u>313</u>	<u>313</u>

Note 50: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTERED ITEMS

					Variance	Variance
	Variance	Original budget	Actual	Actual	Estimate and	Actual for 2017 and
	note	2017	2017	2016	actual	2016
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income						
For Transfer:						
User charges and fees	1,A	-	323	313	323	10
Income from State Government		-	-	-	-	-
Total administered income		-	323	313	323	10
COST OF SERVICE						
Expenses						
Transfer to Consolidated Account	A	-	313	313	313	-
Other expenses		-	-	-	-	-
Total administered expenses		-	313	313	313	-

Variances between actual 2017 and budget 2017

A) Increased infringements resulted in increased fines during the year not budgeted for.

Variances between actual 2017 and actual 2016

1) Increased infringements resulted in increased fines during the year, compared to the prior year.

Note 51: ADMINISTERED ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY SERVICE

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents	10	3
Receivables	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Administered Current Assets	10	3
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Administered Non-Current Assets	-	-
TOTAL ADMINISTERED ASSETS	10	3
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Payables	-	-
Other	10	3
Total Administered Current Assets	10	3
<u>Non-Current Liabilities</u>		
Other	-	-
Total Administered Non-Current Liabilities	-	-
TOTAL ADMINISTERED LIABILITIES	10	3

Key performance indicators 2016/17

Certification of performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2017

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 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruno Mezzatesta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a distinct 'M'.

Bruno Mezzatesta

Reporting Officer

11 September 2017

1.1 The proportion of fish stocks identified as not being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation.

For the 2016/17 reporting period, the proportion of fish stocks identified as not being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation is 95%.

Annual stock assessments of the fisheries that are subject to management are undertaken by the Department's Science and Resource Assessment 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 and recreational fisheries (full details of which are in the companion *Status Reports on the Western Australia's Fisheries and Aquatic Resources 2016/17*). 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 2016/17 Budget Papers state that the target is for the proportion of fish stocks not at risk from fishing is 97%.

For the 2016/17 performance review, 40 fisheries have been reviewed, which includes two recreational only fisheries. For the 40 fisheries reviewed, the 'Stock Status and Catch Ranges for Major Fisheries' section of the Annual Report records that breeding stock assessments are available for the major species taken in 39 (97%) of these fisheries. The one fishery where there are insufficient data to make an assessment on the target species to make a critical assessment was due to the fishery having not operated for more than six years.

Within the group of 39 assessed fisheries, 32 were considered to have adequate breeding stock levels and a further four fisheries (West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery (WCDSF); the Shark Bay Crab Fishery, the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery and the Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery) had breeding stocks considered to be recovering at acceptable rates (collectively 92% of fisheries). The WCDSF targets relatively long lived species so its recovery is expected to take a number of years to complete. The initial strong management actions taken in Shark Bay combined with the conservative Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) imposed since the

resumption of commercial fishing are enabling the recovery of both the scallop and crab stocks from the impact of the heat wave event six years ago.

Of the remaining 8% of fisheries, the fishery for scallops in the Abrolhos Islands has been closed since the 2011 marine heat wave but is finally beginning to show the first signs of recovery. Therefore, only two fisheries (or 5% of those assessed) have stocks that are considered inadequate as a result of exploitation (garfish in the West Coast Nearshore Fishery and cobbler within Wilson Inlet in the South Coast Nearshore Fishery) with additional actions now progressing to deal with these issues (KPI table 1). Consequently, 95% of stocks are considered to not be at risk or vulnerable through exploitation, which is very close to the target level.

KPI table 1: The proportion (%) of fisheries in which breeding stocks of the major target species are both assessed and considered not to be at risk due to fishing. Note: prior to 2016/17 the KPI and the target listed in the budget papers referred to the proportion of fish stocks at risk.

Year	Percentage of fish stocks considered not to be at risk by fishing (%)	Target value as per budget (%)
2006/07	79	Not applicable
2007/08	77	Not applicable
2008/09	86	82
2009/10	89	85
2010/11	94	83
2011/12	94	86
2012/13	97	91
2013/14	97	94
2014/15	97	94
2015/16	95	97
2016/17	95	97

1.2 The proportion of commercial fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved.

For the 2016/17 reporting period, the proportion of commercial fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved is 93%.

This indicator provides an assessment of the success of the Department's commercial management plans and regulatory activities in keeping fish catches at appropriate levels (including those in a recovery phase). For most of the commercial 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. Additional considerations include market conditions, fleet rationalisation or other factors that 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.

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 Fisheries' section of the Annual Report) by the Department's Science and Resource Assessment Division. The Department's 2016/17 Budget Papers state that the target is 95%.

For quota-managed fisheries, the measure of success of management arrangements is that the majority of the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) is achieved, and 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 TACC, or the industry fails to achieve the TACC 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 TACC has also been incorporated for assessing the performance of quota-managed fisheries (see the 'Stock Status and Catch Ranges for Major Fisheries' section of the Annual Report).

The major commercial fisheries which have target catch or effort ranges account for most of the commercial value of WA's landed catch. Comparisons between the actual catches (or effort) with the target ranges have been undertaken for 29 of the 38 commercial fisheries referred to in 'Stock Status and Catch Ranges for Major Fisheries' section of the Annual Report. There is still a relatively high number of fisheries not assessed which is due to a combination of ongoing environmentally induced stock issues in some regions (see above) and poor economic conditions for some fisheries which meant a number of fisheries were either closed or did not have material levels of catches during this reporting period. This includes two fisheries (Cockburn Sound crabs, Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West [scallops] Trawl) still affected by unusual environmental conditions to the extent that the fisheries were again closed. These stocks continue to be closely monitored and are starting to both show signs of recovery which highlights the benefits of strong management actions taken by the Department.

Of the 29 fisheries where 'target ranges' were available and a material level of fishing was undertaken in the relevant reporting period, 11 were catch-quota managed with 18 subject to effort control management.

Ten of the 11 individually transferable quota managed fisheries operated within their target effort/catch ranges or were acceptably below the effort range (e.g. Roe's abalone, pearl oysters, purse seine fisheries). The Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery catch rates that fell below the threshold level, and a review of the stock status of snapper, will be completed in the coming year.

In the 18 effort-controlled fisheries, eleven were within or acceptably above (one) or below (five) their target catch ranges. For effort-controlled fisheries, the current catch level of southern garfish required suitable adjustments to management which have already been initiated.

In summary, 27 of the 29 commercial fisheries assessed (93%) were considered to have met their performance criteria, or were affected by factors outside the purview of the management plan/arrangements. This figure is close to the target level of 95% (KPI table 2).

KPI table 2: The proportion (%) of commercial fisheries in which the catch or effort reported is acceptable relevant to the target management range being applied.

Year	Percentage of fisheries with acceptable catch/effort	Target value as per budget
2006/07	80	Not applicable
2007/08	96	Not applicable
2008/09	96	85
2009/10	93	90
2010/11	94	90
2011/12	100	94
2012/13	97	88
2013/14	89	92
2014/15	89	95
2015/16	90	95
2016/17	93	95

1.3 The proportion of recreational fisheries where catches or effort levels are acceptable.

For the 2016/17 reporting period, the proportion of recreational fisheries where acceptable catches are achieved is 100%

This indicator provides an assessment of the success of the Department's management plans and regulatory activities in keeping fish catches by the recreational sector at appropriate levels for both stock sustainability (including those in a recovery phase) and to meet integrated fisheries management objectives.

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 anticipated it will take around 10 years to bring the majority of the State’s shared fisheries under this new framework.

A target catch or effort range is starting to be determined for each of the major recreational fisheries (see the ‘Stock Status and Catch Ranges for Major Fisheries’ section of the Annual Report) by the Department’s Science and Resource Assessment Division. This indicator has only been measured since 2013/14 and the Department’s 2016/17 Budget Papers state that the target is 85%.

For the purposes of this indicator, 17 fisheries or stocks have been identified as having a ‘material’ 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).

Of the 17 recreational fisheries, only five currently have explicit catch ranges developed and another eight have implicit ranges that can be used to assess acceptability. Of these 13 fisheries, the data from the most recent available surveys had catch estimate levels that were all within an acceptable catch range.

Consequently, the percentage of recreational fisheries with acceptable catch levels was 100%, which exceeds the target level of 85% (KPI table 3). The results of the 2016 state-wide boat survey will soon be available which will be used to update the assessments for a number of recreational fisheries.

KPI table 3: The proportion (%) of recreational fisheries in which the catch or effort reported is acceptable relevant to the target management range being applied.

Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Percentage of fisheries with acceptable catch/effort	77	85	100	100
Target value as per budget	80	80	80	85

2.1 The volume of State commercial fisheries (including aquaculture) production

For the 2016/17 reporting period, the volume of State commercial fishing (including aquaculture) production was 21,229 tonnes.

We aim to manage the State's fisheries in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. This performance indicator deals with the production component of the 'triple bottom line' approach. Sustainably managed commercial fisheries provide benefits to the State as a result of significant local and export earnings from fish and fish products. Commercial fisheries that are not managed sustainably will suffer reduced production, as less fish products will be available to the catching sectors.

The production from WA's commercial, pearling and aquaculture sectors is published annually by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), based on data supplied by industry to our Science and Resource Assessment Division. Information for the years 2013/14 to 2015/16 in broad groupings is provided in KPI table 4 below.

The 2016/17 Budget Papers state that the target for production is 21,000 tonnes, which represents a production level that is increasing slowly.

The overall tonnage of commercially caught crustaceans and other categories in 2015/16 were both similar to 2014/15. The production from the mollusc fisheries in 2015/16 increased again from the previous year due to the continued recovery of the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery.

The annual finfish production in 2015/16 was the highest level in a number of years close to 10,000 tonnes level due to changes occurring across a number of fisheries. Total aquaculture production declined marginally in 2015/16 due to a drop in finfish production.

In summary, the overall tonnage of production in 2015/16 continues the increasing trend of recent years. The WA commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors will, however, continue to be affected by a combination of external influences including

natural fluctuations in the abundances of key species, the impacts of markets and the increasing adoption of strategies to optimise economic returns rather than maximise catch levels.

KPI table 4: Western Australian fisheries production – years 2013/14 to 2015/16.

	2013/14 t	2014/15 t	2015/16 ³
Crustaceans	9,525	9,825	9,624
Molluscs	802	991	1,131
Fish	8,612	8,947	9,722
Other⁴	56	37	37
Pearling^{5, 6}	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Aquaculture⁷	966	1,014	715
Total production	19,961	20,814	21,229

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.

Sources: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES); Department of Fisheries, Western Australia.

³ Figures current as at end of financial year.

⁴ Miscellaneous invertebrates, e.g. beche-de-mer and sea urchins.

⁵ Pearl oyster products other than pearls are included under molluscs.

⁶ Pearl production is not based on volume therefore production figures are no longer reported.

⁷ Excludes hatchery production plus algae production for beta-carotene; western rock oyster and abalone aquaculture production due to confidentiality (single operators).

Community Outcomes

We aim to manage the State's fisheries in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. Sustainably managed fisheries and aquatic environments provide benefits to the State by providing a range of recreational opportunities and experiences to the community from snorkeling and looking at fish in their natural environment to 'catching a feed' for the family. Effectiveness indicators associated with community outcomes are:

- The participation rate in recreational fishing; and
- The satisfaction rating of the broader community and stakeholders as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving aquatic resources management objectives.

The information used to assess our performance against these effectiveness indicators is derived from an annual telephone-based community survey and a biennial telephone-based stakeholder survey. These surveys are conducted in order to:

- Measure the level of recall and awareness of our informational and promotional activities;
- Assess the understanding and satisfaction of the Western Australian community and fisheries stakeholders of our management strategies across commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries; aquaculture/pearling, and fish and fish habitat protection; and
- To examine the key aspects of fishing and appreciation of the aquatic environment by the Western Australian community.

The results from these surveys are used to monitor, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the Department's programs, activities and functions.

An external research company contracted by the Department conducted the 2017 community survey in April 2017. Survey respondents were asked their experiences and views for the 12-month period prior to their interview date (i.e. March 2016 to April 2017). Of a total of 6,522 in-scope respondents (Western Australian residents aged 18 years and older), 700 interviews were completed

representing a response rate of 11% which was lower than in the previous community survey (20% in 2016). The 700 interviews comprised:

- 560 respondents from major cities;
- 60 respondents from inner regional areas; and
- 80 respondents from outer regional/remote/very remote areas or who were migratory residents.

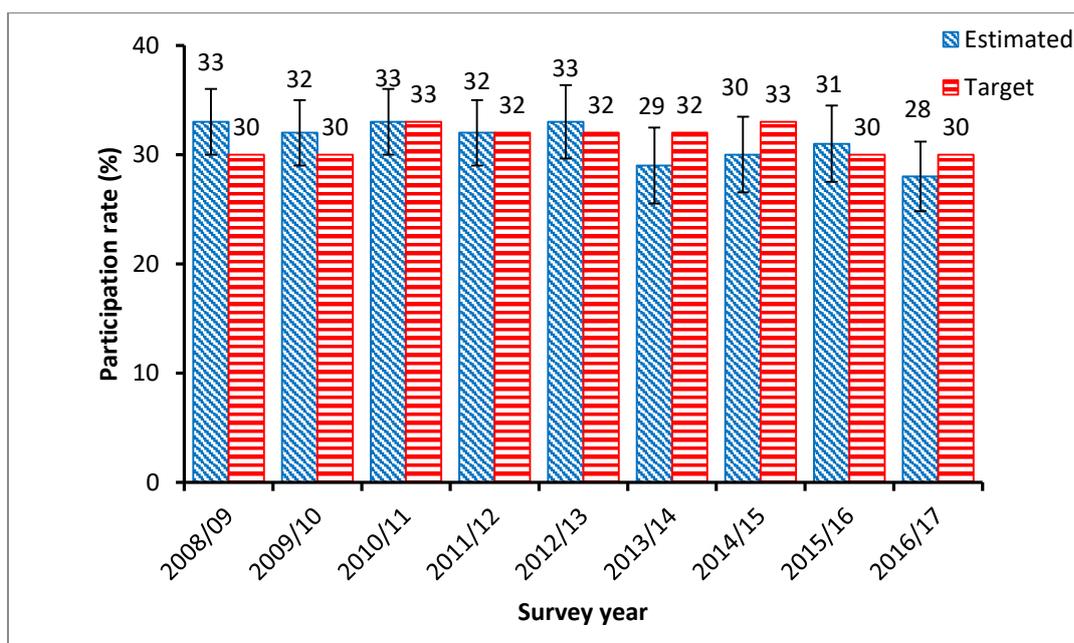
This sample was weighted to reflect the population based on March 2017 Estimated Residential Population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), with the survey providing estimates for the 2016/17 financial year.

3.1 Participation in recreational fishing

For 2016/17 the participation rate in recreational fishing is 27.5% of the population or approximately 671,000 people

The level of participation in recreational fisheries and frequency that respondents participate in recreational fishing is a measure of the utilisation of this community resource. Recreational fisheries also provide social and economic benefits for the community. These may include social benefits, such as spending time with family or friends and/or economic benefits, such as the sale of tackle, boats and other gear, and economic support for boating and tourism industries based on fishing.

The Department's 2016/17 Budget Papers state that the target participation rate in recreational fisheries in Western Australia is 30 %. Based on survey data, the 2016/17 participation rate was estimated as 27.5 % (95 % CI [24.2 %, 30.8 %]) of the population. This participation rate was marginally lower than the rate reported in recent years (i.e. ~ 29 – 33 %; KPI figure 1) consistent with the long-term, slight declining trend observed since the late-1990s. With increasing population levels, based on the estimated residential population of Western Australia aged five and older at 30 September 2016 (ABS 2016), the number of people in Western Australia who participated in recreational fishing at least once in the previous 12-month period was approximately 671,000 (95 % CI [590,000, 752,000]). Persons age four or younger were out of scope for this survey.



KPI figure 1. Estimated (\pm 95 % CI; blue bars – diagonal lines) and target (red bars – horizontal lines) participation rate of Western Australian residents in recreational fisheries from 2008/09 to 2016/17.

The graph above illustrates the yearly estimated participation rate of Western Australian residents in recreational fisheries from 2008/09 through to 2016/17 against the annual target participation rate.

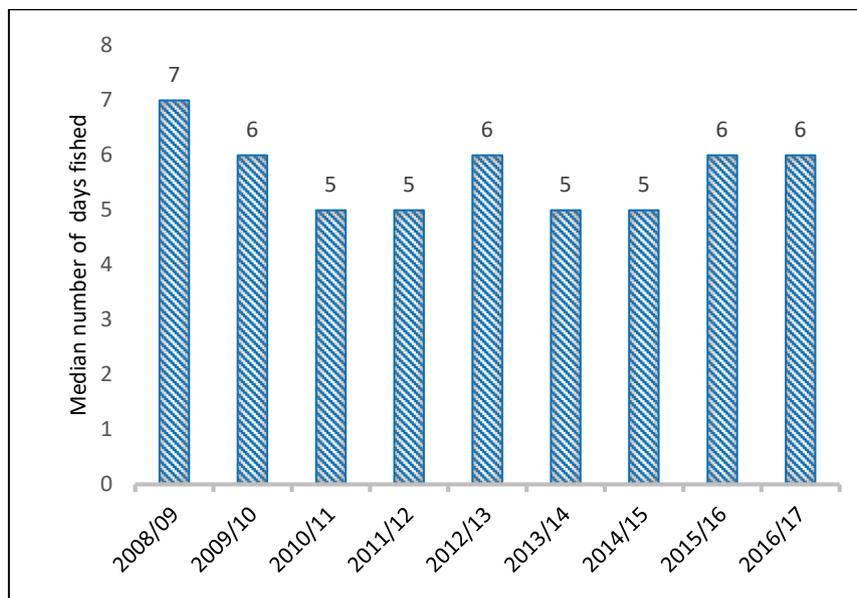
These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

KPI table 5: Estimated (+ 95% CI) and target participation rate of Western Australian residents in recreational fisheries from 2008/09 through 2016/17.

Year	Estimated participation rate	Target participation rate
2008/09	33	30
2009/10	32	30
2010/11	32	33
2011/12	32	32
2012/13	33	32

Year	Estimated participation rate	Target participation rate
2013/14	29	32
2014/15	30	33
2015/16	31	30
2016/17	28	30

The number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last 12-month period ranged from one to 120 days. The median number of days fished by recreational fishers over the 2016/17 financial year was six days (KPI figure 2), and the mean number of days fished was 12.5 days; nearly half (49.5 %) of all recreational fishers fished between one and five days over the 12-month period (KPI figure 3).



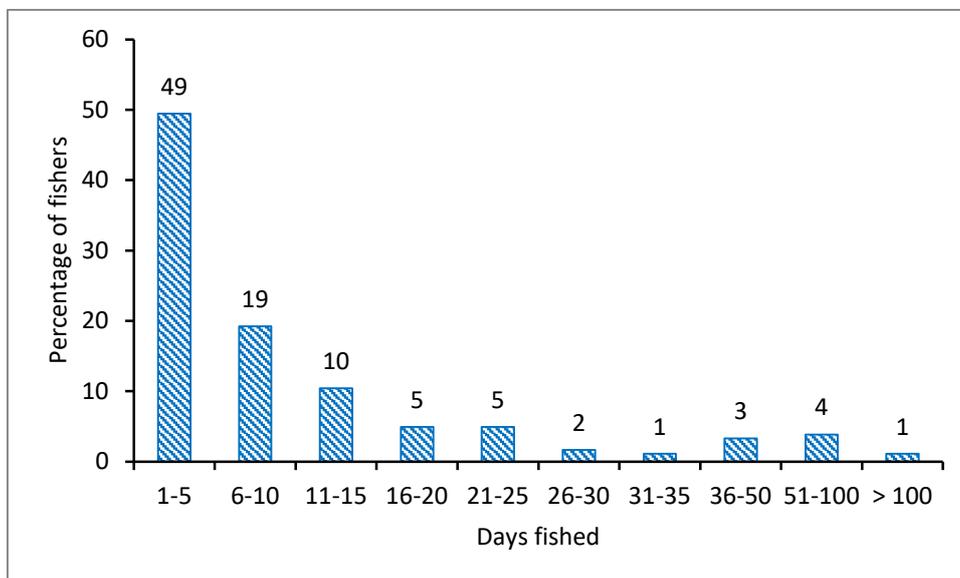
KPI figure 2. Median number of days fished by recreational fishers in Western Australia from 2008/09 to 2016/17.

The graph above illustrates the yearly median number of days fished in Western Australia from 2008/09 through to 2016/17. The median number of days fished in 2016/17 (six days) was consistent with the last five years.

These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

KPI table 6: Median number of days fished by recreational fishers in Western Australia from 2005/06 through 2016/17.

Year	Median days fished
2008/09	7
2009/10	6
2010/11	5
2011/12	5
2012/13	6
2013/14	5
2014/15	5
2015/16	6
2016/17	6



KPI figure 3. Distribution of total number of days fished by recreational fishers in Western Australia in 2016/17.

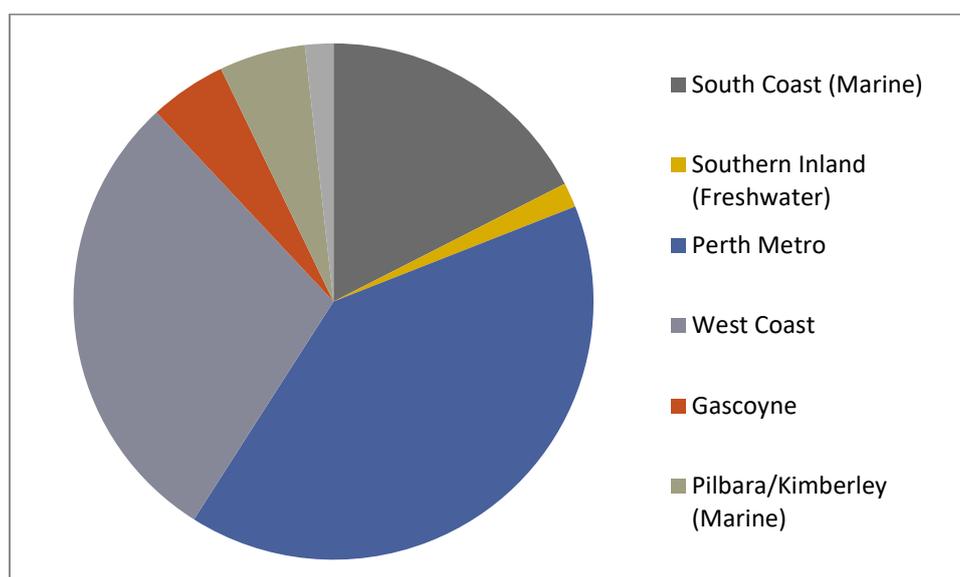
The graph above illustrates the number of days fished (expressed as a percentage) in Western Australia in 2016/17. Nearly half (49%) of fishers went fishing between one and five days a year.

These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

KPI table 7: Distribution of total number of days fished by recreational fishers in Western Australia in 2016/17.

Days fished during 2016/17	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-50	51-100	>100
Percentage of fishers	49	19	10	5	5	2	1	3	4	1

The Perth metropolitan area from Yanchep to Mandurah was the most popular area for recreational fishing in the State, with 40% of the total effort occurring in this region (KPI figure 4). The west coast region (excluding the Perth Metropolitan area) was the next most popular area for recreational fishing in the State with 29.1 % of effort, followed by the South Coast marine region (17.5 %), the Gascoyne region (4.8 %), the Southern Inland freshwater regions (1.5 %), the Pilbara / Kimberley marine region (5.4 %) and Pilbara / Kimberley freshwater regions (1.8 %).



KPI figure 4. Regional distribution of recreational fishing effort throughout Western Australia in 2016/17.

The graph above illustrates the regional distribution of recreational fishing effort throughout Western Australia in 2016/17. Approximately 70% of all fishing effort occurred in the West Coast and the Perth Metro.

These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

KPI table 8: Regional distribution of recreational fishing effort throughout Western Australia in 2016/17.

Location	Percentage of fishing effort
South Coast (Marine)	17.5
Southern Inland	1.5
Perth Metro	40.0
West Coast	29.1
Gascoyne	4.8
Pilbara/Kimberley (Marine)	5.4
Pilbara/Kimberley Inland (Freshwater)	1.8

3.2 Satisfaction rating of broader community and stakeholders as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department is achieving aquatic resource management objectives

For 2016/17 the satisfaction rating of the broader community as to the extent to which the Department is achieving aquatic resource management objectives is 85.7%.

In order to assess this indicator, community and stakeholder satisfaction is measured across four key management areas: commercial fisheries; recreational fisheries; aquaculture/pearling and protection of fish habitat.

As part of the community surveys, respondents were asked to rate the Department in their management across each of these four areas. Rating options included “very poor”, “poor”, “good” or “very good”. Note that only respondents who were aware the Department was responsible for a management area were asked to rate our performance for that management area as part of the community survey. All stakeholder respondents were asked about each management area, regardless of their primary interest area.

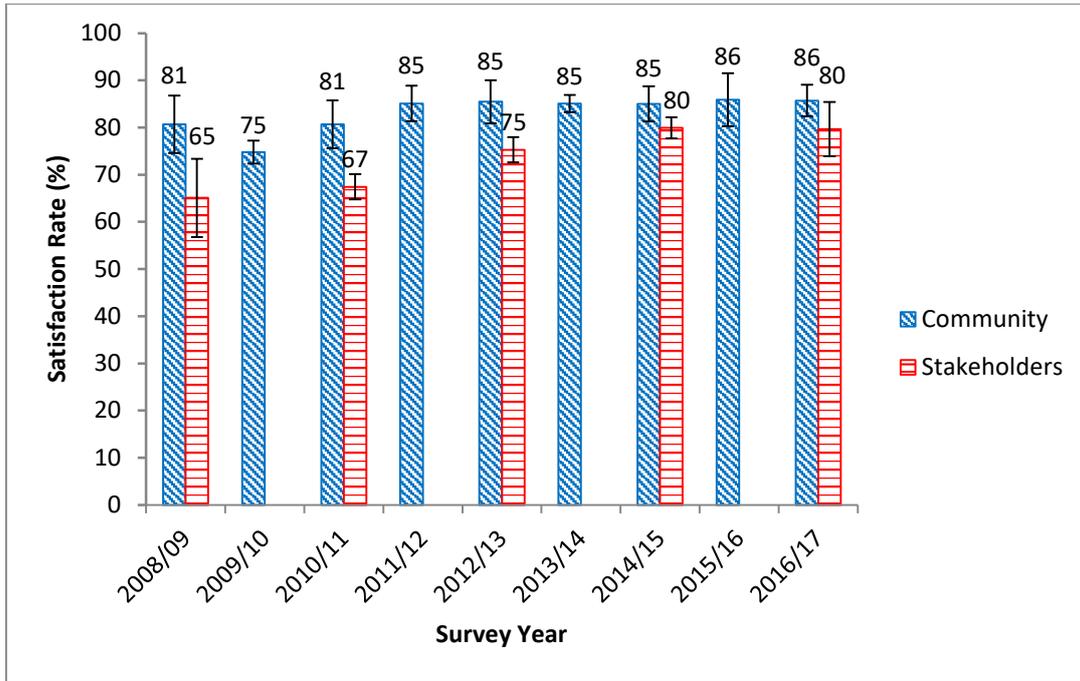
Satisfaction rates are calculated for each management area as the proportion of respondents who ranked our management of that particular area as “good” or “very good”. The overall satisfaction rate is an average of the satisfaction ratings across these four management areas. Note that responses of “can’t say” and “neither” were excluded from the calculation of the satisfaction rates.

The Department’s 2016/17 Budget Papers state that the target overall satisfaction rating by the broader community is 85%. Based on survey data, the Department was given an overall satisfaction rate of 85.7% (95% CI [82.4%, 89.0 %]) by the Western Australian community across these four management areas in 2016/17. This rate was similar to those reported for recent years (KPI figure 5). The 2016/17 satisfaction rates for each management area are provided in KPI table 9 below.

KPI table 9: Satisfaction rate (%) of the Western Australian community across key fisheries management areas in 2016/17.

Key Fisheries Management Areas	Number of Respondents	Percentage Satisfaction Rate
Commercial Fisheries	227	85.0
Recreational Fisheries	244	88.3
Aquaculture and Pearling	131	81.2
Fish Habitat Protection	171	88.4
Overall		85.7

The 2017 Stakeholder Survey indicated an overall satisfaction rate of 79.7 % (90 % CI ± [74.8 %, 84.5 %]) across the four management areas (KPI figure 5). As for previous years, the satisfaction rating of stakeholders was lower than the satisfaction rating of the broader community. While the satisfaction rate was consistent with the 2014/15 survey, the value was higher than that obtained from 2012/13 survey (KPI figure 5). The next stakeholder survey will be conducted in 2019.



KPI figure 5. Estimated overall satisfaction rate of the broader Western Australian community (blue bars – diagonal lines) and Departmental stakeholders (red bar – horizontal lines) from 2008/09 to 2016/17

The graph above illustrates the estimated satisfaction rating of the Western Australian community and stakeholders between 2008/09 and 2016/17.

These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

KPI table 10: Estimated satisfaction rate (± 95 % CI) of the Western Australian community between 2008/09 and 2016/17.

Year	'08/09	'09/10	'10/11	'11/12	'12/13	'13/14	'14/15	'15/16	'16/17
Mean	81	75	81	85	85	85	85	86	86

Key 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 key efficiency indicators provide information on the average cost per hour of service required to deliver services and outcomes, and include all costs associated with the specific service. To report the total cost of service and hourly rate, department-wide corporate overheads, executive and divisional support expenses are distributed across services and incorporated into key efficiency indicators based on the total direct hours delivered by each service.

Grants, fisheries adjustments and payments to stakeholder groups are excluded from key efficiency indicators (as appropriate) where these expenses are not considered to be a cost of service delivery.

In calculating the efficiency indicator targets, it is assumed that the Department will operate at full capacity (i.e. all full-time equivalent 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.

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 11: Service 1 – Fisheries management

	Actual 2013/14	Actual 2014/15	Actual 2015/16	Target 2016/17	Actual 2016/17
Average cost per hour of management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments)	\$161	\$196	\$174	\$179	\$165

2016/17 Commentary

The 2016/17 financial year was consistent with the previous year's operations, resulting in similar Total Cost of Services outcomes. The subsequent variance in cost per hour to target for 2016/17 was less than 10%.

Service 2: Enforcement and Education

Service description:

Through the enforcement 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 12: Service 2 – Enforcement and Education

	Actual 2013/14	Actual 2014/15	Actual 2015/16	Target 2016/17	Actual 2016/17
Average cost per hour of enforcement and education	\$170	\$179	\$140	\$159	\$145

With effect from the 2013/14 reporting period, the Under Treasurer approved the abolishment of the Marine Safety Service and the amalgamation of the Compliance and Education Service and the Marine Safety Service into the Enforcement and Education Service. As a result, only figures from 2013/14 figures and after are comparable.

2016/17 Commentary

The 2016/17 financial year was consistent with the previous year's operations, resulting in similar Total Cost of Services outcomes. The subsequent variance in cost per hour to target for 2016/17 was less than 10%.

Service 3: Research and Assessment

Service description:

The research and assessment 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 research and assessment services as outlined in the following table.

KPI table 13: Service 3 – Research and Assessment

	Actual 2013/14	Actual 2014/15	Actual 2015/16	Target 2016/17	Actual 2016/17
Average cost per hour of research and assessment	\$115	\$107	\$104	\$116	\$110

2016/17 Commentary

The 2016/17 financial year was consistent with the previous year's operations, resulting in similar Total Cost of Services outcomes. The subsequent variance in cost per hour to target for 2016/17 was less than 10%.

Ministerial directives

No ministerial directives were received during the year.

Capital works program

Capital works undertaken during the year focused on a number of building, infrastructure and information technology projects to enable us to meet our corporate and operational needs in regional and metropolitan locations, as outlined in the table below.

Table 4: Capital works program 2016/17

Asset class	Planned Expenditure \$'000	Actual Expenditure⁸ \$'000
Information systems	\$ 950	\$ 690
Plant and equipment	\$1,970	\$ 583
Buildings and infrastructure	\$1,698	\$1,803
Vessels	\$ 910	\$ 495
TOTAL	\$5,528	\$3,573

Information systems

The 2016/17 actual expenditure related mainly to final implementation costs for the *Fish Eye* Licensing and Entitlement Management System, upgrades to the Electronic Document Recording and Management System and implementation of an upgrade to Corporate Services finance systems.

Expenditure on the implementation of Corporate Services finance systems was lower than planned.

Buildings and infrastructure

Work commenced on the development of a multi-species mollusc hatchery in Albany, which is scheduled for completion in October 2017.

Replacement of public jetties on East Wallabi and Beacon Islands has been delayed.

⁸ Expenditure reported on a cash basis.

Vessels

The capital program for 2016/17 funded the continuing maintenance of a variety of vessels to support our enforcement, education and research services. Major replacements of larger vessels have been postponed.

Pricing policy for services provided

We receive a large proportion of our revenue from regulatory fees and charges related to commercial fishing, aquaculture and recreational fishing. These fees are set in accordance with Government policy and the level of cost recovery is based on the nature of the transaction. Commercial access to fish resources is determined to reflect an appropriate payment to the community for access to that resource.

The Department reviewed the process for cost allocation for transactional and application fees under the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* in 2015/16 to ensure the correct cost attribution to these fees. We have used this formula for the 2016/17 financial year.

Charges for goods and services 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.

Governance disclosures

Contracts with senior officers

During the reporting period, 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.

Compliance with relevant written laws

Enabling legislation

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*.

In accordance with the Offshore Constitutional Settlement, which is given effect by arrangements made under Part 3 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and Part 5 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (Commonwealth), Western Australia's management responsibilities extend seaward beyond the three nautical mile limit of the State to the 200 nautical mile limit of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ).

The Offshore Constitutional Settlement also provides for some fisheries that straddle State waters and the AFZ to be managed either jointly by the Commonwealth and State, or solely by the Commonwealth.

Fisheries under Western Australian State jurisdiction

Except where specifically noted, fisheries involving the following species are managed by the Department of Fisheries to the 200 nautical mile limit of the AFZ, in accordance with State law:

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

Combined, these species comprise some 40 managed fisheries or effectively all fisheries undertaken off Western Australia, except fisheries jointly managed by the

Commonwealth and Western Australia (Joint Authority Fisheries) under Western Australian legislation (two fisheries), and fisheries that are managed solely by the Commonwealth under Commonwealth law (six fisheries), as listed below.

Fisheries under joint Commonwealth-State jurisdiction

The following fisheries are managed by the Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority (a body comprising the State and the Commonwealth ministers) 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 by a 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 managed by the Commonwealth in accordance with Commonwealth legislation are:

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

Other legislation

In the performance of our functions, we comply with the following written laws:

- *Animal Welfare Act 2002*
- *Auditor General Act 2006*
- *Competition and Consumer Act 2010**
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003*
- *Credit Act 1984*

- *Disability Services Act 1993*
- *Electronic Transactions Act 2011*
- *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*
- *A 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*
- *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.*

* Commonwealth legislation

Corporate Credit Cards

Personal use – financial reporting

During the year ended 30 June 2017 expenditure was incurred on the Department's purchasing cards for personal use, and details are as follows:

Table 5: Details of expenditure incurred on the Department's purchasing cards for personal use

Reporting requirement:	Total amount for 2016/17
Number of instances the Western Australian Government Purchasing Card has been used for a personal purpose	27
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure for the reporting period	\$3,256
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled by the due date	\$1,629
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled after the period required	\$1,627
The aggregate amount of personal use expenditure outstanding at the end of the reporting period	Nil
The number of referrals for disciplinary action instigated by the notifiable authority during the reporting period	Nil

Board and committee remuneration

Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee

Function: To advise the Minister for Fisheries on fish resource allocation issues between sectors and make recommendations to the Minister on optimal resource use.

Table 6: Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee remuneration

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration
Chair	Ian Longson	Per annum	30 Nov 2016 – 30 Nov 2017	\$20,301.81
Member	Norman Halse	Per annum	30 Nov 2016 – 30 Nov 2017	\$12,181.26
Member	Stephen Lodge	Per annum	30 Nov 2016 – 30 Nov 2017	\$12,181.26
Member	Elizabeth (Libby) Woods	N/A	30 Nov 2016 – 30 Nov 2017	Nil
Member	Director, Aquatic Resource Management Department of Fisheries (<i>ex officio</i>)		30 Nov 2016 – 30 Nov 2017	Nil
TOTAL				\$44,664.33

South Coast Herring G-Trap Fishery Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

Function: To make recommendations to the Minister with respect to the desirability of the establishment and implementation of a Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme for the South Coast Herring G-Trap Fishery.

Table 7: South Coast Herring G-Trap Fishery Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management remuneration

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration
Chair	Ross Donald	Per meeting	31 Jan 2017 – 30 June 2018	\$591.30
Member	Katherine Weber	Per meeting	31 Jan 2017 – 30 June 2018	\$383.25
Member	Keith Tocas	Per meeting	31 Jan 2017 – 30 June 2018	Nil
Member	Bruno Mezzatesta	N/A	31 Jan 2017 – 30 June 2018	Nil
TOTAL				\$974.55

Other legal requirements

Advertising and sponsorship

In compliance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Department 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.

Table 8: Expenditure on advertising for the 2016/17 financial year

Expenditure	Agency	\$ (GST exc)
Expenditure with advertising agencies	Marketforce	\$86,470
Expenditure with media advertising agencies	Adcorp Australia	\$36,081
Expenditure with media advertising agencies	State Law Publisher	\$15,243
Expenditure with polling agencies	None	None
Expenditure with direct mail agencies	ABnote Australasia Pty Ltd	\$477,812
Total	All agencies	\$615,606

Disability and inclusion plan

The Department's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) outlines our strategies to provide an accessible and inclusive environment for our staff and visitors with disabilities.

These strategies work towards a number of access and inclusion outcomes, which are outlined in the *Disability Services Act 1993*. They are:

Outcome One: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access our services and attend any events organised by us.

We interpret 'an accessible and inclusive community' as one in which all functions, facilities and services are equally open, available and accessible to everyone in the

community, including people with disabilities, providing them with the same opportunities, rights and responsibilities enjoyed by other members of the community. We are committed to:

- working in partnership with community groups and other public authorities to assist people with disabilities through improved access to information, services and facilities;
- ensuring that our staff, volunteers, agents and contractors are aware of the requirements of the *Disability Services Act 1993*;
- providing information about our services and functions on request in formats that meet the needs of people with disabilities; and
- developing a process to promote DAIP initiatives across the Department.

Outcome Two: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to enter our buildings and use our other facilities.

Our capital works program addresses access by people with disabilities to our buildings and facilities. We are committed to:

- ensuring that the design and construction of our buildings and facilities comply with the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and *the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Access to Premises Standards*;
- ensuring we have appropriate signage for people with disabilities;
- conducting audits to identify access barriers to premises; and
- implementing work health and safety emergency evacuation procedures.

Outcome Three: People with disabilities receive information from us in a format that will enable them to readily access it. We are committed to:

- improving community awareness by providing information in appropriate alternative formats;
- ensuring staff know how to obtain information in other formats when necessary and can advise people with disabilities or their carers;
- investigating and facilitating the use of interpreters to improve the accessibility of our meetings and events for people with a hearing impairment; and
- ensuring our information, including the website, meets accessibility standards.

Outcome Four: People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from our staff as other people. We are committed to:

- improving staff awareness of disability and access issues and improving skills to provide a good service to people with disabilities;
- improving awareness of new and existing staff about disability and access issues; and
- generating and sustaining staff awareness of disability and access issues.

Outcome Five: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to complain to us. We are committed to:

- ensuring that current grievance mechanisms are accessible for people with disabilities; and
- providing training to new and existing customer service staff on handling complaints from people with disabilities.

Outcome Six: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation. We are committed to:

- improving community awareness about consultation processes; and
- monitoring of the DAIP to ensure implementation and satisfactory outcomes.

Outcome Seven: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment with a public authority.

We review inclusive recruitment practices and support employees with disabilities. We are committed to:

- ensuring all recruitment policies, procedures, templates, language and formats are inclusive of people with disabilities; and
- ensuring all documents relating to recruitment are made available promptly in alternative formats upon request.

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

During 2016/17, seven compliance matters arose regarding public sector standards and ethical codes within the Department. Two disciplinary matters are ongoing, one matter was discontinued, one matter was completed with a finding that no breach occurred, and three matters were substantiated as breaches of discipline.

There were two breach claims lodged against the Employment Standard and one against the Grievance Standard. All three claims were investigated by the Public Sector Commission and found to be unsubstantiated.

Actions that were implemented in the cases where breaches of discipline were substantiated included additional training, formal reprimands, a transfer, and termination of employment.

Our efforts to support compliance with the public sector standards and ethical codes include:

- Participation in a Public Sector Commission-led review of our misconduct management arrangements;
- The development and delivery of a tailored misconduct risk management course for the Department's covert operations group;
- Updating our grievance management policy and procedures to reflect our learnings of best practice and to clarify areas where ambiguity existed;
- Developing an agreed list of behaviours that support our values, and also a list that illustrate behaviours that do not fit our values.
- The development of a 'Filling a Vacancy Policy'.

Our people

In the table below all full-time or equivalent employees were included at the last pay period in June unless otherwise stated. Some full-time employees were on unpaid leave for a portion of the pay period and therefore appear as a percentage of a full-time employee.

Table 9: Full-time, part-time and casual employee numbers over the last three years

Summary statistics	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Full-time Equivalent (Financial Year Average)	483.3	473.4	468.2
Full-time permanent	392.9	377.5	379.0
Full-time contract	41.8	40.0	33.5
Part-time permanent	41.7	43.4	42.3
Part-time contract	7.3	6.5	6.9
Casuals	3.9	2.2	3.0

Recordkeeping

This year saw many achievements for the Department's recordkeeping program and significant improvements towards improved compliance and efficiency of recordkeeping processes.

The Department's review of its 2011 Recordkeeping Plan (RKP) was tabled at the State Records Commission meeting on 12 August 2016. The Department then submitted its Amended RKP for approval by the State Records Commission later this year. The Amended RKP outlines the substantial advancements in the management of Departmental records since the previous plan, and confirms the direction of compliant efficient recordkeeping.

In unison with whole of government priorities, a transition towards digital recordkeeping was implemented and prioritised. This transition was managed under the *Go Digital!* Project Plan and led by the Knowledge Management branch. A key deliverable of phase 1 of *Go Digital!* involved the digitisation of records and eliminating the requirement to file hard copy records. Consultation, training and support promoted the change, and significant quantities of records were appraised.

Over the course of the first phase of *Go Digital!* at Head Office, 1,810 boxes of inactive records were sentenced and lodged to secure offsite storage. During this process, 6,100 files were scanned so that the contents are available electronically in the records system, accessible throughout all of the Department’s regional locations.

The move of the Department’s Head Office into new office accommodation occurred in May 2017, and in accordance with the State Records Office instructions records were registered and controlled throughout the move.

Six records management policies were developed and approved by the Corporate Executive to support the recordkeeping program and ensure compliance with legislative requirements. High level scanning procedures were also developed to enable the Department scanning to meet the requirements of the *General Disposal Authority for Source Records* (2016).

The recordkeeping training program was reviewed. Staff feedback and effectiveness measures were incorporated resulting in a transition to a module-based training format. Currently there are 25 recordkeeping Quick Reference Guides published on the Department’s intranet, and these too were reviewed ensuring they are applicable to end-users and up-to-date. Online training continued to be delivered through the learning management system, incorporating a mandatory Records Awareness module, and a records component in the online Employee Induction.

Table 10: Completion rates by employees of recordkeeping training

Completion	Face-to-face training	Online Records awareness	Employee Induction
In 2016/17	78	31	27

The recordkeeping system was upgraded in February 2017 to ensure the EDRMS remains current, works with other software, and incorporates new features. The upgrade also saw the system being rebranded to Records and Information Governance System (RIGS) to promote user uptake and a consistent, compliant Department approach. Throughout the year RIGS was evaluated and configured to efficiently meet business and recordkeeping requirements. For example, the capture

of CCTV video footage was streamlined, and new monitoring and management tools were developed.

File creation and quality control processes are continuously examined and improved. An Indexing Control Group meets regularly to review classification and titling standards. Consistent titling conventions are recorded in a file titling guide, and all new files pass through a quality assurance process that utilises workflows in RIGS.

Key milestones of the recordkeeping program were achieved resulting in solid registration of digital records in RIGS. Increasingly users employ the inbuilt document management features such as edit and revision control, reflecting a change in processes from capturing records at the inactive phase, to registering them at the point of creation and each change thereafter. The total number of documents registered to RIGS by the Department is 1.2 million which is reflective of the valuable and integral business knowledge asset RIGS has become.

Table 11: Number of documents, folders and storage boxes registered

Items created	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Documents created	107,111	237,248	236,077	243,597
Folders created	7,705	12,769	7,304	11,637
Storage boxes created	376	596	571	1053

Table 12: Number of document revisions in RIGS

Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Quantity of revisions	4,601	9,589	14,649	17,438

Public interest disclosures

(Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003, S23(1)(f)) The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* requires the Department to:

- facilitate disclosure of public interest information;
- provide protection to 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.

One public interest disclosure was received during 2016/17.

Government policy requirements

Substantive equality

We are committed to communicating and engaging effectively and appropriately with our culturally diverse stakeholders. Examples of ways we have done this include:

- a translation function on our website allowing visitors to translate content on the site into more than 30 languages;
- legislative recognition of the customary fishing rights of Indigenous Australian fishers exempting them from recreational fishing licences;
- production of a number of multilingual publications including our crab fishing brochure for the west coast region in Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Malay (Bahasa) Bahasa Melyu on our website);
- a concerted campaign to engage with recreational crab fishers in the Peel-Harvey Estuary whose first language is not English, including through multi-lingual publicity materials, community newspaper advertising and advertising on a Chinese community website; and
- support for Fishers with Disabilities, a not for profit organisation that seeks to provide fishing opportunities for people with disabilities.

Occupational health, safety and injury management

The Department's Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) team and committee spent the year progressing the action items in its OSH Improvement Plan. These have included our Corporate Executive undertaking systematic tracking of items identified as high-risk in the plan, consolidating the different risk assessment forms used across the Department to the one 'Safe Work Method Statement' template, and the development and implementation of several online risk management courses.

We reviewed our Injury Management Procedure, which focuses on returning employees to the workplace following a physical or mental health issue or injury. We continue to have a strong focus on the mental, as well as physical, health of our employees and as such have reviewed our EAP providers to ensure everyone can access professional help, assistance or advice as and when they require it.

Table 13: Occupational safety and health injury management performance against key indicators

Measure	Actual results 2015/16	Actual results 2016/17	Results against target	Comment on results
Number of Fatalities	0%	0%	0%	Target achieved
Lost time injury incidence rate	0.21%	0.15%	< 10% reduction	Target achieved
Lost time injury severity rate	0%	0%	< 10% reduction	Target achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 13 weeks	66.67%	100%	> 80%	Not achieved still have one RTWP – restricted duties
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 26 weeks	0%	0%	Not applicable	Not applicable
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	95%	100%	> 80%	Target achieved

Note: In the table above, calculations are consistent with the requirements of the *Public Sector Commission (PSC) Circular 2012-05* and the *Code of Practice: Occupational Safety and Health in the Western Australian Public Sector: 2007*

Government building training policy

No contracts have been issued that are within the scope of the policy.

Appendices



Appendix 1 – Stock status and catch ranges for major fisheries

A summary of the sustainability status for individual fisheries under management is provided in the tables below. The term 'sustainable' is given to those fisheries where the breeding stocks are considered adequate as well as to fisheries in which breeding stocks are recovering.

Fisheries assessed as 'inadequate' or 'environmentally limited' include those fisheries where additional actions need to be taken or confirmation is required to ensure the breeding stocks are either adequate or are now recovering. The term 'overfished' is only given to those fisheries that are inadequate due to exploitation (i.e. overfishing) that have been identified but for which definitive management actions have yet to be fully implemented.

More detailed information on the management status and future directions of commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries and aquaculture industries can be viewed in the *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia* (State of the Fisheries).

Key:

Sustainable
Additional actions have been undertaken
Stocks are inadequate
Stocks are inadequate due to environmental conditions
Not assessed

West Coast Bioregion

West Coast Rock Lobster

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance ranges	Commercial: 6,000 t (TACC 2016) Recreational: 422 t (TARC 2015/16)
Commercial catch for 2016	6,087 t (includes 1.5% for drip loss)
Recreational catch (95% CI) for 2015/16 season	272-400 t (1) 346-481 t (2)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

(1) based on historical data; (2) based on updated average weight data for metropolitan region. A full review of methods used for estimating recreational catch is underway.

Roe's Abalone

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate (open areas)
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 87t (TACC) (530-640 days) Recreational: 18-22t (TARC) Perth Metro Area
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2016	49 t (383 days)
Recreational catch (95% CI) for 2015/16 season	26-30 t Perth Metro Area 14 t Other
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

Low overall commercial catch due to in season TACC reduction in area 7 (metro) plus economic and accessibility issues. Recreational catch was above target partly due to larger size of abalone taken.

Octopus

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 200-500 t Recreational: Not developed
Commercial catch for season 2016	252 t
Recreational catch (13/14)	2 t (boat only)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

The commercial catch range was reviewed in 2016 to reflect increased knowledge of sustainable harvest levels. Commercial fishery is in a planned expansion phase.

Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Inadequate due to environmental conditions
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Environmentally limited
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 95-1,830 t (0 for 2016) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2016	0 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed

The fishery remained closed due to ongoing effects of the 2010/11 marine heat-wave and continued above-average water temperatures. With cooler temperatures in 2016, stock levels in part of the Abrolhos Islands have improved.

Cockburn Sound Crab

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Recovering
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Under revision Recreational: Under revision
Commercial catch for season 2016	0 t
Recreational catch	0 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed

With low egg and juvenile indices, the fishery has been closed since April 2014. While the egg production index has increased above the threshold in 2016 (Sep-Dec), the resulting level of recruitment is not yet known.

Peel-Harvey/West Coast Crab

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 45-105 t (Peel-Harvey) Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2015/16	57 t – 58 t (Peel-Harvey only)
Recreational catch (95% CI) for 13/14	50-66 t (boat only) West Coast 38-56 t (boat only) Peel-Harvey
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

Catch and catch rates were within allowable range. The large proportion of undersize crabs in 2015/16 was possibly due to cooler than average water temperatures and sporadic high rainfall events.

West Coast Nearshore and Estuarine Finfish

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Inadequate/actions taken
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate – Mullet/Whiting Actions taken – Herring Inadequate – Southern garfish
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Peel-Harvey: 46-166 t Herring: Under review Recreational: Not developed
Commercial catch for season 2016	Peel-Harvey: 128 t (all species) Herring: statewide 72 t WCB 49 t
Recreational catch (95% CI) for 13/14 survey	69-87 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not assessed.

Status of herring stock to be reviewed in 2017 using a level 3 assessment. New management arrangements for garfish are being developed.

West Coast Beach Bait and South West Beach Seine

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 60-275 t (whitebait only) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015/16	34 t (whitebait only)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: No Recreational: Not applicable

Available evidence suggests gradual decline in whitebait stock level over the past decade in line with environmental shifts requiring a review of the acceptable catch range.

West Coast Purse Seine

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 0-3,000 t (TACC) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015/16	1,177 t (all species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

Total catch for all zones within recent historical catch range.

West Coast Demersal Scalefish

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Recovering
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: < 450 t (demersal suite) Recreational: < 250 t (top 15 species only)
Commercial catch for season 2015/16 or 2016	256 t
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey, charter 2016	139-166 t (boat only, top 15 species) 56 t (charter)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational/Charter: Yes

Catches by the commercial and recreational sectors were both within recovery and allocation benchmarks. Updated Level 3 assessment to be completed in 2017.

Gascoyne Coast Bioregion

Shark Bay Prawn

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 1,350-2,150 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2016	1,524 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

Western king and brown tiger prawn annual landings were within their respective acceptable ranges.

Exmouth Gulf Prawn

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 771-1,276 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2016	822 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

Landings of brown tiger and endeavor prawns were within their acceptable range, western king prawns were below their acceptable range but spawning stock above the threshold.

Shark Bay Scallop

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Recovering
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Trial quota 830 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2016	816 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Not applicable for trial Recreational: Not applicable

Trial quota for Denham Sound and northern Shark Bay stocks. Most recent survey has identified further improved recruitment for both stocks.

Shark Bay Crabs

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Recovering
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 450 t (TACC) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2015/16	372 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

Non-achievement of the TACC was due to unused quota. Most recent surveys have found a continued improvement in legal biomass.

Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 235-335 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2016	178 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

Total catch remained below the acceptable range due to a further reduction in effort (lowest on record). Increase in catch of sea mullet and tailor, catch of yellowfin bream again above the 10-year average.

West Coast Deep Sea Crab (crystal crabs)

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 154 t (quota management; 61,000-101,500 standardised pot lifts) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2016	153.3 t (82,000 standardised pot lifts)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

The TAC was achieved with effort remaining within its target range. The standardised catch rate of retained legal, undersize and berried crabs are all within their respective target ranges.

Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish (snapper)

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 277 t (TACC) Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2016	150 t Snapper 120 t Other demersals
Recreational catch (95% CI) for 2013/14 survey	86-110 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Snapper - No Other Demersals: Yes Recreational: Yes

Snapper catch rate has fallen below the threshold level prompting a review of the assessment. Goldband fishing mortality is lower than target level.

Inner Shark Bay Demersal (snapper)

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 8 t. Recreational: 12 t Eastern Gulf (EG), 12 t Denham Sound (DS), 3.8 t Freycinet Estuary (FE)
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2016	2 t
Recreational catch (95% CI) for 2010 survey	4-5 t EG, 6-7 t DS, 1-2 t FE (boat only)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

The Eastern Gulf, Denham Sound, and Freycinet Estuary breeding stocks are all above their target abundance levels.

North Coast Bioregion

Onslow Prawn

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 60-180 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2016	Negligible
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed

Minimal fishing occurred in 2016.

Nickol Bay Prawn

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 90-300 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2016	17 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

The catch prediction based on summer rainfall was low (30 t) which led to the low effort applied.

Broome Prawn

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 55-260 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2016	Negligible
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed.

Minimal fishing occurred in 2016.

Kimberley Prawn

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 240-500 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2016	155 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

With landings of banana prawns below the catch prediction, the total catch was low due to drop in fishing effort in the second part of the season.

North Coast Nearshore and Estuarine

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 33-45 t (barramundi) Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2016	51 t (barramundi), 75 t (total)
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey	11-19 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

The catch of barramundi is similar to 2016 and the catch rate remains at a high level.

Northern Demersal Scalefish

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Under revision Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2016	1,173 t (total)
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey	48-64 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Not applicable Recreational: Yes

Catches of goldband snapper and red emperor both within their longer-term ranges. Current recreational catch not considered a risk to stocks.

Pilbara Fish Trawl

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Under revision Recreational: Covered in NDS
Commercial catch for season 2016	1,529 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not applicable

Full assessment is in progress and the catch range is under review.

Pilbara Demersal Trap and Line

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 400-600 t (trap) 50-115 t (line) Recreational: Covered in NDS
Commercial catch for season 2016	495 t (trap) 126 t (line)
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey	48-64 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

The total catch of the trap fishery in 2016 was within the catch range. The line catch was marginally above the catch range which is under review for this sector.

Mackerel

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 246-410 t (TACC, Spanish mackerel) Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2016	276 t
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey	22-37 t (boat only)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

The commercial catch within the tolerance range since the management plan was introduced. Current recreational catch levels are not considered to pose any stock issues.

Northern Shark

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Not assessed
Stock assessment complete	No
Breeding stock assessment	Not assessed
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: < 20 t (sandbar) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015/16	0
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not applicable

No fishing effort since 2008/09.

Pearl Oyster

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 612,550 oysters (quota management),(14,071-20,551 dive hours) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2016	541,260 oysters (19,699 dive hours)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

Quota not achieved as vessels switched to seeding operations. Catch rates for season low but still within tolerance range. Abundance predicted to significantly increase in 2017.

Sea Cucumber

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: sandfish(Kimberley) 0-100 t, sandfish (Pilbara) 0-80 t, redfish 0-150t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2016	Sandfish (K) 21 t, sandfish (P) 70 t, redfish 2 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

Catch ranges revised in 2016 as part of the new harvest strategy. Catch rates for sandfish and redfish above the target reference levels. New stock of sandfish accessed in Pilbara. Main redfish stocks not targeted this year due to planned rotational harvest schedule by industry.

South Coast Bioregion

South Coast Crustacean

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 50-80 t Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2015/16	38 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not assessed

Commercial catch was below tolerance range but the catch rate in the targeted region. Catch and catch rates of deep sea crabs currently being assessed.

Abalone (Greenlip/Brownlip)

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 145 t (quota management) (3,440-5,270 hours) Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2016	121 t (4,411 hours)
Recreational catch for survey year	8 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

Commercial effort within tolerance range following TACC reductions. Non-achievement of TAC was due to commercial industry decisions. Recreational catch not considered a risk to these stocks.

South Coast Nearshore and estuarine

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Inadequate/actions taken
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Inadequate – cobbler in Wilson Inlet Adequate – other species
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: under review Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2016	103 t (salmon) 260 t (other)
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey	19-27 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: No – cobbler in Wilson Inlet, Yes – other species Recreational: Yes

Inadequate cobbler stock in Wilson Inlet is being addressed. Commercial catch of salmon relatively low due to low effort resulting from limited market demand.

Albany/King George Sound Purse Seine

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 2,683 t (TACC) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015/16	1515 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

Catch and effort higher than in 2014/15 but within recent range.

Bremer Bay and Esperance Purse Seine (zones combined to be reportable)

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate (both zones)
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 3,000 t (TACC, zones combined) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015/16	632 t (zones combined)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes (both zones)

Catch and effort were lower than 2014/15 for both Bremer Bay and Esperance and within recent ranges.

South Coast Shark

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Gummy and whiskery sharks: adequate. Dusky and sandbar sharks: recovering
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Shark 725-1,095 t (key species only) Recreational: NA
Commercial catch for season 2015/16	823 t (key species only)
Recreational catch	NA
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

Total commercial catch of key shark species within allowable tolerance range.

South Coast Demersal Finfish

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Demersal Finfish: adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Shark 725-1,095 t (key species only) Finfish: Under development Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2015/16	Commercial: 180 t (Comprises 88 t wetline, 82 t Temperate Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Managed Fisheries, and 10 t estuarine netting).
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey, Charter 2016	31-38 t (boat only, top 10 species) Charter: 7 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Not applicable Recreational: Yes

Formal management for this fishery is now under development

Northern Inland Bioregion

Lake Argyle Catfish

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 93-180 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2016	103 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

The level of catch is within the allowable range for the fishery.

South Inland Bioregion

Marron

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Not applicable Recreational: 50,000-100,000 marron
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2016 season	52,669 marron (\pm 4,801 se) marron
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Recreational: Yes

Total catch was within the historic catch range recorded since 2003.

Appendix 2- 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).

At 30 June 2017 the following items were recorded on the State Register:

- 170,528 recreational fishing licences of 249,020 varying fishing activities.
(Note: Although details of recreational fishing 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).
- Nine aquaculture leases.
- 394 aquaculture licences.
- 6,044 commercial authorisations of varying licence types.

Licensed recreational fishing activities consisted of the activities listed below:

Table 14: Recreational fishing licensed activities

Activity	Number of activities
Recreational Fishing from Boat	138,277
Rock Lobster	55,441
Abalone	17,903
Marron	11,307
Net Fishing	16,727
South West Fresh Water Angling	9,365
Total	249,020

The commercial authorisations on the State Register consisted of the following:

Table 15: Interim managed fishery permits

Permits	Number of permits
Octopus	24
Pilbara Fish Trawl	11
West Coast Demersal Gillnet & Demersal Long Line	17
West Coast Demersal Scalefish	60
Total	112

Table 16: Managed fishery licences

Licences	Number of licences
Abalone	50
Abrolhos Mid Trawl	10
Broome Prawn	5
Cockburn Sound Crab	12
Cockburn Sound Fish Net	1
Cockburn Sound Line & Pot	13
Cockburn Sound Mussel	1
Exmouth Gulf prawn	15
Gascoyne Demersal Scale Fish	60
Kimberley Gill Net & Barramundi	4
Kimberley Prawn	121
Mackerel	49
Marine Aquarium Fish Corporate	1
Marine Aquarium Fish Individual	11

Licences	Number of licences
Nichol Bay Prawn	14
Northern Demersal Scale Fish	15
Onslow Prawn	30
Pilbara Trap	6
Shark Bay Crab	32
Shark Bay Beach Seine	10
Shark Bay Prawn	18
Shark Bay Scallop	29
South Coast Crustacean	57
South Coast Estuarine	25
South Coast Purse Seine	33
South Coast Salmon	18
South West Salmon	6
South West Trawl	10
Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline	53
Specimen Shell	31
Warnbro Sound Crab	1
West Coast Beach Bait Fish	1
West Coast Estuarine	13
West Coast Purse Seine	12
West Coast Rock Lobster	633
West Coast Beach Sea Crustacean	7
Total	1407

Table 17: Other licences

Licences	Number of licenses
Commercial Fishing Licence	2,318
Fish Processing Licence (land)	104
Fish Processing Licence (sea)	87
Fishing Boat Licence	1,288
Fishing Tour Operators Licence	207
Restricted Fishing Tour Licence	22
Permit to Construct a Fish Processing Establishment (Land and sea)	456
Carrier Boat Licence	30
Total	4,512

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*.

Table 18: Transactions on the Register

Transactions	Number
Extracts and searches	580
Notation of security interest	83
Removal of security interest	51
Variation of security interest	10
Total	724

Table 19: State register of exemptions 2016/17

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2793	31/10/2016	All holders of, and persons operating under the authority of a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence (WCRMFL), registered receivers, any person acting for, on behalf of a registered receiver, recipients of rock lobster consigned for personal consumption, and persons who legally purchase or obtain rock lobster from a registered receiver or retailer.	Taking, possession, consigning and selling setose western rock from the WCRLMF.
2794		Cancelled due to administrative error	
2795		Cancelled due to administrative error	
2796	25/07/2019	Adrian Pinder of Department of Parks and Wildlife	To collect Redclaw crayfish, <i>Cherax quadricarinatus</i> from various locations for the purposes of research.
2797	01/8//2017	Murdoch University: Mark Thiele, Colin Ferguson, Ian Dapson, Steven Goynich and students	To collect macroalgae from various locations for the purposes of teaching.
2798	30/09/2016	Curtin University: Maarten De Brauwer, Ben Saunders and Tanika Shalders	To collect seahorses (<i>Hippocampus subelongatus</i>) from various locations for the purposes of research.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2799	31/12/2017	Indo-Pacific Environmental Pty Ltd (ACN 120 114 365)	To ascertain conservation values through aquatic fauna surveys in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.
2800	30/06/2021	Persons fishing with the use of a licenced fishing boat	To allow commercial fishing for blue sprat with the use of a lift net
2801	1/12/2017	Shanna Fulwood of Edith Cowan University, Aaron McArdle, Ashleigh Day, Casper Avenant and Chris Lehman	To collect invertebrates and fish from Claremont Foreshore, Alfred Cove, Crawley, Heatchcote and Applecross (Melville Beach Road) in the Lower-Swan Canning Estuary for the purposes of research.
2802	31/08/2017	Ocean Grown Abalone Pty Ltd (OGA) and 888 Abalone Pty Ltd (888).	To enable OGA and 888 to conduct scientific research.
2803	31/12/2018	Stephen McLeod	To enable Stephen McLeod to collect aquaculture broodstock.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2804	30/11/2017	Paul and Antoni Merendino	To enable Mr Paul Merendino and Mr Antoni Merendino to continue fishing for crabs until alternative management arrangements for the commercial Pilbara Developmental Crab Fishery are implemented. Note this exemption expires on 30 November 2017 or until the Exemption is superseded by the proposed Pilbara Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery (Interim) Management Plan (Interim Plan).
2805	31/12/2016	David Morgan of Murdoch University and various others	To collect freshwater fish from various locations for the purposes of research.
2806	02/09/2016	Peter O'Toole of Murdoch University	Collection of freshwater invertebrates, including insects, crustaceans, annelid worms, platyhelminth worms, molluscs and other minor phyla from wetlands surrounding Jurien Bay
2807	31/12/2016	Angela Rossen of the University of Western Australia	Collection of floating wrack or fresh beach wrack from South Cottesloe (outside of FHPA), Swanbourne Beach, Burns Beach, Rockingham beaches, Woodman Point, and Rottnest Island.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2808	01/12/16	Shanna Fulwood of Edith Cowan University	Collection of invertebrates and fish from Claremont Foreshore, Alfred Cove, Crawley, Heathcote and Applecross (Melville Beach Road) in the Lower Swan-Canning Estuary.
2809	30/06/2021	Mr P Glass	To allow the exploration and development of a potential commercial coral crab fishery in Western Australia.
2810	30/06/2021	Mr J.L. Craike	To allow the exploration and development of a potential commercial whelk fishery in Western Australia.
2811	31/07/2017	Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research (ACAAR)	To enable ACAAR to collect aquaculture broodstock.
2812	28/07/2021	Eric Trantham and Alwyn Robins	For the commercial take of sand crabs (<i>Ovalipes australiensis</i>) using traps in inshore waters of the South Coast of Western Australia.
2813	30/04/2017	Mr Alan Fraser	To enable Mr Alan Fraser to continue fishing for crabs until alternative management arrangements for commercial mud crab fishing are implemented.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2814	01/07/2017	Gayani Thilakarathna	Collection of sea urchin <i>Centrostephanus tenuispinus</i> , seagrasses, benthic invertebrates and algae from Hall Bank and Minden Reef, Perth metropolitan coast
2815	14/04/2017	The Nominated Master of FBL1840 and WCLL 1634	To be in the possession of, and setting within the Sea Lion Exclusion Zone, 60 pots with internal partitions fitted.
2816	04/08/2021	MG Kailis Pty Ltd	To gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks with the boundaries of the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery under a controlled management regime.
2817	31/07/2019	Ian McKernan of Murdoch University	Collection of algae, seagrasses, phytoplankton and zooplankton from coastal areas from Coral Bay to Bunbury, including Swan River, Cottesloe, Fremantle (Fishing Boat Harbour and Rous Head), Woodman's Point, Point Peron, Bibra Lake, North Lake, Blue Gum Lake, Booragoon Lake, Jurien Bay Town Jetty and Fishing Boat Harbour.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2818	28/02/2017	Department of Fisheries	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2819	28/02/2017	Department of Fisheries	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2820	01/12/2016	Department of Fisheries	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2821	28/02/2017	Department of Fisheries	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2822	01/12/2016	Department of Fisheries	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2823	01/12/2016	Department of Fisheries	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2824	01/12/2016	Department of Fisheries	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2825	01/12/2016	Department of Fisheries	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2826	01/12/2016	Department of Fisheries	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2827	30/05/2017	Belinda Robson of Murdoch University	Collection of freshwater invertebrates, sediment, and dominant wetland plant species from fringing wetlands of the Serpentine River, Goegrup Lake, Black Lake and Creery wetlands adjacent to the mouth of the Serpentine River in the Peel Estuary.
2828	30/06/2019	Department of Fisheries	To exempt the holder from the provisions of <i>Order No. 15 of 2008</i> , to provide for the commercial collection of land hermit crabs within a sustainable management framework.
2829	01/04/2017	Anthony Santoro	Collection of Oblong turtle (<i>Chelodina colliei</i>) from Perth metropolitan wetlands.
2830	30/06/2019	Chenae Tuckett of University of Western Australia	Collection of algae and associated invertebrates, herbivorous reef fish from localities between Esperance and Ningaloo Reef, extending out to the Arolhos Islands.
2831	31/10/2019	Belinda Martin of University of Western Australia	Collection of Lucinid bivalves from Rottnest Island, Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2832	19/12/2016	Lyndsey Cox	Collection of smooth marron and hairy marron from various waterbodies within the Margaret River catchment.
2833	30/11/2016	Kennedy Opiyo of Curtin University	Collection of small rock oysters (<i>Saccostrea mordax</i>) from Kalbarri
2834	14/09/2016	Kim Brooks of Australian Institute of Marine Science	Collection of <i>Lutjanus bohar</i> , <i>Lutjanus gibbus</i> and <i>Macolor</i> sp. from Scott Reef and Rowley Shoals
2835	21/09/2016	Glenn Hyndes and students of Edith Cowan University	To collect macroinvertebrates from Lower Swan Canning Estuary, North Fremantle and East Fremantle (Leeuwin).
2836	31/12/2016	Christopher Rawson, Rowan Kleindienst, Damon Driessen and Jarrad Baker of Curtin University	To collect barramundi (<i>Lates calcarifer</i>) and rock oyster (<i>Saccostrea mordax</i>)
2837	30/12/2018	Nicole Carey, Scott Strachan, Edwin Chester Of Murdoch University	To collect freshwater invertebrates from intermittent and perennial streams in state forest and water catchment areas of the Wungong, North Dandalup and Waroona catchments.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2838	30/10/2016	Jane Chambers, Belinda Robson, Scott Strachan and students of Murdoch University	To collect aquatic invertebrates, fish, tadpoles, frogs, aquatic and fringing vegetation from Manning Lake, Piney Lake Reserve and a variety of urban wetlands in the Perth, Mandurah and Bunbury metropolitan regions.
2839	30/09/2016	Rebecca Dobbs and others from The University Of Western Australia	To collect freshwater and estuarine fish, decapod crustaceans and turtles from freshwater streams, rivers and wetlands and estuarine habitats from Kununurra to Broome and the Dampier Peninsula.
2840	28/02/2018	Murdoch University	To collect Carters freshwater mussel for the purposes of research.
2841	20/10/2016	Matthew Fong	To set 130 commercial rock lobster pots to soak and to fish for rock lobsters adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters of the Abrolhos and Big Bank including the area described in Schedule 4 of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Management Plan 2012
2842	28/10/2016	Sam Koncurat	To set 130 commercial rock lobster pots to soak adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters off Jurien.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2843	31/12/2017	Brad Adams and others from Murdoch University	To collect Octopus spp, predominantly <i>Octopus tetricus</i> ; Abalone shells from Lease area held by Ocean Grown Abalone in the Flinders Bay region, Augusta.
2844	21/11/2016	Kjell Stokke and Karl Stokke	To set 160 commercial rock lobster pots to soak, adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters off Lancelin.
2845	21/11/2016	James Chandler	To set 160 commercial rock lobster pots to soak, adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters off Dongara.
2846	21/11/2016	Bruce Cockman	To set 160 commercial rock lobster pots to soak, adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters of the Abrolhos.
2847	10/10/2018	Neil Loneragan, James Tweedley, Daniel Yeoh and students from Murdoch University	To collect fish from 10 sites in the Swan-Canning Estuary between Stirling Bridge and Guildford and including Shelley foreshore.
2848	31/10/2017	Ryan Thipthorp	To tag and release pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) from various locations in Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound, for research purposes.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2849	31/01/2017	Danny Wimpress	To tag and release pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) from various locations in Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound, for research purposes.
2850	04/10/2016	Brett Crisafulli of the Department Of Fisheries and others	To take, by hook and line, pink snapper (<i>Chrysophrys auratus</i>) from Freycinet Estuary, Shark Bay, for research purposes.
2851	16/10/2016	Persons fishing recreationally	To fish for demersal scalefish, be in possession of demersal scalefish on a boat, or bring onto land any demersal scalefish as part of 'National Gone Fishing Day' to promote healthy outdoor activity.
2852	16/10/2016	Persons fishing recreationally	To fish recreationally for rock lobster and all freshwater fish (other than crustaceans) and to fish by means of a fishing net and to fish from a boat without holding a recreational fishing licence or a Recreational (Boat) Fishing Licence that would otherwise be required to engage in these activities as part of 'National Gone Fishing Day' to promote healthy outdoor activity.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2853	20/09/2019	Shanta Barley and others from the University Of Western Australia	To collect fish, macroalgae, crustaceans, sea cucumbers from the locations.
2854	30/06/2017	Russ Babcock and others from CSIRO	To collect coral reef benthos from south Pilbara coastal waters between Northern Ningaloo and the Dampier Archipelago
2855	30/06/2017	Prof. Peter Cook, Judy Maughan and Bryn Warnock of the University of Western Australia	To collect freshwater fish and aquatic invertebrates from Norilup Brook and surrounding streams, Greenbushes.
2856	31/12/2018	Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation (employees of)	To take crabs of the Family Portunidae for a commercial purpose by means of crab trap, drop net, scoop net or wire hook. Take finfish by line for other than a commercial purpose, from a licensed fishing boat
2857	31/12/2018	Milari Aboriginal Corporation (employees of)	To take crabs of the Family Portunidae for a commercial purpose by means of crab trap, drop net, scoop net or wire hook. To engage in commercial fishing for crabs from a boat which does not have a fishing boat licence.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2858	30/06/2017	Ghd Pty Ltd (employees of)	To collect aquatic biota samples (crustacean or fish) from Ki-it Monger Brook and Ellen Brook, to investigate the extent of contamination associated with historical fire-fighting activities on RAAF Base Pearce.
2859	20/11/2016	Fish Processor Licence No 1013, 1031, 1036, 1055, 1056 and 1086 and persons acting on their behalf	The possession, consignment and sale of totally protected western rock lobster as described in Division 1, Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
2861	31/10/2019	Indo-Pacific Environmental Pty Ltd	To ascertain conservation values through aquatic fauna surveys in the Blackwood River Catchment of Western Australia.
2862	31/12/2019	Batavia Coral Farm (Batavia)	To enable Batavia to collect aquaculture broodstock.
2863	30/04/2016	Persons fishing under the authority of a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence	To allow those operating in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery to catch their quota more efficiently, while also being mindful of the need to militate against interactions with humpback whales.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2864	31/12/2018	Hydrobiology Pty Ltd (employees of)	Hydrobiology seeks to survey freshwater fish between September 2016 and March 2017 in the Avon River as part of an environmental impact assessment.
2865	15/03/2017	Rachel Austin(University of Western Australia) and others	To collect no more than 266 individual tissue samples of <i>Didemnum perlucidum</i> from Port Georgraphe Marina, Busselton Jetty, Boat Ramps at; Abby, Quindalup, Canal Rocks , Gracetown, Gnarabup, Old Hamelin Bay Jetty and Augusta Boat Harbour
2866	14/01/2017	Sam Ayling	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division in determining the catch rates, size composition and habitat information from the Big Bank area of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.
2867	30/06/2019	Holder Of Commercial Fishing Licence No 104044 and 250346216	The taking of land hermit crabs, <i>Coenobita variabilis</i>

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2868	31/12/2016	Chancliff Pty Ltd	To apply for a licence in the South Coast Purse Seine Managed Fishery, after the expiry of the licence application date of 29 August 2016 as specified in clause 6B(c) of the South Coast Purse Seine Limited Entry Fishery Notice 1994.
2869	30/05/2017	Dr James Tweedley and others as listed in schedule 1 from Murdoch University	To collect prawns from the Swan-Canning Estuary.
2870	01/03/2017	Craig Scott (Maverick Ph001) and Department of Fisheries officers	Undersize redthroat emperor to be caught and retained by Mr Craig Scott aboard Vessel Maverick PH001 under his permit to fish in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery. From Kalbarri and Mid West management Areas of the West Coast Bioregion, as defined in the interim Management Plan of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery and as permitted under Mr Craig Scotts permit to access that fishery.
2871	31/12/2018	Ocean Grown Abalone Pty Ltd	For the purposes of minimising predation of aquacultured abalone by southern rock lobster and western rock lobster.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2872	30/06/2017	South Coast Crustacean Managed Fishery (Master of authorised boat)	To fish using rock lobster pots that are not fitted with a Sea Lion Exclusion Device.
2873	01/04/2017	Corey Wakefield of the Department of Fisheries and others	For the purposes of research.
2874	31/12/2016	Exmouth Freight and Logistics, Sealanes (1985) Pty Ltd and Foodbank WA (employees of)	To receive and possess fish in excess of the recreational possession limit, to consign and transport that fish unaccompanied to Perth, to process the fish at Sealanes (1985) PTY LTD and to store that fish at Foodbank WA
2875	31/12/2016	Christopher Rawson Of Curtin University and others	To collect Barramundi (<i>Lates calcarifer</i>) and rock oyster (<i>Saccostrea mordax</i>) from locations
2876	14/01/2019	Adrian Gleiss of Murdoch University and others	To collect black bream, mulloway and bull sharks from Swan and Canning river estuaries.
2877	31/12/2016	Matthew Badart, Craig Skepper, Grace Davis and others	For the purpose of undertaking aquatic scientific research in order to provide necessary age sampling data required to facilitate an integrated model stock assessment, and to contribute ongoing information on bycatch and detailed species composition information from trap catches.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2878	31/12/2019	Arthur John Wheatland and Shane Darren Bonney	For the purpose of enabling the collection of aquaculture broodstock.
2879	08/01/2017	Recreational abalone licence holders	Fishing for abalone in accordance with a recreational fishing licence specifying that the person who holds the licence may fish for abalone.
2880	30/11/2019	Fred Wells of Curtin University and others	To collect Rottnest Conus, Brachidonte and other mollusc species from Rottnest Island, Albany, Busselton, West Coast intertidal platforms, intertidal rocky and mangrove shores on the North Coast.
2881	31/10/2019	Samantha Andrzejaczek of AIMS and the University of Western Australia and others	To collect Tiger sharks, <i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i> , Blue Shark, <i>Prionace glauca</i> , White Shark, <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> and <i>Carcharinus</i> sp from Ningaloo Marine Park and Perth Metropolitan Coast, Mandurah to Two Rocks, including Rottnest Island and Garden Island.
2882	30/04/2017	Western rock lobster local access tag trial	To trial a mechanism to enhance the supply of rock lobster to the WA community

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2883	31/12/2019	Indian Ocean Fresh Australia Pty Ltd	To construct broodstock holding tanks to hold yellowtail kingfish (<i>Seriola lalandi</i>) at Fisherman's Wharf, a land-based facility in Geraldton. The fish may be spawned and the eggs transported to a licensed hatchery facility for rearing; or moved to other licensed facilities.
2884	27/11/2017	Dr Jane Chambers of Murdoch University and others	To collect submerged aquatic plants and macroalgae, benthic microalgae and phytoplankton from Vasse Lagoon and Wonnerup Lagoon only of the Vasse Wonnerup Wetlands.
2885	01/01/2019	Muhammad Azmi Abdul Wahab of AIMS and others	To collect Sponges, mostly demosponges from Ninglalloo Marine Park; areas around Gnaraloo, Point Cloates and Mandu Mandu.
2886	31/12/2019	Prof L.E Beckley of Murdoch University and others	To collect zooplankton and squid from Perth Canyon, Albany Canyons and Bremer Canyon.
2887	01/07/2017	Dr Jonathon Werry of Griffith University and others	To gather data on the movements, behaviour and characteristics of great white sharks to identify if the area is an adult pupping and neonate habitat area.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2888	20/01/2017	Paul Lavery Of Edith Cowan University and others	No fish collected, only sediment from The eastern shallow platform of Oyster Harbour, Albany. The approximate GPS location is: 587980E and 6130502S.
2889	14/01/2020	WCLL holders	To allow the holders of a Managed Fishery Licence (MFL), and persons acting on their behalf, to operate in the fishery when the usual entitlement on the licence is less than 300 units.
2890	01/02/2018	Rachele Bernasconi of Edith Cowan University and others	To collect corals, water, sediment, sponges and kelp from Marmion Marine Park, Wreck Rock and Centaur Reef.
2891	18/01/2018	Aaron Schofield	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Science and Resource Assessment Division in determining the age structure of crabs.
2892	18/01/2018	Drew Wassman	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Science and Resource Assessment Division in determining the age structure of crabs.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2893	18/01/2018	Drew Wassman and Aaron Schofield	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Science and Resource Assessment Division in determining the complete size range of crabs present in the various water depths and areas of the fishery.
2894	28/02/2017	Mr Brett Leslie and others	Taking of fish protected by reference to species length.
2895	15/02/2018	Rachele Bernasconi Of Edith Cowan University and others	To collect corals, sediment, sponges and kelp.
2896	24/01/2018	Licensed fishing boats	To be in possession of, and set according to written instructions in the small meshed pot logbook supplied from Fisheries Science and Resource Assessment Division staff, two modified rock lobster pots, in addition to their unit holdings.
2897	31/01/2018	Jonathan Bilton	To produce, market and sell shellfish spat of the species listed below to existing licensed aquaculture operators.
2898	14/01/2018	West Coast Rock Lobster Licence Holders (Zone B)	To fish and retain catch in the 'Big Bank' area of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2899	30/12/2017	Kelli O'Neill of the Department of Water and others	To collect freshwater fish and crayfish from all rivers in Western Australia, apart from the Rangelands region, primarily the South West.
2900	24/02/2017	Mike Van Keulen of Murdoch University and others	To collect seagrasses, macroalgae, benthic macroinvertebrates and fish from Shoalwater Islands Marine Park and Mangles Bay.
2901	01/02/2018	Rachele Bernasconi of Edith Cowan University and others	To collect corals, water, sediment, sponges and kelp from Marmion Marine Park, Wreck Rock and Centaur Reef.
2902	30/12/2019	Stephen Beatty Of Murdoch University and others as listed in schedule 1	To collect Black Bream and Sea Mullet from Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary System
2903	03/04/2017	Caroline Kerr and others	To collect fish from Swan River between Belmont Racecourse and Garvey Park
2904	18/01/2018	Drew Wassman and Aaron Schofield	To be in possession of, and set in the waters of the West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery, according to instructions from Fisheries Science and Resource Assessment staff, a maximum of 60 modified fish traps, without escape gaps, per line up to a maximum of six lines.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2905	28/02/2018	Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish for commercial purposes in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2906	28/02/2018	Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish for commercial purposes in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2907	28/02/2018	Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish for commercial purposes in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2908	31/10/2017	Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence No. 2127	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish for commercial purposes in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2909	31/10/2017	Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence No. 2128	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish for commercial purposes in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2910	28/02/2018	Murdoch University	To collect zooplankton from the Ningaloo Reef at Bateman Bay in the Coral Bay Region for the purposes of research.
2911	31/10/2017	Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence No. 2128	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish for commercial purposes in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2912	31/10/2017	Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence No. 2124	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish for commercial purposes in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2913	31/10/2017	Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences As Listed In Schedule 1	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish for commercial purposes in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2914	31/12/2019	Abrolhos Island And Mid West Trawl Managed Fishery Licence holders	To facilitate the assessment of operational and economic efficiencies of various fishing gear within the Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Managed Fishery for commercial purposes.
2915	29/02/2020	Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences	To facilitate the assessment of operational and economic efficiencies of various fishing gear within the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery for commercial purposes.
2916	27/02/2017	Area 2 West Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery Licence Holders	To allow crab pots to be set and remain in the waters of Area 2 of the West Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery between 9.00 am on Saturday 11 March and 3.30 am on Monday 13 March 2017; and to allow crab pots to be pulled before 3.30 am on Monday 13 March 2017.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2917	12/03/2020	Lyndsey Cox of Cape to Cape Catchement Group	Collection of freshwater finfish, lampreys, crustacea from various waterbodies within the Margaret River catchment
2918		Unallocated	Unallocated
2919	31/12/2017	Mike Van Keulen Of Murdoch University	Collection of seagrass
2920	28/02/2019	Fishing Boat Licences	For the commercial take of sea cucumbers (Class Holothuroidea)
2921	14/03/2020	RPS Australia West	Conduct invasive marine species surveys throughout Western Australian waters on infrastructure, natural substrates and vessels, within port areas, marinas and harbours, and Koombana Bay and surrounding waters.
2922	31/12/2018	South Metropolitan TAFE	To enable SM TAFE to collect broodstock, and pink snapper eggs and adults for research and commercial purposes.
2923	26/03/2020	Lyndsey Cox, Sean Ferguson and Steve Fairbairn Of Cape To Cape Catchement Group	Collection of smooth marron and hairy marron from various waterbodies within the Margaret River catchment.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2924	20/12/2017	William Parkinson of Curtin University	Collection of sponges, cnidarians, flatworms, mussels, echinoderms, copepods, ascidians from Bathers Beach, Fremantle; Fremantle Traffic Bridge; Peppermint Grove Jetty; Como Jetty; Ammunition Jetty, Coogee
2925	14/08/2018	Department Of Fisheries (persons authorised to operate under the authority of a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence)	To permit lobsters taken in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery to be landed at Augusta Marina, Mangles Bay or Big Pigeon.
2926	31/03/2020	Nicholas Michael and Anthony Michael Lucas	To explore the Mandurah to Bunbury developing crab fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.
2927	31/03/2020	Department of Fisheries (Recreational Boat Fishing Licence holders)	For the purpose of allowing up to a maximum of six octopus trigger traps to be used for recreational fishing for octopus by the holder of a Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence (RFBL).
2928	31/12/2017	Department of Fisheries (Marine Aquarium Managed Fishery Licence Holders)	To allow Marine Aquarium Fish Managed Fishery licence holders to commercially fish for invertebrates, seagrass and algae.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2929	31/12/2019	Indian Ocean Fresh Australia Pty Ltd	To collect a total of 30 yellowtail kingfish (<i>Seriola lalandi</i>) to use as broodstock for aquaculture purposes, using lines or traps
2930	30/04/2018	Abrolhos Island Oysters Pty Ltd	To collect spat of western rock oyster (<i>Saccostrea glomerata</i>) and undertake aquaculture trials of named species.
2931	31/12/2019	Arthur John Wheatland and Shane Darren Bonney	To collect the species listed below as broodstock for aquaculture purposes
2932	31/03/2020	Abalone Managed Fishery licence holders	To permit the disposal of the shell of shucked Roe's abalone (<i>Haliotis roei</i>) prior to the consignment of abalone being received by the consignee.
2933	30/04/2019	Warren Arms and Mark Douglas	To take crabs of the Family Portunidae for a commercial purpose by means of crab trap.
2934	30/04/2019	Mr Alan Fraser and others	Fishing for crabs of the Family Portunidae for a commercial purpose by means of crab trap
2935	30/04/2019	Robert Mcintosh and Corrie Mcintosh	To take crabs of the Family Portunidae for a commercial purpose by means of crab trap.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2936	31/12/2019	Department of Fisheries (Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery Licences)	To improve the overall operational efficiency of the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery fleet for commercial purposes through the development of fishing technology.
2937	30/07/2018	Casper Avenant of Edith Cowan University and others	To collect fish, seagrass and macroalgae from Marmion Marine Park and Cockburn Sound/Success Bank.
2938	07/05/2017	Professor Paul Lavery of Edith Cowan University and others	To collect fish from Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park
2939	31/10/2017	WCLL holders and others	To provide further information on permitting the retention of setose western rock lobster in contributing to reducing whale entanglements in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery, and to provide the industry with the opportunity to further market setose western rock lobster
2940	31/03/2019	Megan Huggett of Edith Cowan University and others	To collect corals, sponges and macroalgae.
2941	31/05/2021	Captain Stuart Davey, Harbour Master of Fremantle Ports	To use, or to engage a vessel to use, trawl nets to remove seawrack from the waters of the Success Bank shipping channel

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2942	31/03/2020	Dr Jan Hemmi of The University Of Western Australia and others	To collect fiddler crabs and other crab species from coastal areas between Mandurah and Derby, excluding marine parks.
2943	31/03/2020	Thomas Wernberg of the University of Western Australia and Oceans Institute and others	To collect Seaweed and associated invertebrates from selected locations between Albany and Ningaloo.
2945	01/11/2017	Sam Koncurat	To collect all possible interactions between whales and rock lobster pots that contain pingers and pots that contain no pingers from the waters of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.
2946	30/04/2020	Charlie Phelps of Edith Cowan University and others	To collect kelp, <i>Ecklonia radiata</i> , and sea urchins, <i>Tripneustes gratilla</i>
2947	30/12/2019	Oscar Serrano of Edith Cowan University and others.	To collect seagrass and seagrass sediments.
2948	31/12/2017	Neil Loneragan of Murdoch University and others	To collect algae, benthic invertebrates and fish from lease area held by Ocean Grown Abalone in the Flinders Bay region, Augusta
2949	18/02/2018	Bruce Jenkins Of Australian Museum Research Institute	To collect marine intertidal snails.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2950	31/03/2020	Jennifer Verduin, students of Murdoch University and volunteers	To collect seagrass; <i>Amphibolis antarctica</i> , <i>Amphibolis griffithii</i> , <i>Posidonia sinuosa</i> and <i>Posidonia australis</i> from Jane's Bay, Ningaloo, Shoalwater Island Marine Park, Warnbro Sound, Mangles Bay and Point Peron.
2951	01/07/2017	Department of Fisheries (Joint Authority Southern Demersal Gillnet And Demersal Longline Managed Fishery licence holders)	To allow licence holders to pay the first instalment of the total fee on or before 1 July 2017 and to fish with outstanding fees until this date.
2952	30/11/2017	Fish Processor licence holders	The possession, consignment and sale of totally protected western rock lobster as described in Division 1, Part 2 of Schedule 2 of <i>the Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
2953	31/12/2019	Broome Hatcheries Pty Ltd (Broome Hatcheries)	To enable Broome Hatcheries to collect broodstock for aquaculture and tourism purposes.
2954	30/04/2019	Mr Warren Arms and Peter Coggins	To take crabs of the Family Portunidae for a commercial purpose by means of crab trap.
2955	15/11/2017	John Keesing of CSIRO and others.	To collect fish, invertebrates and marine plants from North West Shelf.

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2956	30/12/2018	Andrew Matthews of Curtin University and others	To collect marron from Harvey Weir and Drakesbrook Dam.
2957	30/06/2018	Department of Fisheries	To collect from the waters under Western Australia's jurisdiction any species of fish necessary to carry out research and conservation projects listed in the Fisheries Research Division's annual research budget papers and approved by the Executive Director Science and Resource Assessment.
2958	30/06/2018	Emily Lette and Dr Quinton Burnham of Edith Cowan University	To collect captive marron and transport them to ECU Joondalup Campus from Pemberton Fisheries Research Centre.
2959	14/05/2020	David Morgan of Murdoch University and others	To collect sawfish and bullsharks from Fitzroy River and King Sound
2960	31/05/2020	MG Kailis Pty Ltd	To collect a total of 2,000 individual black tiger prawns (<i>Penaeus monodon</i>) per exemption year and to deliver them to Marine Farms Pty Ltd (t/a Seafarms) to use as broodstock for aquaculture purposes

Exemption no.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2961	31/12/2018	South Metropolitan TAFE	Educational programs for training South Metropolitan TAFE students in commercial fishing practices.
2962	10/07/2017	Mike Van Keulen, staff and students Of Murdoch University	To collect macroalgae and benthic invertebrates from Ningaloo Marine Park
2963	31/03/2018	Jane Prince, Matilda Murley and Madeleine Ince of the University of Western Australia.	To collect macro-invertebrates from Engidine, Cowrie Creek, Saddle Hill, Gourdon Bay (western end), Lighthouse, Redpoint and Corkbark
2964	30/06/2018	Department Of Fisheries (Department of Parks and Wildlife)	For the purposes of enabling the personnel of the Department of Parks and Wildlife to undertake research and monitoring projects to support adaptive management of the State's marine parks and reserves and aquatic environment.