



# DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARLIAMENT

2007/08



Department of Fisheries  
Government of Western Australia



**TO THE HON. NORMAN FREDERICK MOORE  
MLC BA DIP ED  
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES**



Sir

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* (FMA) and Section 263 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA), I submit for your information the Annual Report to Parliament of the Department of Fisheries of Western Australia for the financial year ending 30 June 2008.

The Department also produces a companion *State of the Fisheries Report*, as required by Section 263 of the FRMA. In Appendix 5 of this Annual Report is a table on stock status and catch ranges for major commercial fisheries, derived from the *State of the Fisheries Report*.

**Peter J Millington**

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## Department of Fisheries Major Metropolitan and Regional Locations

### Head Office

3rd Floor, The Atrium  
168 St. Georges Terrace  
Perth WA 6000  
Telephone: (08) 9482 7333  
Facsimile: (08) 9482 7389  
Website: [www.fish.wa.gov.au](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au)  
Email:  
[headoffice@fish.wa.gov.au](mailto:headoffice@fish.wa.gov.au)

### Metropolitan Regional Office

14 Capo d'Orlando Drive  
South Fremantle WA 6162  
Telephone: (08) 9432 8000  
Facsimile: (08) 9432 8060

### Southern Regional Office

Suite 7 Frederick House  
70-74 Frederick Street  
Albany WA 6330  
Telephone: (08) 9841 7766  
Facsimile: (08) 9842 1112

### Mid-west Regional Office

69-75 Connell Road  
Geraldton WA 6530  
Telephone: (08) 9921 6800  
Facsimile: (08) 9921 3617

### Gascoyne Regional Office

82 Olivia Terrace  
Carnarvon WA 6701  
Telephone: (08) 9941 1185  
Facsimile: (08) 9941 1951

### Northern Regional Office

Port of Pearls House  
401 Port Drive  
Broome 6725  
Telephone: (08) 9193 8600  
Facsimile: (08) 9193 8699

### WA Fisheries And Marine Research Laboratories

39 Northside Drive  
Hillarys WA 6025  
Telephone: (08) 9203 0111  
Facsimile: (08) 9203 0199

### International Operations

Waterman's Bay Marine  
Centre  
West Coast Drive (opposite  
Elvire Street)  
Waterman WA 6020  
Telephone: (08) 9336 5400  
Facsimile: (08) 9336 5411

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## FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



If there is a key word to describe the bulk of the Department of Fisheries' achievements during 2007/08, 'collaborative' fits very well.

Collaboration is, of course, essential in the work of a government agency that deals with a variety of clients, and must be accountable to the Parliament and public of Western Australia. The Department of Fisheries has long prided itself in its ability to work with commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers; aquaculturists; conservationists; people with a passionate interest in the aquatic environment; and the Western Australian public as a whole. In the last year, this ability has particularly come to the fore.

For example, the blue swimmer crab is the traditional focus of much fishing activity in Mandurah and is the most important recreationally-fished species in WA, in terms of community participation. In the latter part of 2007, Department of Fisheries research scientists – who were about to start a year-long survey of crab and fish stocks in the Peel-Harvey – received strong expressions of support from waterfront residents in Mandurah for their work.

After writing to 2,200 people who live along Mandurah's canals, the scientists received replies from more than 500, who committed themselves to filling out logbooks that record their fishing activity. Their co-operation will be crucial in helping the Department to monitor and manage the sustainability of crab and fish stocks in the popular estuary.

This kind of collaboration is vital for the Department of Fisheries. In the north of the State, volunteers have been assisting the Department with a tagging program that will help gather much needed data about barramundi stocks between 80 Mile Beach and Onslow. The program involves learning how to tag barramundi properly, catching, weighing and measuring them, recording this data and where they were caught, and tagging and releasing them.

The information will be collated and analysed by the Department's scientists, who are trying to find out more about migration, growth

rates, catch rates and population sizes of barramundi in the Pilbara. We also hope this research will find out whether Pilbara barramundi populations depend upon local breeding stocks or whether they are replenished by larvae, juveniles or adults moving in from further north.

The Pilbara has been the scene for another kind of collaboration – between mining giant Rio Tinto and the Department of Fisheries. The partnership between Rio Tinto and the Department of Fisheries, which started around 12 months ago, has resulted in a significant contribution by Rio Tinto and its employees to the Department's Fisheries Volunteer program and the donation of a new community education trailer.

A number of the company's employees have been working as 'sustainable fishing ambassadors' on their days off. As this summary is being written, the volunteers and trailer are going on a regional community education tour that takes in places such as Paraburdoo, Pannawonica and Tom Price, to make sure that the 'Fish for the future' message reaches inland mining areas where boat ownership is high.

The Department of Fisheries has developed successful collaborative arrangements during 2007/08 with other government departments to better coordinate its activities in areas such as marine safety and marine park management. We will continue to foster such relationships to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

Collaboration has been an essential ingredient in perhaps the biggest challenge that the Department of Fisheries has faced this year: managing our west coast finfish resources. This resource, in the waters of the 'West Coast Bioregion' – the area between the Zuytdorp Cliffs, north of Kalbarri, and Black Point, east of Augusta – is adjacent to the most heavily populated area of WA.

On 24 June, the then Minister announced a package of changes to recreational fishing in the West Coast Bioregion

to save some of WA's most popular oceanic fish species. This package followed a nine-month consultation and planning process, which was triggered after scientific research showed that populations of some key 'indicator' species – including dhufish and pink snapper – were in trouble.

The research showed that populations of these 'at risk' species in the West Coast Bioregion could collapse in just a few years, unless recreational and commercial catches of these species was reduced by at least 50 per cent.

With steady growth in WA's population in recent years, particularly along the coastline, there are now more and more people in more and more boats on our waters. Many of these boats are equipped with the latest in fish-finding technology and are far more efficient at catching fish than their equivalents were a decade ago.

While bag and size limits have traditionally worked well as a means of controlling recreational fishing, with these increases in efficiency and boat numbers it is necessary to find a new additional set of management tools that can help in this regard. The Department of Fisheries wants Western Australians to play a major part in determining these new tools.

The package of changes to recreational fishing for demersal scalefish within the West Coast Bioregion will see recreational catches of some of WA's most vulnerable fish species reduced by about half. Taken together with changes to commercial fishery management arrangement arrangements, the benefits will be priceless for the State's fish stocks and future generations of Western Australians.

Earlier in the year, commercial fishers had faced up to the necessity of changes in the rules that govern the taking of demersal fish species. On 1 January, laws for commercial line fishers changed and the number of commercial fishers operating in the West Coast Bioregion was greatly reduced.

## FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This followed the closure of the 'Metropolitan Fishing Zone' (from Lancelin to south of Mandurah) to the commercial take of fish by line or gill net.

A compensation package is available to buy-out commercial line and gill net fishers within the Metropolitan Fishing Zone. About eight line fishers have felt the full impact of the ban on fishing within the Metropolitan zone, with other zone fishers able to continue fishing in other parts of the West Coast Bioregion.

Only about three per cent of fish consumed in WA came from the Metropolitan Fishing Zone, with 97 per cent coming from fisheries elsewhere in the State. As a result, there should be very little, if any, changes in the level of supply of fish or in its pricing owing to these changes. However, price may be affected by a variety of other non-fishery related impacts, such as increased diesel prices and transport costs.

Various commercial fisheries are still operating in the Metropolitan Fishing Zone, including the western rock lobster fishery and the purse seine fishery for sardines.

Managing the recovery of a fishery is a difficult and painstaking task. It requires comprehensive scientific research backed up by stringent operational work and close cooperation between scientists, fisheries managers, departmental field officers and fishers, over a long period of time. Additional research, compliance and field staff are also necessary to accomplish this.

In November 2007, the closure of recreational and commercial crab fishing in Cockburn Sound was extended for a further 12 months to allow stocks to rebuild after several years of poor 'recruitment' of juveniles into the fishery. The good news is that research indicates that blue swimmer crab stocks have started to recover in Cockburn Sound, but the less good news is that breeding stocks remain at low levels.

Department of Fisheries researchers are continuing to

monitor the recovery of crab stocks in the Sound. The Minister will review further scientific data and advice on the fishery late in 2008, to consider when crab fishing can recommence.

About 18 months ago, the Department of Fisheries won the overall 2006 Premier's Award for Excellence in Public Sector Management for its successful project to help pink snapper stocks to recover in the inner gulfs of Shark Bay. This project came about through collaboration between researchers and management staff in the Department, and between the Department, commercial and recreational fishers, and the Western Australian community as a whole.

If we all work together, I am confident that the stocks of demersal scalefish in the West Coast Bioregion and of blue swimmer crabs in Cockburn Sound can be rebuilt in a similarly successful manner.


Sound resource management requires that that the total impact of all managed fisheries in a region on fish stocks and on their environment must be taken into account. As a result, the Department of Fisheries has commenced working with the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) to develop regional Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) strategies to meet the requirements for sound science and knowledge to support decision-making. We will be able to report on the roll-out and application of EBFM in future departmental annual reports.

On a final note, I would like to express on behalf of the Department of Fisheries, our thanks to the Minister for Fisheries and his staff for their able guidance and support throughout the year.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of departmental staff; our stakeholder groups of commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers; charter operators; pearlers and aquaculturists; conservation representatives; and the many volunteers from the WA community for their invaluable

contributions to our collective goal of ensuring 'Fish for the future' by means of the sustainable management of our fisheries, aquaculture and the aquatic environment.

Special thanks must also go to the numerous management advisory committee members, industry participants and peak stakeholder council members whose dedication and commitment is central to effective outcomes for fish and fisheries resource management.



Peter Millington  
Chief Executive Officer

## Highlights for 2007/08

These include:

### Science for Sustainability

- The Department of Fisheries has lead the development of a series of projects, funded through the WAMSI, to assist in the initiation of EBFM for the West Coast Bioregion.
- The Department worked with the Commonwealth Government to determine more strategically the requirements for the reassessment of Western Australian fisheries under the latter's *Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). In addition, the Department assessed all WA export fisheries against the Commonwealth's guidelines for the ecologically sustainable management of fisheries under the EPBC Act.
- The Department initiated a \$600,000 research program in Cockburn Sound and Mandurah on the blue swimmer crab populations. This includes a major survey that began in November 2007 to assess the crabbing activity of a wide range of people in the

Peel-Harvey Estuary. Events in Cockburn Sound have highlighted how a combination of factors from poor recruitment (number of juveniles joining the main stock) to fishing pressure can impact on crab stocks.

- Research scientists determined the main biological characteristics of key west coast demersal finfish species. These were used by the Department to develop more effective management arrangements.
- An assessment was completed on the impacts associated with prawn trawl fisheries on biodiversity and habitats in the Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf regions.

### The Aquatic Environment

- The Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) initiative to manage Western Australia's fisheries in a manner which shares the overall catch between commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers in a sustainable manner continues to progress. Work has commenced on an allocation for the demersal scalefish resource on the west coast.
- The Department of Fisheries carried out leading-edge research into how available fish resources can be shared equitably between competing community sectors. The new study will involve workshops with stakeholders about the guiding principles on a re-allocation model for western rock lobster and the development of options should be completed before the end of 2008.
- The Department of Fisheries worked collaboratively with the WA Department of Agriculture and Food and other major stakeholders (such as the shipping industry) to develop and implement the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* and contributed to the Australian Government's review of biosecurity.

## Regional areas

- A comprehensive solution was put in place for the sharing of fish resources near Busselton and the timetabled removal of commercial shoreline fishing from Geographe Bay. From 1 July 2009, there will be a permanent closure for commercial salmon and beach seine fishing in Geographe Bay between Cape Naturaliste and Port Geographe. In the meantime, there will be time closures during holiday periods. The Government is to fund the buy-out of commercial licences affected by this closure through a Fisheries Adjustment Scheme.
- WA's major prawn fisheries have been very productive, due to stronger recruitment of juveniles that was identified in pre-season research surveys in March and April 2008. Tiger prawn landings in Exmouth Gulf are estimated to be 400 to 600 tonnes – higher than the average annual landings of between 350 to 400 tonnes. King prawn catch rates in the surveys were also higher, pointing to a better result in terms of catch than in 2007. Catch rates of prawns in this year's survey of the Shark Bay prawn fishery indicates the 2008 catches should be up on last year. They are forecast to be back to a normal range for this fishery of 1,400 to 1,800 tonnes of king and tiger prawns.
- A Fish Habitat Protection Area (FHPA) has been created at the well-known 'Blue Holes' intertidal pools near Kalbarri. The naturally-formed holes in a limestone reef shelter a variety of fish and aquatic organisms and provide a unique place to observe marine life close to shore. The local community were instrumental in the process that led to the establishment of the FHPA.
- The Department of Fisheries has developed successful collaborative arrangements with other government departments to better coordinate its activities in areas such as marine safety and marine

park management. The Department will continue to foster such relationships to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

## Community education

- The Department of Fisheries' Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre at Hillarys near Perth hosted a number of exhibitions and school holiday activities, and was visited by a large number of schools from across WA. Exhibitions were held of the work of world-renowned and WA-based scientific artist Roger Swainston, premier underwater photographer Glen Cowans and a variety of exciting work from the Western Australian Underwater Photographic Society.
- The Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre launched its own educational website. This website allows a variety of information and educational material to be provided to people all over the State who are interested in the marine environment – especially school students.
- An interpretive walk trail to the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre was implemented in conjunction with the Aquarium of Western Australia and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.
- The Department of Fisheries' annual Seaweeek Educators Expo held in February 2008 focused on sawfish and the steps taken by researchers and the Australian fishing industry to protect and understand this unusual and endangered species. The expo provided teachers with information on how they can develop interesting marine studies for their classes, so as to teach future generations of Western Australians about the need to manage fish and marine resources in a sustainable way, to protect and preserve them for the future.



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The Department of Fisheries' patrol vessels provide an at-sea service across a wide range of fisheries.



## Profile of the Department of Fisheries

**Vision:** World class management of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems

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

The Governor in the Executive Council has approved of the administration of the following Acts being placed under the control of the Minister for Fisheries:

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

The Department of Fisheries, established and designated under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, is the department principally assisting the Minister in the administration of these Acts.

Under the Acts, there is a division of power between the Minister and the statutory office of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries. In broad terms, the Minister establishes the statutory and policy framework for fisheries management, and the office of the Chief Executive Officer carries out the day-to-day aspects of administration.

As part of its responsibilities for assisting the Minister with the administration of the Acts, the Department of Fisheries also undertakes research, management, surveillance,

enforcement and education in the marine parks and reserves established under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, and provides at-sea marine safety compliance services on behalf of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure under the *Western Australian Marine Act 1982*.

The Department also carries out fisheries compliance activities on behalf of the Commonwealth in waters adjacent to Western Australia in the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ), in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth *Fisheries Management Act 1991*. The AFZ extends 200 nautical miles (370 kilometres) from the State's coastal baselines.

The Department of Fisheries has a Service Level Agreement with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) to provide compliance services for domestic fisheries such as the West Coast Tuna and Billfish Fishery, as well as checking catches from the Southern Ocean that are landed in Western Australian ports. Should the need arise and the funding become available, the Department will assist the Commonwealth to a further extent, as had been undertaken until 2006.

Under a Service Delivery Arrangement with the Commonwealth, the Department provides fisheries management in the territorial waters around both Cocos (Keeling) and Christmas Islands, on behalf of the Department of Transport and Regional Services.

The following lists show fisheries in Western Australia that fall under State, joint or Commonwealth jurisdiction and activity under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement Agreement (refer to *Fisheries Management Paper No. 77* for further details of the Offshore Constitutional Settlement Agreement).

### Fisheries under Western Australia State Jurisdiction

Except for those fisheries listed below with different jurisdictions, the following fisheries are controlled by the Department of Fisheries, Western Australia, in accordance with State law:

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

*Note: Bycatch is also included in these fisheries.*

### Fisheries under Western Australia Joint Authority Jurisdiction

The following fisheries are controlled jointly by the Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority under State law:

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

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

### Fisheries under Commonwealth Jurisdiction

The following fisheries are controlled by the Commonwealth in accordance with Commonwealth fisheries legislation or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*:

- the Northern Prawn Fishery;
- the Southern and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery;
- the Western Deepwater Trawl;
- the North-West Slope Deepwater Trawl;

- the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery;
- the Skipjack Tuna Fishery;
- the Small Pelagic Fishery;
- the Southern Scalefish and Shark Fishery; and
- recreational fishing in the waters of any Commonwealth Marine Park.

### Statutory Responsibilities

The State fulfils its statutory responsibilities through the identification, provision and integration of research, management, compliance and administrative services to meet the output requirements of four natural resource management (NRM) programs:

- Commercial Fisheries;
- Recreational Fisheries;
- Pearling and Aquaculture; and
- Fish and Fish Habitat Protection.

### Major Stakeholder Groups

All stakeholders have a role to play in ensuring that fish stocks and their habitats are protected, both now and in the future. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate in fisheries management, and consultation is considered essential to balance the often-competing agendas of commercial and recreational fishers, the conservation sector and other interest groups.

The Department of Fisheries identifies the following groups as its major stakeholders:

- the community of Western Australia;
- Management Advisory Committees;
- commercial fishers;
- pearlers;
- aquaculturalists;
- the conservation sector;

## PROFILE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

- fish processors and others involved in the commercial utilisation of Western Australia's aquatic resources;
- recreational fishers;
- Indigenous communities;
- fisheries volunteers;
- environmental groups and passive users;
- charter and ecotour operators;
- businesses and communities directly and indirectly dependent upon fishing and aquaculture activities;
- Department of Fisheries staff; and
- other state, national and international government agencies and tertiary institutions.

### **Government Goal, Department Outcome and Services**

The Government has set a goal of: *Protecting and enhancing the unique Western Australian lifestyle and ensuring sustainable management of the environment.*

The Department of Fisheries has a single outcome: *Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish and aquatic resources.*

It supports achievement of this goal through three key services:

Service 1: Management of the State's commercial fisheries.

Service 2: Management of the State's recreational fisheries.

Service 3: Development of the State's aquaculture industry.

Service 4: Management and conservation of fish and fish habitats.

The Department's performance in delivering services under these key services is reported in the 'Report on Fisheries' section of this Annual Report.

The Department also supports the State Government's 'Better Planning: Better Future' goals – see the 'Fisheries Management and Policy' section of this Annual Report.

### Our Philosophy and our Context

The Department of Fisheries is responsible for the conservation of most marine and freshwater species in Western Australia, and the protection of their habitats and food chains. It also has responsibility for ensuring the use of aquatic species is undertaken in a sustainable manner and provides optimum economic, social and other benefits to the Western Australian community – both now and in the future.

The Department's responsibilities cover protection and sustainable use of aquatic resources and habitats within Western Australian freshwater systems and coastal waters (three nautical miles from the shore). Uniquely, the Department of Fisheries also has management responsibilities within Australian waters out to 200 nautical miles from the Western Australian coast. This allows for management on a spatial scale that is appropriate to aquatic species life cycles, and marine planning and conservation.

The Department operates within the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) through the objects of its primary enabling legislation – the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*. This approach includes managing human impacts on target species, bycatch species and habitats, plus any potential indirect impacts of fishing and aquaculture activities on the broader ecosystem. It also includes managing social and economic impacts of fishing and aquaculture activity.

The Department of Fisheries works in the present-day context of limited fish and environmental resources, and a growing human 'footprint' on the aquatic environment. Factors with increasing impact include an increasing

population, developing coastal infrastructure, rapidly advancing 'fish finding' technology and climate change.

We work in a social and political context that has endorsed and supported the development of science-driven, sophisticated and highly regulated fisheries management systems for over 40 years. These management systems establish firm controls on the total level of commercial and recreational fishing that can occur. Today, around 80 per cent of WA's marine waters are protected by closures or controls on fishing methods that can impact directly on marine habitats (for example, trawling) and are totally closed to highly destructive fishing methods (for example, dredging and explosives). A strong compliance culture within the Department provides the enforcement to support these controls.

We also operate in a context of increasing aquatic management accountability. This includes accountability to the Commonwealth government through reporting requirements established under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and accountability through international certification mechanisms such as the Marine Stewardship Council.

This approach is not possible without strong engagement with stakeholders, and we operate with an emphasis on real consultation and partnerships to develop management practices able to stand up to domestic, national and international scrutiny.

In this report the Department presents its summary of operations and outcomes during the 2007/08 financial year to Parliament and to the community, based around the Government's '*Better Planning: Better Futures*' strategic planning framework and three key performance indicators that reflect the components of ESD and its 'triple bottom line' of economic, environmental and social accountability.

## Operating Environment – Significant Issues and Trends

### Conservation and Sustainability – the Key to the Future

Conservation and the sustainable development of the State's fish resources and protection of fish habitats are statutory obligations of the Department of Fisheries. The Department is addressing a number of significant issues and trends over the short to medium term (one to five years) to meet these obligations. These issues and trends include:

- The impact of both recreational and commercial fishers on some key fish species is creating sustainability issues and requires additional management intervention.
- Sound resource management requires that the total impact of all managed fisheries in a region, on fish stocks and their environment, must be taken into account. The Department is working with the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) to develop and assess a Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) framework that can be considered to meet the requirement for sound science and knowledge to support decision-making.
- The number and type of stakeholders that are impacting on the State's fish resources continue to increase. Each stakeholder group is demanding a share of fish resources. The Department has adopted policies for holistic and integrated management of resources and is developing management strategies and mechanisms that accommodate the needs of all stakeholders within an explicit allocation framework.
- Aquaculture industries are exploring ways to expand as the demand for high-quality seafood grows, while the harvest of wild-capture fisheries in WA and worldwide is generally at maximum sustainable

levels. The Department will work with the sector to identify preferred sites for sustainable aquaculture and develop strategies to maximise investment opportunities in the sector.

- Economic conditions, including increased costs of fuel and labour shortages, are having an impact on the profitability of fishing operations and the cost of management. The Department of Fisheries and industry are working on strategies to improve the economic sustainability of fishing operations.

*There are growing public expectations for the protection of biodiversity and the ecologically sustainable use of Western Australia's marine environment. In response, the Department is/has:*

- Leading the development of a series of projects, funded through the WAMSI, to assist in the development and assessment of ecosystem-based management for the West Coast Bioregion.
- Working with the WAMSI and other participating organisations to develop a regional EBFM approach, using the Gascoyne region as a model.
- Participating on the governing board of the WAMSI.
- Worked with the Commonwealth Government in 2007/08 to determine more strategically the requirements for the reassessment of Western Australian fisheries under the latter's *Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). In addition, the Department assessed all WA export fisheries against the Commonwealth's guidelines for the ecologically sustainable management of fisheries under the EPBC Act.
- Implementing changes in the rules that govern the taking of demersal fish species, after scientific research showed that populations of some key indicator species – including dhufish and pink snapper – were in trouble. On 1 January 2008, laws

## OPERATING ENVIRONMENT – SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

for commercial wetline fishers changed and the number of commercial fishers operating in the West Coast Bioregion was greatly reduced. This followed the closure of the Metropolitan Fishing Zone (from Lancelin to south of Mandurah) to the commercial take of fish by line or gill net.

- A \$5 million compensation package is available to buy out commercial line and gill net fishers within the Metropolitan Fishing Zone. About eight line fishers have felt the full impact of the ban on fishing within the Metropolitan zone, with other zone fishers able to continue fishing in other parts of the West Coast Bioregion.
- A package of changes to recreational fishing for demersal scalefish within the West Coast Bioregion will see recreational catches of some of WA's most vulnerable fish species reduced by about half. Taken together with changes to commercial fishery management arrangements, the benefits will be priceless for the State's fish stocks and future generations of Western Australians.
- Continuing to implement a policy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) for all fisheries and aquaculture sectors within the State.
- Working collaboratively with the WA Department of Agriculture and Food and other major stakeholders (such as the shipping industry) to develop and implement the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*.
- Continuing to undertake research and monitoring of all significant fisheries in the State and the publication of these findings annually in the *State of the Fisheries Report*.
- Continuing to work with the Environmental Protection Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation, and other relevant government agencies and environmental interest groups on fish habitat and

marine conservation issues.

- Participating in planning for the marine conservation reserves system in Western Australia, including the Dampier Archipelago/Regnard Marine Management Area, Geographe Bay/Leeuwin-Naturaliste/Hardy Inlet Marine Park, Shoalwater Islands Marine Park and Walpole-Nornalup Inlets Marine Park.
- Continuing to work with other relevant government agencies to monitor the effects of climate change on the marine environment.
- Contributing to the preparation of regional natural resource management strategies.
- Preparing a Kimberley Fish Plan to provide a framework for future aquatic resource management and protection of fish habitats in the region.

*A growing and more affluent population is placing ever-increasing pressure on the marine environment. This issue highlights the need for more cost-effective integrated management solutions for commercial and recreational fishing, recreational boating activities and marine park management. In response, the Department is:*

- Monitoring the impact of both recreational and commercial fishers on some key fish species. Where this is creating sustainability issues, the Department of Fisheries has implemented interim management regulations for iconic species. The Department is adopting an integrated management framework that takes into consideration the demands of a range of users, and developing management strategies and mechanisms that accommodate the needs of stakeholders within a specific allocation framework.
- Participating in the Department of Environment and Conservation/Department of Fisheries Inter-Departmental Committee – which has been expanded to include the Department of Industry and Resources, Department for Planning and Infrastructure and

## OPERATING ENVIRONMENT – SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

- Tourism Western Australia – to assist in streamlining the marine park planning process and enhancing a ‘whole of government’ approach to relevant issues.
- Continuing to work in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Conservation for cross-authorisation of Fisheries and Marine Officers and Wildlife Officers and the preparation of joint work plans for management of marine parks.
  - Initiating the proclamation of Fish Habitat Protection Areas in places where local communities have demonstrated the need for greater protection of near-shore habitats for the appreciation and/or conservation of fish habitat.
  - Developing and refining community education and volunteer programs to support sustainable community behaviour. In 2007/08, the Department of Fisheries’ Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre (NMDC) at Hillarys, near Perth, hosted a number of exhibitions and school holiday activities, and was visited by a large number of schools from across WA. The NMDC launched its own educational website, which allows a variety of information and educational material to be provided to people all over the State who are interested in the marine environment – especially school students.
  - Recovering the costs of management for the State’s major commercial fisheries from the commercial fishing sector.
  - Collecting a Development and Better Interest Fee from licensees in managed fisheries. Revenue collected from this fee is for the use of the Minister for Fisheries to fund projects that will advance the interests of fisheries and/or fish habitat protection.
- Implementing an Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) strategy for Western Australia’s coastal fisheries and changing management structures within the Department from being sectorally-based to bioregionally-based to better support the IFM approach. In this regard, the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee has provided final advice to the Minister on allocations for the western rock lobster resource and released its draft allocation report for abalone in the Perth metropolitan region.
  - Facilitating fisheries adjustment schemes and voluntary resource-sharing in partnership with the commercial and recreational fishing sectors. A comprehensive solution was put in place for the sharing of fish resources near Busselton and the timetabled removal of commercial shoreline fishing from Geographe Bay. From 1 July 2009, there will be a permanent closure for commercial salmon and beach seine fishing in Geographe Bay, between Cape Naturaliste and Port Geographe. In the meantime, there will be time closures during holiday periods. The Government is to fund the buy-out of commercial licences affected by this closure through a Fisheries Adjustment Scheme.
  - Completed the wetline review and implemented management arrangements for the commercial line fishery for scalefish on the West Coast from 1 January 2008.

*Through the Federal Government’s Oceans Policy Initiative, there is direct involvement by the Commonwealth in the day-to-day planning and management of Western Australia’s marine environment. This policy is being given effect through export control measures and through instruments contained in the Commonwealth’s Environment Protection and Biodiversity legislation. In response, the Department has:*

- Worked with the Commonwealth to determine more strategically the requirements for the reassessment

*Additional pressure is being placed on inshore fish stocks as a result of continuing population growth, coastal development, improved access and fishing technology and a growing recreational fishing sector. In response, the Department is:*



of Western Australian fisheries under the EPBC Act. In addition, the Department assessed all WA export fisheries against the Commonwealth's guidelines for the ecologically sustainable management of fisheries under the EPBC Act.

- Continued to work with the National Oceans Office and other State agencies with respect to integrated coastal zone management and bioregional marine planning initiatives in Commonwealth waters along the south-west and north-west coasts of Western Australia.

*In 1970, aquaculture accounted for only 5.3 per cent of the world's seafood production; in 2004 it accounted for 59.4 million tonnes, or 37.5 per cent of total production. Based on data from the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), 2006 marked the point when the production of wild-caught fish and farmed fish was equal. The growth trend of farmed fish is continuing and it will not be long before aquaculture product dominates the world seafood market. The FAO has projected that by 2030 an additional 37 million tonnes of fish per year will be needed to supply the global demand. Due to the inability to increase the supply from wild capture sources, the only feasible source of this supply is aquaculture. In this context, the Department has:*

- Secured new funding for aquaculture development for the triennium to 2009/10.
- Worked with the Aquaculture Development Council to undertake aquaculture development initiatives in WA to secure sites and develop up-to-date production technology for sustainable, large-scale aquaculture.
- Implemented policy and planning processes and reviews needed to underpin the expected growth and sustainability of the aquaculture industry.

*The dynamic trading and market environment confronting the fishing industry continues to pose new threats and*

*opportunities to be managed by industry and individual enterprises. In response, the Department has:*

- Entered into a relationship with the National Centre for Cooperative Research for Seafood to cooperatively explore means to improve the profitability of the fishing industry.
- Continued to support in-bound trade and fisheries delegations.
- Provided support to the seafood industry through the publication of information and resources, provision of advice on trade and market enquiries, and operation of a website designed to help international commercial seafood buyers to source prime Western Australian seafood.
- Developed projects that increase industry capacity to meet market demands, such as eco-labelling and regional branding for the WA mussel industry.
- Participated in initiatives to develop a more profitable seafood industry, such as the European Seafood Expo and the WA Food Industry Strategy.
- Undertaken a review of impacts of "air miles" and "carbon footprinting" and opportunities that may present in the future of Cockburn Sound mussels.

*Consumer demand for quality seafood continues to grow, with food safety standards placing additional responsibility on industry to apply appropriate quality controls. In response, the Department has:*

- Continued to promote the adoption of quality management systems for local and export seafood markets and disseminate information to industry about food safety, quality and value chain management.
- Continued to administer, in conjunction with the Department of Health, a Western Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program to ensure that

## OPERATING ENVIRONMENT – SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

shellfish products farmed in WA are safe for human consumption.

- Initiated a project to assess the carbon footprint of the WA seafood sector.
- Played a pivotal role in areas of consumer interest, including developing industry standards for food safety, quality descriptors and fish names for marketing purposes.

*Indigenous fishing issues and the development of the law in respect to Native Title have highlighted the need for recognition and inclusion of Indigenous interests into the fishing sector. In response, the Department has:*

- Developed an Aboriginal Fishing Strategy focused on recognition of customary fishing, economic development opportunities and improving the opportunities for Aboriginal involvement in management of the State's fisheries.
- Amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* have been approved for Cabinet for drafting that define and provide for management and protection of customary fishing access rights.
- Recognised and included priority allocations for customary fishing in the Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) framework that has been developed for Western Australia.
- Established a pilot Marine Ranger Program between the Bardi-Jawi community at One Arm Point in conjunction with the Australian Customs Service. The program is aimed at involving community members in protecting trochus stocks, while increasing their capacity to undertake natural resource management monitoring through formal training and on-the-job experience.

*The Department pursues an ongoing objective of continuous performance improvement through effective business management and practices. In response, the Department has:*

- Acted as a pilot agency in implementing the Shared Services model for the provision of business management services across the whole of Government.
- Continued to restructure its Corporate Services Division to respond to needs and changes arising from operating in the Shared Services environment.
- Continued to refine its risk management process and risk register.
- Continued to implement risk assessment-based compliance programs.
- Continued to operate and refine a departmental Performance Indicator measurement system.
- Maintained an emphasis on corporate governance processes and internal reporting.
- Continued implementation of the Government's policy framework for substantive equality.

## Operating Structure

### Functional Organisational Structure

The Department of Fisheries' operating structure consists of an Executive Directorate and four divisions: Fisheries Management Services; Fisheries Research; Corporate Services; and Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance.

The Legal and Registry Services Unit provides direct support to the Executive Directorate.

### Process Structure

The Department addresses a variety of complex issues impacting on the sustainable management of the State's aquatic resources. To deal with these issues effectively, the Department supports integrated processes designed to facilitate planning and promote coordinated and efficient service delivery across all divisions to the Department's four key service areas (see 'Profile of the Department of Fisheries' – 'Government Goal, Department Outcome and Services' section).

Through these processes, which include multi-disciplinary committees, staff members are better able to contribute to the Department's decision-making. The committees also serve to improve communication between operational and policy areas of the Department. They promote agency-wide collaboration toward achieving the Department of Fisheries' strategic objectives and the Government's required outcome for the Department – 'the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish and aquatic resources'.

The committees are: the Agency Executive Group; the Planning, Coordination and Review Committee; the Operational Sub-Committees; and the Internal Audit Committee. There are also a range of corporate services committees in the areas of human resources, finance and information technology management.

Advisory committees with representatives from government and non-government sectors are also an important component of this process, and an effective consultative mechanism for fisheries management. Additionally, the Department's many volunteers provide a conduit for public interaction and communication.

**Figure 1 – Process Structure within the Department**



### Agency Executive Group

The Agency Executive Group (AEG) comprises the Chief Executive Officer; the Department's three directors; the Deputy Director of Integrated Fisheries Management; and the managers of the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Division, the Communications and Education Branch, and the Legal and Registry Services Unit and the Infrastructure Development group. The AEG is responsible for the overall strategic and financial direction of the Department arising from internal and external consultative processes, priority setting and resource allocation, and the administration of risk management processes.

The AEG also deals with issues referred to it by the Planning, Coordination and Review Committee, internal corporate services committees and by the Department's directors and managers.

### **Planning Coordination and Review Committee**

The Planning, Coordination and Review Committee (PCRC) is made up of the Chief Executive Officer, the Department's three directors, the Deputy Director of Integrated Fisheries Management, program managers, branch managers and senior research scientists. It monitors and reviews departmental programs, projects and service delivery, and advises the AEG on program planning and priorities to assist the budget preparation process.

The PCRC also advises on strategic policy issues arising from – and across – programs, and provides a forum for discussion on key fisheries policy and related global (e.g. 'climate change') and local issues.

### **Corporate Services Committees**

There are a number of corporate services committees that provide advice to the Chief Executive Officer, including the Asset Management Planning Committee, the Occupational Safety and Health Committee, and the Information Communications Technology Committee.

### **Operational Sub-Committees**

The PCRC is supported by a number of fishery, bioregional, or program-specific Operational Sub-Committees (OSCs) that provide information to assist program managers and project leaders in developing annual operating budgets. The OSCs also monitor expenditure and performance against project objectives and report to the PCRC as appropriate, and develop new project proposals arising from internal and external consultation and planning processes.

### **Internal Audit Committee**

The Internal Audit Committee (IAC) maintains and manages the Department's internal audit function on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer. The committee assists the Chief Executive Officer to manage the process of identifying and quantifying risks that potentially will stop the Department

achieving its goals, and to guide the development and implementation of risk mitigation strategies.

### **Public Consultation/Advisory Committees**

The management of fisheries resources is based on the principle that Government is the ultimate custodian of what is a community natural resource. Through 'participatory decision-making', resource users can become directly and formally involved in management decision-making processes.

The Department of Fisheries recognises that the sustainable use of aquatic resources can occur only by ensuring that stakeholders have a strong sense of stewardship and involvement in the management of fisheries.

The Department is committed to continuing consultation with fisheries stakeholders and to ensuring effective participatory decision-making processes are maintained. It supports the initiative of the State Government's *WA Citizenship Strategy 2004 - 2009* and utilises the guidelines in the *Consulting Citizens: Planning for Success and Engaging with Aboriginal Western Australians* to plan specific consultation programs.

The Department administers a number of advisory committees with representatives from government, non-government sectors and the community.

The committees reflect the Department's commitment to inviting significant public participation in the formulation and implementation of strategies for fisheries management and industry development. A series of Ministerial Advisory Committees (MACs) are responsible specifically to the Minister for Fisheries.

The majority of committees have been established under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, with the Pearling Industry Advisory Committee (PIAC) established under the *Pearling Act 1990*. See the Department's website at [www.fish.wa.gov.au](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au) for a complete listing of members of statutory and non-statutory advisory committees.

In commercial fisheries where the formation of an advisory committee is not cost-effective, the Department aims to ensure that meetings are held with licensees on at least an annual basis. Consultation with interest groups and individuals not directly involved in commercial fishing occurs through the publication and release of draft management papers and documents for public comment, seminars, public workshops and regular stakeholder surveys. In addition, the Department's many volunteers and regional staff provide direct conduits through which the public and stakeholders can be heard.

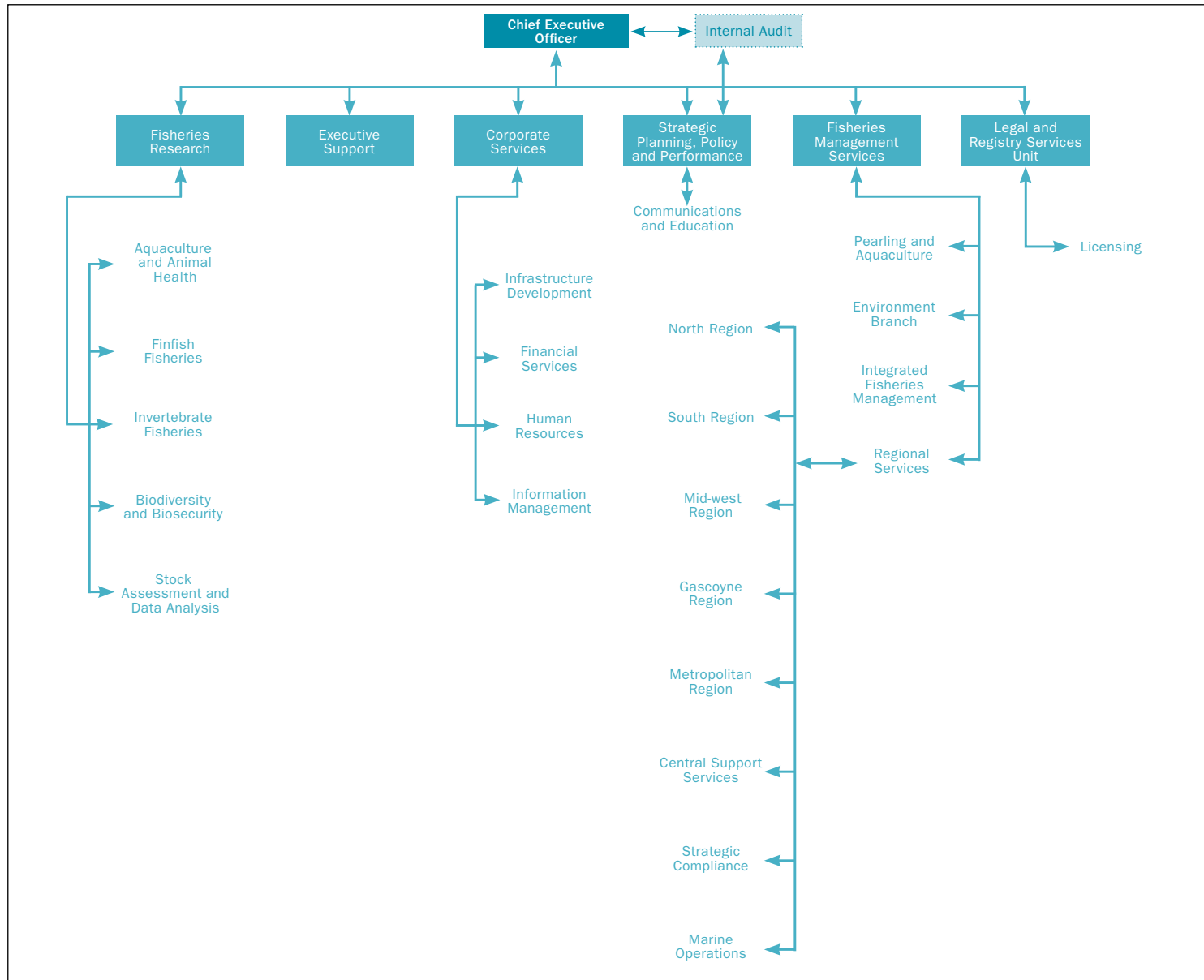
### **The Department of Fisheries' Operations**

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

- The Fisheries Research Division operates from the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys and the Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre at Pemberton.
- The Marine Operations Centre (and Perth metropolitan region headquarters) operates from premises in Capo D'Orlando Drive in Fremantle.
- The Regional Services Branch of the Fisheries Management Services Division has regional offices at Broome, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Fremantle and Albany, with a further 13 district offices throughout the State.

## OPERATING STRUCTURE

**Figure 2 – Department Functional Structure Chart as at 30 June 2008**



### Executive Team

The Agency Executive Group of the Department of Fisheries comprises the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Fisheries Management Services, the Director of Fisheries Research, the Director of Corporate Services, the Deputy Director of Integrated Fisheries Management, the Manager of Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance, the Manager of the Legal and Registry Services Unit and the Manager of the Communications and Education Branch. The Manager of Infrastructure Development is an observer.

**Peter Millington, BSc (Hons) M Env St. MSc FAICD**  
**Chief Executive Officer\***

Peter Millington has worked for both the State and Australian Government in fisheries management and policy.

Peter is particularly interested in the allocation and equity issues in fisheries management. He is also committed to ensuring that service elements of the Department are delivered in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

- \* Terms of Appointment: The Chief Executive Officer is appointed under Part 3 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994. The current incumbent is acting in the position until 31 December 2008.

**Dr Rick Fletcher, BSc (Hons) PhD**

**Director, Fisheries Research**

Dr Rick Fletcher was appointed as Director of Fisheries Research Services in 2005/06. This position is responsible

for the overall management and strategic direction of the Department's research group, which provides the information to underpin the Department's successful natural resource management programs.

Rick has over 20 years experience conducting and managing research on fisheries and aquaculture-related issues across four jurisdictions in Australia and the South Pacific, including Director of Research of fisheries in NSW. His recent research focus has been in the development of ecosystem-based management frameworks for marine and coastal systems, for which he is leader of a number of state, national and international initiatives.

**Greg Paust, B. Ag. Sc., MBA**

**Acting Director, Fisheries Management Services**

Greg Paust is responsible for the program, policy and service delivery elements for the Department. Greg has carried out several senior management roles within the Department over the past 12 years, including Deputy Director of Integrated Fisheries Management and Pearling and Aquaculture Program Manager.

Prior to joining the Department, Greg was Southern Agricultural Region Manager for the Department of Agriculture, based in Albany.

**Dr Lindsay Joll, BSc (Hons) MSc PhD**

**Acting Deputy Director, Integrated Fisheries Management**

Lindsay Joll was appointed as Acting Deputy Director, Integrated Fisheries Management in March 2007, following Greg Paust's move to the role of Acting Director, Fisheries Management Services. Prior to this appointment, Lindsay was Manager, Integrated Fisheries Management (Northern Bioregions).

Lindsay is responsible for the operations of the Northern and Southern Integrated Fisheries Management Bioregions, Strategic Fisheries Policy and Integrated Fisheries

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

Management teams. He has over 30 years experience with fisheries issues, which includes both research and management.

### **Bruno Mezzatesta, BBus MBA FCPA**

#### **Director, Corporate Services**

Bruno Mezzatesta was appointed as Director of Corporate Services during 2005/06, following the restructure of the corporate services area of the Department to better reflect the Government's Shared Services and business improvement requirements. Prior to this, Bruno was the Department's Finance and Administration Manager.

Bruno is responsible for the operations of the Corporate Services Division, which includes the Finance, Human Resources and Information Management branches. He has more than 20 years' experience covering all aspects of government finance, including periods with the Office of the Auditor General and the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Bruno played a critical role in the development and implementation of award-winning accounting systems and processes that support the operations of the Department.

### **Rae Burrows, BA (Hons) Adv. Dip. Leadership & Management; GAICD MGMA**

#### **Acting Manager, Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance**

Rae Burrows has worked with the Department of Fisheries since 1996. As Manager of the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Division, Rae is responsible for the provision of strategic policy and business planning advice, performance, the management of the Department's audit and risk functions, and coordination of cross-program and whole-of-government issues.

Current areas of focus for Rae include a review of fisheries legislation, indigenous fisheries policy, corporate governance,

international trade and development, internal audit, risk identification, management and mitigation, communications and education, and seafood quality management.

### **Glenn Cridland, BA LLB PgradDipAq PgradDipLaws LLM MAq**

#### **Registrar and Manager of the Legal and Registry Services Unit**

Glenn Cridland is a lawyer and has been with the Department of Fisheries since 1999. He has previously worked for the Commonwealth and United Nations in similar legal roles.

The position of Registrar and Manager of the Legal and Registry Services Unit was created on 1 July 2005, following a review and restructure of Department's legal, legislation, litigation and licensing functions. Glenn is responsible for the area which arranges or provides the Department's internal legal advice, litigation, legislative change function and licensing services, including the development, day-to-day administration and maintenance of a public register of licences with an estimated value of more than A\$2.5 billion.

Glenn has overseen significant initiatives, such as making consolidated up-to-date fisheries legislation available on-line to the public, improved information management of legal and litigation matters, enhanced administrative decision-making processes and the resolution of a number of long-standing tribunal matters.

### **Andrew Cribb, BA**

#### **Manager, Communications and Education**

Andrew Cribb has enjoyed a number of senior roles with the Department over the past 19 years, most recently Manager of the Department's Communications and Education Branch and previously Recreational Fisheries Program Manager.

Major projects for Andrew in recent years have included the restructure of the Department's community relations program, planning the development of a fresh approach to community education incorporating the new



Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre, strategic planning for the management of the State's recreational fisheries, restoration of the Shark Bay inner gulf snapper fishery, the development of four major regional management strategies for recreational fisheries and the introduction of a licensed charter fishery.

### **Phil Bruce**

#### **Manager, Infrastructure Development**

Phil Bruce was appointed to the position of Manager Infrastructure Development as part of the restructure of the Corporate Services Division in 2005.

Phil is responsible for the Department's Facilities Management Group within Corporate Services, which manages all departmental buildings and facilities. As Fleet Coordinator, Phil is also responsible for the Department's vehicle fleet management.

Phil also oversees the Department's procurement policy that embraces Government reforms in buyer behaviour to maximise the benefit from new common use contracting arrangements.

#### **Declaration of Interests**

The Agency Executive Group of the Department of Fisheries acknowledges the requirement to declare any existing or proposed contract between the Department and a senior officer and reports there are no conflicts of this nature to declare.

## Performance Management Framework

### Better Services

The Department of Fisheries supported the State Government's 'Better Planning: Better Futures' goal of enhancing the quality of life and wellbeing of all people throughout Western Australia by providing high quality, accessible services.

The aquatic resources of Western Australia are a natural and community asset, which the State Government, through the Department of Fisheries, manages on behalf of all Western Australians.

The Department of Fisheries has a single clear outcome that is required of it by Government: *Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish and aquatic resources.*

Public and stakeholder involvement in research, education and decision-making for fisheries management is an important aspect of the Department's management. The Department also supports a range of statutory advisory committees and conducts extensive consultation with affected groups when developing and changing fisheries management.

Fisheries offices and staff located throughout the State help to ensure the efficient operations of the Department and to assist in providing an equitable service to all Western Australians, regardless of where they live.

Examples of work by the Department in 2007/08 that contributed to the 'Better Planning: Better Futures' goal of enhancing the quality of life and wellbeing of all people throughout Western Australia by providing high quality, accessible services included:

- An extensive public awareness and consultation process during the review of management for West Coast demersal scalefish, with public meetings and

workshops in coastal and regional centres between Margaret River and Geraldton.

- An expanded Research Angler Program, involving anglers across the State keeping voluntary catch records which provide useful supplementary data on angler catch rates for common species and other information.
- Industry consultation on fisheries management through the management advisory committees for each fishery.
- The Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee obtained approval by the Minister for Fisheries for recommended catch allocations in the western rock lobster fishery for the commercial and recreational sector.
- Over 100 integrated communications programs through print, the internet, the news media ensured that the WA community was kept abreast of developments in fisheries and marine management.
- A successful year for the Fisheries Volunteer program, involving community members in marine education and research programs in most regional areas.
- The MarineDiscoveryWest education program, with assistance from the South-West Catchment Council, delivered over 350 structured marine education activities to more than 11,000 school students, with new education programs established in Albany, Bunbury, Fremantle, Hillarys and Broome.
- The Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre, completed its first year of operation in April 2008, with more than 21,000 visitors taking the journey on the Leeuwin Current to learn about WA's remarkable marine environment and fisheries.
- Investigations by Fisheries and Marine Officers throughout the State resulted in prosecutions, infringements or warnings for over 1,500 offences.

- Commencement of a review of consultation mechanisms for the Department.

### Jobs and Economic Development

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's 'Better Planning: Better Futures' goal of creating conditions that foster a strong economy delivering more jobs, opportunities and greater wealth to Western Australians.

All Western Australians share in the economic benefits of healthy and sustainable fisheries. Fishing, both commercial and recreational, generates over \$1.5b each year into the State economy and provides tens of thousands of jobs, many in regional areas.

The Department of Fisheries protects this vital part of the Western Australian economy by managing fisheries in a sustainable manner for current and future generations.

The Department of Fisheries also assists small businesses such as those involved in aquaculture development to attract international and national investment and explore market opportunities. It actively promotes Western Australian seafood, both domestically and abroad.

Examples of work by the Department in 2007/08 that contributed to the State Government's 'Better Planning: Better Futures' goal of creating conditions that foster a strong economy delivering more jobs, opportunities and greater wealth to Western Australians included:

- The Department and the western rock lobster industry have worked together to increase the cost effectiveness of the industry and increase the economic return. The Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) developed advice on the framework for quota management of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, and provided advice to the Minister on proposed management changes to deal with sustainability issues in the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.

- The prawn fleet in Exmouth Gulf and Shark Bay were restructured under an exemption to move from twin gear (i.e. two nets) per boat to quad gear (four nets) per boat, which reduced the number of boats fishing and the costs of catching the prawns.
- The timing of fishing for prawns and scallops was managed to ensure that the catch was taken at an optimum size to receive the best price possible for the product landed.
- The Department of Fisheries provided support for an independent Ministerial review of the pearling industry.
- Funding was secured for aquaculture development for three years until 2010.
- The Seafood Quality Management Initiative, housed within the Department, commenced a case study on the economic benefits of regional branding and ecolabelling in the WA mussel industry.
- The Department took an active role in sponsoring and supporting industry in showcasing the WA seafood sector at the world's largest seafood event, the European Seafood Exposition.
- The Department of Fisheries represented the interests of the seafood sector in developing the WA Food Industry Strategy with the Department of Agriculture and Food.

### Lifestyle and the Environment

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's 'Better Planning: Better Futures' goal of protecting and enhancing the unique Western Australian lifestyle and ensuring sustainable management of the environment.

Natural resource management across the world is rapidly changing in the face of population growth, technological advances and the ensuing demand for resources.

If we are to ensure the preservation of our healthy fisheries and aquatic environments that are key features of the Western Australian lifestyle, an increasingly sophisticated management framework is needed.

The Department of Fisheries has responded to this challenge by adopting a management approach based on the concept of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD). This approach is a move towards a more comprehensive management system that incorporates the interactions of all resource users in the sustainable management of aquatic resources, and includes not only the effect of fishing at an ecosystem level, but also the effects of ecosystem change on fisheries sustainability.

The Department's work is primarily focused on sustainable management of the aquatic environment and its living systems, and the many initiatives that contribute to this goal are detailed throughout this report.

Examples of work by the Department in 2007/08 that contributed to the State Government's 'Better Planning: Better Futures' goal of protecting and enhancing the unique Western Australian lifestyle and ensuring sustainable management of the environment include:

- The development of a series of projects, funded through the WA Marine Science Institution, to assist in the initiation of a case study of ecosystem-based fisheries management for the West Coast Bioregion.
- Continued work with other relevant government agencies to monitor the effects of climate change on the marine environment;
- Assessment of all WA's export fisheries against the Commonwealth Government's guidelines for the ecologically sustainable management of fisheries under the under the *Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999*.
- Commencement of a research program in Cockburn

Sound and Mandurah on the blue swimmer crab populations.

- Completion of the initial research to determine the main biological and population characteristics of key west coast demersal finfish.
- Implementation of a management plan for commercial wetline (handline) fishing, reducing the potential fishing fleet from a potential 1200 boats to about 70 dedicated wetline boats.
- Assessment of the impacts associated with prawn trawl fisheries on biodiversity and habitats in the Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf regions.
- Commencement of a catch share allocation process for the demersal scalefish resource on the west coast under the Integrated Fisheries Management initiative.
- Collaboration with the WA Department of Agriculture and Food and other major stakeholders (such as the shipping industry) to develop and implement the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* and contributions to the Commonwealth Government's review of biosecurity.
- Collaboration with Curtin University and the Co-Operative Research Centre for Seafood in initiating a study on the 'Barriers to Seafood Consumption'.
- Commencement, in collaboration with stakeholders, on the development of social and economic sustainability policies and frameworks for the Department of Fisheries.

### Regional Development

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's 'Better Planning: Better Futures' goal of ensuring that regional Western Australia is strong and vibrant.

Most of WA's significant fisheries are regionally-based, and contribute strongly to the economy, lifestyle and culture of regional Western Australia.

As a result the Department has a strong regional presence and connection with regional communities, including regional offices in Broome, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Fremantle and Albany, and 13 district offices, which assist in providing an equitable, consistent and friendly service to all Western Australians.

The focus of many of the Department's management programs is on ensuring sustainable regional ecosystems and fisheries, all of which contribute to strong, vibrant regional communities through the provision of fresh local fish, recreational opportunities, ecotourism opportunities and a quality lifestyle and environment.

Due to intense competition between user groups for areas of the marine environment and fish resources the allocation and sharing of access is a critical social issue in many regions.

The Department also supports the 'buy local' policy. Staff actively seek quotations from local suppliers whenever products or services are sought to be purchased. If quotations are competitive, local suppliers are given preference.

Examples of work by the Department in 2007/08 that contributed to the State Government's '*Better Planning: Better Futures*' goal of ensuring that regional Western Australia is strong and vibrant are:

- Put in place a comprehensive solution for the sharing of fish resources near Busselton and the timetabled removal of commercial shoreline fishing from Geographe Bay.
- Closed the Perth region to commercial wetline fishing to reallocate a proportion of the fishery for recreational use.
- Established a Fish Habitat Protection Area (FHPA) at the well-known 'Blue Holes' intertidal pools near Kalbarri.

- Entered a partnership with mining giant Rio Tinto in which a number of Rio Tinto employees have joined the Fisheries Volunteer program, constructed a new multi-media equipped community education trailer and conducted a tour of inland mining towns, spreading awareness in the workplace about the need for sustainable behaviour in the marine environment.
- Participated in planning for the marine conservation reserves system in Western Australia, including the Dampier Archipelago/Regnard Marine Management Area, Geographe Bay/Leeuwin-Naturaliste/Hardy Inlet Marine Park, Shoalwater Islands Marine Park and Walpole-Nornalup Inlets Marine Park.
- Prepared a Kimberley Fish Plan to provide a framework for future aquatic resource management and protection of fish habitats in the region.
- Introduced a five-year plan for managing the recreational marron fishery to protect the stock and maximise recreational fishing values.
- Established a pilot Marine Ranger Program between the Bardi-Jawi community at One Arm Point in conjunction with the Australian Customs Service. The program is aimed at involving community members in protecting trochus stocks, while increasing their capacity to undertake natural resource management monitoring through formal training and on-the-job experience.
- Hosted workshops, seminars and scientific investigations at the Department's Saville Kent Centre on Rat Island in the Houtman Abrolhos system..
- Upgraded the three airstrips in the Houtman Abrolhos system to support tourism and rock lobster fishers.
- Provided significant input into the decision making processes of the Northern Development Taskforce to guide the location of a new gas hub.

### Governance and Public Sector Improvement

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's '*Better Planning: Better Futures*' goal of developing and maintaining a skilled, diverse and ethical public sector serving the Government with consideration of the public interest.

The Department of Fisheries contributes towards the achievements of the following '*Better Planning: Better Futures*' governance outcomes:

- a skilled and capable public sector workforce;
- a whole-of-government approach to planning and decision-making;
- a public sector that is responsive to the evolving needs of the community; and
- independent oversight that contributes to a more accountable public sector.

Examples of work by the Department in 2007/08 that contributed to the State Government's '*Better Planning: Better Futures*' goal of developing and maintaining a skilled, diverse and ethical public sector serving the Government with consideration of the public interest are:

- Development of successful collaborative arrangements with other government departments to better coordinate its activities in areas such as marine safety and marine park management.
- Continued to operate a series of community and industry advisory committees, and extensive public consultation processes to gather community input into fisheries management and policy development.
- Continued to operate as a pilot agency in implementing the Shared Services model for the provision of business management services across the whole of Government.

- Continued to restructure its Corporate Services Division to respond to needs and changes arising from operating in the Shared Services environment.
- Continued to refine its risk management process and risk register.
- Continued to implement risk assessment-based compliance programs.
- Maintained an emphasis on corporate governance processes and internal reporting.
- Continued implementation of the Government's policy framework for substantive equality.

## Agency Performance - Report on Operations

**Table 1 – Financial targets: actual performance compared to budget targets**

	<b>2007/08 Target \$'000</b>	<b>2007/08 Actual \$'000</b>	<b>Variance \$'000</b>
Total cost of services (expense limit) (sourced from Income Statement)	60,554	60,400	154
Net cost of services (sourced from Income Statement)	33,417	32,898	519
Total equity (sourced from Balance Sheet)	53,345	63,887	10,452 <sup>1</sup>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held (sourced from Cash Flow Statement)	(3,094)	4,782	7,876 <sup>2</sup>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Approved fulltime equivalent (FTE) staff level	429	435	6

### Explanation of significant variances

1. The variation in total equity results from the first time recognition of a parcel of land in Mandurah (\$2.8 m) and increases in the valuation of assets including land, buildings, vessels and plant (\$7.7 m).
2. The variation in anticipated changes in cash holdings has resulted from the delay in construction of a significant capital project and the delays in finalising a number of fisheries adjustment initiatives.

AGENCY PERFORMANCE - REPORT ON OPERATIONS

**Table 2 – Summary of Key Performance Indicators: Actual performance compared to budget targets**

	2007/08 Target %	2007/08 Actual %	
<b>Outcome: Conservation and sustainable development of the State's Fish resources.</b>			
Key Effectiveness Indicators			
The satisfaction rating of the broader community with the Department's management of commercial fishing.	95%	78 %	
The satisfaction rating of the broader community with the Department's management of recreational fishing.	95%	78%	
The satisfaction rating of the broader community with the Department's management and development of pearling and aquaculture activities.	95%	82%	
The satisfaction rating of the broader community with the Department's conservation of fish habitat.	95%	77%	
	<b>2007/08 Target \$'000</b>	<b>2007/08 Actual \$'000</b>	<b>Variance \$'000</b>
<b>Service 1 – Management of the State's Commercial Fisheries</b>			
Key Efficiency Indicators			
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$100	\$157	\$57
Average cost per hour for management	\$187	\$223	\$36
Average cost per hour for research	\$105	\$143	\$38
<b>Service 2 – Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries</b>			
Key Efficiency Indicators			
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$113	\$140	\$27
Average cost per hour for management	\$106	\$139	\$33
Average cost per hour for research	\$98	\$131	\$33
<b>Service 3 – Development and Promotion of the State's Aquaculture Industry</b>			
Key Efficiency Indicators			
Average cost per hour for pearling community education and compliance	\$117	\$229	\$112
Average cost per hour for pearling management	\$76	\$206	\$130
Average cost per hour for pearling research	\$88	\$139	\$51
Average cost per hour for aquaculture community education and compliance	\$91	\$219	\$128
Average cost per hour for aquaculture management	\$158	\$143	\$15
Average cost per hour for aquaculture research	\$98	\$138	\$40
<b>Service 4 – Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat</b>			
Key Efficiency Indicators			
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$107	\$164	\$57
Average cost per hour for management	\$107	\$145	\$38
Average cost per hour for research	\$112	\$161	\$49



# MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

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The Department of Fisheries' responsibilities cover the protection and sustainable use of aquatic resources and habitats within WA's coastal waters (up to three nautical miles from shore) and freshwater systems.



### Integrated Fisheries Management

Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) is aimed not only at addressing the issue of how fish resources can be best shared between competing users (commercial, recreational – including charter, and customary Indigenous fishers), but also at managing the take by these sectors within the broader context of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD).

The Department of Fisheries' Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Programs have now been amalgamated and restructured into two bioregionally-based teams, a state-wide fisheries policy team and an IFM team – making up the new Integrated Fisheries Management Branch. The branch facilitates the activities of the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC), which is responsible for providing advice to the Minister for Fisheries on resource allocations.

The two bioregional teams deal comprehensively and in an integrated manner with all 'extractive' (recreational, commercial and customary Indigenous) fishing activities within their bioregions. The Northern Bioregions group deals with fishing in the waters of the Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley regions as well as northern inland waters; while the South-West Bioregions group covers the State's lower west and south coasts, and southern inland waters. The Strategic Fisheries Policy team deals with strategic fisheries management issues that apply to both bioregions.

The IFM team deals with those resources for which the Government has explicit policies to formally determine and manage resource shares (i.e. west coast rock lobster, metropolitan abalone, West Coast and Gascoyne demersal scalefish).

### The IFM team

Following advice from the IFAAC, the Minister made his decision on allocations under IFM for the western rock lobster resource, with 95 per cent allocated to the commercial sector and five per cent to recreational, with a one tonne allocation to customary Indigenous fishers. As part of that decision, the Minister also invited the IFAAC to engage more closely in the management issues surrounding local resource sharing conflicts.

The IFAAC also provided a draft paper to the Minister on mechanisms for managing the take of sector allocations, with particular reference to managing the western rock lobster resource. After the draft was approved, the IFAAC began consultation with the sector groups on managing the take of their allocations.

The IFAAC provided its final advice to the Minister on allocations for Roe's abalone in the Perth metropolitan region in August 2007 and the Minister's draft decisions on allocation are expected mid-2008.

The IFAAC also commenced considering the allocation issues surrounding the west coast demersal scalefish resource. However, the IFAAC is awaiting implementation of new management arrangements for both commercial and recreational sectors related to sustainability, and the results of the 2005/06 recreational creel survey before formulating recommendations.

The Government's IFM policy acknowledges that development of a market-based re-allocation framework is highly desirable, as it would allow allocations to vary in response to sectoral and community needs and values. To progress this element of IFM, the Department commenced a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) funded project on re-allocation frameworks and mechanisms in January 2008.

More information about IFM and the IFAAC can be found at [www.fish.wa.gov.au](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au)

### Major Achievements for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Department of Fisheries achieved the following in Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM):

- The Minister finalised the allocation of the western rock lobster resource.
- The IFAAC provided final advice to the Minister on allocations to the sectors of the Perth metropolitan region Roe's abalone resource.
- A project began on re-allocation frameworks and mechanisms.
- The IFAAC commenced its consideration of the west coast demersal scalefish resource sharing process.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Department of Fisheries intends to achieve the following in Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM):

- Develop a framework for managing the sectoral take of IFM allocations.
- Commence implementation of the Minister's final allocation decisions on the Perth metropolitan Roe's abalone resource.
- Provide advice to the Minister on allocations for the west coast demersal scalefish resource.
- Begin consideration of the Gascoyne demersal scalefish resource.
- Develop the resource re-allocation framework.

### Integrated Fisheries Management – Bioregions

The core function of the Northern and South-West Bioregions teams is to deliver sustainable fisheries management across the commercial, recreational and customary Indigenous sectors in each bioregion. If there are no formal allocation decisions, the sustainable management arrangements

should also, if possible, maintain the historical catch shares between the sectors.

Fisheries management services are delivered across the bioregions by a combination of management from the Department of Fisheries' head office in Perth and from regional offices (Broome and Carnarvon for the Northern Bioregions and Albany for the South-West Bioregions).

Details about each of the fisheries within the bioregions can be found in the annual *State of the Fisheries Report*.

### Northern Bioregions

The Northern Bioregions notionally covers the area from north of Kalbarri to the Western Australia/Northern Territory border and includes inland waters. There are two distinct bioregions – the North Coast (Pilbara/Kimberley) and the Gascoyne Coast.

In the North Coast (Pilbara/Kimberley) bioregion, ocean temperatures range between around 22°C and 33°C, but temperatures in near coastal waters vary over a greater range. Fish stocks are entirely tropical, with most having an Indo-Pacific distribution.

The Kimberley coast has many bays and estuaries, and broad tidal mudflats with fringing mangroves are typical. The eastern Pilbara coast is more exposed than the Kimberley, with few islands and extensive sand flats, while the western Pilbara coastline is characterised by a series of low-lying islands – including the Dampier Archipelago, Barrow Island and the Montebello Islands.

The principal commercial fisheries in this region focus on tropical finfish, particularly the high-value emperors, snappers and cods taken by the Pilbara Fish Trawl, Pilbara Trap, Pilbara Line and Northern Demersal Scalefish fisheries. Illegal foreign fishing, particularly for sharks, has been a significant feature of the more northern waters for some years, but this activity now appears to have decreased.

The Gascoyne Coast bioregion is a transition between the fully tropical waters of the North West Shelf and the temperate waters of the West Coast bioregion. Offshore ocean temperatures range from about 22°C to 28°C, while the inner areas of Shark Bay fall to as low as 15°C in winter. The major fish stocks are generally tropical in nature, with the exceptions of pink snapper and tailor, which are near the northern end of their range at Shark Bay.

The Gascoyne coastline is characterised by high cliffs in the southern half, changing to fringing coral reefs in the north, but the protected waters of Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf form important fishing grounds. Three of the State's most valuable fisheries – the Shark Bay Prawn, Exmouth Gulf Prawn and Shark Bay Scallop fisheries, with combined landings worth \$40 to \$50 million annually – are to be found in the Gascoyne.

Fisheries located in the Northern Bioregions will be reported against the following groupings: invertebrates/trawl fisheries, marine finfish, inland waters, Indian Ocean Territories and developing new fisheries.

### **Invertebrates/Trawl Fisheries**

Nine invertebrate trawl fisheries operate in the Gascoyne, Pilbara, Kimberley and West Coast regions, primarily targeting king prawns, tiger prawns, banana prawns and scallops. Note that the Northern Bioregions extend as far south as Cape Leeuwin for the purposes of invertebrate trawl fisheries. There is no recreational component for the target species of any of the invertebrate trawl fisheries with the exception of the South West Trawl fishery, but there are overlaps with the recreational sector for some of the bycatch species.

Profitability in the State's trawl fisheries continues to be under pressure due to ongoing increases in operating costs (primarily fuel and labour) and a high Australian dollar. A decrease in profitability was the catalyst for trawl gear amalgamation and fleet size reductions in the Shark Bay,

Exmouth Gulf and Onslow prawn trawl fisheries during 2007. Fleet size reductions continued in the Shark Bay Prawn Fishery in 2008 and fishers in all invertebrate trawl fisheries are continuing to explore ways to reduce their operating costs.

Progress with the Shark Bay prawn and scallop fisheries review was hindered by a shift in focus in this fishery to the need for an internal re-structure. With that re-structure largely completed, further progress on this review is expected in 2008/09.

A review of the Kimberley Prawn Fishery commenced during 2007/08 to comprehensively deal with its large fleet size and notional latent (unused) effort. Currently, latent effort is dealt with using the blunt tool of an overall 'effort pool', but the broader issues of fleet size, economic return, fishing areas and improved effort controls require resolution. As a preliminary outcome, agreement was reached with licensees to close a number of inshore areas to protect habitat and to improve the economic return to the fishery by limiting fishing to what would normally be the second part of the season.

Blue swimmer crabs are fished both recreationally and commercially in the Gascoyne and Pilbara. In recent years, the Shark Bay commercial crab fishery has developed into the State's largest blue swimmer crab fishery.

In both the Gascoyne and the Pilbara, commercial fishers take crabs at a larger size than recreational fishers, so as to guard against directly affecting recreational catches. Closures are also in place to ensure commercial fishing takes place in areas away from the main recreational fishing areas.

### **Marine Finfish**

There are three key finfish (or 'scalefish') fishing areas within the Northern Bioregions – the Gascoyne/Ningaloo, Pilbara and Kimberley. Each of these areas is subject to regional recreational fishing management arrangements that contain a number of generic controls (such as minimum size limits) and specific controls for areas such as the Ningaloo Marine Park.

Most commercial scalefish fishing activity in the Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley areas is formally managed under management plans, with controls including limits on boat numbers, fishing gear and closed areas/times, as well as fishing effort and catch quota controls in some fisheries.

After management arrangements were upgraded for commercial line fishing for scalefish in the waters of the Pilbara in late 2006 and an appeals process was completed during 2007/08, there is now a limited fleet of nine boats with authority to commercially line fish in the Pilbara.

Commercial catch levels of oceanic Shark Bay pink snapper continue to be closely managed at reduced levels to ensure the success of the current breeding stock recovery program. Stocks levels in the inner gulfs of Shark Bay continue to be a focus. Data collected by the Department of Fisheries' Research Division during 2007 was incorporated into a stock status report for consideration by the Shark Bay Inner Gulf Pink Snapper Working Group.

In mid-2007 the Minister announced his decisions about new commercial scalefish fishing management arrangements for both the West Coast and the Gascoyne. These will include the creation of a new demersal scalefish fishery in the Gascoyne (which will include the current Shark Bay pink snapper fishery) and a new inshore net fishery to cover what had previously been open-access netting north of the Shark Bay Beach Seine Fishery. The new demersal fishery is set to commence in the second half of 2009, but the net fishery is not likely to be in place until 2010.

The Barramundi Accord, an integrated cross-sectoral agreement to underpin effective management and access to the State's iconic barramundi fishery, was re-negotiated in March 2007 and its scope broadened to cover threadfin salmon. The Accord (now known as 'The Barramundi and Threadfin Salmon Accord 2007 – 2012') contains a number of voluntary arrangements between the commercial

and recreational sectors and charter operators, as well as requiring some legislative changes and a community education package.

### **Indian Ocean Territories**

The Department of Fisheries has begun a range of fisheries management and research projects in the Commonwealth's Indian Ocean Territories (Cocos-Keeling Islands and Christmas Island) as part of a Service Level Agreement with the Commonwealth. The program reports to the Commonwealth's Department of the Attorney General, which now manages the Commonwealth's external territories

### **Developing New Fisheries**

Responsibility for the Department of Fisheries' Developing New Fisheries (DNF) program sits with the Northern Bioregions team, although its area of operation potentially covers the whole State. Developmental fisheries for octopus and blue swimmer crabs have been ongoing as part of the DNF process. The future directions for these fisheries are likely to be determined during 2008/09. The DNF process itself is also likely to be reviewed during 2008/09 in light of the cost pressures that the Department itself is facing in delivering services to established fisheries.

### **Major Achievements for 2007/08**

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch achieved the following in the Northern Bioregions:

- Resolved the implementation of sustainable management arrangements for line fishing in the Pilbara.
- Developed management arrangements for Gascoyne inshore commercial netting.
- Joined Murdoch University in a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation-funded project to examine protected species interactions in the Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery.

- Developed draft recommendations for fisheries management strategies for the Indian Ocean Territories.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch intends to achieve the following in the Northern Bioregions:

- Develop management arrangements for the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery.
- Action any outcomes arising from the Shark Bay Inner Gulfs Pink Snapper Working Group.
- Implement the legislative and community education elements of the Barramundi and Threadfin Salmon Accord.
- Commence a State-wide review of charter fishing.
- Complete the Shark Bay prawn and scallop fisheries review process.
- Complete the Kimberley prawn fishery review.
- Review the Developing New Fisheries process.
- Finalise the fisheries management strategies for the Indian Ocean Territories.

### South-West Bioregions

The South-West Bioregions area also contains two distinct bioregions – the West Coast and the South Coast.

The West Coast bioregion, between Kalbarri and Augusta, is characterised by a limestone coast with cool temperate waters that are influenced by the Leeuwin Current and the inshore Capes Current.

The Leeuwin Current carries warm tropical water down the continental shelf and the fish stocks of the region are typically temperate, in keeping with coastal water temperatures that range from 18°C to about 24°C. This current is also responsible for the existence of coral reefs at the Houtman Abrolhos Islands (latitude 29° S) and the

extended southward distribution of many tropical species along the west and south coasts.

The South Coast bioregion, which extends from Augusta to the Western Australian/South Australian border, has a predominately granite coastline and cooler waters than the lower west coast.

The continental shelf waters of the South Coast bioregion are generally temperate but low in nutrients, due to the seasonal winter presence of the tail of the Leeuwin Current and limited rainfall run-off from the land. Sea temperatures typically range from approximately 15°C to 21°C, which is warmer than would normally be expected in these latitudes due to the influence of the Leeuwin Current.

Fish stocks in the region are mainly temperate, with many species' distributions extending across southern Australia.

The fisheries of the South-West Bioregion account for the majority of the State's commercial and recreational fishing effort. Fishing ranges from the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (Australia's most valuable single species commercial fishery), boat fishing for highly prized species such as dhufish (only found in WA), fishing for blue swimmer crabs in a number of west coast estuaries, beach-based fishing for Australian salmon and herring, and inland recreational-only fisheries for marron and trout.

### Overview

During 2007/08, fisheries management activities of the South-West Bioregions team continued to be largely driven by the need to address sustainability concerns around demersal scalefish species, such as dhufish and pink snapper. However, new concerns around profitability of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery arose during 2007/08 – a result of rising costs, weak product prices, and at least another three seasons of predicted below-average catch. Puerulus settlement in 2007/08 was the second lowest on record and is expected to result in a very low western rock

lobster catch in 2010/11. The impact of the low settlement on sustainability of the stock raised some concerns within industry. The low settlement has been attributed to unfavourable environmental conditions, in particular a weak Leeuwin current.

The Minister approved the release of a series of recommendations developed by the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) on management changes for the 2008/09 season to address sustainability of the fishery. Following approaches from industry and advice from the RLIAC, the Minister also approved a process that would allow fishers another opportunity to move to a quota management system.

Implementation of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery management plan on 1 January 2008 marked the end of open-access line fishing (also called 'wetlining') on the west coast. In its first year of operation (2008) the new commercial fishery will operate in a 'limited entry model', but it moves to a Total Allowable Effort (TAE) fishery from 2009. Full implementation of the plan from 2009 will enable the commercial catch of demersal scalefish to be managed at sustainable levels.

In September 2007 the Minister announced a package of interim measures to increase the level of management of the take of demersal scalefish by recreational fishers to deal with the demersal scalefish sustainability issue. This foreshadowed the implementation of longer-term measures through the release of *Fisheries Management Paper No. 225 – Managing the recreational catch of scalefish on the west coast*.

Following public consultation on *FMP No. 225* and the consideration of submissions, the Minister released his proposed decisions for the future management of recreational fishing for a five-week public comment period in March 2008. The Minister received over 1,300 submissions on these proposed decisions. Following consideration of submissions, the Minister announced his decisions in late June 2008 for implementation later in the year.

To provide additional protection for crab stocks in the Peel-Harvey Estuary, the Minister approved a two-month closure to crab fishing from 1 September to 31 October. To help share available catch amongst recreational fishers, there were reductions in the recreational daily bag limit for blue swimmer crabs from 20 to 10 and in the boat limit from 40 to 20 from November 2007. To reduce fishing impacts on juvenile crab stocks in the Peel-Harvey Estuary, a prohibition on the use of handheld drag nets was introduced in July 2007.

The Cockburn Sound crab fishing closure was extended for a further 12 months in November 2007 to allow crab stocks to rebuild after several years of poor recruitment.

To help resolve resource sharing issues in the South West Salmon Fishery, the closure to commercial salmon fishing over the Easter period was extended to cover long weekends and school holiday periods. In 2007 the Minister announced Geographe Bay would be closed to commercial salmon fishing in July 2009.

### Major Achievements for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch achieved the following in the South-West Bioregions:

- The management plan for the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery was gazetted on 1 January 2008, giving effect to the Minister for Fisheries' final decisions on access, allocation and management arrangements for the former west coast commercial 'wetline' fishery.
- A major consultation process was undertaken on the need for new management arrangements for the take of demersal scalefish on the west coast by recreational fishers.
- The RLIAC provided advice to the Minister on proposed management changes to deal with sustainability issues in the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.

- Work was carried out with a RLIAC sub-committee to develop advice on the framework for quota management of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.
- Management measures (including commercial and recreational fishing closures) continued in Cockburn Sound to promote the rebuilding of blue swimmer crab stocks and the protection of pink snapper spawning aggregations.
- Management action was taken to address the resource-sharing concerns in Geographe Bay.
- Quota-based management arrangements were implemented for the West Coast Deep Sea Crab Interim Managed Fishery to ensure stock sustainability.
- The implementation of a 'days fished' management regime was finalised for the West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery.

### Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch intends to achieve the following initiatives in the South-West Bioregions:

- Implementing the Minister's decisions on management arrangements for the take of demersal scalefish by recreational fishers in the West Coast bioregion.
- Enhancing management arrangements for the take of west coast demersal scalefish by the commercial sector through the introduction of a 'days fished' regime.
- Providing advice to industry on the operation of a possible quota management regime for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.
- Finalising the implementation of a 'days fished' management regime for the Joint Authority Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery.

## Pearling and Aquaculture

The Pearling and Aquaculture Program of the Department of Fisheries manages and regulates the development of a diverse, valuable and sustainable pearling and aquaculture industry in Western Australia, through partnership with stakeholders.

### Pearling

The Pearling sub-program is responsible for the management and regulation of the wild capture fishery for South Sea pearl oysters (*Pinctada maxima*) and their subsequent use to culture pearls. The sub-program is also responsible for management and regulation of the hatchery production element of the industry, by which South Sea pearl oysters are spawned in a hatchery to produce additional shell that can be 'seeded' for pearl culture.

Pearls are also produced from other pearl oyster species (the so-called 'non-maxima' species). Amongst its other responsibilities, it is the Aquaculture sub-program, rather than the Pearling sub-program, that deals with the management of the non-maxima pearl industry.

The work of the Pearling sub-program encompasses:

- management of:
  - the wild pearl oyster stock;
  - the capture of pearl oysters from the wild; and
  - the South Sea pearl hatchery sector;
- development of policies and legislation to support this management;
- research on the wild South Sea pearl oyster stocks and monitoring of fishing effort;
- disease management;



## PEARLING AND AQUACULTURE

- compliance and education; and
- assessment and administration of leases and licences.

The Pearling sub-program is also responsible for ensuring the ongoing environmental management of the Western Australian pearling industry. The wild capture pearl oyster fishery has achieved accreditation by the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts as being environmentally sustainable under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The South Sea pearling industry is managed using a quota management system. This system limits the total amount of wild shell that can be harvested and the total amount of shell seeded.

The setting of quotas provides for ecologically sustainable management of the wild catch of pearl oysters and helps minimise the impact of pearling on the marine environment. It also limits the total number of pearls cultured over a given period, which maximises the return to the State by maintaining optimum pearl prices and market confidence.

Production in the WA's South Sea pearl industry was valued at \$122 million in 2007. There are 17 pearling licensees, collectively holding 572 units in the wild stock fishery and 350 hatchery units. The value of the wild stock units – in terms of the number of shells that may be taken per unit – is reviewed annually, based on recruitment and stock assessment data collected through a research program.

The South Sea pearl fishery is divided into geographical zones to allow efficient and effective management of localised pearl oyster stocks.

The total allowable catch from Zone 1 for the 2007 season was kept at 55,000 shells to assist in the recovery of the fishery within this area. Zone 1 licensees may substitute hatchery-produced oysters for wild-captured oysters in order to maintain their annual pearl production.

As recruitment increased within the fishery, the value of wild stock units within Zones 2 and 3 was increased to a value of 1,800 oysters per unit for the 2008 fishing season. However, the seeding entitlement for Zone 2 and 3 units remained at 1,100 oysters per unit.

The Pearling sub-program provides executive support to the Pearling Industry Advisory Committee (PIAC), a statutory Management Advisory Committee established under the *Pearling Act 1990*, and its sub-committees. The Pearling sub-program also maintains strong links with the peak industry representative body, the Pearl Producers Association.

### Major Achievements for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Pearling sub-program achieved the following:

- Provided assistance to the independent, public interest, Ministerial review of the pearling industry, with the resulting report passed to the Minister in May 2008.
- Completed an independent review of compliance with pearling legislation, with the resulting report being finalised in January 2008.
- Worked towards identifying the cause of a disease outbreak that occurred in hatchery-bred pearl oysters on ocean leases in the Kimberley and Pilbara in late 2006 and early 2007. The Department of Fisheries is adopting a precautionary approach in its management of this incident. An epidemiological study into the disease incident has been completed. A test to detect the disease is in the final stages of development.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Pearling sub-program intends to achieve the following:

- Implement the outcomes of the public interest Ministerial review of the pearling industry. This is likely

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to include a draft hatchery policy, review of fees and charges, a draft industry strategy and new pearling legislation.

- Implement the recommendations of the compliance review.
- Continue research into identification of the cause of the oyster oedema disease affecting pearl oysters in the Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

### Aquaculture

The Aquaculture sub-program is responsible for the management and regulation of WA's growing and diverse aquaculture industry. In addition, it manages the State's non-maxima pearl industry. The sub-program's main functions include:

- industry management;
- policy development;
- disease management;
- advice and support into industry development initiatives;
- management of compliance and research; and
- assessment and administration of licences and exemptions.

Major species currently being produced commercially by aquaculture in WA include mussels, barramundi, abalone, western rock oysters, silver perch, trout, pearl oysters (producing black pearls), yellowtail kingfish, mulloway, marron and yabbies. Algae species are also grown for the production of beta carotene. The commercial production of artemia (brine shrimp used in hatchery diets) is in its early stages and appears to have promise.

Management arrangements ensure the aquaculture industry in WA is developing in an environmentally sustainable manner. It is already a requirement for the granting of a licence that the proposed operations are unlikely to

adversely affect other fish and aquatic environments, but the Department of Fisheries has begun Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) reporting on each sector of the WA aquaculture industry.

The aquaculture industry in WA will significantly contribute to meeting ESD principles for the State, including environmental, social and economic objectives. The ESD process is continuing for aquacultured marine prawns and finfish.

The State's developing aquaculture industry will be a significant contributor to regional growth, as specific activities or species are generally suited to particular regional areas. The aquaculture industry will also stimulate the development and growth of secondary support industries.

Regional aquaculture development will also provide substantial employment opportunities, both directly – through on-farm jobs – and indirectly – through jobs associated with support industries and services. Examples of industry sector development include abalone aquaculture along the State's south coast; the development of black pearl culture at the Abrolhos Islands (with some additional activity around these species also occurring at Shark Bay); and the establishment of new marine finfish aquaculture farms, which have started production off the west coast.

Production of barramundi is increasing in the Kimberley and in the cooler parts of WA using re-circulation technology.

The need for appropriate infrastructure to support these industries remains a challenge for Government.

The Aquaculture Development Council (ADC) is now focusing efforts on identified large-scale industry development projects that are characterised by sustainability, innovation and global competitiveness. The key projects include the Marine Finfish Aquaculture Roadmapping Project, a site

identification project and the Open Ocean Aquaculture Project, which involves international collaboration.

The ADC is undertaking several initiatives it believes will form the foundations for future aquaculture industry development in the State, such as a dedicated legislative base, adopting a clear leadership role, and contributing to the establishment of an operating and business environment capable of attracting investment in a competitive market.

### **Major Achievements for 2007/08**

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Aquaculture sub-program achieved the following:

- Continued to review the conditions on aquaculture licences on a species-by-species basis.
- Completed an interim policy for the allocation and grow-out of juvenile western rock lobster (pueruli).
- Completed a draft policy paper on the aquaculture of coral and live rock.
- Continued the ESD Risk Assessment Reports for prawn and finfish, and significantly progressed the ESD Management Reports.
- Released a draft discussion paper on the granting of aquaculture leases in WA.
- Provided support to the Aquaculture Bill Task Force.

### **Major Initiatives for 2008/09**

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Aquaculture sub-program intends to achieve the following:

- Complete the policies relating to aquaculture leases.
- Complete the management framework for the sustainable and equitable allocation of western rock lobster pueruli for aquaculture.
- Advise and support aquaculture industry development initiatives.
- Initiate major environmental projects to streamline

licensing processes for large-scale aquaculture.

- Continue to establish the codes of practice and environmental monitoring programs for finfish and prawn aquaculture.
- Begin a review of Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 8 (*Assessment of applications for authorisations of aquaculture and pearling in coastal waters of WA*).
- Complete a policy paper on the aquaculture of coral and live rock.
- Complete a policy on the separation between marine aquaculture sites.
- Review the marron aquaculture management framework.
- Begin a broodstock collection policy.

### The Environment Branch

The Department of Fisheries' Environment Branch (formerly the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program) provides environmental guidance and support to the management of marine, estuarine and riverine ecosystems.

The branch plays a vital role in inter-governmental liaison and meeting the Department's Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) requirements, as well as developing positions, policies and management frameworks for the protection of Western Australia's aquatic environment.

There are four sections within the Environment Branch – Biosecurity; Environment and Aquatic Protection; Marine Planning and Marine Reserve Management; and Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM).

#### Biosecurity

Biosecurity can be defined as the protection of people, animals and ecological systems against disease and other biological threats, and is an emerging area for the Department of Fisheries' Environment Branch.

During 2007/08, a new Act was proclaimed – the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* – and there was significant effort towards the development of new regulation, policy, guidelines and management to support the Act.

This section also conducted the ongoing regulation of fish movement into – and within – the State (i.e. 'translocation'), and the management of introduced marine and freshwater pests.

There was extensive involvement in several national committees and working groups on the development of new

legislation, policy, guidelines and management arrangements for aquatic biosecurity, including ballast water, vessel and equipment biofouling, and ornamental (aquarium) fish.

The Environment Branch of the Department of Fisheries represented WA on the:

- National System (for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions) Implementation Group;
- National Introduced Marine Pests Coordinating Group (and a number of its working groups);
- Consultative Committee for Introduced Marine Pest Emergencies; and
- Ornamental Fish Policy Implementation Working Group.

The Biosecurity section of the Environment Branch also responded to a number of feral marine and freshwater pest incursions during 2007/08, and undertook priority vessel inspections on an 'as needs' basis.

#### Major Achievements for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Environment Branch achieved the following in biosecurity:

- Continued an operational response to a feral fish incursion (pearl cichlids) in Bennett Brook in the Perth metropolitan area.
- Worked collaboratively with the WA Department of Agriculture and Food and other major stakeholders (such as the shipping industry) to develop and implement the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*.
- Contributed to the Australian Government's review of biosecurity.
- Participated in a range of national committees and working groups towards the development and implementation of the National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions

and a strategic approach to the management of ornamental fish, etc.

- Completed a monitoring project for introduced marine pests funded by the Natural Heritage Trust.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Environment Branch intends to achieve the following in biosecurity, given a suitable allocation of funds:

- Develop departmental policy, systems and frameworks to meet aquatic biosecurity objectives and responsibilities.
- Provide leadership and guidance on the development and implementation of biosecurity initiatives, both within the Department of Fisheries and across government agencies.
- Provide oversight and coordination to ensure effective delivery of aquatic biosecurity activities across the Department's programs.
- Develop and implement a communication, education and awareness plan to increase awareness within the Department, government agencies, industry and the wider community of introduced aquatic organisms (including diseases) and their impact on the environment, the economy and social and cultural values, and encourage the taking-up of preventative measures.
- Develop and implement policy, strategic priorities and decision-support frameworks for the State's aquatic environments, for the ongoing management and monitoring of introduced aquatic organisms, with a focus on identified high-value areas.
- Develop emergency management (preparedness and response) capacity within the Department to introductions and/or significant translocations of aquatic organisms, in conjunction with other agencies, industry and key stakeholders.

### Environment and Aquatic Protection

The Department of Fisheries has legislative responsibilities to protect fish and their habitats in addition to considering the activities supported by fish resources. The Environment and Aquatic Protection section of the Department's Environment Branch undertakes a range of activities focused on the protection of these resources.

Staff from the Environment and Aquatic Protection section liaise at a senior level with other departments who work on related areas. They also represent the Department of Fisheries on various external committees and organisations, including the:

- Cockburn Sound Management Council;
- State Water Planning Implementation Committee;
- Two statutory committees for the State Planning Commission – the Environment and Natural Resources Management Committee and the Coastal Planning and Coordination Council; and
- Northern Development Task Force.

The section's involvement in these committees and organisations ensures that fisheries and marine issues are considered, and that there is effective coordination of government planning and management programs concerning fisheries interests.

The section provides advice on behalf of the Department of Fisheries to industry, government, and statutory authorities, such as the Environmental Protection Authority, on the potential effects of proposed developments on fisheries, aquaculture and the marine environment in general. It also regularly provides advice to the Department of Industry and Resources about the environmental management of coastal and offshore petroleum activity.

Staff from the section also participate in, and provide advice to, community reference groups convened by the major petroleum companies.

### Major Achievements for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Environment Branch achieved the following in environment and aquatic protection:

- Continued to provide advice on the impact of coastal developments and activities on fisheries, aquaculture, pearling and the marine environment.
- Assessed and provided advice on major development proposals such as petroleum development offshore at the North West Cape, on the North West shelf, and waters offshore from Dongara, Geraldton and north of Rottnest Island.
- Assessed and provided advice on major development proposals such as the Gorgon gas development, Straits Resources Exmouth Gulf solar salt proposal, Fremantle Port Authority outer harbour development and the Kimberley Browse Basin petroleum proposals.
- Provided departmental contributions to State planning initiatives.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Environment Branch intends to achieve the following in environment and aquatic protection:

- Prepare timely and informed contributions to State and Commonwealth environmental impact assessment and approval processes.
- Engage constructively with proponents to minimise impacts on fisheries values (economic, social and ecological) and, where possible, facilitate proactive research and management, which complements EBFM objectives, and marine and freshwater research objectives.
- Facilitate a strategic approach to environmental impact assessment to generate a more holistic view of the potential environmental impacts and associated management options on a regional basis.

- Maintain a ready reference of current knowledge about the rate at which climate change is occurring and the anticipated effects of climate change on marine and freshwater environments.
- Extend the current body of knowledge on climate change to relevant staff and stakeholders, so as to inform the Department's risk assessment and management processes.
- Ensure the Department remains represented and integrated in critical emergency response processes.

### Marine Planning and Marine Reserve Management

The Environment Branch has a significant role to play in marine planning processes and marine reserve management. These include processes in State and Commonwealth waters to develop regional marine plans, and the creation of marine protected areas including Fish Habitat Protection Areas (FHPAs) and marine parks.

### Major Achievements for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Environment Branch achieved the following in marine planning:

- Engaged with other government agencies and stakeholders in progressing State regional marine planning by the Department of Environment and Conservation for the South Coast Regional Marine Plan.
- Worked with other government agencies and stakeholders in progressing the Commonwealth's South-West and North-West Marine Bioregional Planning initiatives.
- Undertook the final legislative steps to enable the Kalbarri Blue Holes FHPA to be established early in 2007/08.
- Implemented the Walpole/Nornalup and Shoalwater Islands Marine Park marine conservation reserves, and completed the planning of proposed Dampier

Archipelago/Regnard and Capes (Naturaliste and Leeuwin) marine reserves.

- Completed fisheries data and policy contributions to the Commonwealth's Department of Environment and Water Resources, and maintained liaison with fisheries stakeholders concerning the Commonwealth's marine bioregional plans for the State's south-west and north-west.
- Coordinated fisheries data and policy contributions to the Department of Environment and Conservation, and maintained liaison with fisheries stakeholders concerning the State's South Coast Regional Marine Planning initiative.
- Published notices under the *Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997* to address potential compensation claims for the Ningaloo Marine Park.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Environment Branch intends to achieve the following in marine planning:

- Give effect to fishing restrictions within the plans of management for the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area, Montebello/Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserves, Rowley Shoals Marine Park and Shoalwater Islands Marine Park under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.
- Participate in the planning of proposed new marine conservation reserves in the Pilbara, such as 80-mile Beach Marine Reserve.
- Lead departmental negotiations and coordinate contributions to marine and freshwater regional planning processes at a State and Commonwealth level.
- Integrate EBFM policy into strategic State and Commonwealth marine and freshwater planning initiatives, so as to promote synergies and links with

marine protected area policy objectives.

- Promote the development of a new State Government marine planning policy paper to provide clarity on the marine planning and conservation reserve processes, the role of sanctuary zones, and the legislative tools available under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* to facilitate the establishment of marine protected areas.
- Provide strategic and policy support for the establishment and ongoing management of FHPAs.
- Proactively engage with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Western Australian Marine Science Institution to develop a set of marine health indicators for consistent, meaningful and long-term monitoring of marine protected areas.

### Ecologically Sustainable Development and Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management

In the last decade there has been a significant shift in the approach to natural resource management. In the fisheries context, this means a move from an individual resource management approach to a more holistic, integrated resource management approach.

To date, this shift has been reflected in the State Sustainability Strategy and Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) requirements of Commonwealth Government policies. In particular the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides legislative requirements for commercial export fisheries which must be addressed.

The Department of Fisheries has been a leader in developing strategies, process and policy to address the requirements of ESD from the perspective of WA's established fisheries. The next phase of fisheries management is to establish an ecosystem-based approach to management.

### Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Environment Branch achieved the following in ESD and EBFM:

- Started the development of a structural framework for the future implementation of EBFM.
- Assessed all WA export fisheries against the Commonwealth Government guidelines for the ecologically sustainable management of fisheries under the EPBC Act.
- Worked with the Commonwealth Government to determine the requirements for the reassessment of fisheries under the EPBC Act.
- Facilitated reporting on the ESD requirements of the export fisheries through the Department of Fisheries' annual *State of the Fisheries Report* tabled in Parliament.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Environment Branch intends to achieve the following in ESD and EBFM:

- Develop a comprehensive departmental EBFM policy.
- Develop strategic partnerships with other agencies that are important in the delivery of EBFM, and adapt or create new systems and processes to support cross-agency co-operation (for example, using the Inter-Departmental Committee and Marine Senior Officers Group).
- Ensure through contributions to departmental processes that the vehicles for consulting and engaging stakeholders support the principles of EBFM.
- In accordance with the new policy, lead the planning processes to start the development of EBFM plans for the major administrative regions, as reported in the annual *State of the Fisheries* report.



### Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Division

The purpose of the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Division is to ensure that informed decisions, actions and communications are carried out by the Department of Fisheries through innovation and leadership, governance and compliance, planning, coordination and evaluation, and analysis and advice.

The Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Division provides a leading role in the development and maintenance of the Department's strategic directions for the benefit of all Western Australians. It is made up of four functional areas – policy, planning, performance, and communications and education.

#### Policy

The policy section is responsible for strategic policy development, particularly for matters that have a whole-of-government or cross-government focus, such as climate change and marine planning. This section is currently taking the lead in developing policies and procedures to specifically incorporate social and economic considerations into the sustainable fisheries management decision-making framework.

#### Planning

The planning section of the division is responsible for the development and coordination of marketing and business planning, including seafood quality, market and industry development, and international development. This section is also responsible for the preparation and periodic review of the Department of Fisheries' Strategic Plan, and the

supporting business and operational plans, in consultation with relevant departmental divisions and branches.

#### Organisational Performance

This section is responsible for audit and risk and has a range of reporting responsibilities, including annual performance indicators and whole-of-government initiatives. It also has an important role in overall organisational governance and performance, principally through the Manager of the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Division.

#### Communications and Education

The Communications and Education Branch is responsible for the planning, development and delivery of a range of communications and education services. Its operations, achievements and initiatives are reported in the 'Education and Compliance' section of this report.

#### Major Achievements for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Division achieved the following:

- Developed the Department of Fisheries' Strategic Plan 2008–2012.
- Finalised the Department of Fisheries' international development strategy.
- Commenced development for the Department of Fisheries of social and economic policy frameworks, and implementation strategies.
- Commenced a review of all formal and public consultation mechanisms across the State.
- Finalised negotiations for the delivery of fisheries management services with the Government of Mauritius.
- Completed a business continuity plan for the Department of Fisheries relating to the potential effects of a human influenza pandemic.

- Commenced a project designed to formulate a carbon management and reporting system for the Australian seafood sector.
- Initiated a case study on the WA mussel on the value of regional branding and eco-labelling.
- Developed and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Western Australian Chemistry Centre to partnership in the Seafood Cooperative Research Centre.
- Supported the promotion of WA seafood at the European Seafood Expo.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Division intends to achieve the following:

- Development of climate change adaptation strategies to address priority risks across the fishing sector and marine environment.
- Implementation of social and economic policy and strategies to inform decision-making.
- Finalisation and implementation of new consultation processes across the State.
- Completion of the review of cost recovery and other financial arrangements under the Cole-House Agreement.
- Commence delivery of fisheries management services to the Government of Mauritius under a six-year project funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- Conduct case-study trials in the Australian seafood sector in order to assess its carbon footprint, and to develop adaptation and market strategies in order to meet carbon management and reporting objectives.
- Develop an international development business plan for the Department of Fisheries.

### Legal and Registry Services Unit

The Legal and Registry Services Unit was established on 1 July 2005, amalgamating the Department's legislation, litigation, legal, licensing and registry services.

The manager of the unit is also appointed as Registrar and reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer. A primary function of the Department of Fisheries' Registrar is to keep a register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases, pursuant to Part 12 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA).

Day-to-day registry operations are performed by officers of the Licensing Branch under the authority of the Registrar. Licensing Branch operations, achievements and initiatives are reported elsewhere in the Annual Report 2007/08.

Appendix 3 of this report outlines the relevant provisions of the FRMA and lists the activities that have taken place under those provisions during the reporting period (as well as State Administrative Tribunal statistics).

### Registry Work

#### Major Achievements for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Legal and Registry Services Unit achieved the following in the registry area:

- The information available on the public register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases was reviewed.
- The license administration necessary to be carried out upon the death of an authorisation holder (including the death of one of a joint authorisation holder) was reviewed.
- Software and procedural changes were commenced to allow the public to have register access to historical

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versions of authorisations, exemptions and leases.

- The integrity of the data on the public register was maintained.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Legal and Registry Services Unit intends to achieve the following in the registry area:

- Oversee the introduction of new public register fees that more closely relate to the cost of particular services delivered.
- Continue to manage the issues flowing from audit of register (for example, relating to deceased estates, family trusts and use of business names).
- Coordinate the addition of new information on the public register.
- Assist in the further consideration of whether to develop an online register service.

### Legal and Litigation Services

The Legal and Registry Services Unit provides the following services:

- Legal advice to the Minister, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and officers of the Department of Fisheries on a range of matters concerning the legislation administered by the Department, and legislation and other law affecting the activities, powers and functions of the Minister and the CEO.
- Management of litigation in which the Minister and the CEO of the Department of Fisheries are a party.
- Representation of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries and Minister for Fisheries in State Administrative Tribunal matters.

### Major Achievements for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Legal and Registry Services Unit achieved the following in the legal and litigation area:

- Provided leadership in applying sound administrative decision-making processes within the Department of Fisheries, through the provision of legal expertise and strategic policy advice. Four areas in which significant contributions were made were:
  - (a) Providing timely advice in respect of the nature and extent of administrative powers.
  - (b) Facilitating the full consideration of issues potentially leading to reviewable decisions.
  - (c) Identifying any underlying legal issues that may have occurred during policy development or that may warrant legislative intervention.
  - (d) Using State Administrative Tribunal decisions (including in respect of other Acts and portfolios) to guide the development of fisheries management policy, as well as the use of administrative power by the Minister for Fisheries and the Department.
- Provided advice and representation in relation to compliance with, and objection to, subpoenas issued to the Department of Fisheries by the Family Court of Western Australia (for provision of information including catch returns) and instructed the State Solicitor's Office where necessary.
- Provided advice to the Minister and Chief Executive Officer in relation to ongoing proceedings commenced by a fisher in the Supreme Court of Western Australia and instructed the State Solicitor's Office as required.
- Represented the Minister and the Chief Executive Officer in one proceeding in the State Administrative Tribunal that was commenced during the 2007/08 financial year.
- Instructed the State Solicitor's Office in respect of three proceedings in the State Administrative Tribunal that were commenced during the 2007/08 financial year. Two of these concerned the operation of the *West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Managed Fishery*.

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- One State Administrative Tribunal proceeding that had been commenced in the 2006/07 financial year was dismissed by the tribunal during the financial year.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Legal and Registry Services Unit intends to achieve the following in the legal and litigation area:

- Continue to improve the information management and legal advice process that supports the making of reviewable decisions.
- Provide administrative law training for staff who are involved in developing policy relevant to the exercise of delegated administrative powers of the Chief Executive Officer.

### Legislation And Drafting Services

The Legal and Registry Services Unit provides a number of specialised legislation and drafting services to the Minister, the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Fisheries Management Services and other departmental staff. These services include:

- Advising on matters relating to Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangements, as well as legislative power and jurisdictional matters.
- Drafting of 'fishery-specific' management plans (and plan amendments).
- Drafting orders prohibiting fishing activities.
- Drafting a range of other fisheries instruments under the relevant primary legislation.
- Instructing Parliamentary Counsel in relation to new fisheries regulations.
- Preparing drafting instructions for Bills and Act amendments.
- Providing advice about amendments to relevant

primary legislation that may be consequential to legislation being proposed by another department.

- Providing advice in respect of policy matters and Ministerial Policy Guidelines.

The items of the legislation completed and instruments gazetted during the year are set out in Appendix 4.

### Major Achievements for 2007/08

The 2007/08 financial year was a very busy year in respect of drafting and gazettal of significant new fisheries legislation. In the financial year the Legal and Registry Services Unit achieved the following in the legislation and drafting services area:

#### New Management Plans

- Drafted the *West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Management Plan 2007* to bring commercial line fishing for finfish species under formal management. The legislation commenced operation on 1 January 2008.
- Drafted the *West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2007*. This new interim managed fishery management plan replaced the *West Coast Deep Sea Crab Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2003*. The plan introduced a new management structure that included transferable entitlements, a single class of permit and the removal of zones within the fishery. The legislation commenced operation on 1 January 2008.

#### Other Matters

- Improved the procedures for uploading and consolidation of online fisheries legislation, and undertook a comprehensive review of the currency and accuracy of fisheries legislation provided through the State Law Publisher website.
- Other legislation which complemented the implementation of the new *West Coast Deep Sea*

*Crustacean Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2007* and which also commenced on 1 January 2008 were:

- (a) the *Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2007*;
  - (b) the *Prohibition on Fishing (Fish Traps Restrictions) Amendment Order 2007*; and
  - (c) the *West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2007*.
- Drafted and gazetted orders, including the *Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Metropolitan Waters) Order 2007* to prohibit persons fishing by line in a particular Area of the new West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Management Plan 2007. This order was subsequently revoked by the *Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Metropolitan Waters) Revocation Order 2008* with the substance incorporated within an amendment to the *West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan*.
  - Drafted and gazetted the *South West Coast Salmon Management Plan Amendment 2008* which limited the times available to commercial fishing for salmon in the area within 800 metres of the high water mark in the part of Geographe Bay between Cape Naturaliste and the Port Geographe Marina during the period 1 March 2008 to 1 July 2009. The amendment also closes that part of Geographe Bay permanently to commercial salmon fishing from 1 July 2009.
  - Drafted and gazetted the *Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2008* which:
    - (a) abolished closed seasons in the fishery as they are no longer a necessary tool for management of the fishery;
    - (b) permitted the heading of broad-barred Spanish mackerel as it is not detrimental to the integrity of the quota management system; and
    - (c) modified the operating minimum unit holding from a percentage of the total unit holding to a specific number of units.
- Drafted and gazetted Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Notices, including the *West Coast Estuarine and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Notice 2008*, *West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Notice 2008*, and *Wetline and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Notice 2008* to establish schemes for the compensation of persons from those fisheries seeking to surrender an authorisation or an entitlement.
  - Drafted the *South West Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Amendment Notice 2008* which effected amendments to the *South West Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Notice 2004*.
  - Amended the *West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan* to:
    - (a) provide that a certain area within the fishery was closed to commercial fishing (fishing in the area had previously been prohibited by a section 43 order to the same effect); and
    - (b) implement a 'time/gear' scheme of entitlement (replacing a monthly gear nomination scheme), with ancillary amendments relating to recording fishing activities (No. 2/2008).
  - Amended regulations to provide for bag limits to apply at a principal place of residence, and in regard to recreational fishing from charter vessels (fishing tour operators).
  - Developed regulations for the protection of baldchin groper in the Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area and the Rottneest Marine Island Reserve.

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- Drafted the *Prohibition on Fishing (Coral and 'Live Rock') Order 2007*, to provide greater transparency in the management of fishing carried out for the purposes of the aquarium fish trade.
- Instructed the development of regulations to revoke the commercial oyster fishing regulations and to commercially protect oysters.
- Continued to play a lead role in access to legislation issues, and assisted the improvement of public and internal access to current and unofficially consolidated subsidiary fisheries legislation.
- Assisted with the review and repeal of obsolete legislation, including forms, warrants, descriptions of geographic locations made under repealed legislation and definitions of species.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Legal and Registry Services Unit intends to achieve the following in the legislation and drafting services area:

- Lead a project team to develop a Bill to amend the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* provisions relating to Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangements that complement Commonwealth legislative changes.
- Prepare and implement further marine reserves legislation (including legislation to prohibit fishing in the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area, Montebello Islands Marine Park, Barrow Island Marine Park, Barrow Island Marine Management Area, and the Rowley Shoals Marine Park).
- Prepare and implement legislation to establish formal management arrangements for commercial wetline fishing in the Gascoyne Region, which will consist of three new management plans:
  - (a) *Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery (Interim)*

### *Management Plan*

(b) *Gascoyne Inshore Net Fishery (Interim) Management Plan*

(c) *West Coast Inshore Net Fishery (Interim) Management Plan.*

- Prepare and implement a new management plan to transition the West Coast Purse Seine Limited Entry Fishery to a Managed Fishery.
- Prepare and implement legislation ancillary to the creation of new or transitioned management plans (revoke existing orders and/or management plans, etc).
- Prepare and develop a range of legislation for the protection of sharks, including further amendment to the regulations (e.g. to give total protection to large whaler sharks), and to the *West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan* in regard to defences applicable to the take of dusky shark, and entitlements to fish for shark by gillnet and/or longline.
- Provide further seminars for departmental staff involved in the development of legislation so as to assist them in understanding the legislation process, and the role and purpose of the State Administrative Tribunal in reviewing decisions of a delegate.
- Continue to review access to legislation issues with a view to improving public and internal access to up-to-date unofficially consolidated fisheries legislation, as well as continuing to assist in the review and repeal of obsolete legislation.

### Licensing Branch

The Licensing Branch is responsible for the management of aquaculture, pearling, commercial fishing and recreational fishing licensing services in Western Australia.

The core business areas of the Licensing Branch are:

- collection of revenue for fish processing, aquaculture, pearling, and commercial fishing and recreational fishing licences;
- consideration of applications in accordance with the requirements of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* for the:
  - (a) granting and renewal of fish processing, aquaculture, pearling, commercial and recreational fishing licences;
  - (b) transfer and variation of fish processing, aquaculture, pearling and commercial fishing licences; and
  - (c) notation, removal and variation of security interest notations on the Register; and
- Management of the renewal notice process for fish processing, aquaculture, pearling, and commercial and recreational fishing licences.

#### Recreational Fishing Licensing

During the 2007/08 reporting period, 58,646 varying combinations of recreational fishing licences were granted and renewed. This total is slightly higher than the total in 2006/07 of 56,952 licences.

The renewal of recreational fishing licences went 'live' online on the Department of Fisheries website in 2001. Internet usage for the renewal of licences continues to increase steadily. In 2007/08, 13,207 licences were granted and

renewed on the Internet, compared to a total of 10,887 in 2006/07.

#### Commercial Fishing Licensing

The Licensing Branch continues to manage the commercial licensing renewal program by sending out renewal notices for a multitude of commercial fisheries on a seasonal basis and in a timely manner.

Amendments to Managed Fishery Plans and fisheries legislation are ongoing. To give effect to these changes, it is necessary to modify the Fisheries Licensing and Management System (FLAMS), and amend and re-assess application forms and the way the Licensing Branch conducts its business with the commercial fishing industry.

#### Aquaculture Licensing

In 2007/08, 349 freehold licences and 117 non-freehold licences were issued. This included 289 marron licences and 60 others (including ones for yabby, silver perch, trout and ornamental fish). This represents an increase of four aquaculture licences from 2006/07.

#### Major Achievements for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Licensing Branch achieved the following:

- Continued to manage the licensing renewal program by sending out renewal notices for a multitude of recreational and commercial fishery licences and aquaculture licences in a timely manner.
- Continued to modify and enhance FLAMS to incorporate changes brought about through the advancement of fisheries and aquaculture management.
- Supported new licensing arrangements for the West Coast Demersal Scalefish and West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Interim Managed Fisheries which were

introduced on 1 January 2008.

- Finalised tenders for the support services contract for the online Recreational Fishing Licence system (March 2008) and the FLAMS maintenance contract (April 2008).

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Licensing Branch intends to achieve the following:

- Continuing to work on the development of an online Commercial Fishing Licence grant and renewal facility.
- Issuing of units for the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery.
- As a result of outcomes of the Wetline Review, further licensing arrangements are to be implemented for the West Coast Inshore Net, Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish and Gascoyne Inshore Net Interim Managed Fisheries.
- Introduction of a barcode licence renewal facility for recreational fishing licences.

### Transition to Shared Corporate Services

In 2003, a review undertaken by a 'functional review taskforce' identified the potential for improved delivery of corporate services and savings to the State Government if a shared corporate services model was introduced across WA's public sector.

The Office of Shared Services model involves corporate services, such as core financial and human resources functions, being provided across the public sector from a single location, using a common system. It is based on the concept of employee and manager self-service, where individuals will interact directly with suppliers, who are providing services or products.

During 2007/08, the Department of Fisheries transferred part of the human resources function to the Office of Shared Services. This involved some changes to the Department's internal processes, training of staff, the restructuring of the Human Resources Branch, and the redeployment of a number of staff.

The Department continues to reorganise internal business processes to meet the requirements of the new standardised system.

The Department of Fisheries has also worked with the Department of Treasury and Finance's Office of Shared Services to improve service delivery and to facilitate the introduction of new components, including the expenses module for the acquittal of expenditure incurred on corporate credit cards (due for implementation in September 2008) and the implementation of the Oracle personnel payroll module (due for implementation in October 2009).



### Customer Service Management

The Department of Fisheries' Customer Service Feedback Management System has been set up to ensure that comments and complaints are heard and dealt with fairly and quickly.

The management and staff of the Department of Fisheries respect the right of members of the community to complain about the standard of service provided by the Department and are also keen to hear positive feedback. The Department's commitment to fair, equitable and timely resolution of complaints, and recognition of both positive and negative feedback at all levels of the organisation, are described in its Feedback Management Policy (see below) and related documents.

#### Our Policy

*The Department will deal with complaints effectively and promptly without prejudice or bias. At all times we will be honest and fair in our dealings with customers.*

To maintain the highest degree of customer service at all levels, the Department of Fisheries established an internal Customer Service Council to develop and continuously improve standards, policies and procedures.

Consisting of senior departmental staff and representatives from peak industry and recreational fishing groups, the Customer Service Council was instrumental in the development of a Customer Service Charter. The charter established procedures for the effective management and resolution of feedback and complaints by members of the public. The charter, which outlines the Department's Feedback Management Policy, meets the criteria for effective complaints handling laid down by the Australian Standard (AS ISO 10002-2004).

The council was actively involved in the development of a customer service feedback system – the Feedback Management System – that enables the Department to manage and respond to complaints, compliments and suggestions in a timely and equitable manner.

In addition to the Feedback Management System, the Department of Fisheries also relies on regular client surveys for feedback on customer service performance. This data is gathered in a number of ways, including questionnaires distributed by Fisheries Volunteers (formerly known as Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers) to recreational fishers, the commercial fishing fleet logbook system and an annual community attitudes survey.

#### The Feedback Management System

This specialised software package was developed to enable staff to record and assign a response time to feedback from customers, whether it is a complaint, a compliment or suggestion provided to the Department of Fisheries by clients in person or by telephone, letter, facsimile and email. The Customer Relations Manager manages the system and Feedback Liaison Officers are assigned to each area and regional office to oversee the day-to-day running of the system.

To encourage support and understanding of the new system, the Department produced a suite of brochures that outline the feedback process to clients and the public. *A Policy for Customer Feedback, Guidelines for Staff and Feedback for the Future – Your Guide to Ensuring Quality Service* are available from all of the Department's offices and on the Department's website.

#### Overview of 2007/08

The Department of Fisheries received one item of complimentary feedback and one suggestion through the Feedback Management System during 2007/08.

To meet the requirements of the Customer Service Charter, the Feedback Management System is continually being reviewed by the Customer Relations Manager to improve the system and ensure the best possible customer service.

The Customer Relations Manager will then publish the improvements made to processes as a result of any complaints.

The Customer Service Council, Customer Relations Manager and Department of Fisheries customer service staff support the spirit and intent of the State Government's *Better Planning: Better Futures* strategic management framework and the State Sustainability Strategy.

The Customer Service Charter was reviewed, reprinted and distributed to all departmental staff and offices during 2007/08.

### **Outlook for 2008/09**

The feedback management software package will be reviewed during the 2008/09 financial year.

### **Human Resources Branch**

The Human Resources Branch has been undergoing significant structural change to reflect a more strategic coaching and consultancy focus. This change has come about to ensure the Department has the 'right people, with the right skills, in the right job, at the right time'.

The shift in focus and function has been driven by national and international labour market changes, attraction and retention challenges, and changes in the Department's needs, which in turn have placed increasing demands on the Human Resources Branch (for example, recruitment actions have more than doubled in the past year). The challenges faced require research and investment in 'best practice' human resource management.

As a result, many value-adding projects and initiatives that aim to improve the services and resources available to staff and managers have recently been completed. These achievements include:

- The development and implementation of an online induction system with associated policy and guidelines.
- The review of several existing policies and the development of new policies and procedural guides (for example, the Classification Policy and Procedural Manual, the Managing Pregnancy in the Workplace Guide and the development of phased retirement strategies).
- Structural changes and improvements to service delivery within recruitment and classification functions.

- Management of the transition to the Office of Shared Services human resources system (including system synchronisation, data-cleansing and business-process mapping).
- Attendance at a major careers expo (including the development of marketing material and innovative recruitment practices).

The Human Resources Branch has also been working towards implementation of workforce planning methodologies. This includes:

- Analysis of the current and future demand for skills, labour and management expertise.
- Research into the internal and external supply of these skills and expertise.
- Identification of gaps between the Department's requirements and the likely availability of these resources.
- Strategies to address the identified gaps through attraction and retention projects that will now be continued through formal team structures.

The structure of the Human Resources Branch was reviewed in order to create positions that supported the development and implementation of workforce planning, and attraction and retention strategies.

Staff were recruited to continue 'capacity building' (including developing attraction strategies and reviewing organisational structure/position design) and 'capability building' (retention strategies, succession planning, training and development, and performance management), as well as continuing with current core human resource compliance-related functions.

### Annual Staffing Level

The annual staffing level for the year was 435 employees, as at 30 June 2008 (head-count excluding casual staff and board members).

**Table 3 – Department of Fisheries permanent and fixed-term employees (by classification level and gender) as of 30 June 2008.**

Level of employees	Female	Male	Total
	2007/08	2007/08	2007/08
1	52	18	70
2	42	44	86
3	23	51	74
4 (inc. specified callings L1)	28	46	74
5 (inc. specified callings L2)	13	22	35
6 (inc. specified callings L3)	10	24	34
7 (inc. specified callings L4)	11	27	38
8 (inc. specified callings L5)	0	17	17
9 (inc. specified callings L6)	0	4	4
Class 1 and above	1	2	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>435</b>

Due to changes to the 'specified callings' salary descriptors that were implemented in June 2008, affected staff have been captured in the generic salary scales outlined above.

## GOVERNANCE

### Long Serving Fisheries Staff

The Department of Fisheries would like to acknowledge and thank the following staff for their long-serving contribution.

#### 20+ Years

McDowall, Stuart  
Embling, Steven  
Evans, Barry  
Bogumil, Bob  
Garbellini, Les  
Cowley, Tania  
Cranley, Selina  
Adams, Russell  
Millington, Peter  
Lightbody, Ivan  
Brayford, Heather  
Johnson, Kevin  
Dawson, Peter  
Hurst, Peter  
Hillier, Kim  
Van Houwelingen, Sandy  
McMullan, Mike  
Bird, Christopher  
O'Donoghue, Shane  
Colwell, Kerry  
Cranley, Michael

Joll, Lindsay  
Sporer, Errol  
Cappelluti, Tony  
Hillier, Paul  
Berden, Theo  
Rossbach, Mark  
Hall, Graeme  
Sarti, Neil  
Godfrey, Peter  
Lemmon, Tony  
Tregonning, Rob  
Donohue, Kevin  
Edwards, Laurie  
Caporn, Laurie

#### 30+ Years

Cliff, Mark  
Blight, Stuart  
Segers, Gerry  
Shaw, Phil  
Brown, Gary  
Stevenson, Bruce

Finlay, Greg  
Mutter, John  
Caputi, Nick  
Church, Tony  
Breedon, John  
Knapp, Kerry  
Cechner, Alex  
Kelly, Phil  
Johnsen, Peter  
Jones, Barry  
Kirk, Bob  
Looby, John  
Goadby, Tony  
Carhart, Kevin

#### 40+ Years

Blackman, Derek  
Lenanton, Rod

#### 50+ Years

Barker, Eric

# AQUATIC SCIENCE AND MONITORING

The on-going research and monitoring needed to support the management of the State's marine ecosystems, which underpin its major fish resources, is a core focus of the Department of Fisheries. Diver Frank Fabris surveys Roe's abalone.



### Research Division

The Department of Fisheries' Research Division provides quality scientific knowledge and advice to support the conservation and sustainable utilisation of the State's aquatic resources. The ongoing research and monitoring needed to support the management of the State's marine ecosystems, which underpin our major fish resources, is also a core focus of the division.

The Research Division's 130-plus staff members work within five expertise-based branches (Invertebrate Fisheries, Finfish Fisheries, Biodiversity and Biosecurity, Aquaculture and Animal Health, and Stock Assessment and Data Analysis), with research projects often conducted by multi-disciplinary teams.

The major categories of research provided by the Research Division are:

- scientific knowledge for the sustainable management of the State's wild fish stocks, and associated commercial and recreational fisheries;
- understanding the effects of fishing on bycatch, protected species and key habitats, as well as ecosystems in general;
- maintenance of long-term databases to support scientific assessments of fish stocks and their habitats;
- research and development to assist the expansion of the State's aquaculture industry;
- strategic research on aquatic species and their environments, for managing aquatic environments

and ensuring the maintenance of the State's fish resources; and

- development of new techniques and basic knowledge to add to the community's understanding of aquatic resources and their associated environment; and how they can be managed within an integrated, ecosystem based framework.

A more detailed description of the functions of the Research Division is available in the annual *State of the Fisheries Report*, which is compiled and edited by the division as part of the Department of Fisheries' reporting process. This publication provides a detailed summary of the scientific and other information supporting key management and aquaculture development activities of the Department of Fisheries to Parliament and the Western Australian community. Each of the fishery status reports in this document is structured using the national Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) reporting and assessment framework, which accommodates the requirement of both State and Federal legislation.

The individual branches of the Research Division and their work are described below.

#### Invertebrate Fisheries

The Invertebrate Fisheries branch undertakes research to assess and monitor the crustacean and mollusc stocks that support the State's major fisheries. These include rock lobsters, prawns, pearl oysters, scallops, abalone and crabs.

The branch also assists the Research Division's Biodiversity branch to undertake research on broader ecosystem-related issues associated with these fisheries, such as bycatch and community structure, including a number of collaborative projects with universities, the WA Museum and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

The Invertebrate Fisheries branch is also responsible for staffing and programming the Department's major research vessel, the *RV Naturaliste*. This vessel undertakes an array of research activities throughout the year, encompassing trawling, fish trapping, rock lobster fishing, longlining, biodiversity studies and environmental monitoring.

### **Finfish Fisheries**

The Finfish Fisheries branch undertakes research to underpin management of the State's diverse finfish resources. The key finfish stocks that are studied include Western Australian dhufish, temperate snapper, tropical shallow and deep-water snappers, sharks, pelagic stocks (pilchards), and coastal embayment and estuarine stocks (Australian herring and black bream).

These species are harvested by commercial fishers supplying local and overseas markets, the recreational fishing sector (involving around 445,000 fishers) and the managed recreational charter sector. Much of this research work relates to the species and stocks that are the focus of the Department of Fisheries' Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) strategy.

The Finfish Fisheries branch also supports a significant proportion of the Research Division's external projects at Murdoch and other universities. These collaborative projects involve a considerable number of postgraduate research students.

### **Aquaculture and Animal Health**

The Research Division's Aquaculture and Biosecurity branch was renamed the Aquaculture and Animal Health branch during the year to distinguish the animal health-related activities from the work being undertaken on marine pests. The branch undertakes a wide variety of research to support aquaculture development and fisheries pathology services. Research projects include developing specialist aquaculture technology for marine finfish and brine shrimp, and work on fish nutrition.

The Aquaculture and Animal Health branch is involved in the development of aquaculture systems, including software and fish feed formulation, environmental monitoring of aquaculture facilities, and fish disease identification and testing. Staff also maintain and manage the Department's marine aquarium facilities.

The Aquaculture and Animal Health branch has staff based at a number of sites around the State, including the WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys, the Department of Agriculture laboratories in South Perth (fish pathology), and the Department's former marine research laboratories at Watermans.

Joint research and close liaison with universities has led to a significant number of research students being supervised within the branch.

International linkages are maintained with overseas research and development centres and universities in Spain, Portugal, Japan, Norway, Mexico, New Zealand, France, Vietnam and Cambodia. The Fish Health unit of the Aquaculture and Animal Health branch is recognised as a 'regional resource centre' by the Network of Aquaculture Centres in the Asia-Pacific and, together with Murdoch University, has been involved in the training of personnel in south-east Asia.

### **Biodiversity and Biosecurity Research**

The Biodiversity and Biosecurity Research branch has State-wide responsibilities for the provision of biodiversity research information relevant to the sustainable management of resources under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, and for the research and monitoring on biosecurity issues, such as the introduction of exotic species into marine and freshwater environments.

The work of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Research branch is carried out in close collaboration with the other branches of the Research Division and the Department's Environment

Program. Close linkages are being developed and maintained with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Natural Heritage Trust.

### **Stock Assessment and Data Analysis**

The Stock Assessment and Data Analysis branch provides support for the entire Research Division in the fields of statistical design and analysis, population dynamics and stock assessment, data management, monitoring of fishery catch and effort, library services, recreational and other surveys, and research information systems and information technology. This branch maintains the Department's extensive commercial fisheries and charter boat databases, and undertakes leading-edge research into the development of fisheries stock assessment models and sustainability reporting techniques.

In addition, the Stock Assessment and Data Analysis branch carries out major recreational fishing and community and stakeholder attitude surveys, the results of which are added to the comprehensive recreational fishing database maintained by the Research Division.

This group works in close collaboration with the other Research Division branches and is primarily responsible for assessing the status of most fish stocks in Western Australia. It is through these assessments that the success of the Department's fisheries management arrangements is effectively monitored.

### **Major Achievements for 2007/08**

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Research Division has achieved the following (in addition to its major ongoing monitoring roles):

- A significant contribution was made to the development of research funded by the Western Australia Marine Science Institution (WAMSI). The Research Division leads WAMSI's Node 4 on Ecosystem-Based Fisheries

Management (EBFM) and is collaborating with a range of government and research agencies to ensure that the development of EBFM for the State is underpinned by appropriate science.

- A survey of recreational boat fishing was conducted in the Perth metropolitan region over the peak summer/autumn period 2007/08, and a full survey of recreational boat fishing for the West Coast Bioregion was begun.
- A targeted survey was conducted of the scalefish catch by visitors to the Abrolhos Islands.
- A study was conducted on cost-effective methods to collect recreational fishing data.
- The effect of water temperature and spawning stock on the recruitment of blue swimmer crabs in Cockburn Sound was investigated.
- An improved prediction of the rock lobster catches at finer spatial scales was achieved.
- Long-term changes in the seasonal variation of water temperature off the lower west coast of WA were assessed.
- A stock and catch prediction model in the management of the pearl oyster fishery based on one and two-year recruitment abundance was implemented.
- The growth and survival of abalone that have been released in suitable habitat for stock enhancement purposes was assessed.
- The biology and stock status of key indicator species (dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper) in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery was assessed and management advice provided.
- A monitoring program for stocks of key indicator species (dhufish and temperate snapper) in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery was developed and implemented.



- A Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) project on spawning aggregations and the management implications for key west coast fishes was completed.
- An updated assessment of inner Shark Bay snapper stocks was carried out.
- A review of the minimum legal size for yellowfin bream was completed.
- A survey of recreational boat and shore fishing in the Gascoyne Bioregion was completed (and the data are now being analysed).
- A spatial and temporal study on the inter-relationships of prawn and scallop stocks in Shark Bay was completed in collaboration with Edith Cowan University.
- The Research Angler Program (RAP) in the Gascoyne region was implemented and subsequently expanded.
- Robust indicators of the health of the Swan Region's marine and coastal environments were developed in conjunction with the Swan Catchment Council.
- An initial assessment of the potential impacts of western rock lobster fishing on the deepwater ecosystem off the west coast of WA was conducted.
- A collaborative National Heritage Trust Marine Futures project was undertaken that will provide a series of detailed habitat maps for locations around the State.
- A monitoring strategy developed by the National Introduced Marine Pests Coordinating Group (NIMPCG) was trialled in Albany. This resulted in finding an introduced marine alga, *Codium fragile* subspecies *tomentosoides*, in Princess Royal Harbour. A survey of the area is currently underway to determine the distribution of the species in the Albany area.
- A survey of the Fremantle marine area was undertaken to determine the distribution of four species: European fan worm (*Sabella spallanzanii*), European shore crab (*Carcinus maenas*), eastern Australian scallop (*Scaechlamys livida*), and the Japanese date mussel (*Musculista senhousia*).
- Geraldton Harbour was surveyed in October 2007 for species that could have been introduced by the dredge *Leonardo da Vinci* in October 2002. No pest species from the *Leonardo* were found.
- A brief survey was undertaken of Willie Creek, north of Broome, to determine whether the Asian green mussel (*Perna viridis*) or the black striped mussel (*Mytilopsis sallei*) had been introduced by Indonesian fishing vessels detained in the creek. Neither species was found.
- A risk analysis of the possibilities for introduction of marine pests into 15 major ports in Western Australia was completed.
- A comparison was made of invertebrate (primarily mollusc) populations on Radar Reef and Cape Vlamingh with data collected in 1982. Present populations are consistent with those of a quarter of a century ago.
- A National Heritage Trust-funded survey found that the level of imposex (a reproductive abnormality in snails caused by the chemical tributyltin) has declined substantially in the last 12 years.
- A successful trial of a large-scale technique for breeding native pygmy perch and rearing larvae for restocking water bodies was conducted.
- The first tetraploid trout in Western Australia using hydrostatic pressure was produced, paving the way for future production of guaranteed 100 per cent sterile, fast-growing trout.
- A pilot temperature tolerance trial that has indicated that trout in Western Australia are a better genetic strain to survive global warming than overseas populations was completed.

- A polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for oyster oedema disease was developed and validated.
- *Hematodinium* sp. infections in blue swimmer crabs were identified as being responsible for poor flesh condition on processing.
- A total of 25 fish kills were investigated around the State, in collaboration with Department of Water.
- A number of overseas aid projects were undertaken to assist aquaculture industries in South-East Asia (Vietnam and Thailand).
- A patent for an automatic fish feeding system developed by the Research Division was registered and ongoing sales are continuing.
- A study on the interactions between demersal gillnets and Australian sea lions in WA was completed.
- An assessment was made of the effectiveness of the sea lion exclusion devices (SLEDs) to prevent sea lion pups from entering rock lobster pots and possibly drowning.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, in addition to its ongoing roles, the Research Division intends to achieve the following:

- Carry out additional monitoring of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery to assess the impacts of changes to the management arrangements recently imposed on the commercial, recreational and charter sectors.
- Commence a collaborative research project with the CSIRO and Murdoch University on the stock structure of key demersal indicator species in the West Coast, Gascoyne and Southern bioregions, incorporating studies of genetics, otolith microchemistry, hydrodynamics and modelling of exploitation of these stocks.
- Undertake a State-wide phone diary survey of boat-based recreational fishing.
- Complete the development of a new spatial model of the western rock lobster fishery.
- Undertake the first stage of a research and development project on live rock aquaculture.
- Complete the assessment of the biology and stock status of the key Gascoyne indicator species (snapper, goldband snapper, spangled emperor and Spanish mackerel) to support the wetline and Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) initiatives.
- Develop the protocols for ensuring quality control in otolith-based fish ageing.
- Commence an innovative study to detail behaviour and movement of great white sharks in near-shore metropolitan waters through acoustic tags and an automated acoustic monitoring array.
- Implement the Research Angler Program (RAP) in the Pilbara region.
- Commence an assessment of the historical changes and factors affecting larval fish assemblages in the upper Swan Estuary.
- Use the finer scale reporting of commercial catch and effort data from the new daily/trip logbooks implemented for the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery, Shark Bay Snapper Fishery and the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery.
- Commence a collaborative study with the CSIRO into the fine-scale stock structure of spangled emperor in the Ningaloo Marine Park and Gascoyne Bioregion.
- Undertake a study to determine the biology and salinity tolerance of feral cichlids in Bennet Brook.
- Develop a freshwater sampling logbook for scientific staff working in WA, to enable a wider data source to track the long-term spatial and temporal distribution of freshwater fish and invertebrates of the State.

## RESEARCH DIVISION

- Conduct de-stocking and re-stocking of marron and native fish, feral species control and pre-post drainage fauna surveys in Drakesbrook Dam, with funding from Water Corporation.
- Build large-scale artificial reefs in Drakesbrook Dam to enhance the recreational marron fishery.
- Begin a FRDC project to assess the ecological impacts of western rock lobster in fished and unfished areas.
- Develop techniques for large-scale breeding of native minnows and rearing larvae for restocking water bodies.
- Undertake a study on the status of the chlamydia-like organisms found in pearl oysters.
- Begin a study on immune response to disease in pearl oysters.
- Develop an independent monitoring program for demersal gillnet fisheries in areas of potential interaction with protected species.
- Investigate issues of interaction between New Zealand fur seals and commercial fisheries on the south coast of WA.

## EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE

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The Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre opened on 4 April 2007 and is a knowledge resource for the community and WA's 360,000 school students.



## Communications and Education Branch

The Department of Fisheries' Communications and Education Branch (CEB) aims to encourage the knowledge, values and attitudes that are necessary to reinforce sustainable community behaviour in the aquatic environment.

The CEB plays a key strategic and operational communications role in all the Department's activities and initiatives, keeping the Western Australian community and stakeholders informed about developments in marine science, fisheries management and compliance, and engaging the community in marine education, research, policy and planning processes.

The CEB is comprised of five key business areas: strategic communications, media liaison, publishing, education and volunteers (MarineDiscoveryWest and Fisheries Volunteers) and the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre.

Major programs undertaken during the year included:

- The delivery of a significant popular and technical publishing program through print and e-media, including production of the *Western Fisheries* magazine and management of the Department's websites.
- The operation of a world-class public marine education and science communication facility – the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre – at Hillarys Boat Harbour.
- Fishery-specific communications and education programs targeting commercial and recreational fishing sectors, including marine finfish by region, marron, western rock lobster, abalone, southern freshwater finfish, charter and recreational net fisheries.

- Management of the Department's media liaison program.
- Communication activities to promote the public profile of compliance activities, court results and the FISHWATCH initiative.
- A major communications and consultation program to support the development of management for demersal scalefish on the West Coast.
- State-wide coordination of the Fisheries Volunteer program.
- The planning and delivery of numerous community and schools education activities throughout metropolitan and regional Western Australia to encourage sustainable behaviour in the aquatic environment, including school programs, school holiday programs, workshops, fishing clinics, and public shows and events.
- Collaboration with other government organisations on science and environmental communication activities, including the WA Marine Sciences Institution and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

### Major Achievements for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the CEB achieved the following:

**Strategic communications** – A review of corporate communications strategies was conducted and the draft business plans for marine environmental education, the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre and *Western Fisheries* magazine were developed. More than 100 integrated media and communications strategies were also developed and conducted, incorporating publications, media statements, interviews, public launches and announcements, signage, poster campaigns, and advertising on subjects across the Department's entire range

of activities, from major changes in fisheries management to successful convictions under the *Fish Resources Management Act (1994)*.

**Publishing** – A range of over 200 technical, educational and promotional print and e-media titles were published, including the Department’s website, the quarterly *Western Fisheries* magazine, scientific and management reports, log books, recreational fishing guides, species identification guides, posters, stickers, signage, display banners, advertisements and other material to support the Department’s strategic goals and operations. In addition, educational merchandise was produced for the gift shop within the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre.

- The development and production of two new series of educational publications: *Fisheries Fact Sheets* and *Fisheries Briefs*. These titles provide a synopsis of the biology, ecology, science and management of key WA marine species and fisheries, and fill a major gap in the public availability of science-based educational information on Western Australian marine animals, habitats and ecological processes.
- The Department of Fisheries’ Annual Report, compiled and produced by the CEB, won a Silver Award in the 2007 W.S. Lonnie Awards for Annual Reporting.
- Development and coordination of the Department’s displays at the Mandurah Boat Show and the 2008 WA on Show exhibition to promote the Department’s role and key education strategies, including the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre, MarineDiscoveryWest and the Fisheries Volunteer program. The WA on Show display included a touch screen-based information kiosk and a very popular program of interactive marine science-based activities, as well as more traditional information delivery.

**Websites** – The Department’s five websites and intranet form a key element in its communication. The main

departmental website received over 31 million ‘hits’ and close to 5.5 million page views in 2007/08. Over 415,000 PDF documents of various types were also downloaded. In line with Office of E-Government requirements, a review of the underlying technology, the governance and information structure, and content of the intranet and internet sites commenced.

**Media** – Media liaison activities achieved a significant profile for the Department’s activities, through both regional and metropolitan news organisations (broadcasters, press and online), with media responses to 638 enquiries. The media unit played a primary role in the preparation and release of more than 100 media statements, as well as media launches for key departmental initiatives. These led to major news coverage of a wide range of marine science, research and environmental news stories, fisheries compliance operations and court results, shark warnings, fish ‘kills’ and strandings, marine pests, seasonal information and rule changes for recreational and commercial fishers, and key initiatives such as the West Coast demersal scalefish management process.

**The Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre (NMDC)** – The centre at Hillarys Boat Harbour opened on 4 April 2007 and received well in excess of 21,000 visitors by 30 June 2008, with over 10,000 engaging in structured school and school holiday educational activities. Around 100 WA schools visited the centre. Highlights include the hosting of many exhibitions and events, such as National Science Week 2007, Marine Discovery Centres Australia 2007 national workshop, Seaweeek 2007 and 2008, and ‘The Life Aquatic’ careers expo. School holiday programs have been very popular with local families and have been fully booked throughout 2008. Visitor feedback on the centre has been overwhelmingly positive. Seven volunteers recruited to assist at the NMDC contributed 533 hours of volunteer time.

**MarineDiscoveryWest** – The Department’s environmental education team delivers school and community education programs around the State. The MarineDiscoveryWest team consists of a coordinator, five regional education officers in Albany, Busselton, Bunbury, Fremantle and Broome, and an education officer based at the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre at Hillarys. A summary of MarineDiscoveryWest activities is shown in Table 5. Significant support for MarineDiscoveryWest activities in Albany and Bunbury was provided by the South West Catchment Council. Activities included regional Seaweeek activities and the coordination of the annual Seaweeek Educators’ Expo at the NMDC, a Geographe Bay marine seminar held in Busselton; displays and activities at the North West Expo, ‘WA On Show’, Mandurah Crabfest, Mandurah Boat Show and the Albany Show; ‘The Life Aquatic’ careers expo; and hosting of the Catchments, Corridors and Coasts professional development course at the NMDC.

**Fisheries Volunteers** – The Department’s volunteers continue to play an important role in community education and provide assistance with research data collection throughout the State. Some regional groups, such as Karratha and Geraldton, had a significant rise in the number of volunteers during 2007/08. Key projects involving volunteers included the annual Fisheries Volunteers conference; data collection and education in the West Coast abalone, blue swimmer crab and tailor fisheries; regional fishing clinics; schools programs; and school holiday education activities. The Karratha Fisheries Volunteer program was boosted by a major sponsorship grant from Rio Tinto. This grant provided the Karratha volunteers with a purpose-built mobile display and education trailer, and allowed the volunteers conduct a tour of inland mining towns to deliver education activities and programs. Some areas experienced

a decline in the number of volunteers and activities due to staff retention and recruitment issues, the increasing complexity and shifting focus of fisheries management, cost of fuel and an ageing volunteer *cadre*.

### Major Initiatives for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the CEB intends to achieve the following:

- Strategic and corporate communication strategies, including the Department’s media communications, website and intranet, *Western Fisheries* magazine, *Annual Report* and *State of the Fisheries Report*, will be reviewed, with a continued emphasis on improving the communication of science, and the principles of ecological sustainability to actively promote and encourage sustainable community behaviour.
- Specific communication, education and media strategies will be reviewed and developed to support the management of the State’s fisheries, the Houtman Abrolhos Islands and other Fish Habitat Protection Areas, protected species conservation and biodiversity protection, biosecurity, aquaculture and pearling.
- MarineDiscoveryWest will continue to develop and implement school and community education programs in Perth and the regions, including new activities and resource materials on fisheries and aquatic sustainability, with links to the State’s school curriculum. An important focus of these education programs will be aimed at supporting the introduction of the new regulations for demersal scalefish in the West Coast region.
- The major initiative for the Fisheries Volunteer program in 2008/09 will be the introduction of a project-based management system. This will enable more focused and targeted delivery of peer and community education and research programs by the Department’s volunteers.

- The Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre will expand its range of activities and improve its displays. Strategic and content planning will ensure that the centre keeps aligned with current departmental messages and objectives.
- The Department of Fisheries' intranet and internet sites will be redeveloped to improve communications and access to essential information, maintain and enhance accessibility standards, and allow the Department to utilise new and emerging technologies to better interact with staff and the public.
- Sustainability education programs for the Indian Ocean Territories (Cocos-Keeling and Christmas islands) will be further developed in consultation with the Commonwealth Government, with the appointment of a new education officer as part of the MarineDiscoveryWest team.

**Table 4 – Number of Fisheries Volunteers by region by year\***

	2006/07	2007/08
<b>Northern</b>		
Broome <sup>1</sup>	2	0
Karratha	10	14
<b>Gascoyne</b>		
Carnarvon <sup>2</sup>	2	0
<b>Mid-west</b>		
Geraldton	12	17
Dongara	6	5
<b>Metropolitan</b>		
Perth/Mandurah <sup>3</sup>	73	50
Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre	–	7
<b>Southern</b>		
Bunbury/Busselton	26	21
Albany/Esperance	25	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>131</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Broome Fisheries Volunteer Coordinator position was vacant up until late February 2008.

<sup>2</sup> The two Carnarvon Fisheries Volunteers moved from the area.

<sup>3</sup> The Metropolitan Community Education Officer position, which also coordinates the Perth metropolitan Fisheries Volunteer program, was vacant from July 2007 up until late March 2008. Consequently, there was a significant decrease in the level of volunteer activity in the region.

\* Figures are estimates only, provided by regional coordinators.



**Table 5 – MarineDiscoveryWest activities for 2007/08**

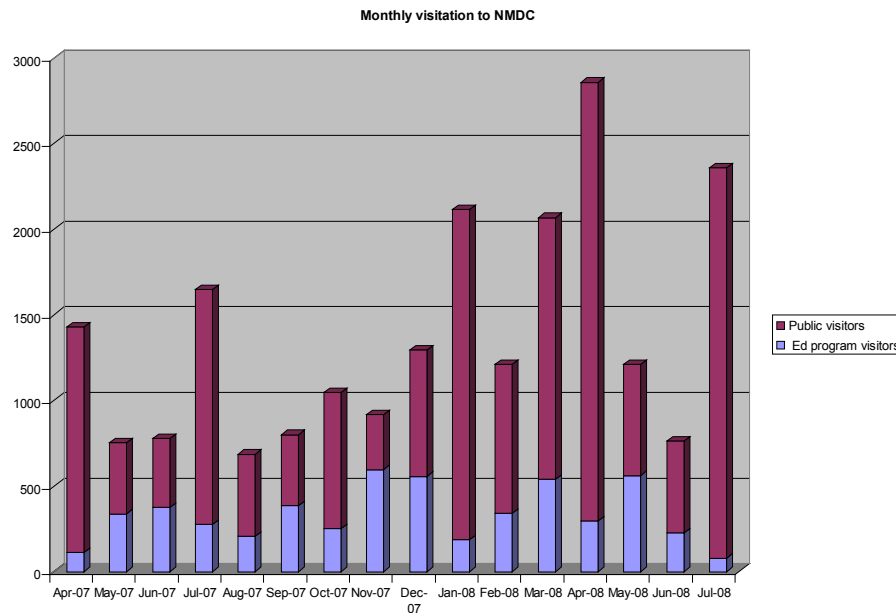
Region/district	Number of structured school activities*	Number of participants	Number of events/shows	Number of participants at events/shows	Number of community events	Number of participants at community events
Broome**	13	355	2	1,400	1	100
NMDC Hillarys	282	7,545	N/A	N/A	53	1,068
Metropolitan***	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bunbury/Busselton	43	2,556	6	2,560	21	1,603
Albany/Esperance	15	736	3	679	31	629
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>11,192</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4,639</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>3,400</b>

\* A structured school activity involves a supervised program with Fisheries Education Officers.

\*\* The Broome Community Education Officer is a new position that started in February 2008.

\*\*\* The Metropolitan Community Education Officer position was vacant until March 2008.

N/A Not Applicable



**Figure 3 – Monthly visitation to the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre since April 2007.**

### Regional Services

The Department of Fisheries' Regional Services Branch is widely dispersed around the coastal areas of the State, with more than 150 staff in five regional and 12 district offices. The branch is responsible for the delivery of fisheries enforcement in recreational and commercial fisheries, the pearling and aquaculture industries, and in Fish Habitat Protection Areas and marine parks. It also provides some education services, along with marine safety services on behalf of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

The Regional Services Branch is also actively involved in joint operational planning and cross-authorisation training with the Department of Environment and Conservation, so as to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of both departments' compliance and at-sea servicing requirements in marine parks and reserves. This year, compliance and education services were initiated in Dampier, Rowley Shoals, Montebello and Shark Bay marine parks.

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

The Regional Services Branch has a number of sections/units, which are described below.

### Strategic Policy Section

The Strategic Policy Section of the Regional Services Branch develops and implements strategic compliance policy and standards, and delivers the following services:

- compliance risk assessments for fisheries;
- the development of occupational health and safety standards for Fisheries and Marine Officers (FMOs);
- the review and implementation of fisheries management and compliance legislation;
- the recruitment and training of new and existing FMOs;
- the collection and analysis of compliance data; and
- compliance research projects.

In addition, the Strategic Policy section plays a pivotal role in the coordination and collation of comments required on fisheries legislation, policy and other matters that impact on the Regional Services Branch's ability to deliver compliance services.

### Central Support Services

The Central Support Services (CSS) section within the Regional Services Branch provides support, direction and coordination for major investigations and prosecutions, and develops operational compliance standards and procedures for the branch. The CSS consists of the Serious Offences, Intelligence, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), and Prosecution units and delivers the following services.

### Serious Offences Unit

- Conducts major investigations and initiates proactive intelligence-driven operations, targeting serious and organised criminal activity within the fishing sector. Three major prosecutions involving the commercial fishing sector have been undertaken this financial year.
- Provides specialist investigative training.

## REGIONAL SERVICES

- Provides technical assistance in relation to covert surveillance.

### Fisheries Intelligence Unit

- Responsible for the Department's recording and production of intelligence products to support strategic, operational and tactical needs of compliance programs.
- Development and implementation of the 'Seastar' intelligence database, with the capability for all FMOs to electronically enter information and subsequently interrogate the system.
- Development of Memorandum of Understandings with external agencies for the lawful sharing of information.

### Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

- Responsible for the Department's recording and monitoring of vessels, and the provision of support for prosecutions that involve use of the VMS.
- Upgrading and development of VMS technology across many fisheries.
- Implementation of the VMS into new and current fisheries under new effort management arrangements.

### Prosecution Unit

- Responsible for the reporting of all fisheries prosecutions, infringements and warnings.
- Providing legal interpretation and dissemination of legal opinions.
- Supplies prosecution training for FMOs.

The following is a breakdown of prosecution statistics for the 2007/08 financial year to date:

- Prosecutions – 141 brief offences, made up of 118 recreational and 23 commercial offences.
- Infringements – 518, made up of 414 recreational and

104 commercial.

- Infringement warnings – 1,098, made up of 856 recreational and 242 commercial.

### International Operations

#### Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Domestic Fisheries Compliance

A new service level agreement was reached between the Department of Fisheries and the AFMA for the 2007/08 period, which focused on three pre-existing Commonwealth domestic fisheries programs and the new Compliance Risk Management Team (CRMT). These programs are:

- Heard and McDonald Islands Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and Exploratory Fisheries;
- Macquarie Island Fishery;
- Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery; and
- Compliance Risk Management Team (CRMT)

One full-time Department of Fisheries officer working on these programs is based in Perth and a part-time officer assisted where required. Duties were carried out between the Western Australian/South Australian border and Broome within the state of Western Australia.

Field activities were focused on in-port inspections of vessels during the unloading of quota and non-quota fish. Vessels were checked in the ports of Esperance, Albany, Bunbury, Fremantle, Geraldton, Carnarvon and Broome. Commonwealth Fish Receiver Permit holders were monitored, along with foreign fishing vessels entering WA ports under permits issued by the AFMA.

### Abrolhos Islands

The Houtman Abrolhos Islands is one of the most interesting parts of Western Australia and is recognised worldwide for its conservation significance, in terms of its natural,

historical and cultural environment. The Abrolhos is a complex of 122 low-lying islands and reefs, located at the edge of the continental shelf between 28°15' South and 29° South latitude.

All islands located within the Abrolhos are A-Class Reserves vested in the Minister for Fisheries and managed by the Department of Fisheries. The surrounding waters, three nautical miles from the Australia territorial baselines, are declared as a Fish Habitat Protection Area.

The Abrolhos Islands is encompassed within the A-Zone of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery and a number of the islands are utilised by Managed Fishery License holders within this fishery, for the establishment of accommodation complexes to support their fishing operations. The activities of commercial fishers living on these islands have recently been further controlled through the introduction of a 'Bodies Corporate' lease initiative. These islands also provide a major tourism destination within the Mid-west region for commercial charter vessel and aircraft operators.

As the lead agency responsible for the management of this estate, the Department of Fisheries provides a range of cross-government services independently of, and in conjunction with, the three government departments of the WA Museum, Department of Environment and Conservation, and Department for Planning and Infrastructure. These departments also hold legislative responsibility for the preservation of the islands' values or the control of activities that occur within this area.

The Department of Fisheries also has a significant infrastructure commitment at the Abrolhos Islands with the operations of a major research and accommodation complex, public vessel moorings, jetties and toilets that are managed by a dedicated Abrolhos Islands Management Unit. This unit utilised a 14-metre patrol vessel, the *PV Chalmers*, to carry out 180 'sea days' of work at the Abrolhos Islands this year.

The Department's Mid-west regional office also holds responsibility for the development of policy for the management of the Abrolhos and executive support for the Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee (AIMAC). The Department's Mid-west regional staff are currently working in consultation with the AIMAC and other agencies on the development and implementation of a new *Management Plan for the Houtman Abrolhos Systems 2008 - 2018* which will set out a pathway for the conservation of this estate over the next 10 years.

### Foreign Fishing Compliance

Broome-based Fisheries and Marine Officers continue to conduct year-round sea patrols of King Sound and the Buccaneer Archipelago with members of the Bardi Jawi community from One Arm Point and Customs Officers to provide protection to vulnerable trochus stocks from illegal incursions by Indonesian fishing vessels.

Members of the One Arm Point community were employed as part-time marine rangers to support the Foreign Fishing Compliance unit and provide expertise about local waters and trochus beds.

### Major Achievements for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Regional Services Branch achieved the following:

#### Perth Metropolitan

- Construction has commenced on the new Mandurah District and Perth Metropolitan South regional office at the Mandurah Ocean Marina.
- Construction has commenced on a new multi-function vessel for the Hillarys District, to enhance at-sea compliance functions in the northern areas of the Perth Metropolitan Region.
- A new service level agreement for the delivery of at-sea marine safety services in the Perth Metropolitan

Region has been developed and implemented, in conjunction with Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

- The Rockingham District Office has increased its capacity from two to four Fisheries and Marine Officers to enable year-round compliance services to be delivered.

### **Northern**

- There has been continued development of the Bardi Marine Ranger Program and joint patrols of the Buccaneer Archipelago to prevent foreign fishing vessel incursions into the trochus fishery in that area.
- Biosecurity inspections of foreign vessels operating in the Pilbara have continued, so as to reduce the risk of introduced marine pests.
- Negotiations have continued with prospective new tenants for the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park. A review has commenced of sub-leases and invoicing arrangements for the tenants.
- A Community Education Officer has been appointed for the Northern Region.
- A partnership has commenced between the Department of Fisheries and Rio Tinto for the further development of the Fisheries Volunteer program in the Pilbara.
- Fisheries management initiatives at the Indian Ocean Territories are to be delivered under a service delivery agreement with the Attorney General's Department.
- A review has been carried out of the trochus fishery's management and the Instrument of Exemption renewed to enable the continued co-management of the fishery by the Bardi-Jawi Native Title holders and the Department of Fisheries.

### **Mid-west**

- A major GIS mapping and auditing exercise was undertaken on the location and allocation of camps, jetties and moorings within the Abrolhos Islands.
- A major upgrade of the Abrolhos Islands airstrips located on North, East Wallabi and Big Rat islands was carried out.
- Compliance services were delivered to the inshore component of the Abrolhos Islands commercial western rock lobster fishery (A-Zone).
- The Kalbarri Blue Holes FHPA was introduced.
- An audit was carried out of the license conditions and performance criteria for Aquaculture Licenses allocated within the Mid-west.
- Joint servicing arrangements and processes were implemented with the Department of Environment and Conservation to maximise service delivery for compliance and education patrols in the Jurien Bay Marine Park.
- A Section 43 Order was gazetted in February 2007 to provide temporary protection of baldchin groper within the Abrolhos Islands FHPA.
- The 22 public vessel moorings located within the Houtman Abrolhos Islands estate were upgraded.

### **Southern**

- Initiatives to address resource-sharing issues in the salmon fishery in Geographe Bay were finalised.
- Industry consultation was completed for the development of a discussion paper on the future management arrangements for the South Coast Crustacean Fishery.
- A range of themed education activities were developed, including 'Sustainable Shores', 'Sharks – Myths and Reality', 'Bare Bones Science', 'Marine Detectives' and 'Freshwater Friends and Foes'.

## REGIONAL SERVICES

- Anodised fish rulers and fish nursery signage were installed at fishing locations around estuarine and coastal areas in WA's south west.
- A public marine seminar called 'Geographe Bay: A Living Wonderland', involving over 100 participants, was conducted in Busselton as part of Seaweeek 2008 celebrations.
- Initial meetings were undertaken to develop joint servicing arrangements and processes with the Department of Environment and Conservation to maximise service delivery for compliance and education in the proposed Walpole-Nornalup Inlets Marine Park.

### **Gascoyne**

- A vessel monitoring system was implemented for the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery and for vessels 'wetlining' adjacent to the fishery.
- Ministerial and industry support was provided to combine all beach seine and mesh net fisheries in the Gascoyne Bioregion under one management plan, using the proposed Gascoyne Inshore Net Fishery as the catalyst.
- A State-wide review of the yellowfin bream size limit was undertaken by Gascoyne fisheries management, in consultation with recreational and commercial stakeholders and the Department's Research Division, which resulted in the Minister approving a change to the minimum size limit for this species to 300 mm.
- Joint servicing arrangements and processes were implemented with the Department of Environment and Conservation under operational compliance plans for the Ningaloo and Shark Bay marine parks.
- Operational compliance plans were implemented for trawl fisheries and aquaculture and pearling activity in the Gascoyne, in addition to the fishing-related management arrangements for the Ningaloo and the

Shark Bay marine parks.

- An operational compliance plan was developed to underpin the annual business agreement between the Department of Fisheries and the Commonwealth's Department of Environment and Water Resources.
- A major investigation was carried out into 1,500 kg of pink snapper removed from the fishery over quota. A prosecution relating to this matter is pending.
- A Shark Bay prawn fisher was convicted for breach of license conditions and fined in total in excess of \$197,000.
- A compliance risk assessment in the Shark Bay prawn and scallop fisheries was undertaken with industry.

### **Major Initiatives 2008/09**

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Regional Services Branch intends to achieve the following:

#### **Perth Metropolitan**

- The new Mandurah District and Perth Metropolitan South regional office at the Mandurah Ocean Marina will be opened.
- The tender and commencement of construction of a new multi-function vessel for the Mandurah District is to be carried out, to enhance at-sea compliance functions in the southern areas of the Metropolitan Region.
- A new multi-function 12-metre high-speed rigid inflatable vessel is to be completed and at-sea compliance patrols commenced in the Hillarys district.
- An additional seven Fisheries and Marine Officers (FMOs) are to be stationed at various district offices to provide an enhanced compliance capacity focusing on West Coast demersal scalefish;
- Two eight-metre rigid inflatable vessels will be constructed and stationed at Lancelin and

Rockingham districts to further enhance at-sea compliance.

- Lancelin District Office will have additional funding to station two permanent FMOs in the district to ensure year-round compliance services.

### **Northern**

- Key infrastructure upgrades are planned at the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park to ensure a consistent supply of high-quality seawater to tenants.
- Collaborative operational plans are to be developed with the Department of Environment and Conservation for the Montebello Islands, Dampier Archipelago and Rowley Shoals marine parks and the Regnard Marine Management Area.
- A joint funding submission and technical specifications will be developed with the Department of Environment and Conservation for a 14-metre patrol vessel for the Montebello Islands and Dampier Archipelago marine parks.
- A full Vessel Monitoring System and 'e-forms' are to be implemented in the pearling industry.
- A July school holidays 'Marine Awareness Program' will be conducted in partnership with the Broome office of the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- The formal zoning of the Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Managed Fishery will be finalised and the management plan revised.
- The formal zoning of Area 2 of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery will be finalised.
- Revised fisheries management strategies will be finalised for the Indian Ocean Territories and these strategies progressed into legislation.
- A 'mine site awareness' package will be implemented for recreational fishing and marine park regulations in the Pilbara. 'Toolbox' talks will be carried out along

the Pilbara coast and the Burrup Peninsula to deliver fisheries awareness sessions to mining companies.

### **Mid-west**

- Additional compliance and community education resources will be allocated to the delivery of services to the management of demersal scalefish within the Mid-west region.
- A re-assessment is to be undertaken of a long-term strategy for the management of the three Abrolhos Islands airstrips, inclusive of the Civil Aviation SA recommended annual management program.
- Further options papers are to be developed for the management of demersal scalefish within the Houtman Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area.
- New legislation is to be developed for the management of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands estate.
- It will be ensured that compliance services within the Mid-west for the commercial rock lobster fishery are delivered in a manner consistent with any revised management requirements.
- A new management plan for the Houtman Abrolhos Systems 2008 – 2018 is to be finalised, inclusive of contributions from the Department of Environment and Conservation, the WA Museum and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

### **Southern**

- A discussion paper will be released relating to the future management of the South Coast Crustacean Fishery.
- The interim management plan for the South Coast Trawl Fishery will be implemented.
- The inclusion of the Hardy Inlet Fishery into the South Coast Estuarine Fishery Management Plan is to be finalised.

- ‘Marine Discovery’ interactive multimedia education trailers based in Busselton and Albany are to be developed.
- A fisheries school education ‘road show’ to Collie, Wagin, Narrogin and Katanning is to be carried out.
- A collaborative operational plan will be developed with the Department of Environment and Conservation for the management of the proposed Walpole-Nornalup Inlets Marine Park.

### **Gascoyne**

- Comprehensive signage is to be installed and brochures developed for the Miaboolya and Point Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Areas so as to inform the public about the management and importance of the areas.
- Regional support will be provided for the development of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery and to coordinate the development of the Gascoyne Inshore Net Fishery.
- Co-operative and joint servicing arrangements within the Ningaloo and Shark Bay marine parks are to be reviewed and further developed with the Department of Environment and Conservation in light of the first year’s experiences.
- A new patrol vessel is to be developed to provide better levels of compliance and research for the Gascoyne region.
- New patrol vessels are to be delivered to Denham and Exmouth, resulting in improved at-sea service across a number of fisheries.



## DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

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Fishing, both commercial and recreational, generates over \$1.5b each year into the State's economy.  
A rock lobster fishing boat at the Houtman Abrolhos Islands. Photo: Tourism Western Australia.





Auditor General

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION**

To the Parliament of Western Australia

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008**

I have audited the accounts, financial statements, controls and key performance indicators of the Department of Fisheries.

The financial statements comprise the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service, and Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory Notes.

The key performance indicators consist of key indicators of effectiveness and efficiency.

**Chief Executive Officer's Responsibility for the Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators**

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions, and the key performance indicators. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances; and complying with the Financial Management Act 2006 and other relevant written law.

**Summary of my Role**

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators based on my audit. This was done by testing selected samples of the audit evidence. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion. Further information on my audit approach is provided in my audit practice statement. Refer "<http://www.audit.wa.gov.au/pubs/Audit-Practice-Statement.pdf>".

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial statements and key performance indicators is error free. The term "reasonable assurance" recognises that an audit does not examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the financial statements and key performance indicators.

**Department of Fisheries  
Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Audit Opinion**

In my opinion,

- (i) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial position of the Department of Fisheries at 30 June 2008 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions;
- (ii) the controls exercised by the Department provide reasonable assurance that the receipt and expenditure of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (iii) the key performance indicators of the Department are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Department's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2008.

GLEN CLARKE  
ACTING AUDITOR GENERAL  
23 September 2008

**Certification Of Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2008**

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 2008 and the financial position as at 30 June 2008.

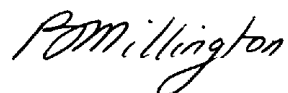
At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



**Bruno Mezzatesta BBus MBA FCPA**

Chief Finance Officer


01 September 2008



**Peter Millington BSc (Hons) M Env St. MSc FAICD**

Accountable Authority

01 September 2008



**Choon Chong BBus CPA**

Manager Financial Services

01 September 2008

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

COST OF SERVICES	Note	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee benefits expense	8	31,578	29,686
Supplies and services	9	17,216	15,271
Depreciation and amortisation expense	10	3,211	2,018
Finance costs	11	76	89
Accommodation expenses	12	1,867	1,273
Grants and subsidies	13	3,752	3,992
Capital User Charge	14	0	4,066
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs	15	1,491	345
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	17	97	77
Other expenses	16	1,112	1,048
<b>Total cost of services</b>		<u>60,400</u>	<u>57,865</u>
<b>Income</b>			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	18	24,223	22,837
Grants and contributions	19	2,601	2,355
Interest revenue	20	677	260
Total revenue		<u>27,501</u>	<u>25,452</u>
<i>Gains</i>			
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	17	1	11
Total gains		<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>
<b>Total income other than income from State Government</b>		<u>27,502</u>	<u>25,463</u>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>		<b>32,898</b>	<b>32,402</b>
<b>INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>			
Service appropriations	21	31,812	29,876
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	21	0	839
Resources received free of charge	22	343	520
Total income from State Government		<u>32,155</u>	<u>31,235</u>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<u>(743)</u>	<u>(1,167)</u>

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

### DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Note	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	36	8,221	4,425
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	23	1,624	751
Receivables	24	1,674	1,560
Amounts receivable for services	25	3,760	2,542
Other current assets	26	404	185
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>15,683</u>	<u>9,463</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	23	331	218
Amounts receivable for services	25	4,228	4,605
Property, plant and equipment	27	55,324	41,994
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>59,883</u>	<u>46,817</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b><u>75,566</u></b>	<b><u>56,280</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	29	2,180	1,886
Borrowings	30	210	195
Provisions	31	5,923	5,255
Other current liabilities	32	756	567
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>9,069</u>	<u>7,903</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Borrowings	30	601	811
Provisions	31	2,009	2,135
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<u>2,610</u>	<u>2,946</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b><u>11,679</u></b>	<b><u>10,849</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>63,887</u>	<u>45,431</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed equity	34	36,466	25,236
Reserves	35	15,990	8,021
Accumulated surplus	33	11,431	12,174
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>63,887</u>	<u>45,431</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		<b><u>75,566</u></b>	<b><u>56,280</u></b>

The Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008**

	Note	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b>Balance of equity at start of period</b>		45,431	43,774
<b>CONTRIBUTED EQUITY</b>			
Balance at start of period	34	25,236	23,407
Contributions by owners		2,733	0
Capital contribution		8,497	1,829
Balance at end of period	34	<u>36,466</u>	<u>25,236</u>
<b>RESERVES</b>			
<b>Asset Revaluation Reserve</b>			
Balance at start of period	35	8,021	7,026
Gains/(losses) from asset revaluation		7,969	995
Balance at end of period	35	<u>15,990</u>	<u>8,021</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>			
Balance at start of period	33	12,174	13,341
Deficit for the period		(743)	(1,167)
Balance at end of period	33	<u>11,431</u>	<u>12,174</u>
<b>Balance of equity at end of period</b>		<u>63,887</u>	<u>45,431</u>
<b>Total income and expense for the period</b>	(a)	<u>7,226</u>	<u>(172)</u>

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

- (a) The aggregate net attributable to each category of equity is:  
2007/08: deficit (\$743,000) plus gains from asset revaluation \$7,969,000.  
2006/07: deficit (\$1,167,000) plus gains from asset revaluation \$995,000.

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES CASH FLOW STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008**

	Note	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>			
Service appropriation		28,429	26,654
Capital contributions		8,497	1,829
Holding account drawdowns		2,542	2,841
<b>Net cash provided by State Government</b>		<u>39,468</u>	<u>31,324</u>
Utilised as follows:			
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee benefits		(30,869)	(28,774)
Supplies and services		(16,591)	(14,798)
Finance costs		(76)	(89)
Capital User Charge		0	(4,066)
Accommodation		(1,867)	(1,273)
Grants and subsidies		(3,752)	(3,992)
GST payments on purchases		(2,822)	(2,231)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs		(1,491)	(345)
Other payments		(1,112)	(1,048)
<b>Receipts</b>			
User charges and fees		24,245	23,037
Grants and contributions		2,891	1,903
Interest received		466	260
GST receipts on sales		385	531
GST receipts from taxation authority		2,051	1,880
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	36	<u>(28,542)</u>	<u>(29,005)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from the sale of non-current physical assets	17	93	563
Purchases of non-current physical assets		(6,042)	(3,241)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<u>(5,949)</u>	<u>(2,678)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Repayment of borrowings		(195)	(180)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		<u>(195)</u>	<u>(180)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		4,782	(539)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period		5,394	5,933
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of period</b>	36	<u>10,176</u>	<u>5,394</u>

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES SCHEDULE OF INCOME AND EXPENSES BY SERVICE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

COST OF SERVICES	COMMERCIAL		RECREATIONAL		PEARLING AND AQUACULTURE		FISH AND FISH HABITAT PROTECTION		TOTAL	TOTAL
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Expenses</b>										
Employee benefits expense	14,898	15,283	7,841	6,845	4,548	4,263	4,291	3,295	31,578	29,686
Supplies and services	8,182	7,862	4,268	3,521	2,404	2,193	2,361	1,695	17,216	15,271
Depreciation and amortisation	1,515	1,039	797	465	462	290	436	224	3,211	2,018
Finance costs	36	45	19	21	11	13	10	10	76	89
Accommodation expenses	867	655	454	294	291	183	256	141	1,867	1,273
Grants and subsidies	2,693	2,055	348	921	472	573	239	443	3,752	3,992
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs	1,491	345	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,491	345
Capital User Charge	0	2,093	0	938	0	584	0	451	0	4,066
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	46	40	24	18	14	11	13	8	97	77
Other expenses	515	560	275	242	177	150	144	96	1,112	1,048
<b>Total cost of services</b>	<b>30,242</b>	<b>29,977</b>	<b>14,027</b>	<b>13,265</b>	<b>8,379</b>	<b>8,260</b>	<b>7,751</b>	<b>6,363</b>	<b>60,400</b>	<b>57,865</b>
<b>Income</b>										
User charges and fees	17,206	16,474	3,027	2,226	3,490	3,908	500	229	24,223	22,837
Grants and contributions	1,104	1,578	196	276	377	402	924	99	2,601	2,355
Interest revenue	466	173	80	31	96	45	35	11	677	260
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	1	8	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	11
<b>Total income other than income from State Government</b>	<b>18,777</b>	<b>18,233</b>	<b>3,303</b>	<b>2,534</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>4,357</b>	<b>1,459</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>27,502</b>	<b>25,463</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>11,465</b>	<b>11,744</b>	<b>10,724</b>	<b>10,731</b>	<b>4,416</b>	<b>3,903</b>	<b>6,293</b>	<b>6,024</b>	<b>32,898</b>	<b>32,402</b>
<b>INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>										
Service appropriation	13,712	10,828	9,500	9,895	3,700	3,599	4,900	5,554	31,812	29,876
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	0	561	0	99	0	144	0	35	0	839
Resources received free of charge	171	348	80	61	48	89	44	22	343	520
<b>Total income from State Government</b>	<b>13,883</b>	<b>11,737</b>	<b>9,580</b>	<b>10,055</b>	<b>3,748</b>	<b>3,832</b>	<b>4,944</b>	<b>5,611</b>	<b>32,155</b>	<b>31,235</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>	<b>2,418</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(1,144)</b>	<b>(676)</b>	<b>(668)</b>	<b>(71)</b>	<b>(1,349)</b>	<b>(413)</b>	<b>(743)</b>	<b>(1,167)</b>

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

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT APPROPRIATIONS AND INCOME ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

Item	2008 ESTIMATE \$'000	2008 ACTUAL \$'000	VARIANCE \$'000	2008 ACTUAL \$'000	2007 ACTUAL \$'000	VARIANCE \$'000
<b>DELIVERY OF SERVICES</b>						
103 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	28,568	31,619	3,051	31,619	29,692	1,927
Amount authorised by other statutes						
– <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	190	193	3	193	184	9
<b>Total appropriations provided to deliver services</b>	<u>28,758</u>	<u>31,812</u>	<u>3,054</u>	<u>31,812</u>	<u>29,876</u>	<u>1,936</u>
<b>CAPITAL</b>						
177 Capital contribution	8,481	8,497	16	8,497	1,829	6,668
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<u>37,239</u>	<u>40,309</u>	<u>3,070</u>	<u>40,309</u>	<u>31,705</u>	<u>8,604</u>
<b>Details of expenses by service</b>						
Management of the State's commercial fisheries	33,600	30,243	(3,357)	30,243	29,977	266
Management of the State's recreational fisheries	13,640	14,026	386	14,026	13,265	761
Development and promotion of the State's aquaculture industry	6,641	8,380	1,739	8,380	8,260	120
Management and conservation of fish and fish habitat	4,180	7,751	3,571	7,751	6,363	1,388
<b>Total cost of services</b>	<u>58,061</u>	<u>60,400</u>	<u>2,339</u>	<u>60,400</u>	<u>57,865</u>	<u>2,535</u>
Less total income	(28,515)	(27,502)	1,013	(27,502)	(25,463)	(2,039)
<b>Net cost of services</b>	<u>29,546</u>	<u>32,898</u>	<u>3,352</u>	<u>32,898</u>	<u>32,402</u>	<u>496</u>
Adjustments	(788)	(1,086)	(298)	(1,086)	(2,526)	1,440
<b>Total appropriations provided to deliver services</b>	<u>28,758</u>	<u>31,812</u>	<u>3,054</u>	<u>31,812</u>	<u>29,876</u>	<u>1,936</u>
<b>Capital expenditure</b>						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	13,994	6,042	7,952	6,042	3,241	2,801
Adjustments for other funding sources	(5,513)	2,455	(7,968)	2,455	(1,412)	3,867
<b>Capital contribution (appropriation)</b>	<u>8,481</u>	<u>8,497</u>	<u>(16)</u>	<u>8,497</u>	<u>1,829</u>	<u>6,668</u>

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

Note 40 'Explanatory statement' provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2008 and between the actual results for 2007 and 2008.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES INDEX OF NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

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



**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008**

**1 DEPARTMENTAL MISSION AND FUNDING**

The Department's mission is as follows:

"Partnered by fishers, aquaculturists and the wider community, we will conserve, develop and share the fish and other living aquatic resources of Western Australia for the benefit of present and future generations."

The Department is primarily funded from revenue collected under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* with additional funding from Parliamentary appropriations. The Department has, in consultation with the fishing industry, moved to a position where the cost of management of major commercial fisheries is recovered from industry. The Department has legislated authority to retain revenues it collected in the respective Trust Accounts administered by the Department.

**2 AUSTRALIAN EQUIVALENTS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS**

The Department's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2008 have been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS), which comprise a Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements (the Framework) and Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

In preparing these financial statements the Department has adopted, where relevant to its operations, new and revised Standards and Interpretations from their operative dates as issued by the AASB and formerly the Urgent Issues Group (UIG).

The Australian Accounting Interpretations are adopted through AASB 1048 'Interpretation and Application of Standards' and are classified into those corresponding to IASB Interpretations and those only applicable in Australia.

The AASB has decided to maintain statements of accounting concepts (SAC 1 and SAC 2) and has continued to revise and maintain accounting standards and the interpretations that are of particular relevance to the Australian environment, especially those that deal more specifically with not-for-profit entity issues and/or do not have an equivalent IASB Standard or Interpretation.

**Early adoption of standards**

The Department cannot adopt early an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by Treasurer's Instruction 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. No Standards and Interpretations that have been issued or amended but are not yet effective have been adopted early by the Department for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2008.

**3 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**(a) General Statement**

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the

Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over the Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

Where modification is required and has 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 in accordance with Accounting Standard AAS 29 "Financial Reporting by Government Departments" on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of land, buildings and infrastructure which have been measured at fair value.

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

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

The judgements that have been made in the process of applying the Department's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amount recognised in the financial statements are disclosed at Note 4 'Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies'.

The key assumptions made concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are disclosed at Note 5 'Key sources of estimation uncertainty'.

**(c) Contributed Equity**

UIG Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities' requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions 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 in the financial statements. Capital contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners according to Treasurer's Instruction 955 'Contribution by Owners made to Wholly-owned Public Sector Entities' and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

Transfer of net assets to/from other agencies are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal. See note 34 'Contributed Equity.'

**(d) Income**

*Revenue recognition*

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

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### *Sale of goods*

Revenue is recognised from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets when the significant risks and rewards of ownership control transfer to the purchaser and can be measured reliably.

### *Rendering of services*

Revenue is recognised upon delivery of the service to the client or by reference to the stage of completion. 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 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 into the Department's bank account or credited to the holding account held at the Department of Treasury and Finance. See note 21 'Income from State Government' for further detail.

### *Net Appropriation Determination*

The Treasurer may make a determination providing for prescribed revenues to be retained for services under the control of the Department. In accordance with the determination specified in the 2007-08 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$2.33 million in 2007-08 (\$2.23 million in 2006-07) from the following:  
GST receipts on sales and input credits.

### *Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions*

Revenue is recognised at fair value when the Department obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions, which is 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 be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the balance sheet date, the nature of, and amounts pertaining to, those undischarged conditions are disclosed in the notes.

### *Gains*

Gains may be realised or unrealised and 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.

### **(e) 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 Income Statement (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total). The Department changed its capitalisation threshold effective 1 July 2006 from the previous threshold of \$2,000.

### *Initial recognition and measurement*

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

### *Subsequent measurement*

After recognition as an asset, the Department uses the revaluation model for the measurement of land, buildings and infrastructure and the cost model for all other property, plant and equipment. Land, buildings and infrastructure are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation on buildings and infrastructure and accumulated impairment losses. All other items of property, plant and equipment are carried at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

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

Where market evidence is not available, the fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of existing use. This normally applies where buildings are specialised or where land use is restricted. Fair value for existing use assets is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, i.e. the depreciated replacement cost. Where the fair value of buildings is dependent on using the depreciated replacement cost, the gross carrying amount and the accumulated depreciation are restated proportionately.

Independent valuations of land and buildings are provided annually by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services) and recognised with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from the asset's fair value at the balance sheet date.

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

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

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

Refer to note 27 'Property, plant and equipment' for further information on revaluations.

### *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.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. As a result of moving to the shared services environment, the Department has adopted the whole of government depreciation rates as determined by the Department of Treasury and Finance. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

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

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

### (f) Impairment of Assets

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

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

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 each balance sheet date.

See note 28 'Impairment of assets' for the outcome of impairment reviews and testing.

See note 3(l) 'Receivables' and note 24 'Receivables' for impairment of receivables.

### (g) 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. Lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis over the lease term, as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased properties.

### (h) Financial Instruments

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

- Receivables (cash and cash equivalents, receivables); and
- Non-trading financial liabilities (finance leases, payables).

These 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
- 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.

### (i) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents includes restricted cash and cash equivalents. These are comprised of 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.

### (j) Accrued Salaries

The accrued salaries suspense account (see note 23 '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.

Accrued salaries (refer note 32 'Other liabilities') represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the pay date for the last pay period for that financial year does not coincide with the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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.

As the final pay for 2007/08 ended on 26 June 2008, there was two days' accrual for salaries as at 30 June 2008.

### **(k) Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)**

The Department receives appropriation funding on an accrual basis that recognises the full annual cash and non-cash cost of services. The appropriations are paid in the form of cash and partly as an asset (Holding Account receivable) that is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover items such as leave entitlements and asset replacement.

See also note 21 'Income from State Government' and note 25 'Amounts receivable for services'.

### **(l) Receivables**

Receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for uncollectible amounts (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 note 3(h) 'Financial Instruments and note 24 'Receivables'.

### **(m) Payables**

Payables are recognised 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 they are generally settled within 30 days. See note 3(h) 'Financial Instruments and note 29 'Payables'.

### **(n) Provisions**

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing and amount and are recognised where there is a present legal, equitable 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 obligation. Provisions are reviewed at each balance sheet date. See note 31 'Provisions'

#### *(i) Provisions - Employee Benefits*

##### *Annual Leave and Long Service Leave*

The liability for annual and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the balance sheet date is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Annual and long service leave expected to be settled more than 12 months after the end of the balance sheet date is measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Leave liabilities are in respect of services provided by employees up to the balance sheet date.

When assessing expected future payments, consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions. In addition, the long service leave liability also considers the experience of employee departures and periods of service.

The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the balance sheet date on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

All annual leave and 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 reporting date.

A liability for long service leave is recognised after an employee has completed five years of service. An actuarial assessment of long service leave undertaken by PriceWaterhouseCoopers Actuaries at 30 June 2008 determined that the liability measured using the short hand method was not materially different from the liability measured using the present value of expected future payments. An assessment will be undertaken every three years.

#### *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 income statement for this leave as it is taken.

#### *Superannuation*

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) administers the following superannuation schemes.

Employees may contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme now closed to new members or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme also closed to new members. The Department has no liabilities for superannuation charges under the Pension or the GSS Schemes as the liability has been assumed by the Treasurer.

Employees commencing employments prior to 16 April 2007 who are not members of either the Pension or the GSS Schemes became non-contributory members of the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS). Employees commencing on or after 16 April 2007 became members of the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS). Both of these schemes are accumulation schemes. The Department makes concurrent contributions to GESB on behalf of employees in compliance with the Commonwealth Government's *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*. These contributions extinguish the liability for superannuation charges in respect of the WSS and GESB Schemes.

The GESB makes all benefit payments in respect of the Pension and GSS Schemes, and is recouped by the Treasurer for the employers' share.

See also note 3(o) 'Superannuation expense'.

#### *(ii) Provisions - Other Employment On-Costs*

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which

they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses' and are not included as part of the Department's 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in Employment on-costs provision. See notes 16 'Other Expenses' and 31 'Provisions'.

**(o) Superannuation Expense**

The following elements are included in calculating the superannuation expense in the Income Statement:

- a) Defined benefit plans - Change in the unfunded employer's liability (i.e. current service cost and actuarial gains and losses) assumed by the Treasurer in respect of current employees who are members of the Pension Scheme and current employees who accrued a benefit on transfer from that Scheme to the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS); and
- b) Defined contribution plans - Employer contributions paid to the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS), GESB Super Scheme (GESBS), and the equivalent of employer contributions to the GSS.

Defined benefit plans - in order to reflect the true cost of services, the movements (i.e. current service cost and actuarial gains and losses) in the liabilities in respect of the Pension Scheme and the GSS Scheme transfer benefits are recognised as expenses directly in the Income Statement. As these liabilities are assumed by the Treasurer (refer note 3(n)(i)), a revenue titled 'Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer' equivalent to the expense is recognised under Income from State Government in the Income Statement (See note 21 'Income from State Government').

The superannuation expense does not include payment of pensions to retirees, as this does not constitute part of the cost of services provided in the current year.

Defined contribution plans - in order to reflect the true cost of services, the Department is funded for the equivalent of employer contributions in respect of the GSS Scheme (excluding transfer benefits). These contributions were paid to the GESB during the year and placed in a trust account administered by the GESB on behalf of the Treasurer. The GESB subsequently paid these employer contributions in respect of the GSS Scheme to the Consolidated Account.

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

**(p) Resources Received Free of Charge or for Nominal Cost**

Resources received free of charge or for nominal cost that can be reliably measured are recognised as income and as assets or expenses, as appropriate, at fair value.

**(q) Comparative Figures**

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

**(r) Cost Recovery - Major Commercial Fisheries**

The Department and the commercial fishing industry have an agreement that allows the Department to recover the costs associated with the management of major commercial fisheries. The costs are recovered through the annual fee charged for access to the fishery concerned. As cost recovery includes all costs, the appropriation for superannuation, employee entitlements and depreciation expenses have been adjusted to reflect that component that is recovered under the cost recovery arrangement.

**4 JUDGEMENTS MADE BY MANAGEMENT IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The judgements that have been made in the process of applying accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements include:

**Finance Lease Commitment:**

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

**5 KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY**

The key estimates and assumptions made concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date that may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying accounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- Estimating useful life and residual values of key assets;
- Estimating depreciated replacement cost; and
- Long service leave – retention rates and discount rates.

**6 DISCLOSURE OF CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICY AND ESTIMATES**

*Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard:*

The Department has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2007 that impacted on the Department:

1. AASB 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures' (including consequential amendments in AASB 2005-10 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'). This standard requires new disclosures in relation to financial instruments and while there is no financial impact, the changes have resulted in increased disclosure, both quantitative and qualitative, of the Department's exposure to risks, including enhanced disclosure regarding components of the Department's financial position and performance, and changes to the way of presenting certain items in the notes to the financial statements.

The following Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations are not applicable to the Department as they have no impact or do not apply to not-for-profit entities.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<b>AASB</b>	<b>Standards and Interpretations</b>
101	'Presentation of Financial Statements' (relating to the changes made to the Standard issued in October 2006)
2005-10	'Amendments to Australia Accounting Standard (AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038)'
2007-1	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 11 [AASB 2]'
2007-4	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from ED 151 and Other Amendments (AASB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 102, 107, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 1023 & 1038)'. The amendments arise as a result of the AASB decision to make available all options that currently exist under IFRSs and that certain additional Australian disclosures should be eliminated. The Treasurer's Instructions have been amended to maintain the existing practice when the Standard was first applied and as a consequence there is no financial impact.
2007-5	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Inventories Held for Distribution by Not-for-Profit Entities [AASB 102]'
2007-7	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 1, AASB 2, AASB 4, AASB 5, AASB 107 & AASB 128]'
ERR	'Erratum "Proportionate Consolidation [AASB 101, AASB 107, AASB 121, AASB 127, Interpretation 113]'
Interpretation 10	'Interim Financial Reporting and Impairment'
Interpretation 11	'AASB 2 – Group and Treasury Share Transactions'
Interpretation 1003	'Australian Petroleum Resources Rent Tax'

*Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative*

The Department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by Treasurer's Instruction 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. Consequently, the Department has not applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations that have been issued but are not yet effective. These will be applied from their application date:

1. AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements' (September 2007). This Standard has been revised and will change the structure of the financial statements. These changes will require that owner changes in equity are presented separately from non-owner changes in equity. The Department does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied. The Standard is required to be applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2009.

2. Review of AAS 27 'Financial Reporting by Local Governments', 29 'Financial Reporting by Government Departments' and 31 'Financial Reporting by Governments'. The AASB has made the following pronouncements from its short term review of AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31:

AASB 1004 'Contributions' (December 2007).

AASB 1050 'Administered Items' (December 2007).

AASB 1051 'Land Under Roads' (December 2007).

AASB 1052 'Disaggregated Disclosures' (December 2007).

AASB 2007-9 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the review of AASs 27, 29 and 31 [AASB 3, AASB 5, AASB 8, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 116, AASB 137]' (December 2007).

Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities' (December 2007).

The existing requirements in AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31 have been transferred to the above new and existing topic-based Standards and Interpretation. These requirements remain substantively unchanged. The new and revised standards made some modifications to disclosures, otherwise there will be no financial impact. The above standards are required to be applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2008.

The following Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations are not applicable to the Department as they will have no impact or do not apply to not-for-profit entities.

<b>AASB</b>	<b>Standards and Interpretations</b>
AASB 3	'Business Combinations' (March 2008) – Effective 1 July 2009
AASB 8	'Operating Segments' – Effective 1 January 2009
AASB 123	'Borrowing Costs' ( June 2007) – Effective 1 January 2009
AASB 127	'Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements' (March 2008) – Effective 1 July 2009
AASB 1049	'Financial Reporting of General Government Sectors by Governments' – Effective 1 July 2008
AASB 2007-2	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 12 [AASB 1, AASB 117, AASB118, AASB 120, AASB 121, AASB 127, AASB 131 & AASB 139]' – paragraphs 1 to 8 – Effective 1 January 2008
AASB 2007-3	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 8 [AASB 5, AASB 6, AASB 102, AASB 107, AASB 119, AASB 127, AASB 134, AASB 136, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]' – Effective 1 January 2009

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AASB 2007-6	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 123 [AASB 1, AASB 101, AASB 107, AASB 111, AASB 116, AASB 138, and Interpretations 1 & 12]' – Effective 1 January 2009
AASB 2007-8	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101' – Effective 1 January 2009
AASB 2008-1	'Amendments to Australian Accounting - Shared-based Payments: Vesting Conditions and Cancellations' – Effective 1 January 2009
AASB 2008-2	'Amendments to Australian Accounting – Puttable Financial Instruments and Obligations arising on Liquidation [AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 132, AASB 139, & Interpretation 2] – Effective 1 January 2009
AASB 2008-3	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 3 and AASB 127 [AASB 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 101, 107, 112, 114, 116, 121, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 139, and Interpretations 9 & 107]' – Effective 1 July 2009
AASB 2008-4	'Amendments to Australian Accounting – Key Management Personnel Disclosures by Disclosing Entities [AASB 124]' – Effective 30 June 2008
Interpretation 4	'Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease' (February 2007) - Effective 1 January 2008
Interpretation 12	'Service Concession Arrangements' - Effective 1 January 2008
Interpretation 13	'Customer Loyalty Programmes' - Effective 1 July 2008
Interpretation 14	'AASB 119 – The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interaction' - Effective 1 January 2008
Interpretation 129	'Service Concession Arrangements: Disclosures' - Effective 1 January 2008

### 7 SERVICES OF DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

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

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

The services of the Department of Fisheries are:

#### *Service 1: Management of the State's commercial fisheries*

Management of the State's commercial fisheries on behalf of the community by providing advice; collecting and analysing data; undertaking research; developing, implementing and managing strategies, policies and plans; and enforcing regulations, management plans and related legislation for commercial fishing.

#### *Service 2: Management of the State's recreational fisheries*

Management of the State's recreational fisheries on behalf of the community by providing

advice; collecting and analysing data; undertaking research; developing, implementing and managing strategies, policies and plans; and enforcing regulations, management plans and related legislation for recreational fishing.

#### *Service 3: Development and promotion of the State's aquaculture industry*

The Department fosters and promotes the development of sustainable Western Australian aquaculture (including pearl production) by providing policy advice; establishing appropriate infrastructure; facilitating provision of research and the development; implementation and management of strategies, policies, plans and related legislation for the aquaculture industry.

#### *Service 4: Management and conservation of fish and fish habitat*

The Department safeguards the State's wild fish habitat by providing advice; monitoring the status and use of fish and fish habitat resources; undertaking research; fostering community awareness of fish habitat requirements; and developing, implementing, managing and enforcing appropriate strategies, policies, plans and related legislation.

### 8 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Wages and salaries (a)	24,784	22,668
Superannuation - defined contribution plans (b)	2,490	2,443
Superannuation - defined benefit plans (c)(d)	4	801
Long service leave (e)	332	249
Annual leave (e)	2,298	2,404
Other related expenses	1,670	1,121
	<u>31,578</u>	<u>29,686</u>

- (a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component.
- (b) Defined contribution plans include West State, Gold State and GESB Super Scheme (contributions paid).
- (c) Defined benefit plans include Pension Scheme and Gold State (pre-transfer benefit).
- (d) An equivalent notional income is also recognised (see note 21 'Income from State Government').
- (e) Includes a superannuation contribution component.

Employment on-costs such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 16 'Other expenses'. The employment on-costs liability is included at note 31 'Provisions'.

### 9 SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Communications	1,137	932
Freight and mail	276	271
Property	884	560
Contractors and consultants	3,451	3,486
Consumables	2,043	1,879
Minor equipment acquisitions	512	696
Repairs and maintenance	1,643	1,644

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Travel	1,966	1,762
Electricity and water	313	328
Advertising	183	414
Other	4,808	3,299
	<u>17,216</u>	<u>15,271</u>

**10 DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION EXPENSE**

**Depreciation**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Buildings	627	496
Marine vessels	1,625	541
Communications	82	72
Computing hardware	138	152
Furniture fixtures and fittings	109	111
Office equipment	76	77
Plant and machinery	166	203
Motor vehicles	71	78
Other equipment	15	1
Infrastructure - maritime	84	102
Computing software	12	0
Total depreciation	<u>3,005</u>	<u>1,833</u>

**Amortisation**

Leased patrol vessel	206	185
Total amortisation	<u>206</u>	<u>185</u>
Total depreciation and amortisation	<u>3,211</u>	<u>2,018</u>

**11 FINANCE COSTS**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Finance lease finance charges	76	89
	<u>76</u>	<u>89</u>

**12 ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Lease rentals	1,867	1,273
	<u>1,867</u>	<u>1,273</u>

**13 GRANTS & SUBSIDIES**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Recurrent</b>		
Grants to educational institutions (schools etc)	0	2
Grants to key stakeholder groups	1,874	2,394
Contributions to Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	1,173	1,230
Research grants	268	211
Other	437	155
	<u>3,752</u>	<u>3,992</u>

**14 CAPITAL USER CHARGE**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Capital User Charge	0	4,066
	<u>0</u>	<u>4,066</u>

The charge was a levy applied by Government for the use of its capital. In 2006-07, the final year in which the charge was levied, a single payment was made equal to the appropriation for 2006-07 less any adjustment relating to 2005-06.

**15 FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEME BUYBACKS**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs	1,491	345

**16 OTHER EXPENSES**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Employment on-costs (see note 8 'Employee benefits expense') (a)	805	733
Other expenses	307	315
	<u>1,112</u>	<u>1,048</u>

(a) Includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability is included at Note 31 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

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

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<i>Costs of Disposal of Non-current Assets</i>		
Carrying amount of property, plant and equipment disposed of during the year	190	629
Selling costs of property, plant and equipment disposed of during the year	0	22
<i>Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets</i>		
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment	93	585
Net loss	<u>(97)</u>	<u>(66)</u>
<b>Gain on disposal of non-current assets</b>		
Property plant and equipment	1	11
<b>Loss on disposal of non-current assets</b>		
Property plant and equipment	(98)	(77)
Net loss	<u>(97)</u>	<u>(66)</u>



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<b>18 USER CHARGES AND FEES</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Access fees	14,758	13,865
Development of Better Interests fees	3,500	3,500
Application fees	1,031	900
Licence fees	2,680	2,379
Fees for service	355	957
Other	1,899	1,236
	<u>24,223</u>	<u>22,837</u>
<b>19 GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	1,187	1,242
Other	1,414	1,113
	<u>2,601</u>	<u>2,355</u>
<b>20 INTEREST REVENUE</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Fisheries Research and Development Account	636	149
AFMA Account	12	28
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account	29	83
	<u>677</u>	<u>260</u>
<b>21 INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Appropriation received during the year:		
Service appropriations (a)	31,812	29,876
	<u>31,812</u>	<u>29,876</u>
The following liabilities have been assumed by the Treasurer during the financial year (b):		
Superannuation	0	839
Total liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	<u>0</u>	<u>839</u>
	<u>31,812</u>	<u>30,715</u>

- (a) Service appropriations are accrual amounts, reflecting the full cost of services delivered. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.
- (b) The assumption of the superannuation liability by the Treasurer is only a notional revenue to offset the notional superannuation expense reported in respect of current employees who are members of the pension scheme and current employees who have a transfer benefit entitlement under the Gold State Scheme. (The notional superannuation expense is disclosed at note 8 'Employee Benefits Expense'). The actuary, Mercer, prepared the superannuation liability for 2007-08 based on the data provided by GESB. The actuarial assessment resulted in a net gain of \$743,395.29, hence no liability is reported in 2007-08.

<b>22 RESOURCES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Administration expenses	343	520
	<u>343</u>	<u>520</u>
Resources received free of charge has been determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
Department of Justice	229	413
Department of Land Information	40	33
Department of Planning and Infrastructure	5	7
Department of Treasury and Finance	69	67
	<u>343</u>	<u>520</u>

Where assets or services have been received free of charge or for nominal cost, the Department recognises revenues (except where the contributions of assets or services are in the nature of contributions by owners in which case the Department shall make a direct adjustment to equity) equivalent to the fair value of the assets and/or the fair value of those services that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated, and those fair values shall be recognised as assets or expenses, as applicable.

<b>23 RESTRICTED CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<i>Current</i>		
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account (a)	429	329
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account (b)	1,195	422
	<u>1,624</u>	<u>751</u>
<i>Non-Current</i>		
Salaries suspense account (c)	331	218
	<u>1,955</u>	<u>969</u>

- (a) Monies held in the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account are not available for operations of the Department as they are relate to specific research projects.
- (b) Monies held in the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account are only available for use as prescribed by the *Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987*.
- (c) Amount held in suspense account is only to be used for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years. This amount will next be drawn in 2015/16.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<b>24 RECEIVABLES</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>		
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>		
Current			MARINE VESSELS	
Receivables	1,094	1,384	At fair value (ii)	8,842
GST Receivable	<u>593</u>	<u>189</u>	Accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,412)</u>
	1,687	1,573		<u>7,430</u>
Less: Allowance for impairment	<u>(13)</u>	<u>(13)</u>	COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT	
	<u>1,674</u>	<u>1,560</u>	At cost (ii)	534
			Accumulated depreciation	<u>(355)</u>
				<u>179</u>
Credit Risk			COMPUTER HARDWARE	
Ageing of receivables past due but not impaired based on the information to senior management, at the balance date.			At cost (ii)	1,136
Not more than 3 months	420	334	Accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,058)</u>
More than 3 months but less than 6 months	76	151		<u>78</u>
More than 6 months but less than 1 year	276	337	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	
More than 1 year	<u>82</u>	<u>32</u>	Comp SWare-Cost	830
	<u>854</u>	<u>854</u>	Comp SWare-Cost-Accum Amort	<u>(12)</u>
				<u>818</u>
The Department does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to receivables. See also Note 3(l) 'Receivables' and Note 41 'Financial Instruments' .			FURNITURE AND FITTINGS	
			At cost (ii)	1,091
			Accumulated depreciation	<u>(810)</u>
				<u>281</u>
			OFFICE EQUIPMENT	
			At cost (ii)	386
			Accumulated depreciation	<u>(204)</u>
				<u>182</u>
			PLANT & MACHINERY	
			At cost (ii)	2,334
			Accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,240)</u>
				<u>1,094</u>
			MOTOR VEHICLES	
			At cost (ii)	1,195
			Accumulated depreciation	<u>(357)</u>
				<u>838</u>
			WORKS OF ART	
			At cost (ii)	97
				<u>97</u>
			OTHER EQUIPMENT	
			At cost (ii)	101
			Accumulated depreciation	<u>(32)</u>
				<u>69</u>
			INFRASTRUCTURE - MARITIME	
			At cost (ii)	2,528
			Accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,057)</u>
				<u>1,471</u>
			LEASED PATROL VESSEL	
			At capitalised cost	1,650
			Accumulated amortisation	<u>(37)</u>
				<u>1,613</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Buildings (ii) (iii)	4,895	2,956
Maritime (ii)	1,485	1,561
Computer software (ii)	0	831
	<u>6,380</u>	<u>5,348</u>
 Total property, plant and equipment	<u>55,324</u>	<u>41,994</u>

- (i) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2007 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2008 and recognised at 30 June 2008. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$8,298,400 and buildings: \$700,600. For the remaining balance, fair value of land and buildings was determined by reference to current use of land and depreciated replacement value of improvements. See note 3(e) 'Property, Plant and equipment and Infrastructure'.
- (ii) Marine vessels were revalued by the Maritime Engineers Pty Ltd during the year ended 30 June 2008 and recognised at 30 June 2008 at market value based on Asset Protection Criteria.
- (iii) Valuation Services, the Office of the Auditor General and the Department of Treasury and Finance assessed the valuations globally to ensure that the valuations provided (as at July 2007) were compliant with fair value at 30 June 2008.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Reconciliation

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of property, plant, equipment and vehicles at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:

	Carrying amount as per 2007 Annual Report	Adjustments for change in asset categories	Adjustments taken to equity	Carrying amount at start of year	Additions	Disposal	Transfers from WIP	Revaluation	Deprecn. for the year	Carrying amount at end of year
2008	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	4,060	0	0	4,060	2,733	-	-	1,431	0	8,224
Buildings	20,304	0	0	20,304	2,211	-	-	4,682	627	26,570
Marine vessels	6,668	0	0	6,668	1,472	-	-	915	1,625	7,430
Communication equipment	261	0	0	261	-	-	-	-	82	179
Computer hardware	170	0	0	170	46	-	-	-	138	78
Furniture fixtures and fittings	390	0	0	390	-	-	-	-	109	281
Office equipment	195	0	0	195	63	-	-	-	76	182
Plant and machinery	1,195	0	0	1,195	91	26	-	-	166	1,094
Vehicles	826	0	0	826	247	164	-	-	71	838
Works of art	97	0	0	97	-	-	-	-	-	97
Other equipment	47	0	0	47	37	-	-	-	15	69
Computer software	0	0	0	0	830	-	-	-	12	818
Infrastructure - maritime	1,555	0	0	1,555	-	-	-	-	84	1,471
Leased patrol vessel	878	0	0	878	-	-	-	941	206	1,613
Work in progress	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	2,956	0	0	2,956	4,176	-	(2,237)	-	-	4,895
Maritime	1,561	0	0	1,561	1,324	-	(1,400)	-	-	1,485
Computer software	831	0	0	831	-	-	(831)	-	-	-
	41,994	0	0	41,994	13,230	190	(4,468)	7,969	3,211	55,324
2007	Carrying amount as per 2006 Annual Report	Adjustments for change in asset categories	Adjustments taken to equity	Carrying amount at start of year	Additions	Disposal	Transfers from WIP	Revaluation	Deprecn. for the year	Carrying amount at end of year
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	3,320	-	-	3,320	-	-	-	740	0	4,060
Buildings	20,460	-	-	20,460	85	-	-	255	496	20,304
Major vessels	7,898	(7,898)	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Small vessels	157	(157)	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Marine vessels	0	7,848	(133)	7,715	26	532	-	-	541	6,668
Communication equipment	0	315	-	315	18	-	-	-	72	261
Computer hardware	871	41	(650)	262	60	-	-	-	152	170
Furniture fixtures and fittings	1,022	(131)	(562)	329	6	-	166	-	111	390
Office equipment	0	169	-	169	103	-	-	-	77	195
Plant and equipment	2,207	(2,207)	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Plant and machinery	0	1,634	(435)	1,199	101	20	118	-	203	1,195
Vehicles	770	62	(22)	810	171	77	-	-	78	826
Works of art	0	129	(32)	97	-	-	-	-	-	97
Other equipment	0	8	(8)	0	48	-	-	-	1	47
Infrastructure - maritime	1,448	187	-	1,635	22	-	-	-	102	1,555
Leased patrol vessel	1,063	0	-	1,063	-	-	-	-	185	878
Work in progress	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	3,045	(1,688)	(14)	1,343	1,897	-	(284)	-	-	2,956
Maritime	-	988	-	988	573	-	-	-	-	1,561
Computer software	-	700	-	700	131	-	-	-	-	831
	42,261	0	(1,856)	40,405	3,241	629	0	995	2,018	41,994

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 28 IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

There were no indications of impairment of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure at 30 June 2008.

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

<b>29 PAYABLES</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<i>Current</i>		
Amounts payable for goods and services received - General	1,704	1,403
Amounts payable for goods and services received - Capital	476	483
	<u>2,180</u>	<u>1,886</u>

See also note 3 (m) 'Payables' and note 41 'Financial Instruments'.

<b>30 BORROWINGS</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<i>Current</i>		
Finance lease liability	210	195
	<u>210</u>	<u>195</u>
<i>Non-current</i>		
Finance lease liability	601	811
	<u>601</u>	<u>811</u>

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

Assets pledged as security:

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

Finance leases		
Leased patrol vessel	1,613	878
	<u>1,613</u>	<u>878</u>

<b>31 PROVISIONS</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<i>Current</i>		
Employee benefits provision		
Annual leave (a)	2,721	2,189
Long service leave (b)	2,681	2,544
	<u>5,402</u>	<u>4,733</u>
Other provisions	5	0
Employment on-costs (c)	516	522
	<u>5,923</u>	<u>5,255</u>
<i>Non Current</i>		
Employee benefits provision		
Long service leave (b)	1,732	1,923
	<u>1,732</u>	<u>1,923</u>

Other provisions		
Employment on-costs (c)	277	212
	<u>2,009</u>	<u>2,135</u>

TOTAL PROVISIONS	<u>7,932</u>	<u>7,390</u>
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(a) Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after reporting date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur within 12 months of reporting date.

(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 reporting date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Within 12 months of reporting date	2,047	2,544
More than 12 months after reporting date	2,366	1,923
	<u>4,413</u>	<u>4,467</u>

(c) The settlement of annual and long service leave gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs, including workers compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments. The associated expense, apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost), is included in Note 16 'Other Expenses'.

<b>32 OTHER LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<i>Current</i>		
Accrued salaries	419	212
Income in advance	256	256
Superannuation accrued	0	26
FBT Accrued	44	58
Other	33	11
Infringement notice collections payable	4	4
	<u>756</u>	<u>567</u>

Comparative figures have been reclassified to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year in accordance with AASB 101 (27).

### EQUITY

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

<b>33 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Balance at the start of the year	12,174	13,341
Results for the year	(743)	(1,167)
Balance at the end of the year	<u>11,431</u>	<u>12,174</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<b>34 CONTRIBUTED EQUITY</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Balance at the start of the year	25,236	23,407
Contributions by owners	2,733	0
Capital contribution (a)	8,497	1,829
Total contributions by owners	<u>36,466</u>	<u>25,236</u>

- (a) Capital contributions (appropriations) and non-discretionary (non-reciprocal) transfers of net assets from other State government agencies have been designated as contributions by owners in Treasurer's Instruction TI 955 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' and are credited directly to equity. Two parcels of land, namely, the Mandurah and Wyndham land was transferred from the Department for Planning and Infrastructure to the Department of Fisheries.

<b>35 RESERVES</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Asset Revaluation Reserve</b>		
Balance at the start of the year	8,021	7,026
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	1,431	740
Buildings	4,682	255
Vessels and plant	1,856	0
Balance at the end of the year (a)	<u>15,990</u>	<u>8,021</u>
Total equity	<u>63,887</u>	<u>45,431</u>

- (a) The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets, as described in accounting policy note 3(e).

<b>36 NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>(a) Reconciliation of cash</b>		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,199	4,403
Cash advances	22	22
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (refer note 23)	1,955	969
	<u>10,176</u>	<u>5,394</u>
<b>(b) Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows used in operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	(28,542)	(29,005)
<i>Non Cash Items</i>		
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	0	(839)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(3,211)	(2,018)

Resources received free of charge	(343)	(520)
Profit/(Loss) on disposal of assets	(97)	(66)
Other	5	0
<i>Increase/(Decrease) in Assets</i>		
Accounts receivable - general	114	272
Pre-payments	8	(64)
Accrued income	211	0
<i>(Increase)/Decrease in Liabilities</i>		
Accrued salaries	(207)	257
Superannuation accrued	26	(15)
FBT accrued	14	(10)
Other liabilities	(22)	(11)
Income in advance	0	(240)
Liability for employee entitlements	(542)	(305)
Income in advance - infringement notice collections payable	0	51
Accounts payable - general	(294)	111
<i>Increase/(Decrease) in GST</i>		
Net GST (receipts)/payments	386	(180)
Change in GST in receivables	(404)	180
Net cost of services	<u>(32,898)</u>	<u>(32,402)</u>

<b>37 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>

<b>(a) Capital Expenditure Commitments</b>		
Capital expenditure commitments, being contracted capital expenditure additional to the amounts reported in the financial statements, are payable as follows:		
Within one year	12,976	12,260
Later than one year and not later than five years	0	2,100
Later than five years	0	0
	<u>12,976</u>	<u>14,360</u>

The capital commitments include amounts for:

Buildings	<u>4,151</u>	<u>357</u>
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<b>(b) Operating Lease Commitments</b>		
Commitments in relation to non-cancellable leases for accommodation and motor vehicles contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements are payable as follows:		
Within one year	2,770	2,148
Later than one year and not later than five years	3,857	4,146
Later than five years	11,475	15,184
	<u>18,102</u>	<u>21,478</u>
Representing:		
Cancellable operating leases	0	0
Non-cancellable operating leases	18,102	21,478
	<u>18,102</u>	<u>21,478</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### (c) Finance Lease Commitments

Commitments in relation to finance leases are payable as follows:

Within one year	266	266
Later than one year and not later than five years	666	933
Later than five years	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Minimum lease payments	932	1,199
Less Future finance charges	<u>(121)</u>	<u>(193)</u>
Present value of finance lease liabilities	<u>811</u>	<u>1,006</u>

The present value of finance leases payables is as follows:

Within one year	210	195
Later than one year and not later than five years	601	811
Later than five years	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Present value of finance lease liabilities	<u>811</u>	<u>1,006</u>

Included in the financial statements as:

Current (note 30)	210	195
Non-current (note 30)	<u>601</u>	<u>811</u>
	<u>811</u>	<u>1,006</u>

The operating lease commitments are calculated and forecasted based on the information available at the reporting date and do not take into consideration any impacts of future changes arising from market conditions or rental reviews. These leasing arrangements do not have escalation clauses, other than in the event of payment default. There are no restrictions imposed by these leasing arrangements on other financing transactions.

### 38 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

In addition to the liabilities included in the financial statements, the Department has the following contingent liabilities.

#### Contaminated Sites

Under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*, the Department is required to report known and suspected contaminated sites to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). In accordance with the Act, DEC classifies these sites on the basis of the risk to human health, the environment and environmental values. Where sites are classified as 'investigation required', the Department may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses.

During the year the Department reported a suspected contaminated site at the Albany Aquaculture Park to DEC. This has been classified by DEC as requiring further investigation. The Department is unable to assess the likely outcome of the classification process until the contamination sites auditor completes his or her 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. Whilst there is no possibility of reimbursement of any future expenses that may be incurred in the remediation of these sites, the Department may apply for funding from the Contaminated Sites Management Account to undertake further investigative work or to meet remediation costs that may be required.

### 39 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There were no events occurring after the balance date that require disclosure or adjustment to the financial statements.

### 40 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Significant variations between estimates and actual results for income and expense as presented in the financial statement titled 'Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations and Income Estimates' are shown below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10 per cent.

<b>(a) Significant variances between estimate and actual for services delivered 2008</b>	<b>2008 Actual \$'000</b>	<b>2008 Estimate \$'000</b>	<b>Variance \$'000</b>
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#### Services

Development and promotion of the State's aquaculture industry	8,380	6,641	1,739
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*The increased costs result from additional activity required to deal with an emerging disease issue in the pearling sector and greater than budgeted costs in the aquaculture service.*

Management and conservation of fish and fish habitat	7,751	4,180	3,571
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*The increased costs relate to the significant increased activity associated with research activity funded through external sources and increased activity occurring in marine parks. These increases, along with unbudgeted activity associated with the marine planning process and aquatic biosecurity, have contributed to this variation.*

<b>(b) Significant variances in actual costs of services delivered between actuals for 2007 and 2008</b>	<b>2008 Actual \$'000</b>	<b>2007 Actual \$'000</b>	<b>Variance \$'000</b>
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#### Services

Management and conservation of fish and fish habitat	7,751	6,363	1,388
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*The increased costs relate to the significant increased activity associated with research activity funded through external sources and increased activity occurring in marine parks.*

<b>(c) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2008 - Capital Contribution</b>	<b>2008 Actual \$'000</b>	<b>2008 Estimate \$'000</b>	<b>Variance \$'000</b>
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Variance between printed estimate and actual for capital contribution for 2008 was subsequently funded through supplementary funding.

	8,497	8,481	16
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## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**(d) Significant variances between actuals for 2007 and 2008 - Capital Contribution**

	2008 Actual \$'000	2007 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
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Capital Contribution	8,497	1,829	6,668
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The appropriation each year is consistent with and will vary according to the approved Capital Works program.

**(e) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2008 - Capital Expenditure**

	2008 Actual \$'000	2008 Estimate \$'000	Variance \$'000
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	6,789	13,994	7,205
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Capital projects uncompleted included the Mandurah Operations Centre and the replacement of the PV Walcott and PV McLaughlin.

The supplementary funding of \$3.051 million for recurrent appropriation and \$16,000 for capital contribution was approved by the Minister on 26 May 2008. The details of funding are as follows:

	\$'000
<i>Recurrent</i>	
1 West Coast and Gascoyne Scalefish Research and Monitoring	1,330
2 Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine	80
3 Office of Shared Services - Payroll	190
4 Office of Shared Services - Arrears	555
5 Office of Shared Services - Cost recovery	498
6 Salary Increase Specialised Callings	398
 <i>Capital</i>	
Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine	16

### 41 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

**(a) Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

Financial instruments held by the Department are cash and cash equivalents, finance leases, Treasurer's advances and receivables and payables. All of the Department's cash is held in the public account. 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 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. There are no significant concentrations of credit risk.

*Liquidity Risk*

The Department has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including draw-downs of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

*Market Risk*

The Department does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks (for example, equity securities or commodity price changes). The Department is not exposed to interest rate risk because cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash are non-interest bearing and the Department has no borrowings other than the Treasurer's advance (non-interest bearing) and finance leases (fixed interest rate).

**(b) Categories of Financial Instruments**

In addition to cash, the carrying amounts of each of the following categories of the financial assets and financial liabilities at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b>Financial Assets and Liabilities</b>		
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,221	4,425
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	1,995	969
Receivable	9,662	7,147
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>19,838</b>	<b>12,541</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	2,991	2,892
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>2,991</b>	<b>2,892</b>

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

**(c) Financial Instrument Disclosures**

**Credit Risk, Liquidity and Interest Rate Risk Exposures**

The following table details the Department's exposure to interest rate risk as at the balance date. The Department's maximum exposure to credit risk at the balance sheet date is the carrying amount of the financial assets on following table. The table is based on information provided to senior management of the Department. The Fixed Interest Rate contractual maturity amounts are representative of the undiscounted amounts at the balance sheet date. No adjustment for discounting has made as it is considered immaterial.

The Department does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to the financial assets it holds.

The Department does not hold any financial assets that had to have their terms renegotiated that would have otherwise resulted being past due or impaired.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2008	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Variable interest rate \$'000	Non-interest bearing \$'000	Fixed Interest Rate to Maturity					Adjustment for discounting \$'000	Carrying Amount \$'000
				Within 1 year \$'000	1-2 years \$'000	2-3 years \$'000	3-4 years \$'000	More than 4 years \$'000		
<b>Financial Assets</b>										
Cash assets	6.91%	8,221	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,221
Restricted cash assets	0.00%	-	1,955	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,955
Receivables	0.00%	-	1,674	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,674
Amounts receivable for services	0.00%	-	7,988	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,988
		8,221	11,617	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,838
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>										
Payables	0.00%	-	2,180	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,180
Finance lease liabilities	7.66%	-	-	210	227	245	129	-	-	811
		-	2 180	210	227	245	129	-	-	2,991
2007	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Variable interest rate \$'000	Non-interest bearing \$'000	Fixed Interest Rate to Maturity					Adjustment for discounting \$'000	Carrying Amount \$'000
				Within 1 year \$'000	1-2 years \$'000	2-3 years \$'000	3-4 years \$'000	More than 4 years \$'000		
<b>Financial Assets</b>										
Cash assets	6.02%	4,425	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,425
Restricted cash assets	0.00%	-	969	-	-	-	-	-	-	969
Receivables	0.00%	-	1,560	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,560
Amounts receivable for services	0.00%	-	7,147	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,147
		4,425	9,676	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,101
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>										
Payables	0.00%	-	1,886	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,886
Finance lease liabilities	7.66%	-	-	195	210	227	245	129	-	1,006
		0	1,886	195	210	227	245	129	-	2,892

Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table represents a summary of the interest rate sensitivity of the Department's financial assets as at the balance date on the surplus for the period and equity for a one percent change in interest rates. It is assumed that the change in interest rate is held constant throughout the reporting period. The one percent change in interest rates has no impact on the financial liabilities, and hence the profit and equity, as payables do not attract interests and interest payable on the financial lease is based on fixed interest rate.

2008	Carrying amount \$'000	-1% change		+1% change	
		Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash assets	8,221	(82)	(82)	82	82
2007	Carrying amount \$'000	-1% change		+1% change	
		Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash assets	4,425	(44)	(44)	44	44

Fair Values

The carrying amount of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements are not materially different from their net fair values.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 42 REMUNERATION OF SENIOR OFFICERS

#### Remuneration

The number of senior officers, whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation and other benefits received or due and receivable, for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:

	2008	2007
\$110,001 - 120,000	0	0
\$130,001 - 140,000	1	1
\$140,001 - 150,000	1	0
\$150,001 - 160,000	1	1
\$190,001 - 200,000	0	1
\$210,001 - 220,000	0	0
\$220,001 - 230,000	1	0
\$250,001 - 260,000	0	1
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Total remuneration of senior officers	663	731

The remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Department in respect of senior officers.

No senior officers are members of the Pension Scheme.

### 43 REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR

Remuneration to the Auditor General for the financial year is as follows:

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	<u>142</u>	<u>105</u>

### 44 RELATED BODIES

The Department had no related bodies as defined in the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* and Treasurer's Instruction 951.

### 45 AFFILIATED BODIES

The Department had no affiliated bodies as defined in the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* and Treasurer's Instruction 951.

### 46 SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### Write-offs

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

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
The Accountable Officer	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>

During the financial year, these assets were written off the Department's asset register:

The Accountable Officer	29	0
LESS: Recovered by insurance	<u>(18)</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>

#### Act of Grace Payments

During the financial year, thirty-two act of grace payments were made under the authority of:

The Minister	<u>1,492</u>	<u>56</u>
	<u>1,492</u>	<u>56</u>

### DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES TRUST ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2007 TO 30 JUNE 2008

#### 47 FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

	2008	
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>2007</b>		
<b>\$'000</b>		
<b>5,208 Opening balance - 1 July</b>		<b>4,485</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
21,770 Contribution from Consolidated Account	29,401	
16,185 Fisheries access fees	14,758	
3,500 Development and Better Interests	3,500	
900 Application fees	1,031	
149 Interest	425	
483 Grants	1,512	
2,974 Other sundry revenue	<u>2,338</u>	<u>52,965</u>
<b>51,169</b>		<b>57,450</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
46,568 Contribution to Fisheries WA operations	49,224	
116 Contribution to Salaries Suspense	<u>113</u>	<u>49,337</u>
<b>46,684</b>		<b>49,337</b>
<b>4,485 Balance 30 June held by Treasury</b>		<b>8,113</b>

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 sections 37(3), 41 and 55(4) and (5) of the *Pearling Act 1990*. The bulk of Department of Fisheries revenues and the expenditures relating to the Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Fish Habitat Protection, Pearling and Aquaculture services are transacted through this Account.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**48 AFMA ACCOUNT**

2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	\$'000
<b>30 Opening balance - 1 July</b>		<b>26</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
80 Funds received from AFMA	153	
28 Interest	<u>12</u>	<u>165</u>
<b>138</b>		<b>191</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
112 Expenditure on AFMA-related activities	<u>26</u>	<u>26</u>
<b>112</b>		<b>26</b>
<b>26 Balance 30 June held by Treasury</b>		<b>165</b>

The AFMA Account is established under the FRMA 1994. The Fund is used for transactions relating to the services provided by Department of Fisheries to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. The purpose of the Account is to hold funds in accordance with section 241 of the FRMA 1994 which may be applied by the Minister for all or any of the purposes prescribed by section 241(4) of the FRMA 1994.

**49 RECREATIONAL FISHING ACCOUNT**

2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	\$'000
<b>11 Opening balance - 1 July</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
9,054 Contribution from Consolidated Account	9,291	
2,379 Recreational fishing licences	2,680	
0 Court costs recovered	0	
98 Other revenue	<u>9</u>	<u>11,980</u>
<b>11,542</b>		<b>11,990</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
11,532 Expenditure on recreational fishing related activities	<u>11,980</u>	<u>11,980</u>
<b>11,532</b>		<b>11,980</b>
<b>10 Balance 30 June held by Treasury</b>		<b>10</b>

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 are applied toward the Department of Fisheries' Recreational Fishing service.

**50 FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (FRDC) CORPORATION ACCOUNT**

2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	\$'000
<b>379 Opening balance - 1 July</b>		<b>329</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
1,242 Contributions from FRDC	1,137	
83 Interest	29	
141 Other	<u>89</u>	<u>1,255</u>
<b>1,845</b>		<b>1,584</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
1,516 Expenditure on Fisheries WA research-related activities	1,155	<u>1,155</u>
<b>1,516</b>		<b>1,155</b>
<b>329 Balance 30 June held by Treasury</b>		<b>429</b>

The purpose of this Account is to hold funds in accordance with section 242 of the FRMA 1994 which may be applied by the Minister for all or any of the purposes prescribed by section 242(4) of the FRMA 1994. Approval has been granted by the Treasurer to overdraw this Account to a limit of \$300K.

**51 FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEMES TRUST ACCOUNT**

2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	\$'000
<b>249 Opening balance - 1 July</b>		<b>422</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
500 Specific State contributions to fisheries adjustment	<u>776</u>	<u>776</u>
<b>749</b>		<b>1,198</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
0 Administration	3	
327 Unit buy-back State Scheme	0	
0 Loan repayments	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>327</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>422 Balance 30 June held by Treasury</b>		<b>1,195</b>

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**52 FISHERIES PRIVATE MONEYS TRUST ACCOUNT**

2007 \$'000	2008	
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>47 Opening balance - 1 July</b>		<b>92</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
66 Proceeds from the sale of seized fish	13	13
<b>113</b>		<b>105</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Monies transferred	11	
21 Monies repaid	73	84
<b>92 Balance 30 June held by Treasury</b>		<b>21</b>

The purpose of this account is to hold moneys seized and proceeds from the sale of seized fish pursuant to the *Fisheries Act 1905* pending prosecution action. The *Fisheries Act 1905* has been repealed and replaced by the FRMA 1994.

**53 FISH FARM BOND DEPOSITS TRUST ACCOUNT**

2007 \$'000	2008	
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>24 Opening balance - 1 July</b>		<b>26</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
2 Deposits received	42	42
<b>26 Balance 30 June held by Treasury</b>		<b>68</b>

The purpose of this account is to hold fish farm bond deposits lodged by licensees, as security and guarantee for the due and punctual performance of the licensees' Fish Farm licence conditions.

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS  
INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2007 TO 30 JUNE 2008**

**54 CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS**

2007 \$'000	2008	
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>150 Opening Balance</b>		<b>34</b>
<b>Income</b>		
157 Reimbursements	477	477
<b>307</b>		<b>511</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
107 Salaries	140	
37 Travel and accommodation	80	
12 Administration	131	
117 On-costs	153	504
<b>273</b>		<b>504</b>
<b>34 Balance 30 June</b>		<b>7</b>

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 Department of Transport and Regional Services under the applied *Fish Resources Management Act (1994) (WA) (CI) (CKI)*

## Other Financial Disclosures

### Capital Works Program

The 2007/08 Capital Works Program budget totalled \$14 million with actual expenditure of \$6 million.

The table below details the key areas where resources are applied to provide the necessary infrastructure to enable the Department of Fisheries to deliver against budgeted outputs.

The projects include the building of a Marine Operations Centre in Mandurah, the replacement of two large vessels, and various replacement programs and upgrades for operating plant and equipment, small boats and outboards, and computer hardware and software.

**Table 6 – Capital Works Program 2007/08**

Project Description	Planned Expenditure \$'000	Actual Expenditure \$'000
Information Systems	607	291
Plant and Equipment	1,121	885
Physical Infrastructure	8,340	4,223
Vessels	3,849	888
<b>Total Capital Works Program</b>	<b>13,917</b>	<b>6,289</b>

### Pricing Policy for Services Provided

The Department of Fisheries operates in an environment where a significant proportion of operating revenue is received from sources other than the Consolidated Account.

The Minister for Fisheries and the commercial fishing sector have reached an agreement whereby the costs incurred by the Department in managing commercial fisheries are recovered from the fisheries concerned.

The operators in the State's six major commercial fisheries – abalone, Exmouth Gulf prawn, pearling, Shark Bay prawn, Shark Bay scallop and western rock lobster – are currently meeting the full costs of services delivered, calculated by reference to the guidelines agreed by the industry and the Minister for Fisheries. These guidelines are full cost of services less the opportunity cost of capital. The operators in the minor commercial fisheries are also required to make a contribution towards the cost of managing those fisheries.

The Department has developed a pricing policy to assist in making decisions on other 'ad hoc' requests for the provision of its services.

## Detailed Key Performance Indicator Information

### Performance Indicators

#### Certification of Performance Indicators

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 2008.



**Peter J Millington**

Accountable Authority

22 September 2008

### Performance Indicators 2007/08 for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

#### Outcome

The expected outcome of the Department of Fisheries is the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.

The effectiveness of the Department in achieving this outcome is determined by its performance against the following mix of resource sustainability, economic and social benefit measures.

## Objective 1

### Sustainable Fisheries Management

#### 1.1 The proportion of fish stocks identified as being 'at risk' or vulnerable through exploitation

Annual stock assessments of the fisheries subject to management are undertaken by the Department's Research Division. These assessments, together with trends in catch and fishing activity, have been used to determine the sustainability status of the State's most significant commercial fisheries (full details of which are in the companion *State of the Fisheries Report*). Performance is measured as the proportion of fisheries (for which data are available) for which the breeding stocks of each of the major target or indicator species are being maintained at levels sufficient to ensure catches are sustained at maximum yields, given effort levels and normal environmental variations.

For the 2007/08 performance review, 37 fisheries have been utilised. This is the same number as used in 2006/07.

For the 37 fisheries reviewed, Appendix 5 records that breeding stock assessments are available for the major species taken in 35 (94 per cent) of these fisheries. For two fisheries, insufficient data were available on the target species to make a critical assessment, but the catch histories of these fisheries suggest that the stocks being harvested are relatively stable. In situations where such stocks have the potential to become over-fished, they are given priority for new research and/or management.

Within the group of 35 assessed fisheries, 77 per cent involve stocks that are considered to have adequate breeding stock levels, which is slightly lower than in 2006/07 (Figure 1). Five fisheries have been identified as having inadequate breeding stocks - Shark Bay Snapper Fishery (oceanic), the Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery, the Northern Shark Fishery, and some species within the

## DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

Southern and West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Longline Fishery (southern shark), and West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery. Three fisheries have uncertain breeding stocks - the South Coast Crustacean Fishery, South Coast herring and the *beche-de-mer* fishery that operates in the Northern Bioregion.

For the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery, a series of low recruitments during the last decade resulted in a significant decline in adult biomass. A series of reductions to the catch quota have been implemented over the past few years (including the current season) to assist/restore the spawning biomass to appropriate levels. The speed of this recovery is being monitored.

A major assessment of crab stocks within Cockburn Sound found that the breeding stock level was too low and the fishery was therefore closed for the 2007 season. The recovery of this stock is currently being monitored and the fishery remains closed.

For the southern shark fishery, two of the four target species - dusky whaler and sandbar - spawning biomass levels will continue to decline for some time due to previous fishing activities, not from the current fishing levels. In the Northern Shark Fishery, whilst there has been a significant reduction in effort, the impacts on the breeding stock from previous activities will also continue to affect the recruitment to the breeding stock.

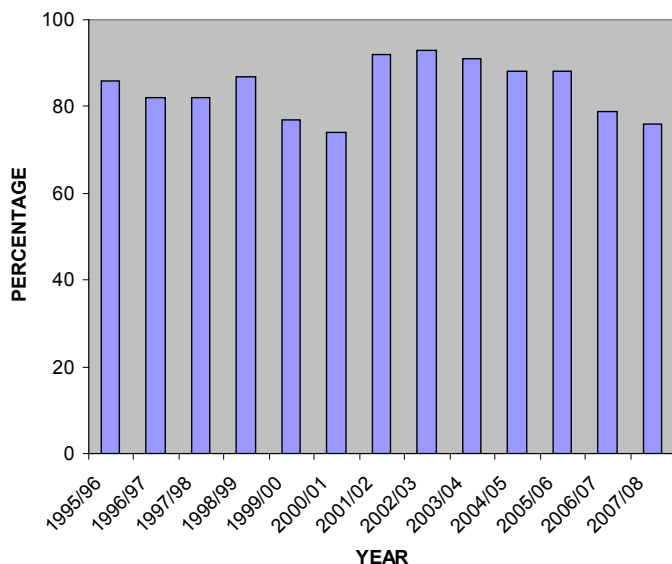
The exploitation rates for some key species in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery (dhufish, snapper) were assessed as being too high, indicating overfishing was occurring. New management arrangements for the commercial, recreational and charter sectors designed to reduce total fishing mortality on these stocks by 50 per cent are now being introduced. Monitoring of the stocks and the catch taken by all three catching sectors is currently underway.

The long term decline in catches of herring on the south coast suggests that further research is required to determine whether this is associated with changes to environmental conditions or a reduction in the breeding stock leading to lowered recruitment, reduced fishing effort, or some combination of the above. Research proposals to examine this issue are currently being developed.

The breeding stock status of southern rock lobster fished in the Great Australian Bight, Esperance and Albany areas of the South Coast Crustacean Fishery remains uncertain. Given this uncertainty, the management arrangements for this fishery are currently being reviewed.

Finally, the fishery for *beche-de-mer* in the north of the state has shifted from being dominated by one species ('sandfish') to being dominated by another species ('redfish'). It is important to determine whether this is a shift in targeting or if it reflects a change in relative abundance of sandfish.

**Figure 4 - The proportion (%) of fisheries where breeding stocks of the major target species are both assessed and adequate to ensure catches are sustained at maximum levels within the range expected under typical environmental conditions.**



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

A target catch or effort range has been determined for each of the major commercial fisheries (see Appendix 5) by the Department’s Research Division. This indicator provides an assessment of the success of the Department’s management plans and regulatory activities in keeping fish catches from each of the managed stocks at appropriate levels.

For most of the fisheries in WA, the management plans seek 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 breadth 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.

For quota-managed fisheries, the measure of success for the management arrangements is firstly that all (or most) of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is achieved, but additionally, that it has been possible to take this catch using an acceptable amount of fishing effort. If an unusually large expenditure of effort is needed to take the TAC, or the industry fails to achieve the TAC by a significant margin, this may indicate that the abundance of the stock is significantly lower than anticipated. For these reasons, an appropriate range of fishing effort to take the TAC has also been incorporated for assessing the performance of quota-managed fisheries (Appendix 5).

Comparisons between the actual catches or effort levels with the target ranges have been provided for 30 of the 37 fisheries referred to in Appendix 5. The fisheries for which there are target ranges account for most of the commercial value of WA’s landed catch. The fisheries where ranges are unavailable include the four pilchard fisheries, which are still rebuilding following an exotic virus attack and the effort levels to take the current quotas have not been established.

Of the 30 fisheries where ‘target ranges’ were available in 2006/07, four were catch-quota managed (through a TAC allocated through individually transferable quotas or ITQs) with 26 subject to effort control management (including those with individually transferable effort ‘quotas’ or ITEs).

For the TAC/ITQ-managed fisheries, all four operated within their target effort ranges or were acceptably below the effort range (Roe’s abalone, Shark Bay Snapper Fishery). In the 26 effort-controlled fisheries, 25 produced catches that were within or acceptably above (one) or below (seven) their target

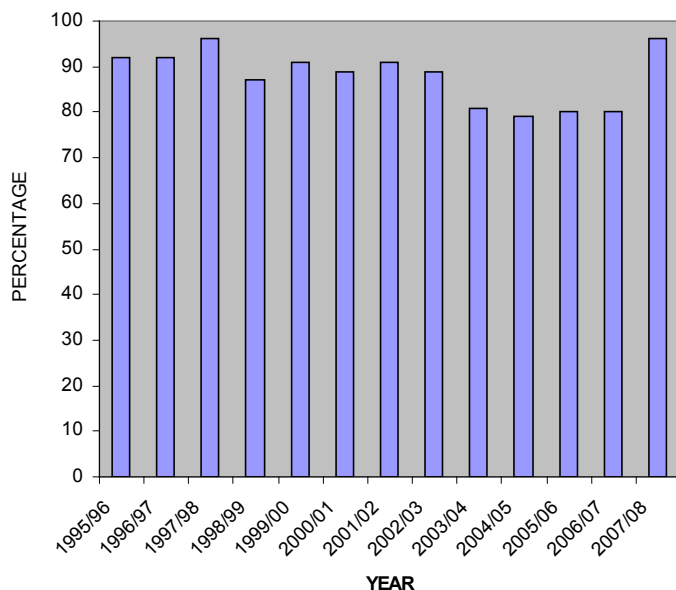


## DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

catch ranges. The only fishery identified where the catch levels required amendments was the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery. Based on the outcome of the assessment process, significant reductions in the catch and effort have now been implemented across each of the sectors in this fishery.

In summary, 29 (96 per cent) of the 30 fisheries assessed were considered to have met their performance criteria, or were affected by factors outside the purview of the management plan/arrangements. This is a major improvement on the level that has been seen over the last four years.

**Figure 5 - The proportion (%) of fisheries where the catch or effort reported is acceptable relevant to the target management range being applied.**



### 1.3 The percentage of fisheries or fished sectors where current catch shares are known and where catch share allocations are in process or in place

The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* has as its primary object 'to conserve, develop and share the fish resources of the State for the benefit of present and future generations'. This indicator has been developed to allow reporting on the 'sharing' of fish resources in Western Australia. In the context of this indicator, 'sharing' means to allocate the fish resources of the State, within sustainability limits, on an equitable basis to various sectoral user groups.

Historically, 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 currently implementing an Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) approach where the aggregate effects of all fishing sectors are taken into account. This involves the use of a framework in which decisions on optimum resource use (i.e. allocation and re-allocation of fish resources) are determined and implemented within a total sustainable catch for each fishery or fished stock. IFM is being progressively phased in and it is likely to take some 10 years to bring the majority of the State's shared fisheries under this new framework.

The indicator is presented in two parts:

- the percentage of fisheries or fished stocks for which current estimates of catch shares are available; and
- the percentage of those fisheries or fished stocks for which catch sharing allocations are in progress or in place.

In this context, 'fisheries or fished stocks' can either be a managed fishery for a particular species (e.g. western rock lobster) or a spatially managed area of fishing activity encompassing a number of species (e.g. west coast estuaries). A 'current estimate' (of catch) is within the past five years (i.e. since 2002/2003).

For recreational fisheries, the accuracy of any catch estimate can be an issue and is often methodology-dependent. For

## DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

example, a telephone diary survey is usually more accurate than a mail-recall survey. Finally, a 'sharing allocation' is defined as a percentage of a total allowable catch or effort.

For the purposes of this indicator, 21 fisheries or stocks have been identified as having both a 'material' commercial and recreational catch share (Cockburn Sound crabs was not included this year because this fishery is currently closed). Over time, the indicator may need to expand to include reference to fisheries or stocks for which there are other sectoral shares (e.g. customary fishing).

The most recent catch share data used for the first part of the indicator will be reported in the Department's *State of the Fisheries Report 2007/08*. These shares are currently based on commercial catch data and from the results of recreational surveys undertaken by the Department's Research Division within the last five years. The Department has made no assessment of whether these current shares are optimal or equitable with regard to community benefit and it acknowledges that this indicator does not include shares allocated implicitly or otherwise to the conservation sector (via 'no-take' areas) or to other sectors (e.g. indigenous).

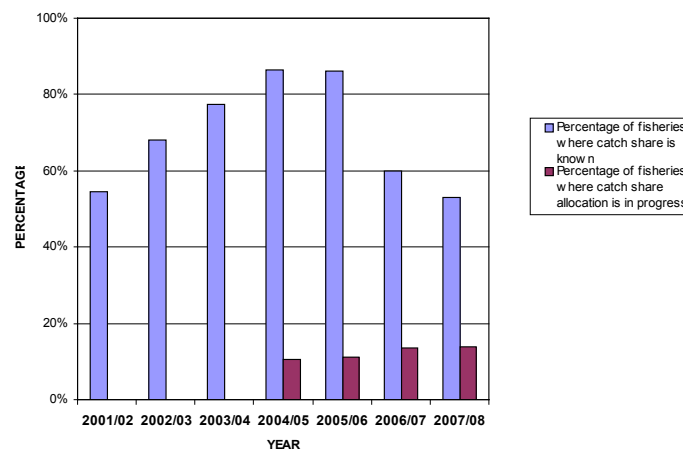
On this basis, the share of catch attributable to the commercial sector and the recreational sector for 2007/08 has been estimated for 11 of the 21 fisheries (53 per cent). This is slightly less than was available in 2006/07 and reflects that recent recreational surveys have focused on 'at risk' regions rather than just following the previous rotational pattern.

For the second part of the indicator, those fisheries expected to have both significant commercial and recreational sectors into the future, the IFM initiative will generate explicit allocations and/or re-allocations to specific sectors. This formal and structured allocation process has already been completed for western rock lobster and the final

determinations for metropolitan abalone are expected shortly. The IFM process for the West Coast Demersal Finfish Fishery has begun and other fisheries will follow. Therefore the proportion of fisheries or fished stocks with formal share allocations is expected to increase over time.

This indicator may need to be further developed and refined as the new framework is developed.

**Figure 6 - The proportion (%) of fisheries or fished stocks where estimates of catch shares are known and the proportion (%) of fisheries or fished stocks where catch sharing allocations are in progress or in place.**



## Objective 2

### Maximise the Economic Benefit to the State

#### 2.1 The contribution to the State's gross value of output

The sustainable management of WA's fishing industry increases the benefits to the State as a result of significant local sales and export earnings from fish and fish products. The value of production from commercial and

## DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

pearling/aquaculture sectors at first point of sale in WA is published by ABARE annually, based on data supplied by industry to the Department's Research Division. Information for the years 2004/05 to 2006/07 in broad groupings is provided in Table 1.

Both the tonnage and value of commercially caught crustaceans in 2006/07 was lower than in 2005/06. The decline in tonnage was mostly a result of the further decline in the rock lobster catch during 2006/07 which was forecast based on the juvenile settlement observed three to four years earlier. The catches from the prawn fisheries were also slightly lower in 2006/07.

The production and value of all the molluscan fisheries in 2006/07 were similar to those obtained in 2005/06.

The finfish sector continues to be supported by a large number of stocks. The annual production in 2006/07 however declined to be 11,000 tonnes, the value of

production similarly declined to \$35 million. Major declines were seen in the landings of Australian salmon (due to a lack of market) with the rest of the drop due to minor declines across many groups.

The value of pearl production in 2006/07 continued at similar levels to the previous years. Western Australia continues to be the dominant supplier of premium South Sea pearls in the international markets. The production level and value of non-pearl aquaculture for 2006/07 were both slightly lower than 2005/06 levels.

In summary, the value of WA fisheries was lower in 2006/07. The WA fisheries sector is currently being affected by a combination of significant external influences on market values and from the impacts of natural fluctuations in the abundances of key species. Nonetheless, WA still remains the largest jurisdiction nationally at approximately 23 per cent of the total value of all Australian fisheries production.

**Table 7 - Western Australian Fisheries Production – Years 2004/05 to 2006/07**

	2004/05		2005/06 (e)		2006/07(f)	
	t	\$ m	t	\$ m	t	\$ m
Crustaceans	17,240	316	14,892	337	12,501	283
Molluscs (a)	7,654	50	3,444	36	2,949	33
Fish	15,882	48	15,362	44	11,376	35
Pearling (b, c)	n/a	122	n/a	122	n/a	122
Aquaculture (d)	975	6	943	6	850	7
<b>TOTAL PRODUCTION</b>	<b>41,751</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>34,641</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>27,676</b>	<b>480</b>

- (a) Includes miscellaneous invertebrates, e.g. beche-de-mer.
  - (b) Pearl oyster products other than pearls are included under molluscs.
  - (c) Method of estimating the value of pearl production has been updated.
  - (d) Excludes hatchery production and algae production for betacarotene.
  - (e) Figures have been adjusted by late production returns and validation of databases.
  - (f) Figures are current as at end of financial year.
- n/a Not available.

## DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

Tonnage values are calculated from the Catch and Effort Statistics (CAES) data supplied by fishers on a monthly basis, or quota returns supplied on a daily basis. The market values (except pearls) are obtained from surveys of the main seafood purchasers/processors.

Sources: ABARE; Department of Fisheries, Western Australia

### Objective 3

#### Maximise the social benefit to the State

Information for performance indicators 3.1 to 3.3 was derived from a community survey conducted by Patterson Market Research to assess the level of success of the Department of Fisheries' activities and functions within the Western Australian community.

The objectives of the survey were to:

- assess the level of recall and awareness of the Department of Fisheries' information and promotional activities;
- assess the understanding and support of the community for the Department of Fisheries' management strategies across four of its key areas of activity (Commercial Fisheries, Recreational Fisheries, Pearling and Aquaculture, and Fish and Fish Habitat Protection); and
- examine key aspects of community fishing and marine habitat behaviour.

The survey was conducted by telephone during May 2008. The telephone numbers were randomly selected from the white pages on CD-ROM. Respondents were males and females older than 17 years residing in Western Australia. The total sample of 714 interviews comprised:

- 202 Perth metropolitan area, north of river;
- 251 Perth metropolitan area, south of river;
- 87 Perth metropolitan area, east of airport;

- 60 regional WA northern;
- 17 regional WA goldfields/eastern; and
- 97 regional WA south west

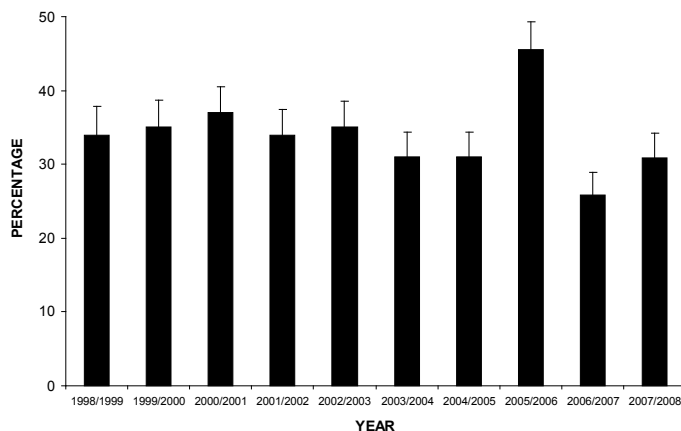
The Stock Assessment and Data Analysis Branch of the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories performed the analysis of the survey data.

#### 3.1 The participation rate in recreational fisheries

The participation rate for recreational fishing in Western Australia was estimated as 30.8 per cent in 2007/08, 25.8 per cent in 2006/07 and 45.6 per cent in 2005/2006 (Figure 1). The improved response rate of 19 per cent (calculated as percentage of contacts that resulted in a completed interview) obtained this year provided a less biased estimate of the participation rate than achieved the previous year. It is likely that the participation rate and other statistics for 2006/07 included some bias due to the low response rate of 10 per cent.

The number of people in Western Australia who went recreational fishing at least once in the previous 12 month period was 565,000. This was estimated as 30.8 per cent of the State's population older than four years of age (using Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates from the 2006 census).

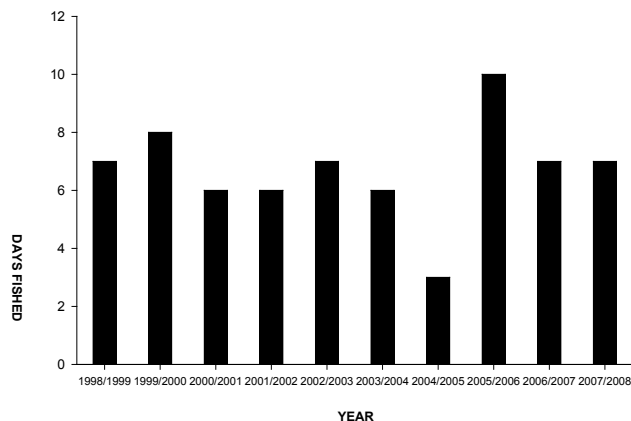
**Figure 7 - Participation rate in recreational fisheries 1998/99 – 2007/08**



**Days Fished**

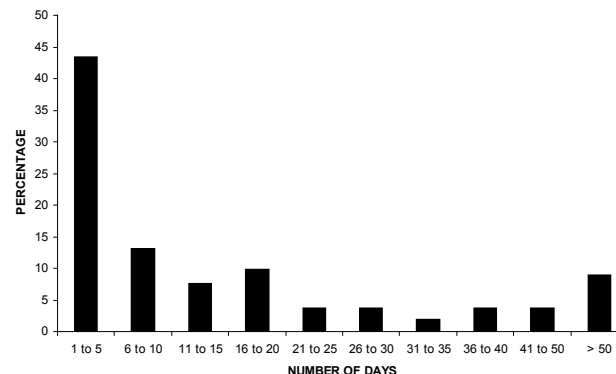
The median number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last twelve months was seven days (Figure 2). The trend in number of days fished will become apparent in future years.

**Figure 8 - Median number of days fished 1998/99 – 2007/08**



The number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last twelve months ranges from one to 200 days. The mean number of days fishing was 18 days. The majority of people in Western Australia fished between one and ten days. However, some fished for considerably more days, giving a skewed frequency distribution (Figure 3).

**Figure 9 - Distribution for numbers of days fished**



Most recreational fishing effort occurred in the Perth Metropolitan area from Yanchep to Mandurah (31.4 per cent). Other areas that people fished were the West Coast other than the Perth Metropolitan area (29.0 per cent), South Coast – Marine (14.9 per cent), Pilbara/Kimberley – Marine (13.8 per cent), Gascoyne (5.6 per cent), South Coast – Freshwater (3.9 per cent), and Pilbara/Kimberley – Freshwater (1.4 per cent).

**3.2 Satisfaction index for persons participating in recreational fishing**

An overall satisfaction scoring model or index has been developed to measure and track the satisfaction of recreational fishers.

The satisfaction index is a combination of knowledge of management measures and confidence.

## DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

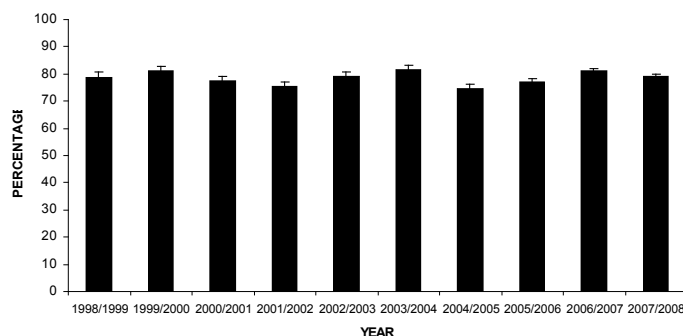
*Management* = the level of the person's awareness of rules and regulations.

*Confidence* = the level of the person's satisfaction with the number, size and variety of fish caught on their last trip and satisfaction with the overall fishing trip.

The above criteria were rated by each respondent on a scale of one to four, and then amalgamated to provide the satisfaction index.

Calculations for the satisfaction index for previous years included a separate knowledge component. This was no longer considered relevant since educating recreational fishers about ways to catch fish is not a role of the Department. The revised measure provides a more meaningful estimate of satisfaction. Since the methodology has been revised, statistical comparisons with previous years are not valid, however comparisons with future surveys will be possible. The satisfaction index for recreational fishing was 79.0 per cent with a 95 per cent confidence interval between 77.3 per cent and 80.7 per cent (Figure 4).

**Figure 10 – Satisfaction index for persons participating in recreational fishing 1998/99 – 2007/08**



### 3.3 Satisfaction rating of the broader community and stakeholders as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving sustainable fisheries management objectives

The Department of Fisheries was given a satisfaction rate of 79.0 per cent by the Western Australian public across its four service areas of commercial fishing, recreational fishing, fish and fish habitat protection, and aquaculture and pearling. The 95 per cent confidence interval for the satisfaction rate given by the community was between 76.1 per cent and 81.9 per cent. Only respondents that were aware the Department of Fisheries was responsible for a service area were asked to rate the Department's performance for that service area. These results are from the 64 per cent of respondents from the broader community who knew the Department of Fisheries was responsible for one or more of the four service areas.

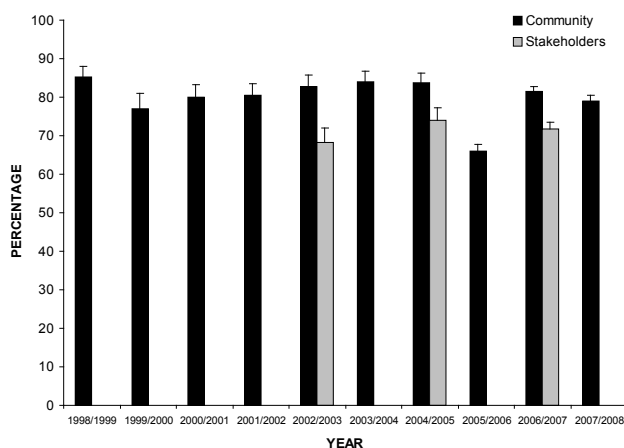
There was no significant difference between the satisfaction rating for this financial year and the rate of 81.5 per cent for 2006/07 (Figure 5). The satisfaction rate given the Department by the community ranges from 66.1 per cent for 2005/2006 to 85.3 per cent in 1998/99.

During 2002, 2004 and 2006, an additional survey was conducted to measure the satisfaction of Department of Fisheries' stakeholders. The 2006 survey comprised 137 interviews with representatives from commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, fish and fish habitat protection, and aquaculture and pearling. The Department of Fisheries was given a satisfaction rate of 71.8 per cent by Department of Fisheries stakeholders (Figure 5). The 95 per cent confidence interval for the satisfaction rate is between 68.3 per cent and 75.2 per cent. The satisfaction rate is not significantly different to the value of 74.0 per cent from the 2004 stakeholder survey (Baharthah, 2004).

The satisfaction rating of stakeholders was significantly different to the satisfaction rating of the broader community.

The satisfaction rating was 71.8 per cent for stakeholders and 79.0 per cent for the broader community as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving sustainable fisheries management.

**Figure 11 – Satisfaction rating of the broader community and department stakeholders 1998/99 – 2007/08**



**Efficiency indicators**

These indicators have been calculated by taking the total service cost in a functional area and dividing 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.

Costs per hour have been impacted by variations in those costs that do not relate directly to hourly service delivery, e.g. payment of grants, Fisheries Adjustment Scheme payments. In those functional areas where relatively few hours are delivered, a variation in non-salary related costs could have a significant impact on the hourly cost of service

delivery. The reported hourly cost includes a component to cover fixed indirect costs.

In calculating the efficiency indicator targets, it is assumed that the Department will operate at full capacity (i.e. all positions occupied) for the full year. This is not normally the case and consequently the target cost per hour is normally less than the actual cost. This fact is demonstrated in the closer alignment between the actual results from one year to the next. The Department adopted a new Outcome Based Management reporting structure as part of the 2008/09 budget process. These new measures will result in improved efficiency indicator reporting and will be included in the 2008/09 Annual Report.

The 2007/08 actual efficiency indicators have been impacted by a significant salary increase (13 per cent) granted to research scientists, effective 1 July 2007.

Explanations for those variances greater than ten percent have been included within each service.

**Outcome: Conservation and sustainable development of the State’s fish resources.**

**Service 1: Management of the State’s commercial fisheries**

**Service Description**

Management of the State’s commercial fisheries on behalf of the community by providing advice; collecting and analysing data; undertaking research; developing, implementing and managing strategies, policies and plans; and enforcing regulations, management plans and related legislation for commercial fishing.

Efficiency in Service 1 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered within each of the three functional areas as outlined in the following table.

DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

**Table 8 – Service 1**

<b>Service 1 Commercial Cost</b>	<b>Actual 2006/07</b>	<b>Target 2007/08</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Variance Actual</b>	<b>Variance Target</b>
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$144	\$100	\$157	\$13	\$57
Average cost per hour for management	\$155	\$187	\$223	\$68	\$36
Average cost per hour for research	\$135	\$105	\$143	\$8	\$38

**Explanation of Significant Variances**

**Target 2007/08 against Actual 2007/08**

*Community education and compliance*

Target hours are based on all positions being occupied for a full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2007/08 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

*Management*

Target hours are based on all positions being occupied for a full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2007/08 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours. The impact in this area has been reduced, as fisheries adjustment schemes payments, a significant non-salary related cost, were less than budget.

*Research*

Target hours are based on all positions being occupied for a

full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2007/08 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs are spread over fewer hours.

**Actual 2006/07 against Actual 2007/08**

*Management*

The impact in this area has resulted from a significant increase in non-salary payments related to fishery adjustment schemes.

**Outcome: Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.**

**Service 2: Management of the State's recreational fisheries.**

**Service Description:**

Management of the State's recreational fisheries on behalf of the community by providing advice; collecting and analysing data; undertaking research; developing, implementing and managing strategies, policies and plans; and enforcing regulations, management plans and related legislation for recreational fishing.

Efficiency in Service 2 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered within each of the three functional areas as outlined in the following table.



DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

**Table 9 – Service 2**

<b>Service 2 Recreational Cost</b>	<b>Actual 2006/07</b>	<b>Target 2007/08</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Variance Actual</b>	<b>Variance Target</b>
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$134	\$113	\$140	\$6	\$27
Average cost per hour for management	\$141	\$106	\$139	\$2	\$33
Average cost per hour for research	\$132	\$98	\$131	\$1	\$33

**Explanation of Significant Variances**

**Target 2007/08 against Actual 2007/08**

*Community Education and Compliance*

Target hours are based on all positions being occupied for a full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2007/08 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

*Management*

The hourly rate has been impacted by unbudgeted non-salary related costs associated with the preparation of numerous publications.

*Research*

Increased funding to support collection of recreational catch information has impacted this area. The hourly rate has been impacted by unbudgeted salary costs associated with the data collection activity.

**Outcome: Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.**

**Service 3: Development and promotion of the State's aquaculture industry**

**Service Description:**

The Department fosters and promotes the development of sustainable Western Australian aquaculture (including pearl production) by providing policy advice; establishing appropriate infrastructure; facilitating provision of research; and the development, implementation and management of strategies, policies, plans and regulations for the aquaculture industry.

Efficiency in Service 3 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered within each of the three functional areas as outlined in the following table.

DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

**Table 10 – Service 3**

<b>Service 3 Aquaculture and Pearling Cost</b>	<b>Actual 2006/07</b>	<b>Target 2007/08</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Variance Actual</b>	<b>Variance Target</b>
<b>Pearling</b>					
Average cost per hour for pearling community education and compliance	\$304	\$117	\$229	\$75	\$112
Average cost per hour for pearling management	\$149	\$76	\$206	\$57	\$130
Average cost per hour for pearling research	\$139	\$88	\$139	0	\$51
<b>Aquaculture</b>					
Average cost per hour for aquaculture community education and compliance	\$200	\$91	\$219	\$19	\$128
Average cost per hour for aquaculture management	\$123	\$158	\$143	\$20	\$15
Average cost per hour for aquaculture research	\$141	\$98	\$138	\$3	\$40

**Pearling - explanation of significant variances**

**Target 2007/08 against Actual 2007/08**

*Community Education and Compliance*

Target hours are based on all positions being occupied for a full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2007/08

has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

*Management*

The increase in the efficiency indicators has occurred as a result of an unbudgeted non-salary related payment made as part of the review of the regulation of the pearling industry.

*Research*

The increase has occurred as a result of unbudgeted non-salary related payment made to support investigations made into disease in pearl oysters.

**Actual 2006/07 against Actual 2007/08**

*Community Education and Compliance*

The use of patrol vessels, a significant non-salary related cost, has reduced in the years under comparison and, as a consequence, the hourly cost in this area has reduced.

*Management*

The increase in the efficiency indicators has occurred as a result of non-salary related payment made as part of the review of the regulation of the pearling industry.

**Aquaculture - explanation of significant variances**

**Target 2007/08 against Actual 2007/08**

*Community Education and Compliance*

Target hours are based on all positions being occupied for a full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2007/08 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

*Research*

Research hours in this service exceeded target and fixed costs are therefore spread across greater hours, reducing the cost per hour.

## DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

### Actual 2006/07 against Actual 2007/08

#### *Management*

The hours of direct activity in this area has reduced in 2007/08 and fixed costs are therefore spread across fewer hours, increasing the cost per hour.

### **Outcome: Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.**

#### **Service 4: Management and conservation of fish and fish habitat**

##### **Service Description:**

The Department safeguards the State's wild fish habitat by providing advice; monitoring the status and use of fish and fish habitat resources; undertaking research; fostering community awareness of fish habitat requirements; and developing, implementing, managing and enforcing appropriate strategies, policies, plans and regulations.

Efficiency in Service 4 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered within each of the three functional areas as outlined in the following table.

**Table 11 – Service 4**

<b>Service 4 Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Cost</b>	<b>Actual 2006/07</b>	<b>Target 2007/08</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Variance Actual</b>	<b>Variance Target</b>
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$165	\$107	\$164	\$1	\$57
Average cost per hour for management	\$139	\$107	\$145	\$6	\$38
Average cost per hour for research	\$158	\$112	\$161	\$3	\$49

### Fish and fish habitat - explanation of significant variances

#### **Target 2007/08 against Actual 2007/08**

##### *Community Education and Compliance*

The increase has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

##### *Management*

Target hours are based on all positions being occupied for a full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2007/08 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

##### *Research*

Target hours are based on all positions being occupied for a full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2007/08 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

## REQUIRED REPORTING

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The participation rate for recreational fishing in WA was estimated at 30.8% of the population in 2007/08.



## Other Legal Requirements

### Advertising and Sponsorship

In Compliance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Department of Fisheries is required to report on expenditure incurred during the financial year in relation to advertising agencies, market research organisations, polling organisations, direct mail organisations and media advertising organisations.

The details of the report are as follows:

Expenditure with –	
Advertising agencies (Marketforce Express)	\$103,131.58
Market research agencies	\$0.00
Polling agencies	\$0.00
Direct mail agencies	\$0.00
Media advertising agencies (Media Decisions)	\$70,268.25
<b>Total Expenditure 2007/08</b>	<b>\$173,399.83</b>

### Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Changes to the *Disability Services Act 1993*, together with amendments to access standards, has required the Department of Fisheries to introduce a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to replace its Disability Service Plan (DSA).

Through its new DAIP, the Department of Fisheries is committed to delivering services for people with disabilities. The DAIP will ensure equal access to the Department's services that include fisheries management, compliance and education, research and monitoring, and marine safety.

The DAIP will ensure that people with disabilities:

- have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, the Department of Fisheries;
- have the same opportunities as other people to

access the buildings and other facilities of the Department;

- receive information from the Department in a format that will allow ready access to it;
- receive the same level and quality of service from the Department;
- have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Department; and
- have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the Department.

Prior to its finalisation, the DAIP was made available to both external and internal stakeholders through advertising and the departmental web site. The Department invited people with a disability, their families, carers, and representation groups or organisations to provide feedback on the draft plan and the future strategies it outlines.

The new DAIP identified six outcomes for the Department of Fisheries to achieve:

#### Outcome 1

The Department is committed to ensuring all events are planned using the Accessible Events Checklist which is available on the Department's intranet.

The Department is in the process of developing standard wording for all information bulletins and event invitations, to enable attendees to indicate the nature of any access requirements.

#### Outcome 2

The Department will undergo ongoing audits to identify any access barriers to its premises. A works program will be formulated to rectify any barriers that are identified.

#### Outcome 3

The Department's web site has been developed according to W3C guidelines as outlined in the State

## OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Government's Access Guidelines. The Department of Fisheries' web site will be reviewed and updated annually in accordance with these guidelines.

The Department is committed to improving community awareness of departmental information by making it available in alternative forms.

### **Outcome 4**

The Department of Fisheries is committed to improving staff awareness of disability and access issues with the aim of providing improved service delivery.

### **Outcome 5**

The Department is committed to ensuring that current complaints policies and procedures are accessible to people with disabilities.

Appropriately trained staff will be responsible for receiving complaints from people with disabilities.

### **Outcome 6**

The Department will regularly monitor the progress of its DAIP, and canvas a broad range of views on disability and access issues from the local community.

With the new outcome-based focus of its DAIP, the Department looks forward to progressing improvements in its delivery of services and, in particular, to the special needs of those with a disability.

## **Human Resource Management Standards and Ethical Codes**

(Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner (OPSSC) reporting under s31 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*)

The Department of Fisheries' human resource management policies are written to support its human resource strategy and to comply with human resource management standards.

All human resource policies and codes of conduct are available to staff via the departmental intranet. The Department continues to have very low numbers of claims relating to breaches of standards and ethical codes.

## OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

**Table 12 – Human resource and ethical compliance issues and actions 2007/08**

Compliance issues	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
<p><b>Public Sector Standards (PSS)</b> Breach claims were lodged against the following standards:</p> <p><b>Transfer x 1</b> (OPSSC referred claimant(s) to alternate standard)</p> <p><b>Grievance Resolution x 1</b> (Forwarded to OPSSC and currently under review)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about the standards included on the departmental intranet.</li> <li>• Quality assurance audit of all recruitment, selection and appointment processes for appointments exceeding six months undertaken independently by the Human Resources Branch.</li> <li>• Ongoing support provided to selection panels to ensure compliance with relevant standards.</li> <li>• Consolidation of the grievance and dispute resolution processes commences as part of the Code of Conduct review.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WA Code of Ethics</b> Nil reports of non-compliance with the Code of Ethics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employees advised that the revised Code of Ethics took effect from 1 February 2008.</li> <li>• Implementation of an online induction process for completion by all staff that included information on the Code of Ethics' key principles.</li> <li>• Staff informed that the standards of conduct and integrity outlined in the revised Code of Ethics would be the basis for a review of the Department's Code of Conduct.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agency Code of Conduct</b> Four allegations of misconduct were made resulting in the following outcomes:</p> <p>Case 1 – Formal reprimand</p> <p>Case 2 – Allegations were not substantiated</p> <p>Case 3 – Pending outcome of investigation</p> <p>Case 4 - Pending outcome of investigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about the current Code of Conduct included on the departmental intranet.</li> <li>• A review and update of the induction process was completed and an online course rolled-out for completion by all staff that includes information on the Department's Code of Conduct.</li> <li>• The Code of Conduct is currently under review, with a comprehensive conduct guide and online training course being developed for implementation in 2008/09.</li> </ul>

## OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

### Compliance with Relevant Written Laws

#### Enabling Legislation

The Department of Fisheries is established under Section 35 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

#### Legislation Administered

The Department of Fisheries assists the Minister in the administration of legislation under five State Acts of Parliament (see the section of this Annual Report entitled 'Profile of the Department of Fisheries').

The Department also manages the majority of fishing adjacent to Western Australia in the Australian Fishing Zone under the provisions of Part 5 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* of the Commonwealth and Part 3 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

#### Legislation Affecting Department Outcomes

In the performance of its functions, the Department of Fisheries complies with the following relevant written laws:

- *Animal Welfare Act 2002*
- *Auditor General Act 2006*
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003*
- *Credit Act 1984*
- *Disability Services Act 1993*
- *Electronic Transactions Act 2003*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1998*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- *Financial Management Act 2006*
- *Firearms Act 1973*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1992*

- *Government Employees' Housing Act 1964*
- *Government Financial Responsibility Act 2000*
- *Industrial Relations Act 1979*
- *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*
- *New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*
- *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*
- *Occupiers Liability Act 1985*
- *Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972*
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2003*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*
- *Spent Convictions Act 1988*
- *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004*
- *State Records Act 2000*
- *State Superannuation Act 2000*
- *State Supply Commission Act 1991*
- *State Trading Concerns Act 1916*
- *Trade Practices Act 1974*
- *Volunteers and Food and Other Donors (Protection from Liability) Act 2002*
- *Western Australian Marine Act 1982*
- *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*
- *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2006*.

Numerous other State and Federal laws also affect the Department's activities. These are listed in Appendix 4.

In the financial administration of the Department of Fisheries, we have complied with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and other relevant written law, and exercised controls which provide reasonable assurance that the receipt and the expenditure of monies, and the acquisition and disposal of public property and



## OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

incurring of liabilities, have been in accordance with legislative provisions.

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



**P J Millington BSc (Hons) M Env St. MSc FAICD**  
Accountable Authority



**Bruno Mezzatesta BBus MBA FCPA**  
Chief Finance Officer

30 June 2008

### Reporting On Record Keeping Plans

(*State Records Act 2000, S61, and State Records Commission Standards, Standard 2, Principle 6*)

Under Section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000* (the Act), every government department is required to have a Record Keeping Plan. Within the Department of Fisheries, the Record Keeping Plan provides an accurate reflection of the record keeping program and must be complied with by departmental staff.

The Department's Record Keeping Plan was approved by the State Records Commission in December 2003. Under Part 3, Division 4 of the Act, the Department must review its plan within five years of the approval date (by December 2008).

The Department's record keeping function was last audited in 2007. Findings from the report rated the overall "quality of management control" associated with record keeping within

the Department as satisfactory and the record keeping practices presented a low "overall risk exposure" to the Department. The Department is continually improving its overall quality of management control in regard to record keeping.

The Department implemented an online record keeping training and awareness course in December 2004. It is a requirement that all staff throughout the State complete the course.

94 percent of staff that have completed the course reported that it improved their understanding of record keeping.

The Department has recently implemented an online induction course, which includes a section on record keeping. This section also refers new employees to the online record keeping training and awareness course.

The online record keeping training and awareness course and the online induction course together address employee roles and responsibilities in regard to their compliance with the Department's record keeping plan.

Records Branch staff also carry out 'hands-on' training of staff at the Department's Head Office and in regional and district offices.

### Public Interest Disclosures

(*Public Interest Disclosures Act 2003, S23 (1) (f)*)

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* came into effect on 1 July 2003, requiring the Department of Fisheries to:

- facilitate the disclosure of public interest information;
- provide protection for those who make disclosures; and
- provide protection for those who are the subject of a disclosure.

## OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the Act, the Department has duly appointed a Public Interest Disclosure Officer and has published internal policies and procedures related to its obligations. In the course of the year, the Department was made aware that a number of the committees established under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* also required the appointment of a Public Interest Disclosure Officer. Action was taken during the year to correct this oversight.

Nil public interest disclosures were received during 2007/08.

### Government Policy Requirements

#### Corruption and Fraud Prevention

The Department of Fisheries recognises that the prevention of corruption and fraud is an integral part of good governance and management. The Department is committed to developing and maintaining appropriate capacity, policies and procedures, and an organisational culture that is supportive of, and consistent with, public sector and departmental codes of conduct and relevant legislation.

In 2007/08, the Department instigated the following:

- Made available to all staff, via the departmental internet, the process to be followed when making a public interest disclosure in accordance with the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003*.
- A comprehensive review of the Department's Code of Conduct, following the release of the revised public sector Code of Ethics. Full implementation of this review will occur in 2008/09 and will include a guide document and online training program for all staff.
- Provided each employee with a copy of the Department's Code of Conduct.
- All business plans developed were required to include a section on the assessment of risk of fraud and the proposals for how the identified risks would be managed.
- Implementation of a new online induction course that includes detailed information, case studies and competency tests covering the public sector Code of Ethics and the Department's Code of Conduct. All staff, including new employees, have been requested to complete the course.
- An annual department-wide review was conducted to identify and capture risks in the Department's risk register related to corruption, fraud and misconduct.

#### Substantive Equality

The Department of Fisheries is committed to the implementation of the Government's *Policy Framework for Substantive Equality* and has developed a corporate policy to this effect.

The Department has also communicated to staff about substantive equality through mechanisms such as Staff Briefs that go to all employees, undertaken staff awareness training and successfully implemented substantive equality for the Perth Metropolitan Abalone Fishery.

The Department of Fisheries is currently using a review of consultation processes between the Minister and Department of Fisheries, key fisheries stakeholders and the broader community to implement substantive equality. Importantly, substantive equality has been identified as a key principle underpinning the consultation review.

During 2007/08, consultation review meetings have been held with staff across each of the divisions of the Department of Fisheries, and with key stakeholders from the recreational, commercial, aquaculture, pearling, customary and conservation sectors. In addition, a consultant has been engaged to provide advice on stakeholder mapping and social science methodologies to improve public consultation outcomes by diversifying and ensuring more balanced stakeholder contributions. The consultation review has provided an opportunity for the implementation of substantive equality principles in a fundamental part of the Department's business, as well as comprehensive awareness-raising with both staff and external stakeholders.

The Department will incorporate substantive equality as a key principle of the consultation review in 2008/09, and continue to identify other opportunities for implementation of substantive equality into fisheries and marine environmental initiatives.

### Sustainability

Commitment 1.2 of the *Sustainability Code of Practice for Government Agencies and Resource Guide for Implementation* requires agencies to report on compliance with the code and other sustainability achievements in annual reports.

In the 'Performance Management Framework' section of this Annual Report 2007/08, the Department of Fisheries has reported against the goals of the Government's *Better Planning: Better Futures* strategic management framework, the first three goals of which are directly related to conventional sustainability dimensions as well as triple bottom-line components.

The Department of Fisheries has also reported against the Government's *Better Planning: Better Futures* goal of 'Governance and Public Sector Improvement' in the Performance Management Framework, as this provides agencies with an excellent opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability.

In response to the Government's *State Sustainability Strategy*, the Department is committed to specific marine fisheries and aquaculture actions related to:

- An expansion of the Department's environmental assessments of fisheries and aquaculture sectors to include social and economic components.
- A broadening of the marine management framework to an ecosystem-based management approach in partnership with other agencies.
- Development of a long-term aquatic ecosystem strategy to rehabilitate freshwater ecosystems and establishment of a freshwater native fish sub-program within the Department of Fisheries.
- Establishment of Fish Habitat Protection Areas to complement the marine park and reserve system.
- A continuation and expansion of targeted education

and training programs to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre and throughout regional Western Australia.

- Implementation of the Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) strategy and development of supporting processes, taking into account the needs of all stakeholders on a bioregional basis.
- Implementation of aquatic biosecurity management arrangements and activities within Western Australia.

Implementation of these actions is continuing.

The *Sustainability Code of Practice for Government Agencies* requires the Department of Fisheries to also address 13 corporate level commitments and 40 actions in the areas of governance, agency operations and employee empowerment. Several notable initiatives have been undertaken to address the sustainability code, including:

- The Department of Fisheries' Strategic Plan 2004–2008 and revised Strategic Plan 2008–2012 recognises key fisheries actions as per the *State Sustainability Strategy*. It is also aligned with the Government's State Strategic Planning Framework.
- The Department has initiated a consultation review to assist in enhancing its consultation processes and practices with stakeholders.
- The Department has processes to ensure that internal procurement complies with the 'Buying Wisely and Environmental Procurement' guidelines.
- The Department has provided training to staff in sustainable procurement.
- An effective operational Service Level Agreement has been implemented with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) for the delivery of integrated at-sea marine safety services.
- The Department and the Commonwealth's Department

## GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS

of Transport and Regional Services have an agreement for the delivery of fisheries management services at Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling Islands.

- The new Marine Operations Centre – Peel Region that is currently under construction within Mandurah Ocean Marina has been designed with energy-efficient air conditioning. The air conditioning within the new building will operate by utilising heat rejection to the ocean via a secondary water/water heat-exchanger. Normally a conventional system would utilise an air-cooled chiller. However, significant running cost savings will be achieved by using the seawater heat rejection system. Due to higher co-efficients of performance, this system reduces the equivalent required plan capacity and therefore results in a lower capital cost for the chiller plant.

On a broader level, the Department of Fisheries is committed to implementing Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) and reporting against its economic, environmental and social performance – what is sometimes termed ‘triple bottom line’ reporting. The ESD principles are contained within the objectives of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* – the Department of Fisheries’ primary enabling legislation. It is therefore incumbent upon the Department to demonstrate to the Government and the broader community that these principles are being achieved.

As a result, the Department of Fisheries currently reports to Parliament – and to the community – on three performance indicators that reflect the components of the triple bottom-line:

- Objective 1 – Sustainable fisheries management.
- Objective 2 – Maximising economic benefit to the State.
- Objective 3 – Maximising social benefit to the State.

The Department’s annual *State of the Fisheries Report* is

‘required reporting’ under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and provides detailed information on the management of fish stocks and their environment, based on ESD principles.

### **Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) and Injury Management**

The Department of Fisheries is committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of its employees and any other people who may be affected by its operations. Through its Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Committee and employees, the Department aims to engage in ‘best practice’ safety and health management practices, including education, training, reporting, discussion and accountability.

The OSH Committee is comprised of elected representatives from departmental regional and metropolitan offices, and representatives from management, thus achieving a good representation of occupational health and safety issues across the State. During the representatives’ two-year appointment period, they continually develop their skills to meet the Department’s OSH responsibilities and their duties as defined by OSH legislation.

Employees are able to engage directly with OSH representatives or their manager to formally raise safety and health issues through the Department’s Hazard, Accident Incident Report (HAIR) process. This mechanism enables employees to identify safety issues and contribute to establishing a safety culture at the Department of Fisheries. Employees are kept abreast of safety and health matters through regular circulars, including the OSH Bulletin, which is distributed after each OSH Committee meeting.

In 2007/08, the Occupational Safety and Health Committee participated in a strategic planning day to identify critical actions that would reinforce the Department’s commitment to having a safe and healthy workplace.

## GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS

The committee identified that through education, training and ongoing development, employees can work together to create a safe workplace, a healthy workforce and a safety culture as a way of doing business.

The actions identified in the OSH Action Plan developed in 2007/2008 for completion over the next year include:

- endorsement and implementation of the OSH Action Plan;
- review of all OSH policies;
- OSH and injury management training for supervisors;
- promotion of *Safe Work Week Australia*;
- review of changes to reporting requirements;
- development of a wellness program for staff;
- audit of OSH management systems;
- OSH risk assessment for 4WD and diving activities;  
and
- review of Fitness for Work requirements for field staff.

The Department has developed OSH and injury management processes and practices that comply with the requirements of the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*. In particular, the Department:

- provides compensation for injured workers;
- promotes safety and accident prevention initiatives;  
and
- promotes and monitors the provision of injury management, which may include vocational rehabilitation to assist employees to return to the workforce.

The Department of Fisheries submitted 17 claims for workers' compensation to its insurer for injuries sustained by staff in the financial year to 30 June 2008. Of these, only four claims represented 'lost time' injuries resulting in absences of one day or more. Of the four lost time claims,

one severe injury resulted in lost time of more than 60 days. The number of lost time injuries has improved by 45 per cent from last year.

The Human Resources Branch continues to monitor trends in claims and regularly reports its findings and recommendations to the Department's Agency Executive Group for its consideration. The Human Resources Branch engages in early intervention strategies to assist employees to return to work as quickly as possible.

## GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS

**Table 13 – Department of Fisheries OSH and Injury Management Data**

	Number of severe claims	Number of lost time injury/diseases	Number of fatalities	Lost time injury/disease incident rate	Lost time injury severity rate
Target 2007/08	0	0	0	0	0
Performance 2007/08	1	4	0	0.9936	25

*Definitions*

- **Fatalities** – number of compensated work-related fatalities.
- **Lost time injury/disease incidence rate** – The lost time injuries/diseases incidence rate is the number of lost time injuries or diseases where one day shift or more was lost, in this financial year, per 100 employees (the number of employees is measured as the number of full time equivalent employees, not the actual head-count.)

*The calculation is:*

$$\frac{\text{Number of lost time injuries/diseases} \times 100}{\text{Number of employees}}$$

- **Lost time injury/disease severity rate** – This is a measure of incident/accident prevention and the effectiveness of injury management. The severity rate is the number of severe injuries (actual or estimated 60 days/shifts or more lost from work) divided by the number of lost time injuries/diseases, multiplied by 100 (an injury resulting in death is considered to have accounted for more than 60 days lost).

*The calculation is:*

$$\frac{\text{Number of severe injuries/diseases} \times 100}{\text{Number of lost time injuries/diseases}}$$

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Conservation and the sustainable development of fish resources are statutory obligations of the Department of Fisheries.





## Appendix 1

### Management Advisory Committees

The full membership of these committees (except for the Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees) can be found at the Department of Fisheries' website at [www.fish.wa.gov.au](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au)

#### Ministerial and Management Advisory Committees (MACs)

- Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (*Section 29, Fish Resources Management Act 1994*). Chair: Dr Ron Edwards
- Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (*Section 33, Fish Resources Management Act 1994*). Chair: Doug Bathgate
- Aquaculture Development Council (*Section 37, Fish Resources Management Act 1994*). Chair: Russell Barnett
- Pearling Industry Advisory Committee (*Pearling Act 1990*). Chair: Graham Short

#### Non-Statutory Management Advisory Committees

(*Section 41 and 42, Fish Resources Management Act 1994*)

- Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee
- Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee
- Joint Trawl Management Advisory Committee
- Abalone Management Advisory Committee

#### Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees (RRFACs)

- Carnarvon RRFAC
- Denham RRFAC
- East Kimberley RRFAC
- Esperance/Goldfields RRFAC
- Exmouth RRFAC

- Great Southern RRFAC
- Metropolitan RRFAC
- Mid-west RRFAC
- Peel RRFAC
- Pilbara RRFAC
- South-west RRFAC
- West Kimberley RRFAC

#### Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

(*Section 11, Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987*)

- South West Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management
- West Coast Estuarine and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management
- West Australian Trawl and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management
- West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Longline Fishery Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management
- Wetline and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

## Appendix 2

### Major Publications Produced by the Department of Fisheries

#### Fisheries Occasional Publications

- No. 42 Gascoyne Wetline Fish Identification Field Guide, Ben Rome, Steve Newman, Corey Wakefield, Jeff Norris, Gary Jackson (July 2007).
- No. 43 Catching and Caring for Samson Fish (*Seriola hippos*) (October 2007)
- No. 44 Fish Kill Incident Response Manual, Kylie Chatfield and Tom Rose (*in press*).
- No. 45 Department of Fisheries Community Survey 2006, Tara Baharthah (June 2008).
- No. 46 Department of Fisheries Stakeholder Survey 2006, Tara Baharthah (June 2008).
- No. 47 Department of Fisheries Community Survey 2007, Tara Baharthah (June 2008).
- No. 48 Research and Development Plan 2007-08. Western Australian Department of Fisheries (April 2008).
- No. 49 Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee: West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Recommended Management Changes for the 2008-09 Season (May 2008). Internet Publication.

#### Fisheries Management Papers

- No. 225 Managing the Recreational Catch of Demersal Scalefish on the West Coast. Future Management Scenarios for Community Consideration (September 2007).
- No. 226 Integrated Fisheries Management Allocation Report for Roe's Abalone – Perth Metropolitan Area (*in press*).

- No. 227 Aquaculture of Coral, Live Rocks and Associated Products. Draft Final Policy Paper (November 2007).
- No. 228 A Strategy for Managing the Recreational Catch of Demersal Scalefish on the West Coast (March 2008).
- No. 229 Finfish Aquaculture in Western Australia. Final ESD Risk Assessment Report for Sea-cage and Land-based Finfish Aquaculture (*in press*).
- No. 230 Prawn Aquaculture in Western Australia. Final ESD Risk Assessment Report for Prawn Aquaculture (*in press*).
- No. 231 The Minister for Fisheries' Decisions Regarding the Changes to Recreational Fisheries Management of Demersal Fish in the West Coast Bioregion (June 2008).

#### Fisheries Research Reports

- No. 177 A 12-month Survey of Recreational Boat-based Fishing between Augusta and Kalbarri on the West Coast of Western Australia during 2005-06.
- No. 176 Regrowth of Pilchard (*Sardinops sagax*) Stocks off Southern WA Following the Mass Mortality Event of 1998/99.
- No. 175 An Assessment of the Finfish Catch by Recreational Fishers, Tour Operators, Commercial Lobster Fishers and Commercial Wetline Fishers from the Houtman Abrolhos Islands during 2006.
- No. 173 Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Reducing Dolphin Catches with Pingers and Exclusion Grids in the Pilbara Trawl Fishery - Final FRDC Report – Project 2004/068.
- No. 172 Identifying Obstacles to Profitably Growing Out Western Rock Lobsters - A Report Prepared for the Aquaculture Development Council.

## APPENDIX 2 – MAJOR PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

- No. 171 Evaluation of Exclusion Grids to Reduce the Bycatch of Dolphins, Turtles, Sharks and Rays in the Pilbara Trawl Fishery - DBIF funded Project.
- No. 170 Biomass and Commercial Catch Estimates for Abalone Stocks in Areas Proposed as Sanctuary Zones for the Capes Marine Park.
- No. 168 Sustainable Development of Barramundi Cage Aquaculture at Lake Argyle - Final FRDC Report and KSRP Report – Project 2003/026.
- No. 167 Digital Video Techniques for Assessing Population Size Structure and Habitat of Greenlip and Roe's Abalone - Final FRDC Report – Project 2002/079.
- No. 166 Stock Enhancement of *Haliotis Laevis* in Western Australia - a Preliminary Assessment.
- No. 165 Biological and Fisheries Data for Managing Deep Sea Crabs in Western Australia - Final FRDC Report – Project 2001/055.

## Appendix 3

### 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).

No aquaculture leases have been granted to date.

At 30 June 2008, there were 58,646 recreational fishing licences recorded on the register. Although details of recreational licences are recorded on the State Register, the Registrar is prohibited from making these available for public search – see section 125(6) of the FRMA.

At 30 June 2008, there were 465 aquaculture licences recorded on the State Register.

At 30 June 2008, there were 6,689 commercial authorisations recorded on the State Register. The commercial authorisations on the State Register were made up of the following:

<b>Interim Managed Fishery Permits</b>	<b>118</b>
Mackerel Fishery	62
Pilbara Fish Trawl	10
Shark Bay Crab	5
West Coast Deep Sea Crab	7
West Coast Demersal Gillnet & Demersal Long Line	21
West Coast Estuarine	13

<b>Managed Fishery Licences</b>	<b>1,207</b>
Abalone	43
Abrolhos Mid-Trawl	16
Broome Prawn	5
Cockburn Crab	12
Cockburn Fish Net	1
Cockburn Line & Pot	13
Cockburn Mussel	2
Esperance Rock Lobster	3
Exmouth Prawn	16
Kimberley Gillnet & Barramundi	7
Kimberley Prawn	137
Marine Aquarium Fish Corporate	0
Marine Aquarium Fish Individual	7
Nickol Bay Prawn	14
Northern Demersal	15
Onslow Prawn	31
Pilbara Trap	6
Shark Bay Beach Seine	10
Shark Bay Prawn	27
Shark Bay Scallop	41
Shark Bay Snapper	53
South Coast Estuarine	25
South Coast Purse Seine	23
South Coast Salmon	18
South-West Salmon	8
South-West Trawl	14
Specimen Shell	32
Warnbro Crab	0
West Coast Beach Bait Fish	3
West Coast Purse Seine	12
Windy Harbour/Augusta Rock Lobster	1
West Coast Rock Lobster	612

## APPENDIX 3 – STATE REGISTER OF AUTHORISATIONS, EXEMPTIONS AND AQUACULTURE LEASES

<b>Other</b>	<b>5,364</b>
Commercial Fishing Licence	3,101
Fish Processing (land)	119
Fish Processing (sea)	134
Fishing Boat Licence	1,505
Aquatic Eco-Tour	1
Fishing Tour Operators Licence	130
Oyster Fishing Licence	0
Permit to Construct a Fish Processing Establishment	349
Rock Lobster Pot Licence	25

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*.

<b>Transactions on the Register</b>	<b>943</b>
Extracts	530
Searches	54
Notation of security interest	160
Removal of security interest	193
Variation of security interest	6

The Registrar recorded 17 convictions against 43 authorisations in the relevant period, pursuant to the statutory obligation under section 224 (1) of the FRMA. There were no authorisations cancelled (under section 224 (2) of the FRMA) as a result of the recording of three convictions within 10 years against the authorisation.

The Registrar provided certificates under section 212 of the FRMA for the purposes of proceedings for offences under the FRMA on four occasions.

### State Administrative Tribunal Review of Decisions

One application for review was on foot on 1 July 2007. This application was dismissed in July 2007.

Four new applications for review were made to the State

Administrative Tribunal during the 2007/08 financial year. One matter was withdrawn by the applicant in June 2008. As at 30 June 2008, each of the other three matters had been referred to mediation. Two of these matters relate to applications for access to the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery and the remaining application relates to a claim for compensation as a result of the extension of Ningaloo Marine Park.

## Appendix 4

### Legislative Amendments and New Legislation

#### 1. Summary

##### 1.1 Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA)

There were three amendments to the FRMA.

The *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Repeal and Consequential Provisions) Act 2007*. This Act amends the FRMA by deleting references to noxious fish and provides for additional penalties and automatic cancellation for an authorisation for persons convicted of offences under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*. Published on 12 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 24, the amendments have not come into operation as at 1 July 2008.

The *Fish Resources Management Amendment Act 2007*. This Act amends penalty and associated provisions relating to foreign fishing offences. Published on 26 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 28. This amendment was assented to on 26 October 2007.

The *Petroleum Amendment Act 2007*. This Act makes changes to the FRMA by substituting references to the *Petroleum Act 1967* with *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*. Published on 21 December 2007 in Government Gazette number 35 and 19 Jan 2008 (see s. 2(b) and Gazette 18 Jan 2008 p. 147).

##### 1.1.1 Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995

There were eight amendments made to the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* (see item 2.1.1 below).

##### 1.1.2 Management Plans

There were two new management plans, ten amendments to existing management plans, and one management plan was revoked (see items 2.1.2 below).

##### 1.1.3 Orders

There were ten new orders, seven amendments to existing orders and two orders were revoked (see items 2.1.3 below).

##### 1.1.4 Notices

There were twenty two notices published in the Gazette (see 2.1.5 below).

#### 1.2 Pearling Act 1990

There were no amendments to this Act.

##### 1.2.1 Pearling (General) Regulations 1991

There was one amendment to the Regulations (see 2.2.1 below).

##### 1.2.2 Notices

There were thirty one notices published in the Gazette and one notice was revoked (see items 2.2.2 below).

#### 1.3 Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987

There were no amendments to this Act.

##### 1.3.1 Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Regulations 1988

There were no amendments to the Regulations.

##### 1.3.2 Notices

There were three new notices and one amendment to an existing notice (see items 2.3.1 below).

#### 1.4 Fishing Industry Promotion Training and Management Levy Act 1997

There were no amendments to this Act.

#### 1.5 Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997

There were no amendments to this Act.

##### 1.5.1 Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Regulations 1998

There were no amendments to the Regulations.

1.5.2 Notices

There was one new order (2.4.1 below) and no amendments to existing orders.

**2. Subsidiary Legislation**

**2.1 Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 (FRMR)**

2.1.1 Regulations

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations 2007.* The amendments are to various regulations relating to prawn trawl nets, cobbler and blue manna crab and changing references from “Executive Director” to “CEO”. Published on 6 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 141.

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 6) 2007.* The amendments are to Schedule 1 which amends various fees. Published on 14 August 2007 in Government Gazette number 163.

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 7) 2007.* These amendments are to various regulations and schedules. Published on 4 September 2007 in Government Gazette number 181.

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2007.* The amendments are to references made to deep sea crabs, crustaceans and molluscs. Commenced 1 January 2008. Published on 13 November 2007 in Government Gazette number 237.

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No 8) 2007.* The amendments are to references made to the Kalbarri Blue Holes Fish Habitat Protection Area. Commenced on 22 December 2007. Published on 21 December 2007 in Government Gazette number 264.

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations 2008.* The amendments are to Schedule 1 which amends various

fees. Commenced on 1 March 2008. Published on 5 February 2008 in Government Gazette number 20.

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 3) 2008.* These amendments are to Schedule 1 which amends various fees. Published on 27 May 2008 in Government Gazette number 80.

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2008.* These amendments are to references made to the Exmouth Townsite, the Ningaloo Marine Park Land Zone, finfish, the Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area, blue groper and Rottnest Island Reserve. Published on 29 May 2008 in Government Gazette number 81.

2.1.2 Management Plans

a) New Management Plan

*West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Management Plan 2007.* Published on 9 November 2007 in Government Gazette number 235.

*West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2007.* Published on 13 November 2007 in Government Gazette number 238.

b) Amendments to Existing Management Plans

*West Coast Estuarine Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2007.* The amendment prohibits a nominated operator from setting or allowing a crab pot to remain in waters within a specified time as well as changing references from “Executive Director” to “CEO”. Published on 7 August 2007 in Government Gazette number 159.

*Broome Prawn Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2007.* The amendment is to various clauses as well as amending references to “Fisheries WA” and inserting “The Department of Fisheries” and amending references to “Executive Director” and inserting “CEO”. Published on 31 August 2007 in Government Gazette number 178.

## APPENDIX 4 – LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND NEW LEGISLATION

*West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2007*. The amendment is to dates in Clauses 13A and 19 and replaces Schedule 7 relating to payment of fees by instalments. Published on 4 September 2007 in Government Gazette number 181.

*Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2007*. The amendment is to the expiration date of fees for the grant or renewal of a permit. Published on 14 December 2007 in Government Gazette number 259.

*West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2007*. The amendment is to references made to deep sea crab and the West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery. Published on 28 December 2007 in Government Gazette number 268.

*South-West Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2008*. The amendment relates to closures of Geographe Bay to fishing. Published on 29 February 2008 in Government Gazette number 36.

*Abalone Management Plan Amendment 2008*. The amendment inserts conversion factors for determining the whole weight of abalone and amending the time limit for notification of the Executive Director of fishing in excess of entitlement. Published on 18 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 45.

*West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2008*. The amendment relates to the area where a person must not fish by means of a demersal gillnet or a demersal longline. Published on 28 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 51.

*West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2008*. This amendment establishes a unitised scheme of entitlement, along with gear restrictions and reporting

requirements. Published on 30 May 2008 in Government Gazette number 83.

*Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2008*. The amendments abolish closed seasons, permit the heading of broad-banded Spanish mackerel, and modify the minimum operating holding from a percentage of units to a number. Published on 6 June 2008 in Government Gazette number 86.

### c) Revoked Plan

*West Coast Deep Sea Crab Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2003*. Revoked by the *West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2007*. Published on 13 November 2007 in Government Gazette number 238.

### 2.1.3 Orders

#### a) New Orders

*Prohibition on Fishing (Heirisson Island) Order 2007*. Prohibits persons fishing on Heirisson Island. Published on 6 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 141.

*Prohibition on Fishing for Crabs (Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary) Order 2007*. Prohibits fishing for crabs in certain waters at certain times of the year. Published on 6 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 141.

*Kalbarri Blue Holes Fish Habitat Protection Area Order 2007*. Provides a definition of Kalbarri Blue Holes, and sets aside waters for fish habitat protection and other purposes. Published on 11 September 2007 in Government Gazette number 187.

*Prohibition on Fishing (Coral, Live Rock and Algae) Order 2007*. Prohibits fishing for any coral, “live rock” or algae with various exceptions. Published on 28 September 2007 in Government Gazette number 202.

*Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Metropolitan Waters) Order 2007*. Prohibits fishing for finfish by line or fishing net with



## APPENDIX 4 – LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND NEW LEGISLATION

various exceptions. Published on 13 November 2007 in Government Gazette number 239.

*Prohibition on Fishing (Abrolhos Islands) Order 2008.* Prohibits fishing for baldchin groper or by line in the waters of the Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection area. Published on 29 January 2008 in Government Gazette number 14.

*Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Barrow Island Marine Park and Montebello Islands Marine Park) Order 2008.* Prohibits commercial fishing in the Barrow Island Marine Park and the Montebello Islands Marine Park with various exemptions. Published on 27 June 2008 in Government Gazette number 110.

*Prohibition on Recreational Fishing (Barrow Island Marine Park and Montebello Islands Marine Park) Order 2008.* Prohibits recreational fishing in the Barrow Island Marine Park and the Montebello Islands Marine Park with various exemptions. Published on 27 June 2008 in Government Gazette number 110.

*Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Barrow Island Marine Park Management Area) Order 2008.* Prohibits commercial fishing in the Bandicoot Bay Conservation Area and prohibits fishing for certain species. Published on 27 June 2008 in Government Gazette number 110.

(b) Amendments to Existing Orders  
*Prawn Fishing Restrictions (Notice No. 549) Amendment Order 2007.* Deletes reference to “Peel Inlet Channel Entrance”. Published on 6 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 141.

*Prohibition on Fishing by Line from Fishing Boats (Pilbara Waters) Amendment Order 2007.* Amends Clause 5 to remove the closed season and allows fishery participants to nominate their own five-month fishing period. Published on 4 September 2007 in Government Gazette number 181.

*Prohibition on Fishing (Diving) Amendment Order 2007.* Amends the Schedule as it relates to oyster fishing licenses granted under the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*. Published on 4 September 2007 in Government Gazette number 181.

*Prohibition on Fishing (Diving) Amendment Order (No. 2) 2007.* Amends Clause 3 and the Schedule as it applies to a person fishing for coral, ‘live rock’ and algae. Published on 28 September 2007 in Government Gazette number 202.

*Fishing for Invertebrates (Notice No. 366) Amendment Order 2007.* Deletes reference made to all fish of the class *Hydrozoa* and *Anthozoa* (all species of coral). Published on 28 September 2007 in Government Gazette number 202.

*Prohibition on Fishing (Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound) Amendment Order 2007.* Amends Clause 3 to extend the period during which fishing is prohibited to 31 January in the following year, and deletes Clause 4, which prohibited fishing during a specified period ending in January 2007. Published on 14 December 2007 in Government Gazette number 259.

*Prohibition on Fishing (Fish Trap Restrictions) Amendment Order 2007.* Amends Clause 2 to reflect the implementation of the West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery. Published on 28 December 2007 in Government Gazette number 268.

### 2.1.4 Revocations

*Prohibition on Fishing (Cockburn Sound) Revocation Order 2007.* Revokes the *Prohibition on Fishing (Cockburn Sound) Order 2000*. Published on 14 December 2007 in Government Gazette number 259.

*Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Metropolitan Waters) Revocation Order 2008.* Revokes the *Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Metropolitan Waters) Order 2007*. Published on 28 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 51.

## APPENDIX 4 – LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND NEW LEGISLATION

### 2.1.5 Notices

*Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993. Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns.* Notice No. 1 of 2007. Notice of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Published on 3 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 139.

*Regulation 55AA(3) – Notice of Approved Directions.* Cancelled the previous notice published in Government Gazette dated 7 May 2007 and approved the list of directions for the installation, use and testing of approved Automatic Location Communicators for managed fisheries. Published on 10 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 142.

*Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993. Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns.* Notice No. 2 of 2007. Cancelled the previous notice published in Government Gazette dated 28 June 2007. Notice of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Published on 27 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 152.

*Pilbara Trap Limited Entry Fishery Notice 1992 – Determination of the capacity of the Pilbara Trap Managed Fishery for the 2007 Licensing period.* Notice of Determination of the capacity of the Fishery for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007. Published on 18 September 2007 in Government Gazette number 190.

*Mackerel Fishery Interim (Management) Plan 2004 – Notice pursuant to Clause 10(2).* Notice of areas, times and dates fishing is permitted in the fishery. Published on 28 September 2007 in Government Gazette number 202.

*Mackerel Fishery Interim (Management) Plan 2004 – Notice of Determination.* Determination of the capacity of the Mackerel Interim Managed Fishery for the 2007 permit period. Commenced on 1 January 2007. Published on 26 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 224.

*Mackerel Fishery Interim (Management) Plan 2004 – Notice of Determination.* Determination of the capacity of the Mackerel Interim Managed Fishery for the 2008 permit period. Commenced on 1 January 2008. Published on 26 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 224.

*Full Moon and Easter Closure Times in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.* Notice of the closure times and dates in the fishery. Commenced on 1 February 2008. Published on 2 November 2007 in Government Gazette number 230.

*Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993 – Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns.* Cancelled the previous notice published in Government Gazette dated 23 July 2007. Notice of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Commenced on 29 November 2007. Published on 13 November 2007 in Government Gazette number 237.

*Pilbara Trap Limited Entry Fishery Notice 1992 – Determination of the Capacity of the Pilbara Trap Managed Fishery for the 2008 Licensing Period.* Notice of Determination of the capacity of the fishery for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008. Published on 30 November 2007 in Government Gazette number 250.

*Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery Management Plan 2000 – Determination of the Capacity of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery for the 2008 Licensing period.* Notice of Determination of the capacity of the fishery for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008. Published on 11 December 2007 in Government Gazette number 256.

*Approved Automatic Location Communicators.* Scheduled list of approved make and models of Automatic Location Communicators. Published on 11 December 2007 in Government Gazette number 256.

## APPENDIX 4 – LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND NEW LEGISLATION

*West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Management Plan 2007 – Notice Made Under Clause 26.* For the period 1 January 2008 to 1 March 2008. Published on 11 January 2008 in Government Gazette number 7.

*West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Management Plan 2007 – Notice Made Under Clause 26.* For the period 2 March 2008 to 31 March 2008. Published on 15 February 2008 in Government Gazette number 27.

*Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery – Clause 9 – Closures of Areas within the Fishery.* Cancelled Determination No. 1 of 2007 published in Government Gazette dated 23 February 2007. Gave notice that Determination No. 1 of 2008 has been made of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Commenced on 19 February 2008. Published on 19 February 2008 in Government Gazette number 31.

*Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery - Clause 10 – Closures of Areas within the Fishery.* Cancelled Determination No. 1 of 2007 published in Government Gazette dated 13 March 2007. Notice that Determination No. 1 of 2008 has been made of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Commenced on 22 February 2008. Published on 22 February 2008 in Government Gazette number 32.

*Abalone Management Plan 1992 – Statement of Determination.* Statement of Determination in regards to the maximum quantity of abalone that may be taken in an area of the fishery during the licensing period commencing 1 April 2008. Published on 4 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 38.

*West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Management Plan 2007 – Notice Made Under Clause 26.* For the period 1 April 2008 to 30 April 2008. Published on 14 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 43.

*Regulation 55AA(3) – Notice of Approved Directions.* Revoked the previous Notice published in Government Gazette dated

10 July 2007 and approved the list of directions for the installation, use and testing of approved Automatic Location Communicators for managed fisheries. Published on 14 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 43.

PRINTERS CORRECTION. *Regulation 55AA(3) – Notice of Approved Directions.* Corrected the omission of West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Managed Fishery from the notice published in Government Gazette dated 14 March 2008. Published on 18 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 45.

*Regulation 55AA(3) – Notice of Approved Directions.* Revoked the previous notice published in Government Gazette dated 18 March 2008 and approved the list of directions for the installation, use and testing of approved Automatic Location Communicators for managed fisheries. Published on 28 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 51.

*Broome Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1999 – Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns.* Cancelled the previous notice published in Government Gazette dated 29 May 2007. Notice of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Published on 23 May 2008 in Government Gazette number 78.

### **2.2 Pearling Act 1990**

#### **2.2.1 Regulations**

*Pearling (General) Amendment Regulations 2007.* Amended various fees in Regulations 6, 8 and 9. Published in Government Gazette number 142 on 10 July 2007.

#### **2.2.2 Notices**

##### **(a) New Notices**

*Variation to a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease.* Notice of the grant of an application by Exmouth Pearls Pty Ltd to reduce existing pearl oyster farm leases at Whalebone Island, Bennett Shoal and Wapet Shoal. Published on 13 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 143.

## APPENDIX 4 – LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND NEW LEGISLATION

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Roebuck Bay B.* Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Roebuck Pearl Producers Pty Ltd for a term of 21 years commencing on 1 January 1991. Published on 13 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 143.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Roebuck Bay C.* Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Roebuck Pearl Producers Pty Ltd for a term of 21 years commencing on 1 January 1991. Published on 13 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 143.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Roebuck Bay D.* Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Roebuck Pearl Producers Pty Ltd for a term of 21 years commencing on 1 January 1991. Published on 13 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 143.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Roebuck Bay E.* Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Roebuck Pearl Producers Pty Ltd for a term of 21 years commencing on 1 January 1991. Published on 13 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 143.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Giralia Bay.* Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Morgan & Co Pty Ltd for a term of 21 years commencing on 1 January 1991. Published on 13 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 143.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Gales Bay A.* Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Morgan & Co Ltd for a term of 21 years commencing on 1 January 1991. Published on 13 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 143.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Gales Bay B.* Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Morgan & Co Ltd for a term of 21 years commencing on 1 January 1991. Published on 13 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 143.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Quondong Point A.* Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Clipper Holdings Pty

Ltd for a term of 21 years commencing on 1 January 1991. Published on 13 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 143.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Willie Creek.* Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Clipper Holdings Pty Ltd for a term of 21 years commencing on 1 January 1991. Published on 13 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 143.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Seaflower Bay B.* Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd. Published on 31 July 2007 in Government Gazette number 155.

*Grant of a Pearling Licence.* Notice of the grant of a Pearling (Wildstock) Licence, a Pearling (Seeding) Licence and a Hatchery (Nursery) Licence to Fantome Pearls Pty Ltd. Published on 12 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 213.

*Grant of a Pearling Licence.* Notice of the grant of a Pearling (Wildstock) Licence, a Pearling (Seeding) Licence and a Hatchery (Nursery) Licence to Maxima Pearling Co Pty Ltd. Published on 12 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 213.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Cape Lambert – Port Walcott.* Notice of the grant of a Pearl Oyster farm lease to Fantome Pearls Pty Ltd for a term of 3 years 2 months commencing on 4 October 2007. Published on 12 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 213.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Lowendal Islands Site A.* Notice of the grant of an Pearl Oyster farm lease to Fantome Pearls Pty Ltd for a term of 2 years 2 months commencing on 4 October 2007. Published on 12 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 213.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Flying Foam Passage A.* Notice of the grant of a Pearl Oyster farm lease to Fantome Pearls Pty Ltd for a term of 11 years 2 months commencing

## APPENDIX 4 – LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND NEW LEGISLATION

on 4 October 2007. Published on 12 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 213.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Flying Foam Passage B.* Notice of the grant of a Pearl Oyster farm lease to Fantome Pearls Pty Ltd for a term of 11 years 2 months commencing on 4 October 2007. Published on 12 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 213.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Cone Bay Site 1.* Notice of the grant of a Pearl Oyster farm lease to Maxima Pearling Co Pty Ltd for a term of 6 months commencing on 4 October 2007. Published on 12 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 213.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Cone Bay Site 2.* Notice of the grant of a Pearl Oyster farm lease to Maxima Pearling Co Pty Ltd for a term of 6 months commencing on 4 October 2007. Published on 12 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 213.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Cape Villaret A&B.* Notice of the grant of a Pearl Oyster farm lease to Maxima Pearling Co Pty Ltd for a term of 20 years 9 months commencing on 4 October 2007. Published on 12 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 213.

*Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Cape Villaret C&D.* Notice of the grant of a Pearl Oyster farm lease to Maxima Pearling Co Pty Ltd for a term of 6 months commencing on 4 October 2007. Published on 12 October 2007 in Government Gazette number 213.

*Pearling (Annual Fees) Notice 2007.* Established the fees payable for various pearling licences and permits for the year commencing 1 January 2008. Published on 11 December 2007 in Government Gazette number 256.

*Restriction of Pearling and Hatchery Activities – (Osborne Islands Transport Exemption Area) Notice.* No person other than the operator can undertake pearling or hatchery activity

in the transport exemption area. Published on 28 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 51.

*Restriction of Pearling and Hatchery Activities – (Vansittart Bay Transport Exemption Area) Notice.* No person other than the operator can undertake pearling or hatchery activity in the transport exemption area. Published on 28 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 51.

*Restriction of Pearling or Hatchery Activities – (Kuri Bay Transport Exemption Area) Notice.* No person other than the operator can undertake pearling or hatchery activity in the transport exemption area. Published on 28 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 51.

*Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Leases – Red Island and Osborne Island South West.* Notice of the grant of a Pearl Oyster farm lease to Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd, Roebuck Pearl Producers, Pearls Pty Ltd and The Australian South Sea Pearl Company Pty Ltd as tenants in common for an area of water located at Cape Bertholet. Published on 28 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 51.

*Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Coulomb Point.* Notice of the grant of a Pearl Oyster farm lease to Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd, Roebuck Pearl Producers, Pearls Pty Ltd and The Australian South Sea Pearl Company Pty Ltd as tenants in common for an area of water located at Coulomb Point. Published on 6 May 2008 in Government Gazette number 70.

*Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Leases Teranadon Bay and Red Island.* Notice of the grant of a Pearl Oyster farm lease to Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd, Roebuck Pearl Producers, Pearls Pty Ltd and The Australian South Sea Pearl Company Pty Ltd as tenants in common for an area of water located at Teranadon Bay and Red Island. Published on 16 May 2008 in Government Gazette number 75.

*Restriction of Pearling and Hatchery Activities – Osborne Islands Transport Exemption Area) Notice.* Corrects an error in the notice published in Government Gazette of 28 March 2008 by restricting pearling and hatchery activity by Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd, other than the transport of pearl oyster shells, in the transport exemption area. Published on 6 June 2008 in Government Gazette number 86.

*Restriction of Pearling and Hatchery Activities – (Vansittart Bay Transport Exemption Area) Notice.* Corrects an error in the notice published in Government Gazette of 28 March 2008 by restricting pearling and hatchery activity by Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd, other than the transport of pearl oyster shells, in the transport exemption area. Published on 6 June 2008 in Government Gazette number 86.

*Restriction of Pearling and Hatchery Activities – (Kuri Bay Transport Exemption Area) Notice.* Corrects an error in the notice published in Government Gazette of 28 March 2008 by restricting pearling and hatchery activity by Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd, other than the transport of pearl oyster shells, in the transport exemption area. Published on 6 June 2008 in Government Gazette number 86.

b) Revocations

*Restriction of Pearling and Hatchery Activities (La Grange Bay) (Revocation) Notice.* Revokes the notice published in the Government Gazette of 13 October 1998 restricting the pearling and hatchery activities of Broome Pearls Pty Ltd (ACN 008 831 669). Published on 25 September 2007 in Government Gazette number 196.

**2.3 Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987**

2.3.1 Notices

a) New Notices

*West Coast Estuarine and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Notice 2008.* Established a voluntary fisheries adjustment scheme in the West Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery and related fisheries. Published

on 6 May 2008 in Government Gazette number 70.

*West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Notice 2008.* Established a voluntary fisheries adjustment scheme in the West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery. Published on 6 May 2008 in Government Gazette number 70.

*Wetline and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Notice 2008.* Established a voluntary fisheries adjustment scheme in the Wetline Managed Fishery and related fisheries. This adjustment scheme provides for compensation for Commercial Fishery Licence holders ineligible to fish in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery, and for other Managed Fishery Licence holders who may wish to leave the industry. Published on 23 May 2008 in Government Gazette number 78.

b) Amendments to existing Notices

*South West Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Amendment Notice 2008.* Amends dates in clauses 7 and 8. Published on 4 March 2008 in Government Gazette number 38.

**2.4 Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997**

2.4.1 Notices

*Notification of Affected Persons – Ningaloo Marine Park – Notice 1 of 2007.* Notice of affected persons who have suffered loss and may be entitled to compensation. Published on 28 August 2007 in Government Gazette number 174.

## Appendix 5

### Stock Status and Catch Ranges for Major Commercial Fisheries

The information in this table is derived from more detailed data presented in the companion *State of the Fisheries Report*. The fisheries referred to in the table are the management units that are either fully managed fisheries or are in the process of having dedicated management plans developed for them.

Full information on the current management status and future directions of commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries and aquaculture industries is given in the *State of the Fisheries Report*.

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported <sup>1</sup>	Season reported <sup>1</sup>	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
<b>WEST COAST BIOREGION</b>							
West coast rock lobster	Yes	Adequate	8,166 – 14,523	8,612 (includes Windy Harbour and Augusta)	2006/07	Yes	The below average catch is due to a low puerulus settlement three to four years previously. This low settlement is consistent with the environmental conditions.
Roe's abalone	Yes	Adequate	109.7 (Q) (620 – 750 days)	90.8 (585 days)	2007	Yes	The catch was taken using reduced effort levels indicating higher abundances of Roe's abalone. Effort ranges are currently under review.
Abrolhos Islands and mid-west trawl	Yes	Adequate	95 – 1,830	50	2007	Yes	The annual recruitment (and therefore catch) of scallops is highly variable and dependent upon favourable environmental conditions. The low catch in 2007 was anticipated due to low recruitment.
South-west trawl	No	NA	Not available	Prawns 6 t, scallops <3 t	2007	NA	
Cockburn Sound crab	Yes	Increasing	Not Applicable	1.5t	2006/07	NA	The fishery was closed for most of the 2006/07 season due to low breeding stock and low predicted catches. Monitoring of the stock to determine the level of recovery is underway.

## APPENDIX 5 – STOCK STATUS AND CATCH RANGES FOR MAJOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported <sup>1</sup>	Season reported <sup>1</sup>	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Deep sea crab	Yes	Adequate	100 – 300 (crystal crabs)	227	2007	Yes	The introduction of a 140t TAC for this fishery will begin in 2008.
Estuarine fisheries (west coast)	No	NA	75 – 220 (Peel-Harvey only)	165	2007	Yes	Catches have been stable since 2000, but are low relative to historic levels (pre-1990) due to substantial reductions in commercial effort in each estuary.
West coast beach bait	Yes	Adequate	60 – 275 (whitebait only)	101	2007	Yes	Yearly fluctuations in whitebait stocks and catch levels are due to environmental conditions.
West coast purse seine	Yes	Adequate	3,000 (Q)	49	2007	NA	Quotas are adjusted annually. Target effort levels are not available. Continued low catches are due to a combination of market competition, irregular availability of market-size fish and low activity levels by the fleet.
West coast demersal scalefish	Yes	Inadequate	558 – 798	725	2006/07	No	While the catch decreased to be within the previous target range, recent stock assessments indicate that two key indicator species are being overfished. Further reductions in catch are therefore required and new management arrangements are being developed.
<b>GASCOYNE COAST BIOREGION</b>							
Shark Bay prawn	Yes	Adequate	1,501 – 2,330	1,250	2007	Yes	Tiger prawns were within target catch limits. King prawns were below the target range; this was due to targeting of larger-sized prawns, less effort due to economics and targeting scallops during the early part of the season.



APPENDIX 5 – STOCK STATUS AND CATCH RANGES FOR MAJOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported <sup>1</sup>	Season reported <sup>1</sup>	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Exmouth Gulf prawn	Yes	Adequate	771 – 1,276	790	2007	Yes	While the total catch was in range, both king and tiger prawns were below their individual target catch limits. This was due to low recruitment of tiger prawns and the small size of king prawns early in the season.
Shark Bay scallop	Yes	Adequate	1,250 – 3,000	2273	2007	Yes	The scallop catch in 2007 was within the target catch range but below the catch prediction, due, in part, to reduced fishing effort.
Shark Bay beach seine and mesh net	Yes	Adequate	235 – 335	238	2007	Yes	The total catch increased slightly on 2006 level mainly due to a large increase in the catch of mullet. The catch rates for whiting need monitoring.
Shark Bay snapper	Yes	Inadequate	297.3 (Q) (410 – 580 days*) * June – July	286 (547 days*)	2007	Yes	To assist stock recovery, the TACC for 2007/08 will be further reduced to 276.8 tonnes.
<b>NORTH COAST BIOREGION</b>							
Onslow prawn	Yes	Adequate	60 – 180	4	2007	Yes	The very low catch was associated with minimal fishing effort. Environmental factors play a major role in the recruitment for these stocks and the acceptable range will be reviewed.
Nickol Bay prawn	Yes	Adequate	90 – 300	44	2007	Yes	The catches of banana prawns were below the predicted catch range. King prawn catches were low throughout the entire northern bioregion in 2007.
Broome prawn	Yes	Adequate	55 – 260	72	2007	Yes	
Kimberley prawn	Yes	Adequate	240 – 500	271	2007	Yes	

APPENDIX 5 – STOCK STATUS AND CATCH RANGES FOR MAJOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported <sup>1</sup>	Season reported <sup>1</sup>	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Kimberley gillnet and barramundi	Yes	Adequate	25 – 40 (barramundi)	26	2007	Yes	The barramundi catch was below that reported in 2006 but within range of the last five years.
Northern demersal scalefish	Yes	Adequate	Total 600 – 1,000 (goldband <382, red emperor <186)	Total 908 (goldband 393, red emperor 176)	2007	Yes	The catch of goldband snapper and red emperor increased from 2006. A stock assessment review for this fishery is in progress.
Pilbara fish trawl	Yes	Adequate	2,000 – 2,800	1,704	2007	Yes	Reduced catch levels were due to a combination of unused effort (vessels were trialling net modifications) and the natural cycles in catch rates of some shorter-lived species.
Pilbara demersal trap and line	Yes	Adequate	160 – 360 (trap) 50 – 115 (line)	460 (trap) 102 (line)	2007	Yes	Trap catches were again above the upper limit, due to increased stock sizes of target species where this sector operates. Acceptable catch ranges are therefore to be reviewed.  The line catch was reduced to acceptable levels following management changes for this sector.
Mackerel	Yes	Adequate	246 – 410 (all except grey mackerel)	324	2007	Yes	Catches remain relatively low in the Pilbara.
Northern shark	Yes	Depleted	<20 (sandbar only)	NA	2006/07	Yes	The shift to daily log sheets has delayed analysis of these data, so catch estimates are incomplete but are likely to be consistent with acceptable range.

APPENDIX 5 – STOCK STATUS AND CATCH RANGES FOR MAJOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported <sup>1</sup>	Season reported <sup>1</sup>	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Pearl oyster	Yes	Adequate	603,000 oysters (Q) (14,071 – 20,551 dive hours)	600,658 oysters (14,652 dive hours)	2007	Yes	Effort was below the average historical range, despite an increase in quota, indicating stocks are higher than historical levels. With the predicted high abundance levels, the TAC has been increased to 694,800 in 2008.
Beche-de-mer	Yes	Uncertain	50-150	92.2	2007	Yes	Total catch was within targeted range but was dominated by a new species (redfish), with sandfish being a minor component. Species-specific indicators are under development for this fishery.
<b>SOUTH COAST BIOREGION</b>							
South coast crustacean	Yes	Uncertain	50 – 80 (southern rock lobster)	53	2006/07	Yes	The upturn in this season follows a series of years of declining catches. The management arrangements are currently being reviewed to address latent effort issues.
Abalone (greenlip/brownlip)	Yes	Adequate	211.5 (Q) (907 – 1,339 days)	205 (1,137 days)	2007	Yes	No issues.
Estuarine fisheries (south coast)	Yes	Adequate	200 – 500	251	2007	Yes	The total catch was approximately equal to the 10-year average. The stock levels of key species are considered adequate.
WA salmon	Yes	Adequate	1,200 – 2,800	871	2007	Yes	Recent catches are very low relative to historic levels due to the low effort from limited market demand. In addition, recent oceanographic conditions made fish less accessible to fishers on the south coast.

## APPENDIX 5 – STOCK STATUS AND CATCH RANGES FOR MAJOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported <sup>1</sup>	Season reported <sup>1</sup>	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Australian herring	Yes	Uncertain	475 – 1,200 (south coast only)	192	2007	Yes	Stock levels may have declined during the previous decade as a result of poor recruitment. The current commercial catch and effort levels are, however, still acceptable, because they are at historically low levels due to markets.
Albany/ King George Sound purse seine	Yes	Adequate	2,722 (Q)	1,445	2006/07	NA	Target effort levels are not available.
Bremer Bay purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (Q)	167	2006/07	NA	Target effort levels are not available. Low catch and effort are due to a lack of local labour and competition for markets.
Esperance purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (Q)	11	2006/07	NA	Target effort levels are not available. Low catch and effort are due to a lack of local labour, competition for markets and availability of market-sized fish.
Southern and west coast demersal gillnet and longline	Yes	Gummy and whiskery increasing. Dusky and sandbar depleted.	725 – 1,095	NA	2005/06	NA	The shift to daily log sheets has delayed analysis of these data, so catch estimates are not available. Stock status is likely to be unchanged from last year. Management will be shifting to the use of daily gear units to more explicitly control fishing effort.
<b>NORTHERN INLAND BIOREGION</b>							
Lake Argyle catfish	Yes	Adequate	95 - 155	119	2007	Yes	

### NOTES:

- 1 Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available.
- NA Not assessed.
- Q Quota management.
- TAC Total Allowable Catch
- TACC Total Allowable Commercial Catch

## Appendix 6

### State Register of Exemptions 2007/08

The Minister for Fisheries or the Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries may exempt a specific person or any specified class of persons from specified provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*. An exemption may be granted subject to such conditions that the Minister or the Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer (as the case may be) thinks fit and specifies in the exemption.

**Exemption No. 1585**  
 Applicant Greg King  
 Period of Exemption 22/06/2007 to 30/06/2008  
 Provisions *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*  
 Purpose To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.

**Exemption No. 1586**  
 Applicant Allan Bevan  
 Period of Exemption 22/06/2007 – 30/06/2008  
 Provisions *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*  
 Purpose To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.

**Exemption No 1587**  
 Applicant Geoff Myers  
 Period of Exemption 01/08/2007 – 31/07/2008  
 Provisions *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*  
 Purpose To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological information (length/reproductive/age data) on these important species.

**Exemption No. 1588**  
 Applicant Danny Wimpres  
 Period of Exemption 22/06/2007 – 30/06/2008  
 Provisions *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*  
 Purpose To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.

**Exemption No. 1589**  
 Applicant Abrolhos Pearls WA Pty Ltd  
 Period of Exemption 19/06/2007 – 31/05/2009  
 Provisions *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*  
 Purpose To allow Abrolhos Pearls WA Pty Ltd to conduct aquaculture activities on a barge located within the area specified in Aquaculture Licence No. 1574.

**Exemption No. 1590**  
 Applicant Holders of Aquaculture Licences  
 Period of Exemption 01/04/2007 ongoing  
 Provisions *Fish Resource Management Regulations 1995*  
 Purpose To exempt Aquaculture Licence holders from submitting a copy of marron consignment notes to the Department of Fisheries when selling marron for other than retail sales.

**Exemption No. 1591**  
 Applicant Aquaculture Development Unit (Challenger TAFE)  
 Period of Exemption 10/05/2007 – 31/05/2009  
 Provisions *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*  
 Purpose To allow the Aquaculture Development Unit to locate the Semi-Intensive Floating Tank System (SIFTS) demonstration farm adjacent to the licensed site at Ocean Farm, Inner Harbour, Fremantle while the pontoon currently located within the site is removed.

**Exemption No. 1592**  
 Applicant Morawa Farm Improvement Group  
 Period of Exemption 31/05/2007 – 31/05/2008  
 Provisions *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*  
 Purpose To allow the Morawa Farm Improvement Group to test the viability of growing-out seaweed and the quality of gel produced.

## APPENDIX 6 – STATE REGISTER OF EXEMPTIONS 2007/08

<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1592</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1596</b>
Applicant	Morawa Farm Improvement Group	Applicant	Nils Stokke
Period of Exemption	31/05/2007 – 31/05/2008	Period of Exemption	26/10/2007 – 16/11/2007
Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>	Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose	To allow the Morawa Farm Improvement Group to test the viability of growing-out seaweed and the quality of gel produced.	Purpose	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1593</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1597</b>
Applicant	Westar Lobster Pty Ltd	Applicant	Alan Andrich
Period of Exemption	01/07/2007 – 30/09/2007	Period of Exemption	26/10/2007 – 16/11/2007
Provisions	Sections 79 and 82 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>	Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose	To allow Westar Lobster Pty Ltd to continue processing western rock lobster under the authority of Fish Processing Licence numbers 1095, 1030 and 1034 whilst their formal transfer applications are being considered.	Purpose	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1594</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1598</b>
Applicant	MG Kailis Pty Ltd Exmouth Hatchery	Applicant	Brad Arnup
Period of Exemption	15/12/2006 – 31/01/2010	Period of Exemption	26/10/2007 – 16/11/2007
Provisions	Sections 46 and 90 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>	Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose	To allow MG Kailis to continue research into tropical rock lobster species, focusing on increasing survival of progeny and grow-out of juvenile lobster.	Purpose	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1595</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1599</b>
Applicant	Cape to Cape Catchments Group Inc.	Applicant	James Andrew Chandler
Period of Exemption	21/09/2007 – 21/09/2008	Period of Exemption	25/10/2007 – 08/11/2007
Provisions	Sections 50 and 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Regulation 64 (E), (F), (J) & (K) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>	Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose	The capture and removal of carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> ) and goldfish ( <i>Carassius auratus</i> ) from two sites within the Margaret River catchment.	Purpose	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.

## APPENDIX 6 – STATE REGISTER OF EXEMPTIONS 2007/08

<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1604</b>
Applicant	Colin Kelly	Applicant	Morawa Farm Improvement Group
Period of Exemption	25/10/2007 – 08/11/2007	Period of Exemption	31/05/2007 – 31/05/2008
Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>	Provisions	Section 90 (a) and any other provisions of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> or management plan that would otherwise prevent the applicant conducting the activities.
Purpose	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.	Purpose	To allow the Morawa Farm Improvement Group to test the viability of growing-out seaweed and the quality of gel produced.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1601</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1605</b>
Applicant	Adam Gallash	Applicant	Aquatic Resource Management Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption	01/10/2007 – 30/06/2008	Period of Exemption	31/05/2007 – 31/05/2010
Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>	Provisions	Section 90 and 47 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Regulation 10, Schedule 2, Part 1 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> and any other provisions of the Act, Regulations or a management plan that would otherwise prevent the activities.
Purpose	To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.	Purpose	The harvesting of marron on various properties authorised under (b) of Schedule 2.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1602</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1606</b>
Applicant	Abrolhos Pearls WA Pty Ltd	Applicant	Terry Faulkner
Period of Exemption	06/09/2007 – 30/09/2007	Period of Exemption	01/11/2007 – 30/06/2008
Provisions	Sections 46 and 90 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>	Provisions	The <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations there under which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully undertaking the research activities.
Purpose	To allow Abrolhos Pearls WA Pty Ltd to conduct scientific research on the Akoya pearl oyster ( <i>Pinctada fucata</i> ).	Purpose	To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1603</b>		
Applicant	Aquaculture Development Unit, Challenger TAFE		
Period of Exemption	04/09/2007 – 30/05/2010		
Provisions	Sections 90 and 96 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>		
Purpose	To allow the Aquaculture Development Unit to locate the Semi-Intensive Floating Tank System (SIFTS) demonstration farm adjacent to the licensed site at Ocean Farm, Inner Harbour, Fremantle while the pontoon currently located within the site, is removed.		

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<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1610</b>
Applicant	Fisheries Officers operating within the Department's Mid-west Region	Applicant	All licensed rock lobster processors
Period of Exemption	01/11/2007 – 30/06/2008	Period of Exemption	15/11/2007 – 15/07/2008
Provisions	The <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations there under which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully undertaking the research activities.	Provisions	Section 46(b) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose	To assist the Fisheries Research Division in collecting essential biological information (length/reproductive/age data) of dhufish ( <i>Glaucosoma hebraicum</i> ) and baldchin groper ( <i>Choerodon rubescens</i> ) to support the integrated management of these important species.	Purpose	To enable licensed rock lobster processors and holding depots to assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting data on tagged lobsters by allowing those persons to have in their possession tagged lobsters that are below the legal minimum size and/or are setose or berried.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1608</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1611</b>
Applicant	Fisheries Officers operating within the Department's Mid-west Region	Applicant	Master and crew of all vessels authorised to operate in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery
Period of Exemption	29/10/2007 – 30/06/2008	Period of Exemption	15/11/2007 – 30/06/2008
Provisions	The <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations there under which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully undertaking the research activities.	Provisions	Section 46(a), 46 (b) and 46(d) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , and Regulation 12 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose	To assist the Fisheries Research Division in collecting essential biological information (length/reproductive/age data) of dhufish ( <i>Glaucosoma hebraicum</i> ) and baldchin groper ( <i>Choerodon rubescens</i> ) on this important species.	Purpose	To enable members of the commercial fishing industry to assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in recapturing tagged lobsters by allowing those persons to have in their possession, for return to their usual processing factory or depot, tagged lobsters that are totally protected.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1609</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1612</b>
Applicant	Danny Wimpres and Rodney Kent	Applicant	Department of Water
Period of Exemption	12/10/2007 – 31/01/2008	Period of Exemption	01/07/2007 – 30/06/2009
Provisions	The <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations there under which would otherwise prevent that person from lawfully undertaking the research activities.	Provisions	All of those provisions of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations there under which would otherwise prevent officers of the Department of Water from lawfully undertaking the research activities.
Purpose	To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.	Purpose	To enable officers of the Department of Water to undertake research projects to provide scientific knowledge for the understanding and sustainable use of Australia's marine living resources and their environments.



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<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1613</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1617</b>
Applicant	Westar Lobster Pty Ltd	Applicant	Trevor Wheatcroft
Period of Exemption	22/10/2007 to 31/12/2007	Period of Exemption	08/01/2008 to 31/12/2008
Provisions	Section 79 and 82 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>	Provisions	<i>Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990</i> and <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i>
Purpose	To allow Westar Lobster Pty Ltd to process western rock lobster at 166-180 Connell Road, Geraldton, under the authority of the Fish Processing Licence No. 1066.	Purpose	Explore/develop the octopus fishery, fishing technology and gather data about octopus stocks within WA.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1614</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1618</b>
Applicant	T. and F. Adams	Applicant	Jason Stanley and Emilee MacDonald
Period of Exemption	28/11/2007 to 31/12/2999	Period of Exemption	10/01/2008 to 31/12/2008
Provisions	<i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677)</i>	Provisions	<i>Fish Trap Restriction Notice 1990</i> and <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i>
Purpose	The use of the boat <i>Tee Nee Dee</i> for fishing for finfish by fish traps, despite that boat not being specified on Fishing Boat Licence No. 2344.	Purpose	Explore/develop the octopus fishery, fishing technology and gather data about octopus stocks within WA.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1615</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1619</b>
Applicant	Largo Holdings Pty Ltd T/A Perina Fishing Co	Applicant	Fremantle Octopus
Period of Exemption	24/01/2008 to 31/03/2009	Period of Exemption	08/01/2008 to 31/12/2008
Provisions	<i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i>	Provisions	<i>Fish Trap Restriction Notice 1990</i> and <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i>
Purpose	To explore and/or develop the crab fishery and fishing technology of that activity under the provision of Section 7(3)(c) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .	Purpose	Explore/develop the octopus fishery, fishing technology and gather data about octopus stocks within WA.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1616</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1620</b>
Applicant	Ian John Rowland	Applicant	R.L. & M.A. Alexander
Period of Exemption	15/11/2008 to 30/06/2008	Period of Exemption	08/01/2008 to 31/12/2008
Provisions	Reg. 36(2), 117(1), 117(4), 117(6), 121(1) & 121(2) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> , Clause 4(a), 4(b) and 7 of the <i>West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993</i> , <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i> & <i>Fish Traps Restriction Notice 1990</i>	Provisions	<i>Fish Trap Restriction Notice 1990</i> and <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i>
Purpose	To operate rock lobster pots in the areas described as Zone A and Zone B of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.	Purpose	Explore/develop the octopus fishery, fishing technology and gather data about octopus stocks within WA.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1621</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1621</b>
Applicant	Indo-Pacific Environmental Pty Ltd	Applicant	Indo-Pacific Environmental Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption	04/04/2008 to 03/04/2009	Period of Exemption	04/04/2008 to 03/04/2009
Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA)</i> , <i>N/W &amp; Kimberley Recreational Netting Restriction Notice 1995</i> , <i>Netting-Purse Seine-Prohibition All Waters Notice 1988</i> , <i>Herring Notice 1987</i> .	Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA)</i> , <i>N/W &amp; Kimberley Recreational Netting Restriction Notice 1995</i> , <i>Netting-Purse Seine-Prohibition All Waters Notice 1988</i> , <i>Herring Notice 1987</i> .
Purpose	Scientific research	Purpose	Scientific research

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<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1622</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1626</b>
Applicant	Blue Lagoon Pearls Pty Ltd CAN 064 619 969	Applicant	Oceanwest Fisheries Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption	29/11/2007 to 31/12/2009	Period of Exemption	15/02/2008 to 31/01/2009
Provisions	Sections 90 and 91 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Regulations 1995</i> , and any other provision in the legislation to the extent that those provisions would otherwise prevent the company conducting the activities described.	Provisions	Sections 90 and 91 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> to the extent that those provisions would otherwise prevent the company conducting the activities described.
Purpose	To allow Blue Lagoon Pearls to hold and engage in the aquaculture of <i>Pinctada fucata</i> .	Purpose	To allow Oceanwest Fisheries Pty Ltd to hold and engage in the aquaculture of <i>Penaeus monodon</i> , <i>Penaeus esculentus</i> , <i>Penaeus latisulcatus</i> , <i>Penaeus merguensis</i> and <i>Penaeus endeavouri</i> .
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1623</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1627</b>
Applicant	Michael Francis Payne	Applicant	Geraldton Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd
Period of Exemption	28/11/2007 to 30/11/2012	Period of Exemption	15 November 2007 to 30 June 2008
Provisions	Section 66 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Regulation 121 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> , and the relevant sections of the <i>Marine Aquarium Fish Management Plan 1995</i>	Provisions	Section 79 and 82 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose	To allow Michael Payne of the Seahorse Sanctuary to collect broodstock of ribboned pipefish ( <i>Haliichthys taeniophorus</i> ) primarily for aquaculture purposes	Purpose	To allow Geraldton Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd to process western rock lobster under the authority of Fish Processing Licence numbers 1066, 1095 and 1039 whilst formal transfer applications are being considered.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1624</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1628</b>
Applicant	Cell Aquaculture Ltd	Applicant	Western Kingfish Ltd
Period of Exemption	20/12/2007 to 31/12/2008	Period of Exemption	31 March 2008 to 31 March 2010
Provisions	Sections 90 and 91 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> , and any other provision in the legislation to the extent that those provisions would otherwise prevent the company conducting the activities described.	Provisions	Section 46 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , Regulation 12 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> , <i>West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan</i> and any other provisions of the Act, Regulations or a management plan that would otherwise prevent the applicant conducting the activities.
Purpose	To allow Cell Aquaculture Ltd to hold and engage in the aquaculture of barramundi.	Purpose	To allow Western Kingfish Ltd to extrapolate existing small-scale collection technology to the large-scale required for commercial aquaculture operations.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1625</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1629</b>
Applicant	Central West College of TAFE	Applicant	Marine Aquarium Fish Licensees
Period of Exemption	07/02/2008 to 31/01/2010	Period of Exemption	08/06/2008 to 31/03/2010
Provisions	Sections 90 and 91 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> to the extent that those provisions would otherwise prevent the company conducting the activities described.	Provisions	Notice 366, Schedule 2, Part 2 Division 5 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> and from the provisions of Orders No. 3 of 1999, 7 of 2004, 13 of 2005 and 11 of 2007
Purpose	To allow Central West TAFE to hold and engage in the aquaculture of <i>Argyrosomus hololeptidotus</i> and <i>Seriola lalandi</i> .	Purpose	<i>Marine Aquarium Fish Management Plan 1995</i> is amended to include the take of invertebrates, seagrass and algae.

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<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1630</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1635</b>
Applicant	Exmouth Gulf Prawn Licensees	Applicant	Ocean Park
Period of Exemption	03/04/2008 to 31/12/2008	Period of Exemption	10/05/2008 to 31/12/2009
Provisions	<i>Exmouth Gulf Prawn Management Plan 1989</i>	Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations
Purpose	To improve the overall operational efficiency of the fleet and developing gear technology within the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery.	Purpose	To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting data to assess the accuracy of age estimates for spangled emperor.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1631</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1636</b>
Applicant	West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery Licensees	Applicant	Crossbreeze Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption	08/06/2008 to 31/12/2008	Period of Exemption	31/03/2008 to 31/03/2009
Provisions	<i>West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Management Plan 2007</i>	Provisions	Provisions of Regulations 14, 15, 16D and 21 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> .
Purpose	To permit the master to have at any time on-board the authorised boat spare lines and hooks as required.	Purpose	For the purpose of developing and enhancing tourism for the Fishing Tour Operator Fishery.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1632</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1637</b>
Applicant	Mackerel Interim Managed Fishery Permit Holders	Applicant	Northport Assets Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption	02/01/2008 to 31/12/2008	Period of Exemption	31/03/2008 to 31/03/2009
Provisions	<i>Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2004</i>	Provisions	Regulations 14, 15, 16D and 21 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose	To create a more efficient and equitable management environment for the Mackerel Interim Managed Fishery pending the implementation of relevant legislative amendments.	Purpose	To improve tourism in the Fishing Tour Operator Fishery.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1633</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1638</b>
Applicant	John Godenzi	Applicant	Coral World Australia Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption	10/12/2007 to 31/12/2008	Period of Exemption	01/01/2008 to 31/10/2010
Provisions	<i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i>	Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> and any subsidiary legislation
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology of that activity under the provision of Section 7(3)(c) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>; and</li> <li>(ii) To gather baseline data about octopus stocks within WA waters.</li> </ul>	Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Scientific research;</li> <li>(ii) Collecting, keeping, breeding, hatching or culturing of rare or endangered fish;</li> <li>(iii) Promoting tourism activities; and</li> <li>(iv) Promoting educational and community awareness programs.</li> </ul>
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1634</b>		
Applicant	Adam Gallash		
Period of Exemption	01/10/2007 to 30/06/2008		
Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>		
Purpose	To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.		

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<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1639</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1642</b>
Applicant	Anthony Michael Lucas	Applicant	Campbell Druitt
Period of Exemption	05/03/2008 to 31/03/2009	Period of Exemption	05/10/2007 to 30/09/2008
Provisions	<i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677) and the Fish Traps Restriction Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462)</i>	Provisions	Clause 4 of the <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677)</i>
Purpose	To take blue swimmer crabs ( <i>Portunus pelagicus</i> ), white spotted sand crabs ( <i>Ovalipes australiensis</i> ) and three spotted crabs ( <i>Portunus sanguinolentus</i> ).	Purpose	(i) To explore and/or develop the crab fishery and fishing technology of that activity under the provision of Section 7(3)(c) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> ; and  (ii) To gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks in Exmouth Gulf under a controlled management regime.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1640</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1643</b>
Applicant	Nicholas Michael Lucas	Applicant	Adrian Neil Templeman
Period of Exemption	05/03/2008 to 31/03/2009	Period of Exemption	24/01/2008 to 31/03/2009
Provisions	<i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677) and the Fish Traps Restriction Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462)</i>	Provisions	<i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677) and the Fish Traps Restriction Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462)</i>
Purpose	(i) To explore and/or develop the crab fishery and fishing technology of the activity under the provision of Section 7(3)(c) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> ; and  (ii) To gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks in the waters of the Mandurah-Bunbury Developmental Inshore Crab Fishery.	Purpose	To explore and/or develop the crab fishery and fishing technology of that activity under the provision of Section 7(3)(c) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1641</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1644</b>
Applicant	McKerrow Holdings Pty Ltd	Applicant	Stanley A MacDonald
Period of Exemption	10/03/2008 to 31/12/2008	Period of Exemption	10/06/2008 to 11/07/2009
Provisions	Clause 2 of the <i>Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462)</i> and from only Clause 4 of the <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677)</i>	Provisions	<i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677)</i>
Purpose	(i) To explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology of that activity under the provision of Section 7(3)(c) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> ;  (ii) To gather baseline data about octopus stocks within WA waters under a controlled management regime.	Purpose	(i) To explore and/or develop the crab fishery and fishing technology of that activity under the provision of Section 7(3)(c) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> ;  (ii) To gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks in the waters of Exmouth Gulf under a controlled management regime.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1645</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1645</b>
Applicant	Errol Richard Francis	Applicant	Errol Richard Francis
Period of Exemption	11/04/2008 to 30/05/2008	Period of Exemption	11/04/2008 to 30/05/2008
Provisions	Section 46, 50 and 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>	Provisions	Section 46, 50 and 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose	The promotion of tourism and recreational activity by permitting pink snapper taken outside of the waters of the western and eastern gulfs of Shark Bay to be landed at the Denham town site.	Purpose	The promotion of tourism and recreational activity by permitting pink snapper taken outside of the waters of the western and eastern gulfs of Shark Bay to be landed at the Denham town site.

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<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1646</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1650</b>
Applicant	Irene May Hipper	Applicant	Fishing Tour Operator Licence numbers 37, 8, 124, 155 & 24
Period of Exemption	11/04/2008 to 30/05/2008	Period of Exemption	30/05/2008 to 29/05/2009
Provisions	Section 46, 50 and 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>	Provisions	Schedule 1 from Sections 50 and 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Regulation 64ZL of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose	The promotion of tourism and recreational activity by permitting pink snapper taken outside of the waters of the western and eastern gulfs of Shark Bay to be landed at the Denham town site.	Purpose	The promotion of tourism and recreational activity by permitting pink snapper taken outside of the waters of the western and eastern gulfs of Shark Bay in accordance with the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> to be brought onto land at the Denham town site.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1647</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1654</b>
Applicant	Barry Edwards	Applicant	Antonino LaMacchia
Period of Exemption	11/04/2008 to 30/05/2008	Period of Exemption	22/11/2008 to 30/06/2008
Provisions	Section 46, 50 and 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>	Provisions	Reg. 36(2), 117(1), 117(4), 117(6), 121(1) & 121(2) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> , Clause 4(a), 4(b) and 7 of the <i>West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993</i> , <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i> and <i>Fish Traps Restriction Notice 1990</i>
Purpose	The promotion of tourism and recreational activity by permitting pink snapper taken outside of the waters of the western and eastern gulfs of Shark Bay to be landed at the Denham town site.	Purpose	To operate rock lobster pots in the areas described as Zone A and Zone B of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1648</b>	<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1654</b>
Applicant	Pagan Marine Pty Ltd	Applicant	Antonino LaMacchia
Period of Exemption	11/04/2008 to 30/05/2008	Period of Exemption	22/11/2008 to 30/06/2008
Provisions	Section 46, 50 and 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>	Provisions	Reg. 36(2), 117(1), 117(4), 117(6), 121(1) & 121(2) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> , Clause 4(a), 4(b) and 7 of the <i>West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993</i> , <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i> and <i>Fish Traps Restriction Notice 1990</i>
Purpose	The promotion of tourism and recreational activity by permitting pink snapper taken outside of the waters of the western and eastern gulfs of Shark Bay to be landed at the Denham town site.	Purpose	To operate rock lobster pots in the areas described as Zone A and Zone B of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.
<b>Exemption No.</b>	<b>1649</b>		
Applicant	Jentel Investments Pty Ltd		
Period of Exemption	11/04/2008 to 30/05/2008		
Provisions	Section 46, 50 and 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>		
Purpose	The promotion of tourism and recreational activity by permitting pink snapper taken outside of the waters of the western and eastern gulfs of Shark Bay to be landed at the Denham town site.		