



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARLIAMENT

2008/09



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



Fish for the future



**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 2009.

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*.

Stuart Smith

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FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



In many areas of the public sector, major reform of legislation, governance and stakeholder consultation happens every one to two decades. The Department of Fisheries is currently managing reforms of all these areas while facing some particularly challenging circumstances in key fisheries during the same year.

The *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA)* came from a rewriting of the legislation under which fisheries management had been carried out in Western Australia for close to ninety years. As part of the Department's *Strategic Plan 2009 – 2018*, urgent amendments are now being drafted for the *FRMA*, including provisions for the development of a world-scale aquaculture industry in this State.

Aquaculture industries have the ability to significantly increase the production of high-quality fish as demand grows, while the harvest from wild-capture fisheries in Western Australia and worldwide is generally declining or at maximum sustainable levels.

Ultimately, the aim is to transform the *FRMA* and its sister legislation, the *Pearling Act 1990*, to reflect contemporary practices and requirements, such as the use of risk-based processes for all fishery management and planning decisions. This transformation entails the use of risk and budget processes to reallocate resources to areas of highest strategic priority.

The Department is preparing interim amendments to the *FRMA*, for the Minister for Fisheries to take to Parliament as early as the spring session of 2009. These amendments follow interim amendments to the *Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987*, which were introduced into State parliament in the autumn session of 2009. In 2010,

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

the intention is to produce a new fisheries act that will encompass fisheries management, aquaculture and pearling. This act will replace the *FRMA*, the *Pearling Act 1990* and the *Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987*.

In general Western Australia is blessed with healthy fish stocks and some of the most valuable fisheries in the world. We are also forecast to be one of Australia's fastest growing states, with some predicting a population of more than 2.7 million by 2030. Coupled with the fact that our diverse fish stocks are distributed across a massive 12,000 kilometre coastline, the management demands are substantial and increasing.

This pressure is exacerbated by the current global financial problems, which have sent many of the major economies of the world into crisis. Western Australia, being dependent on internationally traded commodities, is not immune to these problems, leading the State Government to ask all Chief Executive Officers to improve the efficiencies and operations of their agencies, in order to save three cents in every dollar that is spent by them.

In order to manage the State's fish stocks in the face of a growing population and a difficult world economic situation, the Department needs to work as smartly as possible. We need to ensure that the resources available to carry out the Department's work are carefully managed, and to ensure that the impost on financially strained stakeholders is kept as low as possible.

In addition to legislation, the reform program for the Department is also covering consultation, funding, issues affecting specific fisheries and other contemporary issues such as bio-security and customary fishing.

Consultation reform is likely to see an end to the complex system of Ministerial Advisory Committees (MACs), which have provided advice to the Minister on fisheries management issues since 1995. Instead, the Department

will be the primary source of advice for the Minister on ecological, economic and social considerations relating to fish stocks. Peak bodies, notably the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council and Recfishwest, will provide important industry/stakeholder representation, along with a state-wide fisheries strategy group.

The Department is also holding discussions with Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees (RRFACs) and Recfishwest, about RRFACs being replaced by a new regional representation model.

Funding reforms for the Department include a broadening of the funding base for recreational fishing licensing. Currently about \$14 million per year is being spent on recreational fisheries management, with recreational fishers contributing only \$2.5 million. This situation is not equitable and cannot be sustained.

Scientific evidence overwhelmingly indicates that some of Western Australia's most popular recreational fisheries are 'at-risk' unless immediate action is taken. The Government has agreed with the Department of Fisheries that a new management regime for these fisheries is crucial after an independent review of research confirmed that overfishing was occurring of popular demersal (bottom-dwelling) species, such as dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper.

New recreational fishing rules have been considered in 2009 to protect highly vulnerable finfish species. This consideration has been necessary because over the last decade, population growth and the increased popularity of 'high tech' fishing equipment have made a huge impact on these fish stocks.

The commercial sector has already been the subject of action to address the issue of overfishing of demersal scalefish. In January 2009, new management plan arrangements for the sector resulted in a substantial reduction in fishing effort for the commercial demersal gillnet

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

and longline fishery and the west coast demersal scalefish fishery (formerly the 'wetline' fishery), and these fisheries are working to further reduce their catch of 'at-risk' species.

The State Government and the Department of Fisheries are concerned that changes to regulations governing fishing for demersal species, such as pink snapper and dhufish, may result in an increased fishing effort for near-shore species, such as herring, tailor and whiting. These species are the life-blood of recreational fishing in Western Australia, and, as the Minister for Fisheries stated, the social, economic and environmental benefits of these fisheries play a major role in Western Australia's tourism industry.

As a result, the State Government has provided \$660,000, through the Natural Resource Management policy, for the Department of Fisheries to investigate the status of near-shore species. This research will form the basis of developing an integrated long-term monitoring program for key species, and will help the Department to make the best possible management decisions to ensure their sustainability and assist in giving ongoing support to the people who use the near-shore fisheries for recreational and business purposes.

Western rock lobster has experienced the lowest levels ever recorded of juvenile (puerulus) settlement in our coastal waters.

The cause of this low settlement is currently being investigated, but is likely to be due to environmental factors or breeding stock levels, or a combination of both. The Department of Fisheries, in consultation with industry, developed an adaptive management strategy to reduce the commercial catch from 9,200 tonnes to less than 7,800 tonnes in the 2008/09 season. Continuing poor puerulus settlement mean further reductions are expected to be required in the coming season.

The Minister of Fisheries is also considering the merits of introducing quota management in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery. Under such a system, the amount

taken from the fishery would be managed by issuing a quota for each fisher, rather than the current 'input controls', where factors such as the number of pots that can be fished and the fishing time are limited.

The global financial crisis has had a serious, negative impact on the international market for pearls with knock-on effects on the profitability of Western Australian pearl producers. The Department of Fisheries and the pearling industry are also dealing with oyster mortalities associated with an infectious disease, which affects hatchery-cultured *Pinctada maxima* pearl oysters.

In order to reduce financial pressures the pearling industry is facing in these tough business times, the Department of Fisheries has cut cost-recovered expenditure. The Department is also working with the industry on new regulatory arrangements that protect the sustainability of the fishery through outcomes-based approaches. These changes have the potential to facilitate a co-management model and reduce costs.

In conclusion, there are many exciting challenges lying ahead, as the Department of Fisheries and its stakeholders go through one of the most extensive programs of reform in the history of fisheries management in the State. Progressing these reforms has been made possible through the support of the extremely dedicated staff of the Department of Fisheries, which I am very proud to lead; the Western Australian fishing industry, recreational fishers and the community in general; and the leadership of the Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Norman Moore, MLC and his staff.

Thank you also to the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee, the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee, the Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee, our stakeholder groups of commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers, charter operators, pearlery and aquaculturists, conservation representatives

and the many volunteers from the WA community. Their 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 are invaluable.



Stuart Smith
Chief Executive Officer

Highlights 2008/09

These include:

Sustainability and Development

- New sustainability rules for recreational fishers to protect highly vulnerable finfish species on the West Coast came into force on 1 January 2009. Research had showed the popular demersal (bottom-dwelling) species, such as dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper, were being overfished on the West Coast. The rule changes included reduced bag and boat limits, as well as increased size limits for high-risk scalefish. At the same time, new arrangements for the commercial fishing sector also took effect.
- A raft of measures has been implemented to better manage the State's western rock lobster stocks. This follows five years of declining puerulus (young lobster) counts, placing Western Australia's annual catch of around 11,000 tonnes of western rock lobster under pressure. Cabinet support was gained by Fisheries Minister Norman Moore to carry out a variety of work to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the State's western rock lobster stocks. These included a 15 per cent reduction on unit entitlements for the commercial rock lobster industry for the 2008/09 season and an additional 15 per cent reduction on unit entitlements for the 2009/10 season.
- The WA Government has provided \$120,000 of additional funding for monitoring the occurrence of 'tagged' white (pointer) sharks off metropolitan Perth beaches. This allocation will be used to support a collaborative research project between the Department of Fisheries and CSIRO's Wealth from Oceans Flagship, to collect information on the movements and behaviour of white sharks in the region. The project involves communication receivers

that can provide real-time warnings if tagged sharks are detected at Perth beaches and could be used to directly alert public safety agencies if these sharks come close to monitored beaches.

- New laws were introduced to protect whaler sharks, with an inter-dorsal fin length exceeding 70 centimetres from being taken by recreational fishers in the State's West Coast and South Coast bioregions. These are intended to assist in the protection and, in some cases, the recovery of at-risk species (such as dusky whaler and sandbar sharks) within the Family Carcharhinidae, to which all whaler sharks belong.
- Research shows the Cockburn Sound crab stock has responded positively to the fishery closure and is improving gradually. The current closure of the Cockburn Sound crab fishery has been extended for another 12 months, as breeding stocks are still below acceptable sustainability levels. The popular fishing area was closed to crab fishing in November 2006, following several years of poor recruitment and high fishing pressure that had impacted on breeding stock levels. Since the closure was implemented an extensive research program has been undertaken to monitor recruitment and breeding stock levels.
- The Department of Fisheries' *MarineDiscoveryWest* and the Naturaliste Marine Discover Centre (NMDC) education initiative was honoured with one of the 2008 WA Environment Awards. The award, issued by the Department of Environment and Conservation, recognised the *MarineDiscoveryWest* and the NMDC staff in the category for 'Outstanding Achievement' in the protection, sustainable use or enhancement of the State's coastal, marine and estuarine environments. In the past year, *MarineDiscoveryWest* and the NMDC have delivered educational activities and displays to more than 100,000 people across Western Australia.

Quality Community Outcomes

- Tough new measures put in place to protect the long-term sustainability of Western Australia's rock lobster industry were eased for part of the 2009 rock lobster season, after the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) reviewed the latest catch predictions. Commercial fishers were permitted to return to fishing on Mondays in May and June - allowing five days of fishing each week - after reductions in pot numbers, the imposition of a four-day fishing week and size restrictions had achieved the State Government's goal of reducing the season's predicted lobster catch of 9,200 tonnes to below the target of 7,800 tonnes.
- The Department of Fisheries called for submissions from interested people who have an opinion as to whether or not fishing should be prohibited at the popular Green's Pool. Green's Pool is a major tourist attraction, located approximately 15 kilometres west of Denmark in the William Bay National Park. It is popular almost year-round for both swimming and fishing, but it has been suggested the presence of fishers, as well as fishing hooks and other tackle left behind or lost in the water, are a hazard to swimmers, snorkellers and beach visitors.
- Better tasting barramundi, with healthy management and feeding strategies developed by researchers at the Department of Fisheries, are helping fish farmers develop new sales opportunities. The Department's barramundi aquaculture research has been focussed on feed design and feed management, but also paved the way for the introduction of vaccines to treat diseases and a means to help improve the taste of farmed freshwater barramundi. Technology has been developed to manage the purging of fish, so as to ensure they do not taste 'muddy', which has been a major marketing hurdle for barramundi farmed in freshwater.

- Local Fisheries Volunteers in the Pilbara have done outstanding work in spreading the ‘Fish for the future’ sustainability message with the help of a new community education trailer. The work included an inland tour to the mining towns of Pannawonica, Paraburdoo and Tom Price, where Fisheries Volunteers visited schools and shopping centres. The trailer’s purchase was sponsored by mining company Rio Tinto, while the Pilbara Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee helped with the purchase of associated electronic equipment.

Partnerships

- In June 2009, researchers from 36 countries took part in the most significant international forum for fisheries researchers and biologists ever held in Western Australia – the 8th Indo-Pacific Fish Conference and the Australian Society for Fish Biology 2009 Conference and Workshop. The theme of the event was biodiversity and biogeography. It was co-hosted by the Department of Fisheries and Murdoch University, and attended by more than 500 delegates from at least 36 countries.
- Western Australian research is now helping to feed fish in aquaculture projects across the world by providing another valuable market for the State’s grain farmers. The Aquaculture Feed Grains Program has brought together private and public sector partners, who saw the potential of developing a sustainable, nutritionally-sound product to feed farmed fish and create a new and growing export market. Researchers have been able to develop a lupin-based fish feed that is not only sustainable, but also provides great benefits for WA grain growers from additional sales of value-added lupin products. WA now has the largest lupin processing plant of its kind in the world and lupins are being used in fish feeds supporting aquaculture industries nationally and in many countries, including Norway, Chile, Japan, Thailand and New Zealand.
- Department of Fisheries’ researchers are aiming to uncover important genetic information about the Western Australia’s most valuable aquaculture species – silver lipped pearl oysters, which produce South Sea pearls. The three-year research project will use DNA micro-array technology to develop a molecular test to assess the health status of pearl oysters. Funded by the pearling industry and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), the project will be led by the Department’s Fish Health Unit in collaboration with researchers from the pearling industry and Macquarie University in New South Wales. Western Australia is the world’s top producer of silver lipped pearl oysters, with the industry worth an average of about \$120 million annually.
- A new study, guided by researchers from the Department of Fisheries, will investigate two species of bacteria detected in silver lipped pearl oysters. The pearling industry and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) are jointly funding the three-year project, which will be led by the Department of Fisheries’ Fish Health Unit in collaboration with researchers from the University of Sydney and the Queensland Museum.
- Community representation has been increased on the advisory committee that manages the Houtman Abrolhos Islands. Six new members have been appointed to the Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee. The new members are Perth Zoo Animal Health and Research Director Dr Helen Robertson; air charter operator-owner Caroline Pettet; charter vessel operator Leonie Noble; Tourism WA Industry Development and Visitor Servicing Executive Director Jennifer Duffecy; trucking company owner-operator Heather Jones; and charter vessel owner-operator Jay Cox. The Abrolhos Islands and their surrounding waters are an A-class reserve and a Fish Habitat Protection Area respectively.

Agency Management

- A new Chief Executive Officer, Stuart Smith has been appointed to the Department of Fisheries for a term of five years. An independent recruitment and selection process for the role was conducted by the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards, which included a national search. Mr Smith previously held senior roles in the Department of Industry and Resources (DOIR), including that of Deputy Director General, State Development and Deputy Director General, Resources Group. He has also acted as Director General of the DOIR and brings with him almost 20 years of wide-ranging experience in both the State and Federal public sector.
- Fisheries and Marine Officers, patrolling the ocean off Perth's northern suburbs, now have a faster, more flexible vessel to carry out their compliance work. The new \$482,000 *PV Waterman* provides a safer working platform than its predecessor for patrol officers required to carry out compliance work in difficult weather conditions. This boat considerably improves the Department's capabilities to monitor compliance with fishing and marine safety rules in the Perth metropolitan area.
- A new \$8.5 million regional office block is being built for the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) at Denham. The Department of Fisheries' current demountable accommodation in Denham's Knight Terrace is no longer adequate to serve the Shark Bay region. Co-location of the two departments in the building is consistent with the Government's desire to reduce costs and duplication of services.
- The Department of Fisheries' aggregate spending has been reduced to \$59.9 million in 2009/10 without affecting frontline services. The reduction from \$61 million in 2008/09 delivers on Government's three per cent efficiency dividend, which was met by the Department after cutbacks that reduced office support services, restructured compliance arrangements, cut the use of consultants and reviewed aquaculture research.
- Extra Fisheries and Marine Officers are planned to boost the numbers of existing compliance staff across Western Australia. The additional positions will help ensure the sustainability, economic and social objectives for WA's marine resources are met.

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Patrolling metropolitan beaches, the *PV Waterman* is not only faster but also safer than its predecessor for compliance activities. Photo: Henrique Kwong



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 of Transport 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 provides fisheries management and education services in the territorial waters around both Cocos (Keeling) and Christmas Islands, on behalf of the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department, under a Service Delivery Arrangement.

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

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

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 (a body comprising the State and the Commonwealth) under State fisheries legislation:

- 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 Fishery;
- the North-West Slope Deepwater Trawl Fishery;
- 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
- Environment

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 the different stakeholder 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;
- pearlery;
- aquaculturalists;
- the conservation sector;
- fish processors and others involved in the commercial utilisation of Western Australia's aquatic resources;

PROFILE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

- 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 services of the Department of Fisheries, as described in the 2008/09 Budget Papers, were aimed at achieving the 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 resources.*

It supports achievement of this goal through four key services:

Service 1: Fisheries Management

Service 2: Compliance and Education

Service 3: Research and Monitoring

Service 4: Marine Safety Service

The services described above were first adopted in the 2008/09 State Budget Papers and are reported on in this annual report for the first time. The revised services structure was adapted to better report on the Department's performance.

The Department's performance in delivering services under these key services is reported in the 'Aquatic Management', and 'Compliance and Regional Support' sections of this annual report.

Our Philosophy and our Context

The Department of Fisheries is responsible for the conservation of most marine and freshwater fish 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 the protection and sustainable use of aquatic resources and habitats within the freshwater systems of the State and coastal waters within 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 a growing 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 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). The Department ensures compliance through an active community education and enforcement program.

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*.

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 2008/09 financial year to Parliament and to the community, based around the Government's Annual Reporting 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 environmental change and 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, in conjunction with the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI), has developed an Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) framework 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, 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.

Trends

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 has:

- Made a significant contribution to the development of research funded by the 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 and robust risk assessments.
- Continued to work with the Commonwealth Government in 2008/09 to determine more strategically the requirements for the reassessment of Western Australian fisheries under the *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*.
- Implemented changes in the rules that govern the taking of demersal scalefish species, after scientific research showed that populations of some key indicator species were at risk.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT – SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

- Due to substantial concern around the sustainability of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, following record low levels of puerulus settlement, management responses aimed at reducing the catch from a predicted 9,200 tonnes in the 2008/09 season to about 7,800 tonnes were implemented. This management change provided additional protection to the breeding stock and allowed for the carry-over of lobsters into future seasons of potentially very low catches.
 - Continued to implement a policy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) for all fisheries and aquaculture sectors within the State.
 - Worked collaboratively with the WA Department of Agriculture and Food and other major stakeholders (such as the shipping industry) to implement the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*.
 - Continued 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*.
 - Continued 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.
 - Continued to work with other relevant government agencies to monitor the effects of climate change on the marine environment and develop adaptation strategies.
 - Contributed to the preparation of regional natural resource management strategies.
- 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 sustainability issues are identified, the Department of Fisheries has implemented management regulations to ensure catches are reduced. 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 of Transport and 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 2008/09, 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 also hosts 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.
- Responding to the Government's Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) policy, which 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 develop 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. The final report is expected to be published in late 2009.
- Implementing the Minister's decision on allocation of Roe's abalone in the Perth metropolitan region of 36 tonnes to the commercial sector; 40 tonnes to the recreational sector; and 500kg to the customary indigenous fishing sector.

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 has:

- Implemented an Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) strategy for Western Australia's coastal fisheries and changed 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 advice to the Minister on allocations for specific fisheries.

- Developed new recreational fishing rules to protect highly vulnerable finfish species. These include the introduction of two new licence categories and licence changes, periodic closures, reduced bag and boat limits and increased size limits. Implementation will occur late in 2009 and early in 2010.
- Implemented new management arrangements designed to significantly reduce fishing effort in the commercial demersal gillnet and longline fishery and the west coast demersal scalefish fishery.
- In response to concerns that restrictive changes to fishing for demersal species may result in increased inshore effort, implemented a research project to investigate the status of near-shore species.

Profitability in the State's commercial fisheries continues to be under pressure due to a combination of ongoing increases in operating costs, primarily fuel, and static or low seafood prices. In response, the Department has:

- Regulated for trawl gear amalgamation and fleet size reductions in the Shark Bay, Exmouth Gulf, Onslow prawn trawl fisheries and, in 2009, in the Nickol Bay prawn fishery. Fleet numbers in the longer running gear-amalgamation fisheries have now stabilised and fishers in all invertebrate trawl fisheries are continuing to explore ways to reduce their operating costs.
- Reached an agreement with licensees in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery to close a number of inshore areas to protect habitat and to trial later openings to improve economic returns. In 2008, fishing was limited to the second part of the season, but in 2009 the first part of the season was also opened in response to over-riding economic circumstances, but with extended area closures to prevent the take of small prawns.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT – SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

- Provided support to an independent review on optimised input control and quota management systems for the rock lobster fishery to improve industry profitability. This Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) commissioned review resulted from a request from the Minister for Fisheries on long-term management options for the fishery.
- Undertaken a preliminary assessment of the maximum economic yield for the western rock lobster fishery.

Climate change poses both challenges and opportunities for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Developing and implementing an effective, strategic framework to enhance adaptive capacity and mitigate against further climate change, requires a coordinated approach in partnership with other government agencies and stakeholders. In response, the Department has:

- In cooperation with other fisheries agencies nationally, developed the National Climate Change and Fisheries Action Plan which sets out a pathway toward developing an effective response to climate change.
- Undertaken an assessment of the effect of climate change on the western rock lobster fishery.
- Released a report on the outcomes of a project to determine the best methodology and reporting components of a Sustainability Reporting Framework as foundation work for carbon management and reporting in the Australian seafood sector.
- Undertaken a series of consultative workshops with a broad range of stakeholders to develop adaptation strategies for climate change in south-western estuarine and inland fisheries.
- Participated as a co-exhibitor at the international *Greenhouse 2009* conference held in Perth.

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 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.

Based on data from the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), 2006 marked the point when the global 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:

- Worked with the Aquaculture Development Council of Western Australia (ADCWA) to undertake aquaculture development initiatives in WA to secure sites and develop up-to-date production technology for sustainable, large-scale aquaculture.
- Developed a collaborative project with the ADCWA to facilitate external funding opportunities for the seafood industry.
- Implemented policy and planning processes and reviews needed to underpin the expected growth and sustainability of the aquaculture industry.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT – SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

- Initiated major environmental projects to streamline and inform a revised environmental approvals process for large-scale aquaculture.
- Continued to establish the codes of practice and environmental monitoring programs for finfish and prawn aquaculture.
- Started a review of Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 8 (*Assessment of applications for authorisations of aquaculture and pearling in coastal waters of WA*).
- Completed a policy paper on the aquaculture of coral and live rock.
- Significantly improved pearling lease information management and auditing capacity through the development of a dedicated lease management system.
- Progressed the development of an electronic reporting system (catch and effort and other approvals processes) in accordance with recommendations from an independent compliance review.

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:

- Developed projects that increase industry capacity to meet market demands.
- Supported a Ministerial trade mission to the *European Seafood Exposition* and the promotion of Western Australian seafood at this event.
- Provided ongoing assistance to Western Australian seafood companies seeking overseas markets.
- Initiated the ‘de-mystifying seafood’ program in Western Australia, to build the understanding of seafood in the hospitality industry and with consumers.
- Represented the Australian Fisheries Management Forum on the Australian Fish Names Committee.

- Participated in the operations of seafood promotion organisation, Seafood Experience Australia.
- 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.

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 co-manage, in conjunction with the Department of Health and the shellfish Industry, a Western Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program to ensure that shellfish products farmed in WA are safe for human consumption.
- Assisted in the development of a successful application for a ‘centre of excellence’ for seafood at Curtin University.
- Played a pivotal role in areas of consumer interest, including developing industry standards for food safety, quality descriptors and fish names for marketing purposes.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT – SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

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:

- Delivered the inaugural training session in indigenous cultural awareness to Northern Region staff of the Department of Fisheries.
- Prepared drafting amendments to the *FRMA* that define and provide for management and protection of customary fishing access rights.
- Recognised customary fishing in the Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) framework that has been developed for Western Australia. The first allocation to customary indigenous fishers by the Minister for Fisheries was of one tonne of the western rock lobster resource.
- Reviewed the co-management arrangements of the trochus fishery between the Department and the Ardyaloon Aboriginal Corporation, and implemented revised management arrangements.

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

- Initiated a reform program covering legislation, consultation, funding, issues affecting specific fisheries and other contemporary issues.
- Prepared drafting instructions for amendments to the *FRMA* to reflect contemporary management practices.
- Introduced to Parliament some amendments to the *Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987* to improve the scope and administration of the Act.
- 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 develop and 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.
- Commenced discussions with the pearling industry with a view to implementing a co-management framework, and reducing government involvement in the regulation of total pearl production.
- Successfully initiated the Department of Fisheries' business continuity plan to respond to the Human Influenza ('Swine Flu') pandemic.

Operating Structure

Functional Organisational Structure

The Department of Fisheries' operating structure consists of an Executive Directorate and four divisions: Aquatic Management; Fisheries Research; Corporate Services; and Regional Services.

Process Structure

The Department addresses a variety of complex issues impacting on the sustainable management of the State's fish 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).

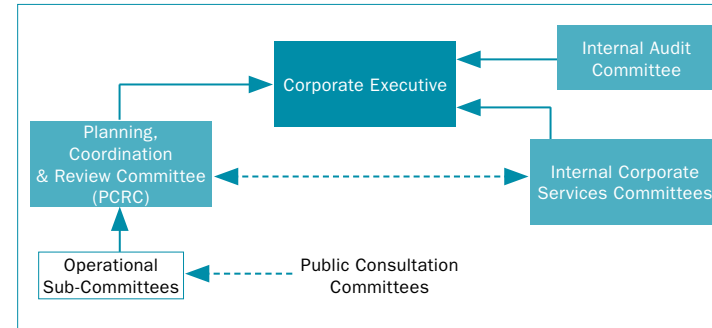
Through these processes, which include multi-disciplinary committees, staff members are better able to contribute to the Department's decision-making. The committees also serve to improve communication between operational and policy areas of the Department. They promote agency-wide collaboration toward 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 resources'.

The committees are: the Corporate Executive; 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. Additionally, the Department's

many volunteers provide a conduit for public interaction and communication.

Figure 1 – Process Structure within the Department



Corporate Executive

The Corporate Executive comprises the Chief Executive Officer and the Department's four directors. The Corporate Executive 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 Corporate Executive 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 four 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 Corporate Executive 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 Governance 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 efficient and 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 *Consulting Citizens: 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 form part of 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 for a complete listing of members of statutory and non-statutory advisory committees.

In some commercial fisheries the Department consults directly with licences through meetings held at least annually. 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.

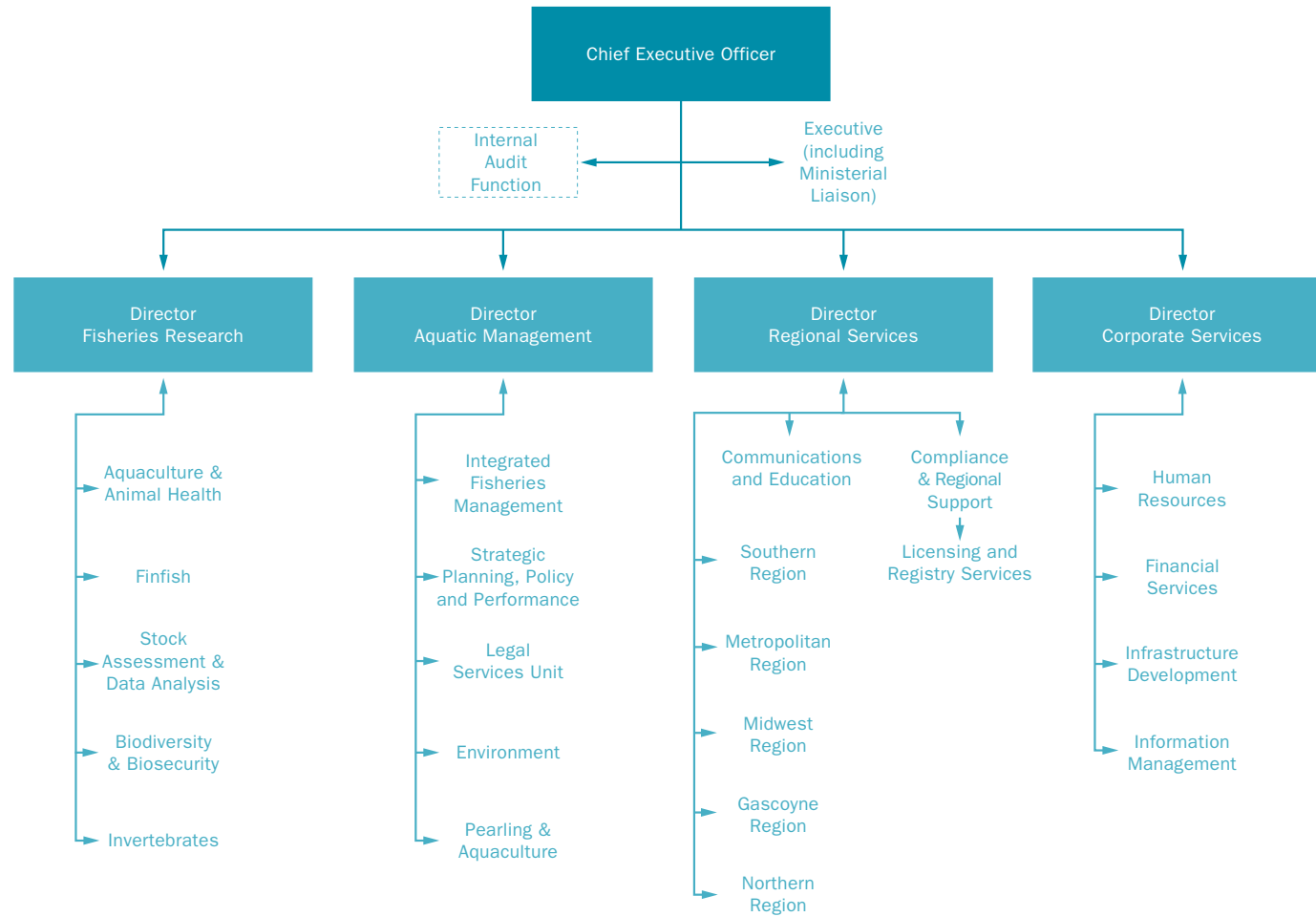
The Department of Fisheries' Operations

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 2009



Corporate Executive

The Corporate Executive of the Department of Fisheries comprises the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Aquatic Management, the Director of Regional Services, the Director of Fisheries Research and the Director of Corporate Services.

Stuart Smith, BEc, Grad. Dip. Ec.

Chief Executive Officer*

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

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

- * Terms of Appointment: The Chief Executive Officer is appointed under Part 3 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* for five years.

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 25 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.

Rae Burrows, BA (Hons), MBA; GAICD

Acting Director, Regional Services

Rae Burrows has worked with the Department of Fisheries since 1996, and has been acting in the newly created role of Director of Regional Services since 2009.

Current areas of focus for Rae include the effective integration of licensing, communications and education, and compliance services functions into one efficiently operating division. She is keen to ensure the future flexibility and adaptability of regional services, so the group is able to respond quickly to changing community expectations and government priorities.

Greg Paust, B. Ag. Sc., MBA; GAICD

Acting Director, Aquatic Management

Greg Paust has carried out several senior policy management roles within the Department over the past 13 years, including Deputy Director, Integrated Fisheries Management and Manager, Pearling and Aquaculture Program.

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

Greg has over 30 years of wide-ranging experience in the WA Public Service, with a career focus on industry development and natural resource management in agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries.

Bruno Mezzatesta, BBus MBA FCPA

Director, Corporate Services

Bruno Mezzatesta is responsible for the operations of the Corporate Services Division. The division includes the Financial Services, Human Resources, Infrastructure Development and Information Management branches. He has more than 20 years' experience, including periods with the Office of the Auditor General and the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Performance Management Framework

The fish resources of Western Australia are a natural 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 resources*. That outcome includes environmental, social and economic goals that guide the Department to achieve the best possible result for all Western Australians.

State Building – Major Projects

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's goal of building strategic infrastructure that will create jobs and underpin Western Australia's long-term economic development.

Fishing is an important part of Western Australia's lifestyle and economy and plays a role in keeping the community in touch and in tune with the marine environment. From an economic perspective, fisheries support employment, aquaculture industry development, export income generation, recreation, food supplies and tourism.

The sustainability of fish resources relies on effective fisheries management, enforcement and education services in addition to sound scientific research. Infrastructure that supports the effective delivery of these services will ensure that there are fish for the future.

Examples of work undertaken by the Department in 2008/09 that contributed to the State Government's goal of building strategic infrastructure that will create jobs and underpin Western Australia's long-term economic development included:

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- Lead management of the \$10.4 million construction of a multi-agency Marine Operations Centre in Mandurah to accommodate the Department of Fisheries, Department of Water and Department of Transport, along with Water Police from the WA Police Service. Bringing all of the Government agencies together in the one centre allows for better integration of marine and coastal planning, along with marine park and fisheries management throughout the Peel Region. The City of Mandurah is Australia's equal second fastest-growing regional area and the new facility, due to open in August 2009, will help government services keep pace with the increased demands arising from this growth.
- Fisheries and Marine Officers, patrolling the ocean off Perth's northern suburbs, now have a faster, more flexible, patrol vessel to carry out their compliance work. The new \$482,000 *PV Waterman* provides a safer working platform than its predecessor for patrol officers required to carry out compliance work in difficult weather conditions. This boat considerably improves the Department's capabilities to monitor compliance with fishing and marine safety rules in the Perth metropolitan area.
- Lead management in the development of a new \$8.5 million regional office block to be built for the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Environment and Conservation at Denham. This will replace the Department of Fisheries' current demountable accommodation in Denham, which is no longer adequate to serve the Shark Bay region. Co-location of the two departments in the building is consistent with the Government's desire to reduce costs and duplication of services.
- A new patrol vessel, the *PV Edwards*, was developed and delivered to the Shark Bay District. It is much larger and more efficient and effective than previous vessels and will provide better levels of compliance and research for the Gascoyne region.
- Completion of a major Abrolhos Islands airstrip maintenance program.
- Construction of a pathway from Rat Island airstrip to the Silver Chain nursing station for the transport of injured patients.
- The tender for a new 11-metre multi-function rigid inflatable vessel for the Mandurah District was approved.
- The tender for two 8-metre rigid inflatable multi-function vessels for the Rockingham and Lancelin Districts was signed off.
- Development of a new patrol vessel for the Exmouth District has progressed to the tender stage.

Financial and Economic Responsibility

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's goal of responsibly managing the State's finances through the efficient and effective delivery of services, encouraging economic activity and reducing regulatory burdens on the private sector.

All Western Australians share in the economic benefits of healthy and sustainable fisheries. Fishing, both commercial and recreational, generates substantial monies for the State economy and provides tens of thousands of jobs.

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 2008/09 that contributed to the State Government's goal of responsibly managing the State's finances through the efficient and

effective delivery of services, encouraging economic activity and reducing regulatory burdens on the private sector included:

- Researchers have been able to develop a lupin-based fish feed that is not only sustainable, but also provides great benefits for WA grain growers from additional sales of value-added lupin products. WA now has the largest lupin processing plant of its kind in the world and lupins are being used in fish feeds supporting aquaculture industries nationally and in many countries, including Norway, Chile, Japan, Thailand and New Zealand.
- In the present tough economic climate, the State Government has reduced the Department of Fisheries' aggregate spending to \$59.9 million in 2009/10 without reducing frontline services. The reduction from \$61 million in 2008/09 delivers on the Government's three per cent efficiency dividend, which was met by the Department after cutbacks that reduced office support services, restructured compliance arrangements, cut the use of consultants and reviewed aquaculture research.
- 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 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 a 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.
- Wildlife trade operations were completed for the South Coast Purse Seine, 'temperate shark' and South Coast Crustacean fisheries.

Outcomes-Based Service Delivery

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's goal of a greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery area for the benefit of all Western Australians.

The Department of Fisheries contributes towards achieving focussed results in key service delivery areas through the development of a skilled and capable public sector workforce; taking a 'whole of government' approach to planning and decision-making; being responsive to community needs; and by being accountable and transparent.

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 of people when developing or changing fisheries management.

Examples of work by the Department in 2008/09 that contributed to the State Government's goal of a greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians were:

- 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 operation of a series of community and industry advisory committees, and extensive public consultation processes to gather community contributions to fisheries management and policy development. For example, community representation has been increased on the advisory committee that manages the Houtman Abrolhos Islands, with the appointment of six new members.
- Operation 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.
- Industry consultation on fisheries management through the management advisory committees for each fishery.
- Over 100 integrated communications programs carried out through print, the internet and the news media ensured that the WA community was kept abreast of developments in fisheries and marine management.
- The Department of Fisheries' *MarineDiscoveryWest* and the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre education initiative was honoured with one of the 2008 WA Environment Awards in recognition of its efforts towards the protection, sustainable use or enhancement of the State's coastal, marine and estuarine environments. In the past year, *MarineDiscoveryWest* has delivered educational activities and displays to more than 100,000 people across Western Australia.
- The Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre, completed its second year of operation with more than 22,000 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 2,100 offences.
- Commencement of a review of consultation mechanisms for the Department.

Stronger Focus on the Regions

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's goal of a greater focus on service delivery, infrastructure investment and economic development to improve the overall quality of life in remote and regional areas.

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

As a result the Department has a strong regional presence and connection with regional communities, with offices and staff located throughout the State including regional offices in Broome, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Fremantle and Albany, and 13 district offices. Staff in these offices assist in providing an equitable, consistent and friendly service to all Western Australians, regardless of where they live.

The focus of many of the Department's management programs is on ensuring sustainable regional ecosystems and fisheries, all of which contribute to improving the overall quality of life in regional communities through employment, 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 invests in regional areas through its support of the 'buy local' policy. Staff actively seek quotations from local suppliers whenever products or services are required. If quotations are competitive, local suppliers are given preference.

Examples of work by the Department in 2008/09 that contributed to the State Government's goal of a greater focus on service delivery, infrastructure investment and economic development to improve the overall quality of life in remote and regional areas were:

- Continued the implementation of a five-year plan for managing the recreational marron fishery to protect the stock and maximise recreational fishing values.
- Provided significant contributions to the decision making processes of the Northern Development Taskforce to guide the location of a new gas hub.
- Completed a twelve-month creel survey to determine the recreational crab catch and effort in the Peel-Harvey Estuary. These results, together with commercial crab catch and effort data, will be used to assess whether management measures taken in 2007 have been effective.
- Continued operation of the Fisheries Volunteer program, involving community members in marine education and research programs in most regional areas. For example, local fisheries volunteers in the Pilbara did outstanding work in spreading the 'Fish for the future' sustainability message with the help of a new community education trailer. The work included an inland tour to the mining towns of Pannawonica, Paraburdoo and Tom Price, where fisheries volunteers visited schools and shopping centres.
- Commenced preparation of a draft management plan for the Aboilhos Islands.
- A review of research and monitoring programs of marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley was undertaken that identified knowledge gaps for future potential research.
- Established legislation under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* to give effect to fishing restrictions for the Muiro Islands Marine Management Area, Montebello/Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserves, and Rowley Shoals Marine Park.

Social and Environmental Responsibility

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's goal of ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State.

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 2008/09 that contributed to the State Government's goal of ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State include:

- Continued work with other relevant government agencies to monitor the effects of climate change on the marine environment.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- Assessment of all WA's export fisheries against the Commonwealth Government's guidelines for the ecologically sustainable management of fisheries under the *Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999*.
- Stock assessment for the oceanic pink snapper stock confirmed that the current management settings are on-track to achieve a return to 40 per cent virgin biomass by 2014.
- Implemented new effort controls to increase protection for the deeper water Gascoyne demersal scalefish stocks to prevent excess fishing pressure ahead of the establishment of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery in 2010.
- Implementation of a raft of measures to better manage the State's western rock lobster stocks following five years of declining puerulus (young lobster) counts. These included a 15 per cent reduction on unit entitlements for the commercial rock lobster industry for the 2008/09 season and an additional 15 per cent reduction on unit entitlements for the 2009/10 season.
- As well as the management changes in the commercial West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, new management measures (reduced bag and boat limits and a possession limit) were introduced for recreational western rock lobster fishing in the West Coast Bioregion.
- Commencement of a catch share allocation process for fisheries resources under the Integrated Fisheries Management initiative. The Minister finalised the allocation of the Perth metropolitan Roe's abalone resource. The IFAAC provided final advice to the Minister on inter-sectoral conflict in the western rock lobster fishery and continued its consideration of the west coast demersal scalefish resource allocations.
- Development of social and economic sustainability policies and frameworks for the Department of Fisheries.
- Completion of a collaborative Western Australian Marine Science Institution-funded report on methods of assessing social and economic factors for fisheries and Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management.
- Amendment to the management plan for the West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery to formally implement the Vessel Monitoring System.
- Introduction of significant effort reductions to deal with sustainability issues in 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.
- Ministerial approval for management arrangements for the South West Beach Seine Fishery.
- Review of the recreational marron fishery was reviewed and advice provided to the Minister on new management arrangements.
- Collaboration with Curtin University and the Seafood Cooperative Research Centre.

Agency Performance – Report on Operations

The table below describes the Department of Fisheries' performance against the targets that formed part of the 2008/09 State Budget papers and reflected in the resources agreement signed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries, the Minister for Fisheries and the Treasurer.

Table 1 – Financial targets: Actual performance compared to budget targets

	2008/09 Target \$'000	2008/09 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Total cost of services (expense limit) (sourced from Income Statement)	58,136	67,672	9,536
Net cost of services (sourced from Income Statement)	30,241	38,666	8,425
Total equity (sourced from Balance Sheet)	53,579	59,915	6,336
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held (sourced from Cash Flow Statement)	(512)	(6,283)	5,771
	No.	No.	No.
Approved full-time equivalent (FTE) staff level	413	425	12

Explanation of significant variances

1. *Total cost of services*

The total cost of services increase of \$9.5 million from the 2008/09 Budget Papers results from the following key areas:

- Increased expenditure associated with Consolidated Account-funded activities totalling \$2.6 million relating to compensation paid to fishers in the Marine Aquarium Fishery impacted by the creation of the Ningaloo Marine Park, increased salary rates and preliminary funding for marine biosecurity planning.
- Increased activity for activities funded from external sources (\$3.6 million) under cost recovery arrangements or through external granting bodies.
- Capital works-funded expenditure of \$1.1 million that under capitalisation policies was charged to the income statement rather than being capitalised as per the Budget Papers
- Increased expenditure totaling \$2.2 million compared to budget for employee leave provisions, grants and subsidies paid, depreciation and fisheries adjustment schemes expenditure.

2. *Net cost of services*

- The growth in the net cost of services reflects the increased activity described above.

3. *Total Equity*

- The increase in total equity has resulted from increases in contributed equity and revaluation reserves offset by a greater-than-budget operating deficit.

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

	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual
Outcome: Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.		
<i>Key Effectiveness Indicators</i>		
The proportion of fish stocks identified as being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation	18%	14%
The proportion of fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved	85%	96%
The percentage of fisheries or fished sectors where current catch shares are known and where catch share allocations are in process or in place	80%	73%
The gross value of State fisheries production (million)	\$570	\$448
The participation rate in recreational fishing	30%	33%
<i>Key Efficiency Indicators</i>		
Service 1 – Fisheries Management		
Average cost per hour for management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments)	\$114	\$112
Service 2 – Compliance and Education		
Average cost per hour for compliance and education	\$139	\$229
Service 3 – Research and Monitoring		
Average cost per hour for research and monitoring	\$120	\$137
Service 4 – Marine Safety Service		
Average cost per hour for marine safety service	\$116	\$134

Further information on the efficiency indicators can be found in the 'Statement of Performance Indicators' section of this *Annual Report*.

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Sunrise on Jim Mendolia's sardine fishing boat. Photo: Eloise Dortch



Integrated Fisheries Management

Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) is aimed at addressing the issue of how fish resources can be best shared between competing users (commercial, recreational – including charter, and customary Indigenous fishers), and managing the take by these sectors within the broader context of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD).

The IFM Branch consists of two bioregionally-based teams, a state-wide fisheries policy team and an IFM team. The branch also facilitates the activities of the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC), which is responsible for providing advice to the Minister for Fisheries on fish resource allocations.

The two bioregional teams are responsible for the comprehensive and integrated management of all 'extractive' fishing activities (recreational, commercial and customary indigenous) 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. The work of the Northern Bioregions group also includes management of the aquatic charter industry, some small commercial fisheries on a state-wide basis, some temperate trawl fisheries, and the Indian Ocean Territories under a service delivery agreement with the Commonwealth Government. The South-West Bioregions group covers the State's lower west and south coasts, and southern inland waters.

The State-wide Fisheries Policy team deals with strategic fisheries management issues that apply more broadly across the bioregions. The IFM team deals with those resources for which the Government has explicit policies to formally determine and manage resource shares (west coast rock

lobster, metropolitan abalone, west coast and Gascoyne demersal scalefish).

The IFM team

Following advice from the IFAAC, the former Minister made his decision on allocations under IFM for the western rock lobster resource. Ninety five per cent has been allocated to the commercial sector, five per cent to the recreational sector and one tonne 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, which the IFAAC examined during 2008/09. The IFAAC reported to the Minister in March 2009 that it did not believe that there were inter-sectoral conflict issues in the western rock lobster fishery requiring its attention, and those that do occasionally arise can be managed at a local level.

Following consultation with sector groups, the IFAAC also provided a paper to the Minister on mechanisms for managing allocations, with particular reference to managing the western rock lobster resource. However, following serious sustainability and management issues arising in 2008 for the western rock lobster fishery, the Minister asked that IFAAC review the paper to ensure it incorporated the changed circumstances in the fishery. The IFAAC has consulted with the sector groups on these matters and will be finalising its advice to the Minister in mid-2009.

The Minister received the IFAAC's report on the allocation of Roe's abalone in the Perth metropolitan region and finalised his decisions on allocation of this resource in March 2009 after consultation with key stakeholder groups. The Minister determined that the commercial sector should be allocated 36 tonnes; the recreational sector 40 tonnes; and the customary indigenous fishing sector 500 kg of the Perth metropolitan Roe's abalone resource.

The IFAAC continued to consider the allocation issues surrounding the west coast demersal scalefish resource during 2008/09.

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 develop 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. The final report is expected to be published in late 2009.

More information about IFM and the IFAAC can be found at: www.fish.wa.gov.au

Major Achievements for 2008/09

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

- The Minister finalised the allocation of the Perth metropolitan Roe's abalone resource.
- The IFAAC provided final advice to the Minister on inter-sectoral conflict in the western rock lobster fishery.
- The IFAAC continued its consideration of the west coast demersal scalefish resource allocations.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the Department of Fisheries intends to achieve the following in Integrated Fisheries Management:

- Finalise a framework for managing IFM allocations.
- Commence implementation of the Minister's allocation decisions on the western rock lobster and Perth metropolitan Roe's abalone resources.
- Provide advice to the Minister on allocations for the west coast demersal scalefish resource.

- Begin consideration of the allocation of the Gascoyne demersal scalefish resource.
- Develop a 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, where 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, with the protected waters of Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf being 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 \$35 to \$45 million annually – are to be found in the Gascoyne.

Fisheries in the Northern Bioregions will be reported using the following groupings: invertebrates/trawl fisheries, marine finfish, 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, tiger and banana prawns and scallops. 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 a combination of ongoing increases in operating costs, primarily fuel, and static or low prawn prices. A decrease in profitability was the catalyst for trawl gear amalgamation and fleet size reductions in the Shark Bay, Exmouth Gulf, Onslow prawn trawl fisheries and, in 2009, in the Nickol Bay prawn fishery. Fleet numbers in the longer running gear-amalgamation fisheries have now stabilised and fishers in all invertebrate trawl fisheries are continuing to explore ways to reduce their operating costs.

The Shark Bay prawn and scallop fisheries review was hindered by a shift in focus in these fisheries to the need for an internal re-structure. With that re-structure largely completed, this review is expected to be finalised during the latter part of 2009.

A review of the Kimberley Prawn Fishery began 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. An agreement was reached with licensees to close a number of inshore areas to protect habitat and to trial later openings to improve economic returns. In 2008 fishing was limited to the second part of the season, but in 2009 the first part of the season was also opened in response to over-riding economic circumstances, but with extended area closures to prevent the take of small prawns.

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 area is subject to regional recreational fishing management arrangements that contain both generic controls (such as minimum size limits) and specific controls for areas such as the Ningaloo Marine Park.

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

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

Reduced commercial catch levels of oceanic Shark Bay pink snapper are closely managed to ensure the success of the current breeding stock recovery program. Stock 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 presented in a stock status report for consideration by the Shark Bay Inner Gulf Pink Snapper Working Group. The Working Group recommended, and the Minister subsequently approved, that the current management arrangements remain in place for a further three years.

In mid-2007, the Minister announced his decisions about new commercial scalefish fishing management arrangements for

both the West Coast and the Gascoyne. These include the creation of a new demersal scalefish fishery in the Gascoyne (incorporating 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. Management arrangements for the new demersal fishery and the net fishery are likely to be finalized in 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 some legislative changes and a community education package.

Indian Ocean Territories

Since 2002, the Department of Fisheries has provided a range of fisheries management and research projects at the Indian Ocean Territories (Cocos-Keeling Islands and Christmas Island) on behalf of the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department under a Service Delivery Arrangement.

Developing New Fisheries

Responsibility for the Developing New Fisheries (DNF) program sits with the Northern Bioregions team, although its area of operation covers the whole State. Developmental fisheries for octopus and blue swimmer crabs have been ongoing as part of the DNF process. The future management directions for these fisheries are likely to be determined during 2009/10. The DNF process itself is also likely to be reviewed during 2009/10 to 2010/11, in light of the cost pressures that the Department is facing in delivering services to established fisheries.

Charter Industry Management

The management arrangements for the charter industry were established in 2001. The Minister approved

a review of these arrangements in February 2009, noting sustainability concerns surrounding west coast demersal scalefish and the period of time since the initial management arrangements were introduced. A formal review is expected to start in 2009.

Major Achievements for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch, Northern Bioregions achieved the following:

- Stock assessment for the oceanic pink snapper stock confirmed that the current management settings are on-track to achieve a return to 40 per cent virgin biomass by 2014.
- Implemented a 30 fishing days per 100 units of pink snapper quota effort control to increase protection for the deeper water Gascoyne demersal scalefish stocks to prevent excess fishing pressure ahead of the establishment of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery in 2010.
- Finalised the management arrangements for recreational fishing for pink snapper in the inner gulfs of Shark Bay for the period 2009 to 2011.
- Developed draft recommendations for fisheries management strategies for the Indian Ocean Territories.
- Engaged the public in regard to finalising the management arrangements of the Barramundi Accord.
- The Minister approved a review of the management arrangements for the charter industry to be conducted on a bioregional basis, beginning with the West Coast region.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch, Northern Bioregions intends to:

- Undertake a review of charter fishing in the West Coast Bioregion as part of a state-wide review of charter fishing.

- Obtain Ministerial approval and implement the recreational and commercial management changes approved as part of the Barramundi and Threadfin Salmon Accord 2007 – 2012 .
- Finalise management arrangements for Gascoyne inshore commercial netting.
- Progress implementation of management arrangements for the commercial Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery.
- Complete the Shark Bay prawn and scallop fisheries review process.
- Complete the Kimberley prawn fishery review.
- Seek renewed Commonwealth Government export approvals under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for fisheries with current approvals that expire in 2009/10.
- Finalise fisheries management strategies for the Indian Ocean Territories.

South-West Bioregions

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

The West Coast bioregion, between Kalbarri and Augusta, has 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 warm 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.

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

The fisheries of the South-West Bioregions account for the majority of the State's commercial and recreational fishing effort. Fishing ranges from the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (one of Australia's most valuable single species commercial fisheries); 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 2008/09, fisheries management activities of the South-West Bioregions team continued to be largely driven by sustainability concerns around demersal scalefish species, such as dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper. However, there was also substantial concern around the sustainability of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery during 2008/09, following record low levels of puerulus settlement.

The low puerulus settlement in 2008/09 followed two consecutive years of well-below-average settlement. However unlike the previous years the environmental conditions during 2008/09 were thought to be favorable for above-average settlement. The low settlement triggered management responses aimed at reducing the catch from a predicted 9,200 tones to about 7,800 tonnes to provide additional protection to the breeding stock and allow for the carry-over of lobsters into future seasons of very low catches.

This management response included reductions in the unit value (pot usage) as well as time closures, resulting in an overall reduction in effective effort of between 50 per cent and 70 per cent during the 2008/09 season. This limited the catch to around 7,500 tonnes. Based on recent years of low puerulus settlement, the Minister for Fisheries has foreshadowed a conservative approach to management for the foreseeable future.

As well as the management changes in the commercial West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, new management measures (reduced bag and boat limits and a possession limit) were introduced for recreational western rock lobster fishing in the West Coast Bioregion.

During 2007/08 the former Minister requested that the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) provide him with a business case for the introduction of quota in the rock lobster fishery. A RLIAC Quota Working Group was formed for this purpose and reported to the RLIAC during 2008. The report was published on the Department of Fisheries' website in January 2009.

During 2008/09 the Minister for Fisheries also requested that the RLIAC provided advice on long-term management options for the fishery to improve industry profitability. The RLIAC then commissioned independent advice on optimized input control and quota management systems for the rock lobster fishery from a panel of fisheries management experts.

Completion of the second and final suite of changes to the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery (WCDSF) management plan on 1 January 2009 has resulted in specific limits on fishing effort being implemented for each area of the fishery, in line with the sustainability objectives for demersal scalefish stocks on the West Coast.

The limits are designed to deliver a 50 per cent reduction in catch from 2005/06 catches across the entire demersal scalefish suite for each area of the four areas of the fishery

that are open to commercial fishing (the Metropolitan Area was closed in November 2007). During the first year's operation of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery management plan, catches were reduced from approximately 704 tonnes in 2007 to 413 tonnes in 2008.

Following the introduction of new management arrangements for the West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (WCDGDLF) in June 2008, an amendment to the management plan to implement the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) came into effect on 1 June 2009.

The introduction of capacity settings for the WCDSF and changes to the WCDGDLF are expected to make a significant contribution to the long-term sustainability of demersal scalefish and finfish stocks more broadly.

Interim management measures were put in place to reduce the take of demersal scalefish by the recreational sector on 1 January 2009, pending the outcome of a management and scientific review of the West Coast demersal scalefish fishery. Measures included reduced bag limits, boat limits and size limits and a voluntary logbook to provide additional catch and effort information.

The recreational finfish possession limit within the Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area was reduced for at least two years while a review to assess the option of managing the Abrolhos Islands as a wilderness 'no take away' fishing area is undertaken.

A twelve-month creel survey was completed early in 2009 to determine the recreational crab catch and effort in the Peel-Harvey Estuary. These results, together with commercial crab catch and effort data, will be used to assess whether management measures taken in 2007 have been effective.

The Cockburn Sound crab fishing closure was extended for a further 12 months in November 2008 to allow crab stocks to rebuild after several years of poor recruitment. A working group was established in early 2009 to review the available

research and develop proposed management arrangements if the fishery is in a position to re-open in December 2009.

During 2008/09 a review of recreational marron fishing was undertaken and advice was provided to the Minister on new management arrangements.

The translocation of trout for recreational stocking purposes was reviewed during 2008/09 and a Fisheries Management Paper will be released in 2009/10 on this issue.

Major Achievements for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch, South-West Bioregions achieved the following:

- The second stage of management arrangements for the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery commenced on 1 January 2009. This built on the arrangements introduced on 1 January 2008, to restrict effort in each area of the fishery to specific targets which were based on delivering a 50 per cent reduction in catch for the fishery.
- The management plan for the West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery was amended on 1 June 2009 to formally implement the Vessel Monitoring System.
- The Minister for Fisheries introduced significant effort reductions to deal with sustainability issues in the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.
- The RLIAC commissioned a panel of fisheries management experts to develop independent advice on optimized input control and quota management systems for 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.

INTEGRATED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

- The Minister approved management arrangements for the South West Beach Seine Fishery.
- The recreational marron fishery was reviewed and advice provided to the Minister on new management arrangements.
- A review on the translocation of trout for recreational stocking purposes was conducted.
- A puerulus workshop and a Marine Stewardship Council audit for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery were carried out.
- Wildlife trade operations were completed for the South Coast Purse Seine, 'temperate shark' and South Coast Crustacean fisheries.
- Review management arrangements for crab fishing in the Peel-Harvey Estuary.
- Finalise new management arrangements for the recreational marron fishery.
- Finalise the policy for translocation of trout for recreational stocking purposes,
- Seek renewed Commonwealth Government export approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for the abalone fishery.
- Introduce new management arrangements for the South West Beach Seine Fishery.
- Progress the development of a management plan for the South Coast Crustacean Fishery.
- Develop management arrangements to limit the potential expansion of fishing effort on demersal scalefish on the south coast region.
- Develop management arrangements for inshore netting on the west coast.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch South-West Bioregions intends to:

- Implement the Minister's decisions on management arrangements for the take of demersal scalefish by recreational fishers in the West Coast bioregion.
- Review the management arrangements, in particular the capacity settings, for the West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Managed Fishery against the objective to reduce catches in each area of the Fishery to 50 per cent of those taken in 2005/06.
- Provide advice to industry on the operation of a possible quota management regime for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.
- Finalise the implementation of a new management regime for the Joint Authority Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery to bring it into line with the arrangements introduced for the West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery.
- Finalise new management arrangements for the Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery.

Pearling and Aquaculture

The Pearling and Aquaculture Branch of the Department of Fisheries manages and regulates the development of a diverse, valuable and sustainable pearling and aquaculture industry in Western Australia.

Pearling

The Pearling section of the Pearling and Aquaculture Branch is responsible for the management and regulation of the wild-capture pearl oyster fishery for silver-lipped pearl oysters (*Pinctada maxima*) and their subsequent use to culture pearls. The section 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 oysters that can be 'seeded' for pearl culture.

Pearls are also produced from other pearl oyster species (the so-called 'non-*maxima*' species). The Aquaculture Section, rather than the Pearling Section, deals with the management of the non-*maxima* pearl industry along with other responsibilities.

The work of the Pearling section encompasses:

- Management of the wild *P. maxima* pearl oyster stocks, the capture of pearl oysters from the wild and hatchery production of *P. maxima* pearl oysters;
- Development of policies and legislation to support this management;
- Research on the wild *P. maxima* pearl oyster stocks and monitoring of fishing effort;
- Disease management;
- Compliance and education; and
- Assessment and administration of leases and licences.

The Pearling Section 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 for the purposes of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The *P. maxima* pearling industry is managed using a quota management system. This system limits the total amount of wild oysters that can be harvested and the total amount 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 helping to maintaining optimum pearl prices and market confidence.

Production in the Western Australian *P. maxima* pearling industry was valued at \$113 million in 2008. 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 – 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 *P. maxima* pearl oyster fishery is divided into geographical zones to allow efficient and effective management of localised pearl oyster stocks and to preserve historical fishing practices.

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,

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the industry voluntarily retained a seeding entitlement for Zone 2 and 3 units of 1,100 oysters per unit.

The Pearling section 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 section also maintains strong links with the peak industry representative body, the Pearl Producers Association.

Major Achievements for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Pearling section achieved the following:

- Significantly improved pearling lease information management and auditing capacity through the development of a dedicated lease management system.
- Progressed the development of an electronic reporting system (catch and effort and other approvals processes) in accordance with recommendations from an independent compliance review.
- Administered two mid-financial year cost-recovery budget reductions (and resulting access fee reductions).
- Commenced discussions with the pearling industry with a view to implementing a co-management framework, and reducing government involvement in the regulation of total pearl production.
- Conducted ongoing research into identifying the cause of oyster mortalities.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the Pearling section intends to:

- Implement the outcomes of Department of Fisheries' legislative reform, consultation and funding processes.
- Further progress the consideration of introducing a co-management model between the Department of Fisheries and the pearling industry.

- Complete the implementation of the outcomes of the independent compliance review.

Aquaculture

The Aquaculture section of the Pearling and Aquaculture Branch 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 section's main functions include:

- industry management;
- policy development;
- disease management;
- advice and support for 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 barramundi, mussels, 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 the early stages of commercialisation 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. The Department of Fisheries has undertaken Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) reporting on finfish and prawn sectors, as part of a process intended to deregulate of aquaculture from Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

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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. Codes of Practice, consistent licence conditions and rigorous management and environmental monitoring plans are in the process of being finalised.

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 off the west coast. Production of barramundi is increasing rapidly in the Kimberley and in 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 characterised by sustainability, innovation and global competitiveness. The key projects include a site identification and zoning 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 supporting legislative reform, 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 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Aquaculture section achieved the following:

- Completed the policies relating to aquaculture leases.
- Advised and supported aquaculture industry development initiatives.
- Initiated major environmental projects to streamline and inform a revised environmental approvals process for large-scale aquaculture.
- Continued to establish the codes of practice and environmental monitoring programs for finfish and prawn aquaculture.
- Started a review of Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 8 (*Assessment of applications for authorisations of aquaculture and pearling in coastal waters of WA*).
- Completed a policy paper on the aquaculture of coral and live rock.
- Started a policy on the appropriate management of aquaculture from a disease perspective.
- Started a broodstock collection policy.
- Finalised the review of non-maxima licence conditions and commenced the review of abalone licence conditions.
- Commenced the development of Biosecurity Plans and Disease Management Plans for major industry sectors.
- Provided contributions and advice for amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

During 2009/10, the Aquaculture section intends to:

- Commence the Environmental Carrying Capacity Project to investigate impacts from existing aquaculture ventures to inform environmental assessment of large-scale proposals.
- Continue the process to provide secure tenure for offshore aquaculture in State and Commonwealth waters.
- Develop a State policy statement for aquaculture.
- Contribute and provide advice to the legislative reform process.
- Finalise the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Environment and Conservation setting out the new arrangements for environmental management and regulation of the WA aquaculture industry.
- Initiate the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Environmental Protection Authority regarding the assessment and referral of large-scale aquaculture ventures.
- Finalise the deregulation of aquaculture from the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
- Complete minor amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and commence the consultation for the major legislative amendments.
- Complete the review of Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 8 with a view to any new legislative arrangements.
- Finalise the Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands Aquaculture Development Plan.

The Environment Branch

The Department of Fisheries' Environment Branch provides environmental guidance and policy support for the Department's management responsibilities of marine, estuarine and riverine ecosystems.

The Environment Branch plays a vital role in inter-governmental liaison, meeting the Department's Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) requirements, and 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

The Biosecurity program is focused on the minimization of impacts from disease and pest threats on the marine and freshwater environments and associated commercial and recreational activities.

Due to resource constraints, progress towards the development of new regulation, policy, guidelines and management to support the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* was limited.

There was ongoing 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.

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The Branch represented Western Australia 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 Branch continued the regulation of fish movement into, and within, the State and the oversight of any introduced marine and freshwater pests.

Major Achievements for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Biosecurity section achieved the following:

- Continued development of departmental policy, systems and frameworks to meet aquatic biosecurity objectives and responsibilities.
- Provision of advice to resource companies and other groups on matters of biofouling and aquatic biosecurity management.
- Leadership and guidance on the development and implementation of biosecurity initiatives, both within the Department and across government agencies.
- Oversight and coordination to ensure effective delivery of aquatic biosecurity activities across the Department's programs.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the Biosecurity section intends to:

- Continue to develop departmental policy, systems and frameworks to meet the State Governments priorities for aquatic biosecurity.
- Provide leadership and guidance on the development and implementation of biosecurity initiatives, both within the Department and across government agencies.
- Provide oversight and coordination to ensure effective delivery of aquatic biosecurity activities across the Department's programs.

Environment and Aquatic Protection

The Department of Fisheries has legislative responsibilities to protect fish and their habitats as well as considering the activities supported by fish resources. The Environment Branch undertakes activities focused on the protection of these resources.

The Environment Branch liaises at a senior level with other departments who work on related marine and freshwater areas. They also represent the Department 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;
- Kimberley LNG Project (formerly the Northern Development Task Force); and
- various expert committees and resource planning groups for resource developments and proposals.

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The 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 Branch provides advice 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 Mines and Petroleum about the environmental management of coastal and offshore petroleum activity.

Staff participate in, and provide advice to, community reference groups, expert panels and other groups convened by major resource companies.

Major Achievements for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Environment and Aquatic Protection section achieved the following:

- Prepared timely and informed contributions to State and Commonwealth environmental impact assessment and approval processes, and associated industry management plans and planning processes.
- Engaged constructively with proponents to minimise impacts on fisheries values (economic, social and ecological) and, where possible, facilitate proactive research and management, which complements Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management objectives, and marine and freshwater research objectives.
- Provided advice and participated in environmental policy and strategic planning processes for a range of other Government agencies and proponents.
- Contributed to the State's Natural Resource Management program.
- Ensured the Department of Fisheries remains represented and integrated in critical emergency response processes.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the Environment and Aquatic Protection section intends to:

- Prepare timely and informed contributions to State and Commonwealth environmental impact assessment and approval processes, and associated industry management plans and planning 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 Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management 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.
- 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 conservation reserves.

Major Achievements for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Marine Planning section achieved the following:

- Established legislation under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* to give effect to fishing restrictions for the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area, Montebello/Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserves, and Rowley Shoals Marine Park.

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- Participated in the planning of proposed new marine conservation reserves.
- Led departmental negotiations and coordinated contributions to marine and freshwater regional planning processes at a State and Commonwealth level.
- Engaged in discussions on State Government marine planning policies 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.
- Commenced preparation of a draft management plan for the Abrolhos Islands.
- Coordinated the Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee and addressed policy issues associated with the management of the Abrolhos Islands.
- Provided strategic and policy support for the establishment and ongoing management of FHPAs.
- Proactively engaged with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Western Australian Marine Science Institution in matters of marine conservation management and research.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the Marine Planning section intends to:

- Establish legislation under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* to give effect to fishing restrictions for the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.
- Continue to participate in the planning of proposed new marine conservation reserve.
- Lead departmental negotiations and coordinate contributions to marine and freshwater regional planning processes at a State and Commonwealth level.
- Integrate Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management

policy into strategic State and Commonwealth marine and freshwater planning initiatives to promote synergies and links with marine protected area policy objectives.

- Continue to engage in the review and development of State Government marine planning policies 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.

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 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Ecologically Sustainable Development and Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) section has achieved the following:

- Developed strategic partnerships with other agencies that are important in the delivery of EBFM, and adapted or created new systems and processes to support cross-agency co-operation (for example, using the Inter-Departmental Committee and Marine Senior Officers Group).

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the Ecologically Sustainable Development and Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management section intends to:

- Develop a revised departmental ESD/EBFM policy.
- Engage 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.
- Ensure that departmental processes are consistent with the principles of ESD/EBFM.

Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Branch

The purpose of the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Branch is to ensure that informed decisions and actions 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 Branch 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 three functional areas – strategic planning, strategic policy and organisational performance. As part of the departmental restructure carried out in 2008/09, the branch is now part of the Department's Aquatic Management division.

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning section of the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Branch is responsible for the development and coordination of marketing and business planning, including seafood quality, market and industry development, and international development, along with the implementation of strategic projects such as climate change adaptation and business continuity planning. 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.

Strategic Policy

The Strategic 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.

Organisational Performance

This section of the branch 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 organizational governance and performance, principally through the Manager of the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Branch.

Major Achievements for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Branch achieved the following:

- Developed the Department of Fisheries' strategic pathway to put into operation its *Strategic Plan 2009 - 2018*.
- Released a report on the outcomes of a project to determine the best methodology and reporting components of a Sustainability Reporting Framework as foundation work for carbon management and reporting in the Australian seafood sector.
- Undertook a series of consultative workshops with a broad range of stakeholders to develop adaptation strategies for climate change in south-western estuarine and inland fisheries;
- Participated as a co-exhibitor at the international *Greenhouse 2009* conference held in Perth.
- Commenced development of new funding arrangements for the management of fishing and aquaculture activity in Western Australia.
- Started reform of all formal and public fisheries consultation mechanisms in Western Australia.

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- Development of social and economic policy frameworks and implementation strategies to inform decision-making in fisheries management.
- Developed a collaborative project with the Aquaculture Council of Western Australia to facilitate external funding opportunities for the seafood industry.
- Coordinated the Department of Fisheries' participation in the Seafood Cooperative Research Centre.
- Initiated co-management of the WA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program with the Department of Health and the shellfish industry.
- Assisted in the development of a successful application for a 'centre of excellence' for seafood at Curtin University.
- Delivered the inaugural training session in indigenous cultural awareness to Northern Region staff of the Department of Fisheries.
- Supported a Ministerial trade mission to the *European Seafood Exposition* and the promotion of Western Australian seafood at this event.
- Provided ongoing assistance to Western Australian seafood companies seeking overseas markets.
- Initiated the 'de-mystifying seafood' program in Western Australia, to build the understanding of seafood in the hospitality industry and with consumers.
- Represented the Australian Fisheries Management Forum on the Australian Fish Names Committee.
- Participated in the operations of seafood promotion organisation, Seafood Experience Australia.
- Achieved support for seafood-specific professional development for Environmental Health Officers.
- Completed an international development business plan for the Department of Fisheries.
- Finalised implementation details of technical assistance in fisheries management to Mauritius under an agreement with the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Government of Mauritius.
- Successfully initiated the Department of Fisheries' business continuity plan to respond to the Human Influenza ('Swine Flu') pandemic.

Major initiatives for 2009/2010

In the 2009/10 financial year, the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Branch intends to:

- Publish a report and recommendations on the development of adaptation strategies for climate change in south-western estuarine and inland fisheries.
- Develop a climate change strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Western Australia.
- Develop a western climate change program action plan in conjunction with the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and stakeholders.
- Assess the carbon footprint in the WA seafood sector (fishing, aquaculture, processing and logistics) and apply the methodology previously developed in the measurement, mitigation, monitoring and reporting of carbon.
- Progress climate change adaptation in WA seafood sector through a series of stakeholder workshops focussing on the marine environment.
- Develop a holistic sustainability reporting framework as a proactive response to the 'food-miles' issue in the seafood sector.
- Implement new funding arrangements for the management of fishing and aquaculture activity in Western Australia.
- Implement new fisheries management consultation mechanisms in Western Australia.

- Formulate a market-focussed development concept, *Seafood Focus*, for a strategy for increasing seafood industry economic sustainability in Western Australia.
- Progress the 'de-mystifying seafood' program through media, radio and magazine circulation.
- Develop increased seafood profile in the training of chefs and the hospitality sector.
- Implement an electronic risk management database throughout the Department of Fisheries in conjunction with RiskCover.
- Scope international business development opportunities in the Indian Ocean region.

Legal Services Unit

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

In April 2009, as part of a departmental restructure, the licensing and registry services were separated from the remainder of the unit – moving the licensing and registry functional areas into the new directorate of Regional Services. The remainder of the Legal and Registry Services Unit was renamed the Legal Services Unit and moved into the new directorate of Aquatic Management.

Appendix 4 of this report lists legislation/instruments completed and gazetted during the reporting period (as well as State Administrative Tribunal statistics).

Registry Services

Major Achievements for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year (prior to the separation of registry services), the registry area of the Legal Services Unit achieved the following:

- The information available on the public register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases was reviewed.
- Software and procedure changes were developed and implemented to allow the public to have register access to all historical versions of authorisations, exemptions and leases since the entry into force of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and to increase security of systems.
- Names of licence holders recorded on the public register were reviewed and amendments to register were made to remove business names and replace these with legal persons.

- Processes and procedures for license administration upon the death of an authorisation holder (including the death of one of joint authorisation holders) were developed and implemented.
- Recommendations were made that *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* be amended to confirm continued existence of authorisations post death/ termination of licence holder.
- The underlying public register software was updated.
- The integrity of the data on the public register was maintained.
- The Registrar joined the Western Australian Government Inter-departmental Working Group on personal property securities reform resulting from the Inter Governmental Agreement. Work commenced on analysing opportunities and impacts of this reform on the public register.

Legal and Litigation Services

The Legal Services Unit provides the following services:

- Legal advice to the Minister, the Chief Executive Officer, the Registrar and officers of the Department of Fisheries on a range of matters concerning the legislation administered by the Department, as well as legislation and other law affecting the activities, powers and functions of the Minister, the Chief Executive Officer and the Registrar.
- Management of litigation in which the Minister or the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries is 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 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the legal and litigation area of the Legal Services Unit achieved the following:

- 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:
 - (i) Providing timely advice in respect of the nature and extent of many administrative powers.
 - (ii) Facilitating the full consideration of issues potentially leading to reviewable decisions.
 - (iii) Identifying any underlying legal issues that may have occurred during policy development or that may warrant legislative intervention.
 - (iv) Using State Administrative Tribunal decisions (including in respect of other Acts and portfolios) to guide both the development of fisheries management policy, and 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 (for provision of information including catch returns).
- Provided advice to the Minister and Chief Executive Officer in relation to proceedings commenced in the Supreme Court of Western Australia relating to the validity of a management plan and instructed the State Solicitor's Office as required.
- Instructed the State Solicitor's Office in respect of five new matters in the State Administrative Tribunal that were commenced during the 2008/09 financial year. Two of these concerned the operation of the *West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Managed Fishery*. One matter has since been withdrawn and one matter has since been dismissed.

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- Three State Administrative Tribunal matters that had been commenced in the 2007/08 financial year were withdrawn by the applicants during the 2008/09 financial year.
- Reviewed delegations of statutory decision-making authority under the *Pearling Act 1990* and *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the legal and litigation area of the Legal Services Unit intends to:

- Continue to improve the information management and legal advice processes that support 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.
- Provide strategic legal advice in respect of policy development and continue to provide services in the nature of those provided in 2008/09.

Legislation and Drafting Services

The Legal Services Unit provides a number of specialised legislation and drafting services to the Minister, the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Aquatic Management 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 and instruments completed and gazetted during the year are set out in Appendix 4.

Major Achievements for 2008/09

The 2008/09 financial year was a very busy year in respect of drafting and gazettal of significant new fisheries legislation. In the financial year the legislation and drafting services of the Legal Services Unit achieved the following:

New legislation/Instruments

Prepared and gazetted/implemented a significant number of pieces of 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) such as:

- (i) Drafted and gazetted the *Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Rowley Shoals Marine Park) Order 2009*;
- (ii) Drafted and gazetted the *Prohibition on Recreational Fishing (Rowley Shoals Marine Park) Order 2009*; and
- (iii) Developed regulations to totally protect vulnerable species in the Rowley Shoals Marine Park.

Drafted and gazetted the *Prohibition on Line Fishing (Metal in Line and Traces) Order 2008* to assist in the stock recovery of several at-risk shark species, particularly dusky, whiskery and sandbar sharks.

Drafted and gazetted the *Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Managed Fishery Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Notice 2009* to establish a scheme for the compensation of persons from the Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Fishery who are seeking to surrender an authorisation.

Amendments to legislation

Primary Legislation

- Amendment to the *Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987* that were introduced to the parliament: June 2009.
- Progressed amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Management Plans

- (a) Substantial amendment to the *West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan 1997* to:
 - (i) amend the time/gear scheme of entitlement to introduce an hours fished method of nominating and recording entitlement consumption; and
 - (ii) introduce Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) provisions, including nominations.
- (b) Substantial amendment to the *West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Management Plan 2007* to:
 - (iii) introduce unitisation and an area-based scheme of entitlement; and
 - (iv) introduce VMS provisions, including nominations.
- (c) Significant number of amendments to the *West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993*, including:
 - (v) *West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment 2008* (changes to capacity of the fishery);
 - (vi) *West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2008* (Sunday closures and capacity changes for 2008/09);
 - (vii) *West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan*

Amendment 2009 (closure of Big Bank area);

- (viii) *West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2009* (capacity reduction, breakdown agreements and minor amendments);
 - (ix) *West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment (No. 3) 2009* (Saturday, Sunday and Monday closures; soaking areas in the Abrolhos Islands area and removing moon closures); and
 - (x) *West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment (No. 4) 2009* (reinstating Monday as a fishing day).
- (d) Amended the *West Coast Estuarine Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2003* to extend the expiration date.
 - (e) Amended the *West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2007*.
 - (f) Amended the *South West Trawl Management Plan* to introduce the Vessel Monitoring System into the South West Trawl fishery.

Regulations

- Amended regulations (*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 11) 2008*) to provide for changes to bag limits and possession limits in relation to west coast rock lobster recreational fishing.
- Amended regulations (*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 8) 2008*) to provide for recreational fishing for demersal species in the West Coast Region. This involved implementing a management package that included changes to bag limits, size limits, possession limits and implementing a seasonal closure.
- Amended regulations (*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 3) 2009*) to provide for commercial fees for various managed fisheries for 2008/09.
- Amended regulations to provide a modified penalty for alleged contraventions of aquaculture licence conditions.

- Amended regulations to fulfil the policy objectives outlined in the Wetline Review related to commercial and recreational fishing, namely:
 - (i) repeal bag limits applying to mixed-bag (persons (fishing from boats); and
 - (ii) amend the minimum legal size of a species.
- Amended regulations to increase the protection of large whaler sharks from recreational fishers in the South Coast Region and West Coast Region.

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 web site.
- 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.
- Assisted the Office of Auditor General in a review of the development of legislation. Commenced a review of departmental processes and procedures for the making of legislation.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the Legal Services Unit intends to:

- Work with Parliamentary Counsel to prepare a Bill to amend the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.
- Prepare and implement a compulsory fisheries adjustment scheme for the West Coast Estuarine Fishery to phase-out commercial fishing in the Swan River and Canning River.

- 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:
 - (i) Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery Management Plan.
 - (ii) Gascoyne Inshore Net Fishery (Interim) Management Plan.
 - (iii) 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). For example, the *Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery Management Plan* will absorb the substance of the *Shark Bay Snapper Management Plan*, which will be revoked.
- Prepare and develop a range of legislation for the protection of sharks, including substantial amendment to the *(Joint Authority) Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Management Plan*, to introduce a similar scheme of entitlement to the *West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery*, and Vessel Monitoring System provisions.
- Provide further seminars for departmental staff involved in the development of legislation, so 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.

AQUATIC SCIENCE AND MONITORING

Research Division

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Launching a satellite-linked receiver buoy off Cottesloe for the monitoring of tagged white sharks. Photo: Rick Allison



Research Division

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

The Research Division's 130-plus staff members of which nearly 40 are research scientists, 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 frequently conducted by multi-disciplinary teams, with external research partners.

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

- Assessment and monitoring for the sustainable management of the State's wild fish stocks, and associated commercial and recreational fisheries and non-extractive activities.
- Understanding the effects of fishing on bycatch species, protected species and key habitats, as well as ecosystems in general.
- Maintenance of long-term databases to support scientific assessments and on-going monitoring 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.
- Development of new techniques and basic knowledge to aid the community's understanding of aquatic resources and their associated environment; and how they can be managed within an integrated, ecosystem based framework.
- Provision of expert scientific advice to assist the Department of Fisheries to negotiate with Commonwealth agencies to benefit the State.

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, monitoring, assessment 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, long-lining, biodiversity studies and environmental monitoring.

Finfish Fisheries

The Finfish Fisheries Branch undertakes monitoring, assessment and 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 603,000 fishers) and the managed recreational charter sector. Much of this research work also 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.

Significant expert scientific advice and contributions are also provided by the Finfish Fisheries Branch to assist the Department of Fisheries in negotiating with Commonwealth agencies such as the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, the Bureau of Rural Sciences and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority; provision of advice to support the development of national and

international strategies; and information to support World Trade Organisation export approvals for State fisheries.

Aquaculture and Animal Health

The Research Division's Aquaculture and Animal Health Branch undertakes research to support aquaculture development and the provision of fisheries pathology services. Research projects include developing specialist aquaculture technology for marine finfish and brine shrimp, and work on fish nutrition.

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

The 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, USA, 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 branch is responsible for all freshwater research undertaken by the Department of Fisheries, including monitoring of the recreational marron fishery, production of trout for stocking in selected recreationally fished water bodies, and the provision of technical advice to freshwater aquaculture producers.

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 fisheries databases 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 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Research Division has achieved the following (in addition to its major ongoing monitoring roles):

- The results for the survey of recreational boat fishing for the West Coast Bioregion for the period July 2005 to June 2006 were finalised and published.
- Another full survey of recreational boat fishing for the West Coast Bioregion, for the period July 2008 to June 2009, was completed.
- Additional assessments of fishing mortality were conducted for the three indicator species in the West Coast demersal scalefish fishery, based on data collected in the first year (2007/08) of a monitoring program for that fishery.
- Reviews were undertaken of the collection of biological data, stock assessments, proposed management arrangements for the recreational fishery and of recreational fishing surveys for the West Coast demersal scalefish fishery.
- Monitoring of age structure and fishing mortality of key indicator species (West Australian dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper) in the West Coast demersal scalefish fishery continued in 2008/09.
- A Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) project on cost-effective methods of monitoring age composition of scalefish was completed.
- A collaborative research project between the Department, CSIRO and Murdoch University, funded by the WAMSI, on the stock structure of West Australian dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper, continued.

The project incorporates the use of genetic and otolith microchemistry techniques.

- A new spatial model of the western rock lobster fishery was developed and used in the management of the 2008/09 season and the development of management options for the 2009/10 season.
- An FRDC research project was initiated in collaboration with the CSIRO on oceanographic modeling of the larval phase of the rock lobster fishery.
- An assessment of the effect of climate change on the western rock lobster fishery was undertaken.
- A preliminary assessment of the maximum economic yield for the western rock lobster fishery was undertaken.
- An FRDC project on the settlement on puerulus collectors of other species was initiated.
- The relationship between water temperature near the time of spawning, spawning stock and recruitment of blue swimmer crabs in Cockburn Sound was developed.
- A recreational survey of crab fishing in the Peel-Harvey was completed.
- Monitoring of the status of Cockburn Sound blue swimmer crabs and snapper spawning stocks continued.
- 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 and robust risk assessments.
- A collaborative WAMSI-funded report on methods of assessing social and economic factors for fisheries and EBFM was completed.
- A WAMSI project to develop a better understanding of oceanographic currents on the continental shelf successfully trialed the use of satellite-tracked drifter-buoys.
- A FRDC project on stock assessment of pilchards was completed.
- An updated assessment of the Shark Bay oceanic snapper stock was carried out.
- The Ecological Risk Assessment of the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery was re-assessed (five-year review).
- An assessment of the biology and stock status of the spangled emperor in the Gascoyne was completed (Gascoyne wetline and Integrated Fisheries Management initiatives).
- Protocols for ensuring quality control in otolith-based fish ageing were completed and documented.
- 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 was continued.
- Successful facilitation of the eighth Indo Pacific Fish Conference – 2009 Australian Society of Fish Biology conferences on biodiversity that were jointly held at Fremantle.
- A project funded by the National Heritage Trust (Natural Resource Management Rangelands Catchment Coordinating Group) on 'building a community-based Research Angler Program in the Gascoyne Coast bioregion' was completed and the summary report was submitted to the funding provider.
- A collaborative study with the CSIRO into the fine-scale stock structure of spangled emperor in the Ningaloo Marine Park and Gascoyne bioregion was completed.
- A preliminary baseline survey of coral habitats at the Abrolhos Islands was completed.
- A cost-effective monitoring program for marine habitats and Invertebrates at Cocos Keeling Islands was established.

- A joint FRDC/WAMSI project has commenced, to assess the ecological impacts of western rock lobster in fished and unfished areas.
- Introduced marine pest monitoring designs have been finalised for the Fremantle and Dampier ports.
- A user-friendly handbook of introduced marine species in Western Australia has been produced.
- Large-scale breeding of native pygmy perch for restocking water bodies was conducted.
- The upper temperature tolerance of rainbow trout in Western Australia was quantified.
- Large-scale aquaponics to improve filtration in the existing recirculating aquaculture system were trialed.
- Sufficient numbers of the critically endangered Margaret River marron were bred to permit restocking.
- Determined the salinity tolerance of the feral cichlids in Bennett Brook.
- De-stocked marron and conducted pre-post drainage fauna surveys in Drakesbrook Dam, with funding from the Water Corporation.
- A review of research and monitoring programs of marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley was undertaken that identified knowledge gaps for future potential research.
- Remote sensing data has been 'ground-truthed' and a suite of resource condition indicators for mangroves have been trialed and are now being assessed for suitability in long-term resource condition monitoring of mangrove habitats.
- An FRDC project to assess nets with different mesh sizes was undertaken for the Shark Bay scallop fishery.
- Improved targeting of scallop catches in Shark Bay at an optimum time was undertaken, thus ensuring a significant carry-over in the following year.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, in addition to its ongoing roles, the Research Division intends to:

- A FRDC project on understanding the cause of the low puerulus settlement in the rock lobster fishery will begin.
- A FRDC project to examine different techniques for estimating fishing efficiency in the rock lobster fishery will begin.
- Begin a Cooperative Research Centre-funded bioeconomic modeling project to further examine the maximum economic yield for the rock lobster fishery.
- Finalise negotiations for a research area that will be closed to rock lobster fishing and commence monitoring deep water benthic assemblages prior to closure.
- Complete the development of the new spatial model for the western rock lobster fishery.
- A research monitoring project on stocks of juvenile and breeding crabs in Peel-Harvey and Cockburn Sound will continue.
- A FRDC research project on interactions between the prawn and scallop fleet in Shark Bay will be completed.
- Commence a project to determine connectivity and status of key indicator species in the near-shore waters of the West Coast Bioregion.
- 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.
- Complete the 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 modeling of these stocks.

RESEARCH DIVISION

- Commence a study of the site fidelity of pink snapper that aggregate to spawn in Cockburn Sound, using acoustic telemetry techniques.
- Provide detailed advice for the review of the State's charter boat sector.
- Continue to lead WAMSI's Node 4 (Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management).
- Complete the EBFM report for the West Coast Bioregion and draft EBFM reports for the State's other bioregions.
- Develop a fully integrated approach to surveys of recreational fishing.
- Continue the WAMSI collaborative project on coastal oceanography by implementing the full array of satellite-tracked drifter-buoys, and provide the data to the project on stock structure of key demersal fish.
- Complete assessments on spangled emperor and goldband snapper.
- Complete an assessment of the historical changes and factors affecting larval fish assemblages in the upper Swan Estuary.
- Develop a database to capture data on the distribution of freshwater fish and crayfish in WA, using an interactive website which will be launched in August 2010.
- Develop techniques for large-scale breeding of endangered native fish for restocking water bodies.
- Restock Margaret River with critically-endangered hairy marron produced at Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre.
- Commence selective breeding of a temperature-tolerant genetic line of rainbow trout.
- Develop a strategic framework for resource condition monitoring of the Pilbara and Kimberley marine and coastal environments.
- Develop introduced marine pest monitoring designs for the ports of Christmas Island and Port Hedland.
- Start a Cooperative Research Centre-funded greenlip abalone enhancement study to determine the growth and survival of abalone released in the wild fishery.

AQUATIC COMPLIANCE AND EDUCATION

Ensuring Compliance – Education, Licensing and Enforcement

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Students learn about the importance of sea wracks at Hillarys Beach. Photo: Sandy Clarke



Regional Services Division

Early in 2009, the Department of Fisheries' was re-structured into four divisions. The Regional Services Division was formed from the amalgamation of the operational arms of the agency into a single group under one director.

The rationale for bringing these groups together is the recognition that it is all of the Department's operational groups who are ultimately responsible for ensuring stakeholders and the Western Australian community behave in a manner to support policies developed to ensure 'Fish for the future'. Each group within the Regional Services Division is responsible for maximising compliance with fishing rules through the planning and delivery of a continuum of activities and tools ranging from education through to licensing and enforcement.

Staff of the Regional Services Division are widely dispersed around the coastal areas of the State, with more than 150 staff in five regional and 12 district offices and a further 40 in the Department's head office and in the Hillarys-based Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories and the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre.

The Regional Services Division is actively involved in joint operational and education planning and cross-authorisation training with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Transport, in order to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of aquatic compliance services.

Compliance strategies are developed and resources allocated to fisheries and areas of highest risk through a comprehensive risk assessment process.

The reports of each of the operational sections within the division are provided below.

Communications and Education Branch

The Communications and Education Branch (CEB) aims to build 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 of the Department's activities and initiatives, keeping the Western Australian community and stakeholders informed about developments in fisheries management and compliance and marine science, and involving the community in marine education, research, and 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 Achievements for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the CEB achieved the following:

Strategic communications – More than 100 media and communications strategies were developed and conducted, incorporating publications, media statements, interviews, public launches and announcements, signage and poster campaigns 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 150 technical, educational and promotional print and e-media titles were

published, including the Department's web site, the quarterly *Western Fisheries* magazine, scientific and management reports, log books, recreational fishing guides, species identification guides, posters, stickers, signage, display banners and other material to support the Department's strategic goals and operations.

Highlights included:

- The production of two specialised series of educational publications (*Fisheries Fact Sheets* and *Fisheries Briefs*) that commenced the previous year was continued during 2008/09, with the publication of four new fact sheets and the development/redevelopment of two 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, was commended in the 2008 W.S. Lonnie Awards for Annual Reporting, in the area of Occupational Health and Injury Management reporting.
- Development and coordination of the Department's display at the Mandurah Boat Show to promote the Department's role and key education strategies, including the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre, *MarineDiscoveryWest* and the Fisheries Volunteer program.

Web sites – The Department's five web sites and intranet form a key element in its communication. The main departmental web site received over 28 million 'hits' and over 3 million page views in 2008/09. Close to 300,000 PDF documents of various types were also downloaded. In line with Office of e-Government requirements, a review was undertaken of the underlying

technology, governance and information provided by the sites. To improve the ability of users to locate the required information on the main corporate website, the Department has upgraded the underlying search technology to a Google-based facility, with a noticeable improvement for users. One of the first uses of online video by a government department was carried out to coincide with a major media release on lobster puerulus.

Media – Media activities included responses to 908 enquiries from Perth and regional WA news organisations (broadcasters, press and online). The media unit generated 75 media statements and helped plan activities to attract media coverage for a range of departmental initiatives. The work included highlighting West Coast demersal scalefish sustainability and fisheries management options to deal with concerns; drawing attention to the lowest puerulus (juvenile rock lobster) settlement in 40 years of departmental research; plus publicity for a range of compliance activities of Fisheries and Marine Officers, from covert surveillance and special operations to the targeting of 'black market' fish sales in Western Australia to court outcomes involving significant fines for various fishing offences. The Department of Fisheries' media work includes involvement in the State's Shark Incident Emergency Response Plan and working with Water Police, Surf Life Saving WA and other stakeholders to provide information on shark incidents and sightings.

MarineDiscoveryWest – The Department's environmental education team delivers school and community education programs around the State and, in 2008/09, at the Indian Ocean Territories. The *MarineDiscoveryWest* team currently consists of a coordinator; four regional education officers in Albany, Busselton, Fremantle and Broome; an education officer based at the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre (NMDC) at Hillarys; and an Indian Ocean Territories Community Education Officer. A

summary of *MarineDiscoveryWest* activities is shown in Table 5. Education program numbers have grown significantly, with a 50 per cent increase in school education participants compared to last financial year. The South West Catchment Council (SWCC) provided significant support for *MarineDiscoveryWest* activities in Bunbury and Busselton, whilst the South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc (South Coast NRM) provided significant support for *MarineDiscoveryWest* activities in Albany and Esperance. Activities included regional Seaweed activities and the coordination of the annual Seaweed Educators' Expo at the NMDC; displays and activities at the North West Expo, Mandurah Crabfest, Mandurah and Fremantle Boat Shows, the Albany and Esperance Shows, and the Festival of the Wind (Esperance); and hosting of the Catchments, Corridors and Coasts professional development course at the NMDC. The success of the Communications and Education Branch's community education programs was highlighted by *MarineDiscoveryWest*, the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre and the Department's Fisheries Volunteers winning the Coastal, Marine and Estuarine category at the 2008 WA Environment Awards and being a finalist in the 2008 Premier's Awards (Sustainable Management of the Environment category). These awards acknowledged that the education programs delivered through these programs have a significant impact on the community's understanding of fisheries management and the aquatic environment. The 2008/09 financial year marked the commencement of the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) Community Education Program. A Community Education Officer was appointed to this program on a full-time basis from mid-August 2008 to mid-February 2009 and on a part-time basis from mid-February to the end of June. During 2008/09,

an IOT Community Education Strategic Plan was completed and two trips were made to Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, with the main purpose of stakeholder consultation and scoping of education programs. Additionally, a total of 370 students at both Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island District High Schools participated in sustainable fishing and coastal environment awareness activities that were conducted during these trips.

Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre (NMDC) – Visitation to the NMDC has shown strong growth with an increase of over 30 per cent over the previous financial year (2008/09 visitation was 22,215 people). During the same period, NMDC revenue has increased by 55 per cent (2008/09 revenue was \$125,298). More than 100 schools visited the centre during the year and the demand from the education sector also grew strongly. Visitor feedback from the general public and the education sector has been overwhelmingly positive. Considerable progress has been made in 2008/09 in attracting external grants for key educational projects, including the development of a marine education plan for the State. The excellence of the education programs offered by the NMDC has also been formally acknowledged in the 2008 WA Environment Awards and the 2008 Premier's Awards (see the *MarineDiscoveryWest* section above).

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. Key projects involving volunteers included the annual Fisheries Volunteers conference; data collection and education in the West Coast abalone and tailor fisheries; regional fishing clinics; regional boating and community shows; schools programs; and school holiday education activities. The Karratha Fisheries Volunteer program continues to work in partnership with Rio Tinto,

delivering education activities and programs in the Pilbara region. Some areas again experienced a decline in the number of volunteers and activities, in part due to staff retention and recruitment issues, the increasing complexity and shifting focus of fisheries management, cost of fuel and volunteer retirement.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the CEB intends to:

- Develop and commence implementation of a comprehensive education strategy to build support for sustainable marine management practices in line with the Department of Fisheries' Strategic Plan 2009 – 2018.
- *MarineDiscoveryWest* will continue to develop and implement school and community education programs in Perth and the regions. This will include new curriculum-linked activities and resource materials on fisheries research, management and aquatic sustainability. An important focus of these education programs will be aimed at supporting the introduction of the new regulations for state-wide recreational fishing and for demersal scalefish in the West Coast region.
- Planning and roll-out of a new departmental intranet, utilising the Microsoft Office Sharepoint Server software.
- Further refining the Department's current corporate web site to provide easier access to information.
- Commence planning of a new corporate web site, based on the 'Citizen Centric' model and Office of e-Government web guidelines.
- Redesign the current Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre website in order to provide a substantial education resource for teachers and students.
- 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 the Department's Strategic Plan 2009 – 2018.

Table 3 – Number of Fisheries Volunteers by region by year

	2007/08	2008/09
Northern		
Broome	0	5
Karratha	14	14
Mid-west		
Geraldton	17	16
Dongara	5	3
Metropolitan		
Perth/Mandurah	50	42
Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre	7	6
Southern		
Bunbury/Busselton	21	10
Albany/Esperance	17	12
Total	131	108

Table 4 – MarineDiscoveryWest activities for 2008/09

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	41	885	8	1,900	3	1,000
NMDC Hillarys	414	10,678	N/A	N/A	24	352
Metropolitan	61	2,030	4	2,050	2	32
Bunbury/Busselton	101	3,114	9	2,715	18	992
Albany/Esperance	23	539	13	405	3	1,000
TOTAL	640	17,246	34	7,070	50	3,376

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

N/A Not Applicable

COMPLIANCE AND REGIONAL SUPPORT

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Licensing and Registry Services Unit

As a result of a restructure of the Department's legislation, litigation, legal, licensing and registry services in March 2009, the licensing and registry service functions have now been combined and moved across to the Regional Services Division.

The Manager of the Licensing and Registry Services Unit was appointed as Registrar on 17 April 2009 and now reports directly to the Manager of Compliance and Regional Support.

Licensing

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

The core business areas of the licensing are:

- 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.
- Management of the renewal notice process for fish processing, aquaculture, pearling, commercial and recreational fishing licences.
- Collection of revenue for fish processing, aquaculture, pearling, commercial fishing and recreational fishing licences.

Recreational Fishing Licensing

During the 2008/09 reporting period, 61,385 varying combinations of recreational fishing licences were granted and renewed. The total is slightly higher than in 2007/08 (of 58,646 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 2008/09, 17,468 licences were granted and renewed on the Internet, compared to a total of 13,207 in 2007/08.

Commercial Fishing Licensing

The Licensing and Registry Services Unit 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 and Registry Services Unit conducts its business with the commercial fishing industry.

Aquaculture Licensing

In 2008/09, 360 freehold licences and 88 non-freehold licences were issued. This included 312 marron licences and 48 others (including ones for yabby, silver perch, trout and ornamental fish). The total represents a decrease of 18 aquaculture licences from 2007/08.

Register

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*. Day-to-day registry operations are performed by officers of the Licensing and Registry Services Unit under the authority of the Registrar.

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

Major Achievements for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the Licensing and Registry Services Unit has achieved the following:

- Managed 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.
- Continually modified and enhanced FLAMS to incorporate changes brought about through the advancement of fisheries and aquaculture management.
- Successfully hosted the annual National Fisheries Licensing Committee meeting at Fremantle on 23 April 2009.
- Finalised licensing arrangements for the unitisation of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery.
- Implemented urgent commercial and recreational licensing arrangements to effect effort reductions in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery to aid rock lobster sustainability.
- Maintained the integrity of data on the public register.

Major Initiatives for 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the Licensing and Registry Services Unit intends to:

- Implement licensing arrangements for the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery.
- Implement possible changes to recreational licencing.
- Assist with work in the consideration of the establishment of a quota management system in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery and other

unitized fisheries managed by the Department.

- Finalise work on software and procedural changes on the Register to enable the public to have access to historical versions of authorisations, exemptions and leases and not just current data.
- Continue to manage the issues flowing from audit of the Register relating to deceased estates, family trusts and use of business names.
- Investigate proposed reforms by the Commonwealth for the introduction of a Personal Property Securities Register.

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

In addition, the Strategic Compliance 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 Compliance and Regional Support 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.

- Gives 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 2008/09 financial year:

- Prosecution offences – 313, made up of 260 recreational and 52 commercial.

- Infringement notices – 775, made up of 693 recreational and 82 commercial.
- Warning Notice offences – 1,060, made up of 876 recreational and 184 commercial.

Marine Operations

The Marine Operations Section supports the Regional Services Division by managing the state-wide communication system, the Large Patrol Vessel Business Unit, fleet maintenance and capital funding for vessel replacements, operational equipment and communications.

Major Achievements 2008/09

- Re-negotiated a Service Level Agreement with the Department of Transport for delivery of at-sea marine safety compliance services.
- Improved at-sea compliance services by providing better multi-purpose vessels at Mandurah, Denham, Hillarys, Rockingham and Lancelin.
- Let a contract to Western Boat Builders in Geraldton to construct a 20-metre replacement vessel to be based in the Mid-west.
- Negotiated with the Department of Transport to investigate the provision of marine communications services by the WA Water Police to rationalise communications centres and to provide continuous coverage for each agency.
- Assisted external agencies in northern remote offshore areas by providing large patrol vessels and crew for environmental survey, scientific research and at-sea compliance in support of the State's aquatic management.
- Provided at-sea resources to external agencies for the control of emergency incidents such as whale rescues, sea search and rescue, and marine oil pollution incidents.

Major Initiatives 2009/10

- Completion and commissioning of a replacement patrol vessel.
- Development of a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Transport for at-sea marine safety delivery.
- Ongoing management of the Regional Services Division's capital replacement program.

International Operations

Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)

A new service level agreement was reached between the Department of Fisheries and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) for the 2008/09 period, which focused on three pre-existing Commonwealth domestic fisheries programs and the new Compliance Risk Management Team. 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.

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 and Commonwealth Fish Receiver Permit holders were monitored in Albany, Bunbury, Fremantle, Geraldton, Carnarvon and Broome. Foreign fishing vessels entering WA ports under permits issued by the AFMA were also monitored.

REGIONAL SERVICES BRANCH

During the 2008/09 financial year, the AFMA decided to cease funding for domestic compliance. In WA after June 30 2009, the AFMA have indicated that after more than 30 years of Western Australian officers undertaking Commonwealth compliance on behalf of the AFMA, the latter will now undertake this role with its own staff.

REGIONAL DELIVERY

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Abrolhos Islands

The Houtman 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. The Abrolhos Islands and adjoining State Territorial Waters is an important part of the Western Australian environment.

The Abrolhos system is of major significance for the conservation of flora and fauna, and also significant in geological terms. In addition, the adjoining State Territorial Waters contain some of the most highly valued marine systems in the State. Furthermore, these waters include the sites of some of the most historically important shipwrecks in Australia, with associated historic sites located on the islands themselves.

All the islands in 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 Australian territorial baselines, are declared as a Fish Habitat Protection Area. The islands located within the Wallabi Group, which are of historic significance associated with the *Batavia* wreck, are listed on the Commonwealth Government's National Heritage list.

Within the Abrolhos system, 22 islands are utilised by Managed Fishery License holders operating within the A-Zone of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery and aquaculture licensees endorsed to operate within the islands for the establishment of infrastructure to support their commercial operations. This infrastructure is managed through a Bodies Corporate land-lease arrangement with the Minister for Fisheries. These islands increasingly 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 independent of, and in conjunction with, the three government departments of the WA Museum, the Department of Environment and Conservation, and the Department of Transport. These departments also hold legislative responsibility for the preservation of the Abrolhos Islands' values or the control of activities that occur within this area.

The Department of Fisheries also has significant infrastructure at the Abrolhos Islands with the running of major operational and accommodation complexes, maintenance of equipment and a 14-metre patrol vessel, the *PV Chalmers*. These are looked after by a dedicated Abrolhos Islands Management Unit.

In addition, the Department also manages public infrastructure within the Abrolhos Islands such as toilets, jetties, vessels moorings and airstrips. The airstrips are located at Rat Island, East Wallabi Island and North Island within the Abrolhos and are used extensively to support the western rock lobster and aquaculture industries, tourism and government services.

The Department has undertaken a restructure of its service delivery to the Abrolhos Islands, which has resulted in the delivery of Abrolhos policy and executive support for the Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee (AIMAC) being provided by the Fisheries Environment Branch in order to provide a greater focus on the management of this estate. However, in recognition of the importance of the Abrolhos Islands, a Senior Operational Manager (Abrolhos) position has been established within the Department's Mid-west regional office, holding responsibility for the provision of policy advice and operational management of the Abrolhos.

Regional Offices

Major Achievements for 2008/09

In the 2008/09 financial year, the following regional delivery was achieved:

Perth Metropolitan

- Significant progress was made on the construction of the new Mandurah District and Perth Metropolitan South Regional Office (part of the Marine Operations Centre – Peel Region).
- The tender for a new 11-metre multi-function rigid inflatable vessel for the Mandurah District was approved.
- A new multi-function 12-metre high-speed rigid inflatable vessel, the *PV Waterman* was launched and is operating between Hillarys and Lancelin.
- The tender for two 8-metre rigid inflatable multi function vessels for the Rockingham and Lancelin Districts was approved.
- A school-based education program in the southern metropolitan region was developed and implemented.
- A project-based volunteering system was implemented into the Fisheries Volunteer program.

Northern

- Occupational Health and Safety and key infrastructure upgrades at the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park, including the application of a polyurea tank liner and upgrading of the filtration systems.
- Completed review of Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park fees and charges.
- Implementation of revised legislation for the Rowley Shoals Marine Park.

- Review and implementation for the co-management arrangements of the trochus fishery between the Department and the Ardyaloon Aboriginal Corporation.
- Development of collaborative operations plans with the Department of the Environment and Conservation for the improved State services delivery at the Rowley Shoals and Montebello Islands Marine Parks.
- Delivery of Service Level Agreement with the Commonwealth's Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water Resources and the Arts for the delivery of enforcement services at Mermaid Reef.
- Trial of an electronic reporting system for the pearling industry.
- Delivery of community education and awareness programs in the north, including school holiday programs in Broome in July 2008 and April 2009, and Karratha in October 2008.
- Fisheries Volunteers program established in Broome.
- Collaborative community education and awareness program with the Department of Environment and Conservation on marine debris.
- Fisheries education and awareness program tour undertaken in Pilbara inland mining communities, supported by Rio Tinto and the Karratha Fisheries Volunteers.
- Community fisheries information sessions held in Broome and Karratha in February 2009, and Kununurra in May 2009.
- Delivery of fisheries management services at the Indian Ocean Territories under a Service Delivery Arrangement with the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department.

Mid-west

- Development of a Business Case for the management of the three Abrolhos Islands airstrips.

REGIONAL DELIVERY

- Completion of major Abrolhos Islands airstrip maintenance program.
- Construction of a pathway from the Rat Island airstrip to the Silver Chain nursing station for the transport of injured patients.
- Development and implementation of *Abrolhos Islands Land Occupancy by No Effect A-Zone Rock Lobster Licence Holders and Inactive Aquaculture Licensees Policy* (also known as the 'One Pot Policy').
- Compliance services within the Mid-west for the commercial rock lobster fishery were delivered in a manner consistent with the revised management requirements.
- Comprehensive signage installed and brochures developed for the Kalbarri Blue Holes Fish Habitat Protection Areas so as to inform the public about the management and importance of the areas.
- Establishment of a new position of Senior Operations Manager (Abrolhos) to provide key operational management to the Abrolhos reserve and Fish Habitat Protection Area and key policy advice to the Department and the Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee.
- Apprehension of Kalbarri recreational fishermen with 181 kilograms of narrow barred mackerel fillets in excess of the possession limit for finfish.
- Apprehension of a commercial rock lobster deck-hand for selling 220 western rock lobsters taken under a recreational fisherman's license following a joint operation undertaken by Mid-west Fisheries and Marine Officers and investigators from the Department's Serious Offences Unit.
- Delivery of compliance activities consistent with Key Performance Milestones in accordance with the joint Department of Fisheries and Environment and Conservation Jurien Bay Marine Park Operational Plan.

Southern

- Release of South Crustacean Fishery Paper in January 2009.
- Fisheries and Marine Officers involvement in two high profile major compliance operations – 'Sawfish' and 'Acacia'.
- Review of marron fishing legislation completed.
- Fisheries school education road show at Boyup Brook including schools from Kojonup, Wagin and Darkan.
- Design, implementation of a abalone diver induction/ instruction manual.
- In the 11 months to May 2009, regional staff answered 7,464 counter and 4,621 phone requests for fishing information from the Department's district offices, representing more than 1,000 office contacts regionally per month.

Gascoyne

- A Vessel Monitoring System was implemented for the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery and includes all vessels 'wetlining' adjacent to, and within, the fishery.
- Joint servicing and collaborative arrangements and processes were further developed and improved with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) under collaborative and operational compliance plans for the Ningaloo and Shark Bay marine reserves.
- In partnership with DEC, an information service was held in Coral Bay during the tourist season by volunteers and staff.
- Extensive regional support was provided for the development of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery and to coordinate the development of the Gascoyne Inshore Net Fishery.

REGIONAL DELIVERY

- Comprehensive signage was 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.
- A new patrol vessel was developed and delivered to the Shark Bay District, which is much larger and more efficient and effective than previous vessels and will provide better levels of compliance and research for the Gascoyne region.
- Development of a new patrol vessel for the Exmouth District has progressed to the tender stage.
- Service agreements with the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts were developed further, with several Fisheries and Marine Officers achieving Certificate IV qualifications and associated Warden Authorities.
- Muiron Islands Marine Management Area orders and a subsequent education program was completed.

Major Initiatives 2009/10

In the 2009/10 financial year, the Regional offices intend to:

Perth Metropolitan

- Award the tender for a new 11-metre multi-function rigid inflatable vessel for the Mandurah District and the vessel constructed for launch early to mid-2010.
- Award the tender for two eight-metre rigid inflatable multi-function vessels for the Rockingham and Lancelin Districts and construct vessels for launch in early to mid-2010.
- The new Mandurah District and Perth Metropolitan South Regional Office will be completed and operational in August 2009.
- Undertake a school-based regional education tour. The tour will take fisheries education to the coastal regional towns between Lancelin and Geraldton.

Northern

- Continue delivery of community education and awareness programs in the State's north, including school and collaborative programs.
- Deliver community education and awareness program in Pilbara schools, sponsored by Chevron.
- Deliver community education materials by Fisheries Volunteers in the north.
- Implement a new outcomes-based compliance plan for the pearling industry.
- Approval to review and amend the *Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery Management Plan 1989* and the *Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery Management Plan 2000*.
- The outcomes from the *Accord for the Future Management of Barramundi and Threadfin 2007 - 2012* will be implemented.
- The management arrangements of the Lake Argyle Silver Cobbler Fishery will be implemented.
- The mud crab names and minimum lengths under the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* will be reviewed.
- The developing *beche de mer* fishery will be reviewed by the Developing Fisheries Assessment Committee.
- A section of the seawater intake pipes at the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park will be replaced.
- Develop alternative management arrangements for the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park in conjunction with tenants.
- Continue delivery of fisheries management services at the Indian Ocean Territories under a Service Delivery Arrangement with the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department.

Mid-west

- Implement a key recommendation of the *Abrolhos Islands Business Case* to ensure airstrips operate in accordance with operational risks to Government.
- Review Abrolhos Islands Bodies Corporate Land lease terms and conditions.
- Ensure facility owners at the Abrolhos Islands utilise infrastructure consistent with policy.
- Introduce landing fees for the Abrolhos Islands' airstrips.
- Investigate viability of a volunteer program for the Abrolhos Islands.
- Provide advice to the WA Museum for the relocation of departmental and commercial fishermen's infrastructure off Beacon Islands of the Abrolhos
- Commence implementations of recommendations the new *Abrolhos Islands Management Plan 2009 – 2019*.
- In conjunction with Department of Environment and Conservation, undertake a review of the Jurien Bay Joint Operational Plan and associated Key Performance Milestones.
- Develop a joint agreement with the Mid-west College of TAFE for the delivery of services at the Abrolhos Islands as a component of maritime educational programs.
- Implement compliance services delivery consistent with key high risks identified within respective fisheries.
- Deliver a new patrol vessel to the Abrolhos Islands, resulting in improved at-sea service across the islands.
- Replace the *PV MacLaughlan* with a patrol vessel, aimed at providing a high level of services in the Mid-west.

Southern

- Progress drafting of the South Coast Crustacean Fishery.

- Approval to formulate management arrangements for the South West Beach Seine Fishery.
- Launch of the new multimedia/education trailers.
- Educational road shows to be carried out targeting Collie, Manjimup regions.
- Implement new collaborative management arrangements for Walpole-Nornalup Inlets Marine Park.
- Secure funding for education positions from external sources.
- Increase targeted compliance activities, particularly within minor commercial fisheries.
- Create standard operating procedures for main regional compliance functions.
- Introduce the Southern Regional compliance officer induction manual.
- Design and implement education and compliance program to complement the West Coast Demersal Scalefish legislation announcements.

Gascoyne

- Remaining Fisheries and Marine Officers to achieve Certificate IV qualification and associated Wardens Authority with the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts.
- Delivery of a new patrol vessel for Exmouth District.
- Development and implementation of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery arrangements.
- Commence construction of the new office complex in Denham.
- Scope a project for shoreline clean-up and waste collection for Miaboolya FHPA with the Carnarvon District Office and other government agencies.
- Scope a project to explore the feasibility of video conferencing within the region, to other regions and metropolitan offices.

CORPORATE SERVICES

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The Department of Fisheries provides fisheries management and education services at Christmas Island, on behalf of the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department. Photo: Michael Burke



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 Department of Treasury and Finance – Office of Shared Services (DTFSS) delivers corporate services, such as financial and human resources across the public sector from a single location, using a common system. The shared services functionality is based on the concept of employee and manager self-service, where individuals will interact directly with the DTFSS and associated systems.

The Department of Fisheries transferred its finance function in October 2006, while payroll processes were transferred to an Interim Payroll Solution in December 2006. The transitions involved some changes to the Department's internal processes, training of staff, the restructuring of the Finance and Human Resources branches, and the redeployment of a number of staff.

In 2008/09 as the functionality of the systems operated by the DTFSS improved and expanded, the Department continued to reorganise internal business processes to meet the requirements of the new standardised system.

The Department of Fisheries has also worked with the DTFSS to improve service delivery and to facilitate the introduction of new components.

The Human Resources Branch has been undertaking significant work to ready the Department for the roll-in of personnel and payroll functionality to the 'whole of government' model for corporate service reform. This roll-in,

to take effect on 1 October 2009, will 'rejoin' personnel and payroll with the finance functionality that rolled-in in 2006.

The Department of Fisheries has been working closely with DTFSS and key stakeholders to realign its business processes to meet the DTFSS model for shared corporate services. This reform will represent a major change to the way staff undertake human resources-related functions,

Customer Service Management

The Department of Fisheries' Customer Service Feedback Management System has been set up to ensure that feedback 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 provide feedback about the standard of service provided by the Department. 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 Customer Service Council was actively involved in the development of a software-based 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 has 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 2008/09

The Department of Fisheries received one complaint through the Feedback Management System during 2008/09.

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 Feedback Management System software was reviewed and updated in June 2009.

Outlook for 2009/10

The improved Feedback Management System will be continually monitored during 2009/10.

Human Resources Branch

In 2008/09 the Human Resources Branch, in response to feedback from a comprehensive Workforce Analysis project, restructured to better meet the needs of staff and to improve service delivery. These improvements have resulted in more streamlined processes and have enabled the Branch to increase its focus on placing the Department in a more strategic position to face the current economic and business environments in which it operates.

Major Achievements for 2008/09

Initiatives completed in 2008/09 include the following:

- A significant review and update of the Department's Code of Conduct and existing policies and procedures.
- Development and implementation of an online conduct and behaviour training course for all staff.
- Reassessment of, and subsequent changes to, classification review procedures.
- Structural changes and improvements to service delivery within recruitment and establishment functions.
- Implementation of a new Conflict of Interest Assessment Form, management strategy and register.
- An analysis of the workforce to identify the current and future demand for skills, labour and management expertise and strategies to address the identified gaps through attraction and retention projects that will now be continued through formal team structures.
- Attendance at a major careers expo (including the development of marketing material and innovative recruitment practices).

- Piloting a staff wellness program.
- Negotiations commenced for a new Agency Specific Award.

In addition to these initiatives, the Human Resources Branch has been undertaking significant work to ready the Department for the roll-in of its human resources and payroll functionality to the ‘whole of government’ model for corporate service reform. This roll-in, to take effect on 1 October 2009, will ‘rejoin’ human resources and payroll with the finance functionality that rolled-in in 2006.

The Human Resources Branch has been working closely with the Department of Treasury and Finance Shared Services (DTFSS) and key stakeholders at the Department of Fisheries to realign fisheries’ business processes to meet the DTFSS model for shared corporate services. This reform will represent a major change to the way staff undertake human resource related functions, and in 2009/2010 the Branch will focus on training and communicating these new processes to all staff.

Annual Staffing Level

The annual staffing level for the year was 425 employees as at 30 June 2009 (full time equivalent excluding casual staff and board members).

Table 5: Department of Fisheries staffing by category

	2008/09	2007/08
Full-time Permanent	341	277
Full-time Contract	41	49
Permanent Part-time	30.9 (FTE)	61.3 (FTE)
Contract Part-time	8.82 (FTE)	10.45 (FTE)
Seconded out (not paid)	3	2

NOTE: FTE stands for Full Time Equivalent.

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David Bushell, of WestnFresh, is a sea mullet fan. Photo: Eloise Dortch



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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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 2009**

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 2009, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service, Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service, and Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year then ended, 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 www.audit.wa.gov.au/pubs/AuditPracStatement_Feb09.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 2009**

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

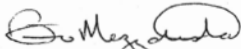
- (i) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial position of the Department of Fisheries at 30 June 2009 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions;
- (ii) the controls exercised by the Department provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment 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 2009.

COLIN MURPHY
AUDITOR GENERAL
11 September 2009

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

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 2009 and the financial position as at 30 June 2009.

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

20 August 2009



Stuart Smith BEcons Grad Dip Econs
Accountable Authority

20 August 2009



Choon Chong BBus CPA
Manager Financial Services

20 August 2009

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	8	35,181	31,578
Supplies and services	9	17,378	17,216
Depreciation and amortisation expense	10	4,356	3,211
Finance costs	11	59	76
Accommodation expenses	12	1,996	1,867
Grants and subsidies	13	4,172	3,752
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs	14	3,176	1,491
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	16	92	97
Other expenses	15	1,262	1,112
Total cost of services		<u>67,672</u>	<u>60,400</u>
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	17	23,944	24,223
Grants and contributions	18	4,681	2,601
Interest revenue	19	379	677
Total revenue		<u>29,004</u>	<u>27,501</u>
<i>Gains</i>			
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	16	2	1
Total gains		<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
Total income other than income from State Government		<u>29,006</u>	<u>27,502</u>
NET COST OF SERVICES		38,666	32,898
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriations	20	30,770	31,812
Resources received free of charge	21	372	343
Total income from State Government		<u>31,142</u>	<u>32,155</u>
DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD		<u>(7,524)</u>	<u>(743)</u>

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

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	35	1,112	8,221
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	22	2,337	1,624
Receivables	23	1,830	1,674
Amounts receivable for services	24	4,003	3,760
Other current assets	25	51	404
Total current assets		<u>9,333</u>	<u>15,683</u>
Non-current assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	22	444	331
Amounts receivable for services	24	4,017	4,228
Property, plant and equipment	26	58,974	55,324
Total non-current assets		<u>63,435</u>	<u>59,883</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>72,768</u>	<u>75,566</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	28	2,789	2,180
Borrowings	29	227	210
Provisions	30	6,633	5,923
Other current liabilities	31	802	756
Total current liabilities		<u>10,451</u>	<u>9,069</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	29	374	601
Provisions	30	2,028	2,009
Total non-current liabilities		<u>2,402</u>	<u>2,610</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>12,853</u>	<u>11,679</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>59,915</u>	<u>63,887</u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	33	39,166	36,466
Reserves	34	16,835	15,990
Accumulated surplus	32	3,914	11,431
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>59,915</u>	<u>63,887</u>

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 2009

	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Balance of equity at start of period		63,887	45,431
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY			
Balance at start of period	33	36,466	25,236
Contributions by owners		1,300	2,733
Capital contribution		1,400	8,497
Balance at end of period	33	<u>39,166</u>	<u>36,466</u>
RESERVES			
Asset Revaluation Reserve			
Balance at start of period	34	15,990	8,021
Gains/(losses) from asset revaluation		845	7,969
Balance at end of period	34	<u>16,835</u>	<u>15,990</u>
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS			
Balance at start of period	32	11,431	12,174
Deficit for the period	32	(7,517)	(743)
Balance at end of period	32	<u>3,914</u>	<u>11,431</u>
Balance of equity at end of period		<u>59,915</u>	<u>63,887</u>
Total income and expense for the period		<u>(6,672)</u>	<u>7,226</u>

(a) The aggregate net amount attributable to each category of equity is: deficit \$7,524,000 plus adjustment for prior period \$7,000 plus gains from asset revaluation of \$845,000 (2008: deficit \$743,000 plus gains from asset revaluation of \$7,969,000).

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

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Note	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		27,378	28,429
Capital contributions		1,400	8,497
Holding account drawdowns		3,360	2,542
Net cash provided by State Government		<u>32,138</u>	<u>39,468</u>
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(34,453)	(30,869)
Supplies and services		(16,784)	(16,591)
Finance costs		(43)	(76)
Accommodation		(1,996)	(1,867)
Grants and subsidies		(4,172)	(3,752)
GST payments on purchases		(3,184)	(2,822)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs		(2,587)	(1,491)
Other payments		(1,262)	(1,112)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		24,077	24,245
Grants and contributions		4,163	2,891
Interest received		561	466
GST receipts on sales		646	385
GST receipts from taxation authority		2,691	2,051
Net cash used in operating activities	35	<u>(32,343)</u>	<u>(28,542)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from the sale of non-current physical assets	16	172	93
Purchases of non-current physical assets		(6,040)	(6,042)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(5,868)</u>	<u>(5,949)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of borrowings		(210)	(195)
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(210)</u>	<u>(195)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(6,283)	4,782
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period		10,176	5,394
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of period	35	<u>3,893</u>	<u>10,176</u>

The Cash Flow Statement 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 2009

		2009 ESTIMATE \$'000	2009 ACTUAL \$'000	VARIANCE \$'000	2009 ACTUAL \$'000	2008 ACTUAL \$'000	VARIANCE \$'000
Item	DELIVERY OF SERVICES						
102	Net amount appropriated to deliver services	28,836	30,571	1,735	30,571	31,619	(1,048)
	Amount authorised by other statutes						
–	<i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	195	199	4	199	193	6
	Total appropriations provided to deliver services	29,031	30,770	1,739	30,770	31,812	(1,042)
	CAPITAL						
174	Capital contribution	400	1,400	1,000	1,400	8,497	(7,097)
	GRAND TOTAL	29,431	32,170	2,739	32,170	40,309	(8,139)
	Details of expenses by service						
	Fisheries management	16,940	21,505	4,565	21,505	15,458	6,047
	Compliance and education	21,304	23,039	1,735	23,039	22,828	211
	Research and monitoring	17,855	21,444	3,589	21,444	20,010	1,434
	Marine safety service	2,037	1,684	(353)	1,684	2,104	(420)
	Total cost of services	58,136	67,672	9,536	67,672	60,400	7,272
	Less Total Income	(27,895)	(29,006)	(1,111)	(29,006)	(27,502)	(1,504)
	Net Cost of Services	30,241	38,666	8,425	38,666	32,898	5,768
	Adjustments	(1,210)	0	1,210	0	0	0
	Total appropriations provided to deliver services	29,031	38,666	9,635	38,666	32,898	5,768
		2009 ESTIMATE \$'000	2009 ACTUAL \$'000	VARIANCE \$'000	2009 ACTUAL \$'000	2008 ACTUAL \$'000	VARIANCE \$'000
	Capital expenditure						
	Purchase of non-current physical assets	4,848	5,719	(871)	5,719	6,042	(323)
	Adjustments for other funding sources	(4,448)	(4,319)	(129)	(4,319)	2,455	(6,774)
	Capital contribution (appropriation)	400	1,400	(1,000)	1,400	8,497	(7,097)

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

Note 39' Explanatory statement' provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2009 and between the actual results for 2008 and 2009.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES SCHEDULE OF INCOME AND EXPENSES BY SERVICE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		COMPLIANCE AND EDUCATION		RESEARCH AND MONITORING		MARINE SAFETY		TOTAL	TOTAL
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES										
Expenses										
Employee benefits expense	10,788	8,030	11,499	11,660	11,743	10,509	1,151	1,379	35,181	31,578
Supplies and services	4,622	4,025	6,900	7,003	5,470	5,676	386	512	17,378	17,216
Depreciation and amortisation	35	32	2,466	1,445	1,855	1,734	0	0	4,356	3,211
Finance costs	0	0	59	76	0	0	0	0	59	76
Accommodation expenses	37	2	1,703	1,575	135	112	121	178	1,996	1,867
Grants and subsidies	2,402	1,502	0	629	1,770	1,620	0	1	4,172	3,752
FAS buy-backs	3,176	1,491	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,176	1,491
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	0	0	92	97	0	0	0	0	92	97
Other expenses	445	376	320	343	471	359	26	34	1,262	1,112
Total cost of services	21,505	15,458	23,039	22,828	21,444	20,010	1,684	2,104	67,672	60,400
Income										
User charges and fees	5,174	4,169	10,137	10,425	8,430	9,396	203	233	23,944	24,223
Grants and contributions	210	294	35	0	4,436	2,307	0	0	4,681	2,601
Interest revenue	71	113	135	263	170	295	3	6	379	677
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
Total income other than income from State Government	5,455	4,576	10,309	10,689	13,036	11,998	206	239	29,006	27,502
NET COST OF SERVICES	16,050	10,882	12,730	12,139	8,408	8,012	1,478	1,865	38,666	32,898
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT										
Service appropriation	13,541	10,392	10,041	12,554	5,906	7,374	1,282	1,492	30,770	31,812
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Resources received free of charge	118	101	127	107	118	122	9	13	372	343
Total income from State Government	13,659	10,493	10,168	12,661	6,024	7,496	1,291	1,505	31,142	32,155
Deficit for the period	(2,391)	(389)	(2,562)	522	(2,384)	(516)	(187)	(360)	(7,524)	(743)

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

Amounts for 2007-2008 have been recast for comparative purposes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES SCHEDULE OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY SERVICE AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		COMPLIANCE AND EDUCATION		RESEARCH AND MONITORING		MARINE SAFETY		TOTAL	TOTAL
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Assets										
Current assets										
Cash and cash equivalents	249	1,839	389	2,874	432	3,191	42	317	1,112	8,221
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	523	363	817	568	907	631	90	63	2,337	1,625
Receivables	551	504	569	520	696	637	14	12	1,830	1,673
Amounts receivable for services	2	0	1,858	2,035	2,143	1,725	0	0	4,003	3,760
Other current assets	8	112	29	118	13	171	1	3	51	404
Total Current Assets	1,333	2,818	3,662	6,115	4,191	6,355	147	395	9,333	15,683
Non-current assets										
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	99	74	155	116	172	128	18	13	444	331
Amounts receivable for services	138	119	1,795	2,186	2,060	1,903	24	20	4,017	4,228
Property, plant and equipment	21	200	32,294	29,766	26,660	25,325	0	34	58,974	55,324
Total Non-Current Assets	258	393	34,244	32,068	28,892	27,356	41	67	63,435	59,883
Total assets	1,591	3,211	37,906	38,183	33,083	33,711	188	462	72,768	75,566
Liabilities										
Current liabilities										
Payables	612	478	1,031	806	1,047	819	99	77	2,789	2,180
Borrowings	0	0	227	210	0	0	0	0	227	210
Provisions	1,476	1,311	2,320	2,049	2,616	2,332	260	231	6,672	5,923
Other current liabilities	159	150	248	406	336	169	20	25	763	756
Total Current Liabilities	2,247	1,939	3,826	3,471	3,999	3,320	379	333	10,451	9,069
Non-current liabilities										
Borrowings	0	0	374	601	0	0	0	0	374	601
Provisions	459	458	708	677	777	795	84	79	2,028	2,009
Total Non-Current Liabilities	459	458	1,082	1,278	777	795	84	79	2,402	2,610
Total liabilities	2,706	2,397	4,908	4,749	4,776	4,115	463	412	12,853	11,679
NETASSETS	(1,115)	814	32,998	33,434	28,307	29,596	(275)	50	59,915	63,887

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

Amounts for 30 June 2008 have been recast for comparative purposes

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Subject	Policy Note	Disclosure Note	Title of Disclosure Note
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Assets	3(h), (l)	23	RECEIVABLES
Assets	3(k)	24	AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR SERVICES
Assets		25	OTHER ASSETS
Assets	3(e)	26	PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT
Assets	3(f)	27	IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS
Liabilities	3(m)	28	PAYABLES
Liabilities		29	BORROWINGS
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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 2009

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 funded from revenue collected under the *Fish Resources Management Act 199*, *Pearling Act 1990* and 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 collects in the respective Trust Accounts administered by the Department.

2 AUSTRALIAN EQUIVALENTS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

General

The Department's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2009 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).

Early adoption of standards

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'. No Standards and Interpretations that have been issued or amended but are not yet effective have been early adopted by the Department for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2009.

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 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 balance sheet 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

AASB 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 33 '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:

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 20 'Income from State Government' for further detail.

Net Appropriation Determination

The Treasurer may make a determination providing for prescribed receipts to be retained for services under the control of the Department. In accordance with the determination specified in the 2008-09 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$3.33 million in 2008-09 (\$2.33 million in 2007-08) from GST receipts on sales and input credits.

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions

Revenue is recognised at fair value when the Department obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions that 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.

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

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

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, ie. 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 26 'Property, plant and Equipment' for further information on revaluations.

Derecognition

Upon disposal or derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure, any revaluation reserve relating to that asset is retained in the asset revaluation reserve.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets as described in Note 26 "Property, Plant and Equipment".

Depreciation

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

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.

Intangible Assets

Capitalisation/Expensing of assets

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

All acquired and internally developed intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

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

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

Licences	up to 10 years
Development Costs	3 to 5 years
Software(a)	3 to 5 years
Web site costs	3 to 5 years

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

Licences

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

Research and Development

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

Computer Software

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

Web site costs

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

(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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(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:

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

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 that normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

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

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

Accrued salaries (refer note 31 '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 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.

(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 20 'Income from State Government' and note 24 '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 23 '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 28 '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 30 'Provisions'.

(i) Provisions - Employee Benefits

Annual Leave and Long Service Leave

The liability for annual leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the balance sheet date is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Annual leave expected to be settled more than 12 months after 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. 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.

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.

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.

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 GESBS 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 15 'Other Expenses' and 30 'Provisions'.

(o) Superannuation Expense

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

- a) Defined benefit plans – For 2007-2008 the 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 – For 2007-2008, 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 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 20 'Income from State Government'). Commencing in 2008-2009, the reporting of annual movements in these notional liabilities has been discontinued and is no longer recognised in the Income Statement.

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 Department's 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,

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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
- 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 2008 that impacted on the Department:

Review of AAS 27 'Financial Reporting by Local Governments', AAS 29 'Financial Reporting by Government Departments and AAS 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';
- AASB 1050 'Administered Items';
- AASB 1051 'Land Under Roads';
- AASB 1052 'Disaggregated Disclosures';
- 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 127 & AASB 137];
- Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities'.

The existing requirements in AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31 have been transferred to the above new and revised topic-based Standards and Interpretation. These requirements remain substantively unchanged. The new and revised Standards and Interpretation make some modifications to disclosures and provide additional guidance (for example, Australian Guidance to AASB 116 'Property, Plant and Equipment' in relation to heritage and cultural assets has been introduced), otherwise there is no financial impact.

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 TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. Consequently, the Department has not applied early the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations that have been issued and which may impact the Department but are not yet effective. Where applicable, the Department plans to apply these Standards and Interpretations from their application date:

Title	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
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.	1 January 2009
AASB 2008-13 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 17 – Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners [AASB 5 & AASB 110]. This Standard amends AASB 5 'Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations' in respect of the classification, presentation and measurement of non-current assets held for distribution to owners in their capacity as owners. This may impact on the presentation and classification of Crown land held by the Department where the Crown land is to be sold by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. The Department does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied prospectively.	1 July 2008

7 SERVICES OF DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

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

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

The services of the Fisheries Department were revised as part of the 2008-2009 State Budget process. The revised service definitions detailed below closely align with the functional organisational structure and for the first time report separately on the services delivered by the Department in the area of marine safety.

- Fisheries management
- Compliance and education
- Research and monitoring
- Marine safety service

Description of each service is as follows:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Fisheries management

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

Compliance and education

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

Research and monitoring

The aquatic environment is subject to ongoing change – both natural and man-made. In order to ensure that management arrangements continue to adapt to environmental changes (eg climate change impacts) and community expectations, research and monitoring is required, including innovative science (eg impacts of expected climate change, social, and economic research) and the ongoing monitoring of fish stocks.

Marine safety service

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

The 30 June 2008 financial results have been recast to reflect the revised services reporting structure.

8 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Wages and salaries (a)	27,306	24,784
Superannuation - defined contribution plans (b)	2,877	2,490
Superannuation - defined benefit plans (c)	0	4
Long service leave (d)	479	332
Annual leave (d)	2 701	2,298
Other related expenses	1,818	1,670
	<u>35,181</u>	<u>31,578</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) Includes a superannuation contribution component.

Employment on-costs such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 15 'Other expenses'. The employment on costs liability is included at note 30 'Provisions'.

9 SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Communications	1,095	1,137
Freight & Mail	296	276
Property	868	884
Contractors & Consultants	3,684	3,451
Consumables	2,596	2,043
Minor Equipment Acquisitions	708	512
Repairs and Maintenance	2,039	1,643
Travel	1,896	1,966
Electricity and water	289	313
Advertising	93	183
Other	3,814	4,808
	<u>17,378</u>	<u>17,216</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10 DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION EXPENSE	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Depreciation		
Buildings	725	627
Marine vessels	2,312	1,625
Communications	83	82
Computing hardware	59	138
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	83	109
Office equipment	63	76
Plant and mmachinery	151	166
Motor vehicles	122	71
Other equipment	58	15
Infrastructure – maritime	83	84
Computing software	177	12
Total Depreciation	<u>3,916</u>	<u>3,005</u>
Amortisation		
Leased patrol vessel	440	206
Total amortisation	<u>440</u>	<u>206</u>
Total depreciation and amortisation	<u>4,356</u>	<u>3,211</u>
11 FINANCE COSTS	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Finance lease finance charges	<u>59</u>	<u>76</u>
	59	76
12 ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Lease rentals	<u>1,996</u>	<u>1,867</u>
	1,996	1,867
13 GRANTS & SUBSIDIES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Recurrent		
Grants to key stakeholder groups	1,934	1,874
Contributions to Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	1,363	1,173
Research grants	353	268
Other	<u>522</u>	<u>437</u>
	4,172	3,752

14 FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEME BUYBACKS	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs	<u>3,176</u>	<u>1,491</u>
15 OTHER EXPENSES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Employment on-costs (see note 8 'Employee benefits expense') (a)	882	805
Other expenses	<u>380</u>	<u>307</u>
	1,262	1,112
<p>(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 30 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.</p>		
16 NET GAIN / (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<i>Costs of Disposal of Non-current Assets</i>		
Carrying amount of property, plant and equipment disposed of during the year	262	190
Selling costs of property, plant and equipment disposed of during the year	0	0
<i>Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets</i>		
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment	<u>172</u>	<u>93</u>
Net loss	<u>(90)</u>	<u>(97)</u>
Gain on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		
Property plant and equipment	2	1
Loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		
Property plant and equipment	(92)	(98)
Net loss	<u>(90)</u>	<u>(97)</u>
17 USER CHARGES AND FEES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Access fees	14,292	14,758
Development of Better Interests Fees	3,500	3,500
Application fees	895	1,031
Licence fees	2,746	2,680
Fees for service	57	355
Other	<u>2,454</u>	<u>1,899</u>
	23,944	24,223

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

18 GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	2,051	1,187
Other	<u>2,630</u>	<u>1,414</u>
	<u>4,681</u>	<u>2,601</u>

19 INTEREST REVENUE	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Fisheries Research and Development Account	300	636
AFMA Account	0	12
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account	<u>79</u>	<u>29</u>
	<u>379</u>	<u>677</u>

20 INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Appropriation received during the year :		
Service appropriations (a)	<u>30,770</u>	<u>31,812</u>
	<u>30,770</u>	<u>31,812</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. The recognition of this item was discontinued for the 2008-2009 financial year. See note 3(o)

21 RESOURCES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Administration expenses	<u>350</u>	<u>343</u>
	<u>350</u>	<u>343</u>

Resources received free of charge has been determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies or private organisation:

Department of Justice	246	229
Department of Land Information	40	40
Department of Planning and Infrastructure	0	5
Department of Treasury and Finance	64	69
Other (a)	<u>22</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>372</u>	<u>343</u>

- (a) relates to transfer of assets so amount not included in expenses.

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.

22 RESTRICTED CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account (a)	645	429
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account (b)	<u>1,692</u>	<u>1,195</u>
	<u>2,337</u>	<u>1,624</u>
Non-Current		
Salaries suspense account (c)	<u>444</u>	<u>331</u>
	<u>2,781</u>	<u>1,955</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.

23 RECEIVABLES	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Receivables	1,465	1,094
Less: Allowance for impairment of receivables	(4)	(13)
GST Receivable	<u>369</u>	<u>593</u>
	<u>1,830</u>	<u>1,674</u>
Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables		
Balance at start of year	13	13
Doubtful debts expense recognised in the income statement	(9)	0
Amounts written off during the period	0	0
Amounts recovered off during the period	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>4</u>	<u>13</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 40 'Financial Instruments' .

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

24 AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR SERVICES	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Current	4,003	3,760
Non Current	4,017	4,228
	<u>8,020</u>	<u>7,988</u>

Represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. See note 3(k) 'Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)'. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

25 OTHER ASSETS	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Prepayments		
Licences and rentals	10	39
Lease Patrol Vessel	13	16
Accrued Income		
Accrued Interest	28	349
	<u>51</u>	<u>404</u>

26 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
LAND		
Land at fair value (i)	9,105	8,224
	<u>9,105</u>	<u>8,224</u>
BUILDINGS		
At fair value (i)	27,131	26,579
Accumulated depreciation	(1)	(9)
	<u>27,130</u>	<u>26,570</u>
MARINE VESSELS		
At fair value (ii)	10,863	8,842
Accumulated depreciation	(3,724)	(1,412)
	<u>7,139</u>	<u>7,430</u>
COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT		
At cost (ii)	582	534
Accumulated depreciation	(438)	(355)
	<u>144</u>	<u>179</u>
COMPUTER HARDWARE		
At cost (ii)	1,366	1,136
Accumulated depreciation	(1,117)	(1,058)
	<u>249</u>	<u>78</u>
COMPUTER SOFTWARE		
Computer software – cost	879	830
Computer software – cost – accum amort	(189)	(12)
	<u>690</u>	<u>818</u>
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS		
At cost (ii)	1,091	1,091
Accumulated depreciation	(893)	(810)
	<u>198</u>	<u>281</u>

OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
At cost (ii)	398	386
Accumulated depreciation	(259)	(204)
	<u>139</u>	<u>182</u>
PLANT & MACHINERY		
At cost (ii)	2,314	2,334
Accumulated depreciation	(1,363)	(1,240)
	<u>951</u>	<u>1,094</u>
MOTOR VEHICLES		
At cost (ii)	1,186	1,195
Accumulated depreciation	(398)	(357)
	<u>788</u>	<u>838</u>
WORKS OF ART		
At cost (ii)	97	97
	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>
OTHER EQUIPMENT		
At cost (ii)	444	101
Accumulated depreciation	(90)	(32)
	<u>354</u>	<u>69</u>
INFRASTRUCTURE - MARITIME		
At cost (ii)	2,528	2,528
Accumulated depreciation	(1,140)	(1,057)
	<u>1,389</u>	<u>1,471</u>
LEASED PATROL VESSEL		
At capitalised cost	1,650	1,650
Accumulated amortisation	(477)	(37)
	<u>1,173</u>	<u>1,613</u>
CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS		
Buildings (ii)	8,726	4,895
Maritime (ii)	672	1,485
Computer software (ii)	30	0
	<u>9,428</u>	<u>6,380</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>58,974</u>	<u>55,324</u>

(i) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2008 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2009 and recognised at 30 June 2009. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$7,600,200 and buildings: \$966,200. 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.

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:

2009	Carrying amount at start of year \$'000	Additions \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Transfers from WIP \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Deprecn. for the year \$'000	Carrying amount at end of year \$'000
Land	8,224	1,300	-	-	(419)	-	9,105
Buildings	26,570	21	-	-	1,264	725	27,130
Marine vessels	7,430	2,043	22	-	-	2,312	7,139
Communication equipment	179	48	-	-	-	83	144
Computer hardware	78	230	-	-	-	59	249
Computer software	818	49	-	-	-	177	690
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	281	-	-	-	-	83	198
Office equipment	182	25	5	-	-	63	139
Plant and machinery	1,094	51	44	-	-	150	951
Vehicles	838	263	190	-	-	123	788
Works of art	97	-	-	-	-	-	97
Other equipment	69	344	-	-	-	59	354
Infrastructure - maritime	1,471	-	-	-	-	82	1,389
Leased patrol vessel	1,613	-	-	-	-	440	1,173
Work in progress							
Computer software	-	30	-	-	-	-	30
Buildings	4,895	3,831	-	-	-	-	8,726
Maritime	1,485	1,214	-	(2,027)	-	-	672
	<u>55,324</u>	<u>9,449</u>	<u>261</u>	<u>(2,027)</u>	<u>845</u>	<u>4,356</u>	<u>58,974</u>
2008	Carrying amount at start of year \$'000	Additions \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Transfers from WIP \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Deprecn. for the year \$'000	Carrying amount at end of year \$'000
Land	4,060	2,733	-	-	1,431	-	8,224
Buildings	20,304	2,211	-	-	4,682	627	26,570
Marine vessels	6,668	1,472	-	-	915	1,625	7,430
Communication equipment	261	-	-	-	-	82	179
Computer hardware	170	46	-	-	-	138	78
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	390	-	-	-	-	109	281
Office equipment	195	63	-	-	-	76	182
Plant and machinery	1,195	91	26	-	-	166	1,094
Vehicles	826	247	164	-	-	71	838
Works of art	97	-	-	-	-	-	97
Other equipment	47	37	-	-	-	15	69
Computer software	0	830	-	-	-	12	818
Infrastructure - maritime	1,555	-	-	-	-	84	1,471
Leased patrol vessel	878	-	-	-	941	206	1,613
Work in progress							
Buildings	2,956	4,176	-	(2,237)	-	-	4,895
Maritime	1,561	1,324	-	(1,400)	-	-	1,485
Computer software	831	-	-	(831)	-	-	0
	<u>41,994</u>	<u>13,230</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>(4,468)</u>	<u>7,969</u>	<u>3,211</u>	<u>55,324</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

27 IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

There were no indications of impairment of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure at 30 June 2009

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

28 PAYABLES	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Trade payables	2,644	1,704
Other payables	145	476
	<u>2,789</u>	<u>2,180</u>

See also note 3 (m) 'Payables' and note 40 'Financial Instruments'.

29 BORROWINGS	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Finance Lease Liability ^(a)	227	210
	<u>227</u>	<u>210</u>
Non Current		
Finance Lease Liability ^(a)	374	601
	<u>374</u>	<u>601</u>

(a) 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	1,173	1,613
	<u>1,173</u>	<u>1,613</u>

30 PROVISIONS

	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Employee benefits provision		
Annual leave (a)	3,059	2,721
Long service leave (b)	2,904	2,681
	<u>5,963</u>	<u>5,402</u>
Other provisions	0	5
Employment oncosts (c)	670	516
	<u>6,633</u>	<u>5,923</u>
Non Current		
Employee benefits provision		
Long service leave (b)	1,842	1,732
Other provisions		
Employment oncosts (c)	186	277
	<u>2,028</u>	<u>2,009</u>
TOTAL PROVISIONS	<u>8,661</u>	<u>7,932</u>

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

Within 12 months of reporting date	3,059	2,721
	<u>3,059</u>	<u>2,721</u>

(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	2,444	2,047
More than 12 months after reporting date	2,302	2,366
	<u>4,746</u>	<u>4,413</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 15 'Other Expenses'.

Movements in other provisions

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

Employment on cost provision		
Carrying amount at start of year	793	734
Additional provisions recognised	882	819
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefit	819	760
Carrying amount at the end of year	<u>856</u>	<u>793</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 OTHER LIABILITIES	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Accrued salaries	329	419
Income in advance	0	256
Superannuation accrued	39	0
FBT accrued	89	44
Other	343	33
Infringement Notice collections payable	2	4
	<u>802</u>	<u>756</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.

32 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at the start of the year	11,431	12,174
Results for the year		
Deficit as per Income Statement	(7,524)	(743)
Adjustment for prior year error	7	0
	<u>(7,517)</u>	<u>(743)</u>
Balance at the end of the year	<u>3,914</u>	<u>11,431</u>

33 CONTRIBUTED EQUITY	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at the start of the year	36,466	25,236
Contributions by owners (a)	1,300	2,733
Capital contribution (a)	1,400	8,497
Total contributions by owners	<u>39,166</u>	<u>36,466</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.

34 RESERVES	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Asset Revaluation Reserve		
Balance at the start of the year	15,990	8,021
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	(419)	1,431
Buildings	1,264	4,682
Vessels and plant	0	1,856
Balance at the end of the year (a)	<u>16,835</u>	<u>15,990</u>
Total equity	<u>59,915</u>	<u>63,887</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)

35 NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Reconciliation of cash		
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	1,090	8,199
Cash advances	22	22
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (refer note 22)	2,781	1,955
	<u>3,893</u>	<u>10,176</u>

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

Net cash used in operating activities	(32,343)	(28,542)
<i>Non Cash Items</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(4,356)	(3,211)
Doubtful Debt expense	9	0
Resources received free of charge	(350)	(343)
Profit/(Loss) on disposal of assets	(90)	(97)
Other	(30)	5
<i>Increase/(Decrease) in Assets</i>		
Accounts receivable - General	268	114
Prepayments	(32)	8
Accrued Income	(321)	211
<i>(Increase)/Decrease in Liabilities</i>		
Accrued salaries	90	(207)
Superannuation accrued	(39)	26
FBT accrued	(45)	14
Other liabilities	(310)	(22)
Income in advance	256	0
Liability for employee entitlements	(729)	(542)
Income in advance – Infringement Notice collections payable	2	0
Accounts payable – general	(717)	(294)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Increase/(Decrease) in GST

Net GST (receipts)/payments	(153)	386
Change in GST in receivables	224	(404)
Net cost of services	(38,666)	(32,898)

36 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

(a) Capital Expenditure Commitments

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

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Within one year	5,191	12,976
Later than one year and not later than five years	0	0
Later than five years	0	0
	5,191	12,976

The capital commitments include amounts for:

Buildings	770	4,151
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(b) Operating Lease commitments

Commitments in relation to non-cancellable leases for accommodation and motor vehicles contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements are payable as follows:

Within one year	2,800	2,770
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,437	3,857
Later than five years	13,936	11,475
	19,173	18,102

Representing:

Cancellable operating leases	0	0
Non-cancellable operating leases	19,173	18,102
	19,173	18,102

(c) Finance Lease Commitments

Minimum lease payments commitments in relation to finance leases are payable as follows:

Within one year	227	266
Later than one year and not later than five years	374	666
Later than five years	0	0
Minimum lease payments	601	932
Less Future finance charges	(65)	(121)
Present value of finance lease liabilities	536	811

The present value of finance leases payables is as follows:

Within one year	227	210
Later than one year and not later than five years	374	601
Later than five years	0	0
Present value of finance lease liabilities	601	811

Included in the financial statements as:

Current (note 29)	227	210
Non-current (note 29)	374	601
	601	811

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.

The commitments, where applicable, are inclusive of GST.

37 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 contaminated - remediation required or possibly contaminated 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.

Litigation

There is one case of legal action in which the Minister for Fisheries has been named defendant.

It is not certain whether the case will give rise to any potential liabilities and a reliable estimate of the quantum of the claim cannot be determined.

38 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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

39 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Significant variations between estimates and actual results for income and expense as presented in the financial statement titled 'Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates' are shown below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10 per cent.

(a) Significant variances between estimate and actual for services delivered 2009

	2009 Actual \$'000	2009 Estimate \$'000	Variance \$'000
Services			
Fisheries Management <i>The increases are the result of additional expenditure associated with additional activity (salaries), grants and subsidies and Fisheries Adjustment Schemes buy-back.</i>	21,505	16,940	4 565
Research and Monitoring <i>This increase is predominantly attributable to external revenue from research organisations being greater than budgeted.</i>	21,444	17,855	3,589
Marine Safety Service <i>This reduction results from a reduced level of activity delivered in this service against that planned.</i>	1,684	2,037	(353)

(b) Significant variances in actual costs of services delivered between actuals for 2008 and 2009

	2009 Actual \$'000	2008 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Services			
Fisheries Management <i>The increases are the result of considerable additional expenditure associated with additional activity (salaries), grants and subsidies and Fisheries Adjustment Schemes buy-back.</i>	21,505	15,458	6,047
Marine Safety Service <i>This reduction results from a reduced level of activity in this service.</i>	1,684	2,104	(420)

(c) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2009 - Capital Contribution

	2009 Actual \$'000	2009 Estimate \$'000	Variance \$'000
	1,400	400	1,000

The appropriation each year is consistent with and will vary according to the approved capital program each year. The increase in this line item was required to meet increased costs associated with the Mandurah Marine Operations Centre.

(d) Significant variances between actuals for 2008 and 2009 - Capital Contribution

	2009 Actual \$'000	2008 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Capital Contribution	1,400	8,497	(7,097)

The appropriation each year is consistent with and will vary according to the approved capital program each year. The reduction in this line item reflects reduced funding in 2008-2009 for the Mandurah Marine Operations Centre.

(e) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2009 - Capital Expenditure

	2009 Actual \$'000	2009 Estimate \$'000	Variance \$'000
Capital Expenditure	5,719	4,848	(871)

The increased expenditure results from some 2007-2008 financial year expenditure being deferred to 2008-2009 as compared to the estimate only reflecting the 2008-2009 funding allocation.

Supplementary Funding Approved During 2008-2009

Recurrent	\$'000
Ningaloo Marine Park Compensation	1,540
Public Service General Agreement salary increase	842
Planning for Biosecurity Management	200
Capital	
Mandurah Marine Operations Centre	1,000

40 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 arises when there is the possibility of the Department's receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Department.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance sheet date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any provisions for impairment, as shown in the table at Note 40(c) 'Financial Instruments Disclosures' and Note 23 'Receivables'.

Credit risk associated with the Department's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is the amount receivable for services (holding account). For receivables other than government, the Department trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. The Department has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the Department's exposure to bad debts is minimal. At the balance sheet date there are no significant concentrations of credit risk.

Allowance for impairment of financial assets is calculated based on objective evidence such as observable data indicating changes in client credit ratings. For financial assets that are either past due or impaired, refer to Note 40(c) Financial Instruments Disclosures.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk arises when the Department is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Department is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business. The Department has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including draw-downs of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates will affect the Department's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments.

The Department 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:

	2009	2008
Financial Assets and Liabilities	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,112	8,221
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,781	1,955
Receivable ^(a)	9,481	9,662
Total Financial Assets	<u>13,374</u>	<u>19,838</u>
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	3,390	2,991
Total Financial Liabilities	<u>3,390</u>	<u>2,991</u>

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

(c) Financial Instrument Disclosures

Credit Risk, and Interest Rate Risk Exposures

The following table details the Department's exposure to liquidity and 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

Interest rate exposures and ageing analysis of financial assets ^(a)

Financial Assets	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Carrying Amount \$000	Interest Rate Exposure		Past Due but not Impaired						Impaired Financial Assets \$000
			Variable interest rate \$000	Non- Interest Bearing \$000	Up to 3 months \$000	3 - 12 months \$,000	1-2 years \$,000	2-3 years \$,000	3-4 years \$,000	4-5years \$,000	
2009											
Cash Assets	5.38%	1,112	1,112	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash assets	5.38%	2,781	-	2,781	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	0.00%	1,461	-	1,461	271	214	29	-	-	-	-
Amounts Receivable for Services	0.00%	8,020	-	8,020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		13,374	1,112	12,262	271	214	29	-	-	-	-
2008											
Cash Assets	6.91%	8,221	8,221	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash assets	0.00%	1,955	-	1,955	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	0.00%	1,674	-	1,674	420	353	82	-	-	-	-
Amounts Receivable for Services	0.00%	7,988	-	7,988	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		19,838	8,221	11,617	420	353	82	-	-	-	-

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

Liquidity risk

The following table details the contractual maturity analysis for financial liabilities. The contractual maturity amounts are representative of the undiscounted amounts at the balance sheet date. The table includes both interest and principal cash flows. An adjustment has been made where material.

Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial liabilities

Financial Liabilities	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Carrying Amount \$000	Interest Rate Exposure		Adjustment for discounting \$000	Total Nominal Amount	Fixed Interest Rate to Maturity					
			Variable interest rate \$000	Non- Interest Bearing \$000			Up to 3 months \$000	3 -12 months \$000	1-2 years \$000	2-3 years \$000	3-4 years \$000	4-5years \$000
2009												
Payables	0.00%	2,789	-	2,789	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance lease liabilities	7.66%	601	-	-	-	-	55	172	245	129	-	-
		3,390	-	2,789	-	-	55	172	245	129	-	-
2008												
Payables	0.00%	2,180	-	2,180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance lease liabilities	7.66%	811	-	-	-	-	51	159	227	245	129	-
		2,991	-	2,180	-	-	51	159	227	245	129	-

The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows of each class of financial liabilities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 per cent change in interest rates. It is assumed that the change in interest rate is held constant throughout the reporting period. The one per cent 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.

Interest Rate Sensitivity Analysis	Carrying Amount \$000	-1% change		+1% change	
		Profit \$000	Equity \$000	Profit \$000	Equity \$000
2009					
Financial Assets					
Cash Assets	1,112	(11)	(11)	11	11
2008					
Financial Assets					
Cash Assets	8,221	(82)	(82)	82	82

Fair Values

The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements, are not materially different from their net fair values.

41 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:

	2009	2008
< \$110,000	2	0
\$130,001 - 140,000	0	1
\$140,001 - 150,000	1	1
\$150,001 - 160,000	1	1
\$160,001 - 170,000	1	0
\$170,001 - 180,000	1	0
\$220,001 - 230,000	0	1
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of senior officers	<u>766</u>	<u>663</u>

The remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Department in respect of senior officers.

No senior officers are members of the Pension Scheme.

42 REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR

Remuneration to the Auditor General for the financial year is as follows:

Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	<u>145</u>	<u>142</u>
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43 RELATED BODIES

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

44 AFFILIATED BODIES

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

45 SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Write-Offs

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

The Accountable Officer	<u>21</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>21</u>	<u>0</u>

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

The Accountable Officer	57	29
LESS: Recovered by Insurance	<u>(10)</u>	<u>(18)</u>
	<u>47</u>	<u>11</u>

Act of Grace Payments

During the financial year, 13 act of grace payments were made under the authority of:

The Minister	<u>1,041</u>	<u>1,492</u>
	<u>1,041</u>	<u>1,492</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2008 TO 30 JUNE 2009

46 FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

2008 \$'000		2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000
4,485	Opening balance - 1 July		8,113
Receipts			
29,401	Contribution from Consolidated Account	20,935	
14,758	Fisheries Access Fees	14,292	
3,500	Development and Better Interests	3,500	
1,031	Application fees	895	
425	Interest	482	
1,512	Grants	1,996	
2,338	Other sundry revenue	2,393	44,493
57,450			52,606
Payments			
49,224	Contribution to Fisheries WA operations	51,425	
113	Contribution to Salaries Suspense	113	51,538
49,337			51,538
8,113	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		1,068

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 revenues and expenditures relating to commercial fishing, fish and fish habitat protection, pearling and aquaculture services transacted through this account.

47 AFMA ACCOUNT

2008 \$'000		2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000
26	Opening balance - 1 July		165
Receipts			
153	Funds received from AFMA	116	
12	Interest	0	116
191			281
Payments			
26	Expenditure on AFMA related activities	269	269
26			269
165	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		12

The AFMA Account is established under the *FRMA 1994*. The Account 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*.

48 RECREATIONAL FISHING ACCOUNT

2008 \$'000		2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000
10	Opening balance - 1 July		10
Receipts			
9,291	Contribution from Consolidated Account	9,221	
2,680	Recreational Fishing Licences	2,746	
0	Court costs recovered	0	
9	Other revenue	0	11,967
11,990			11,977
Payments			
11,980	Expenditure on recreational fishing-related activities	11,967	11,967
11,980			11,967
10	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		10

The Recreational Fishing Account is established under the *FRMA 1994*. The purpose of the account is to hold funds in accordance with section 239 of the *FRMA 1994* which may be applied by the Minister for all or any of the purposes prescribed by section 239(4) of the *FRMA 1994*. The main revenue sources include contributions from the Consolidated Account and revenue from recreational fishing licences. The funds support activity relating to recreational fishing.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

49 FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACCOUNT

2008 \$'000		2009 \$'000	\$'000
329	Opening balance - 1 July		429
	Receipts		
1,137	Contributions from FRDC	2,051	
29	Interest	79	
89	Other	<u>372</u>	<u>2,502</u>
1,584			2,931
	Payments		
1,155	Expenditure on Fisheries WA research related activities	<u>2,286</u>	<u>2,286</u>
1,155			2,286
429	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		645

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.

50 FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEMES TRUST ACCOUNT

2008 \$'000		2009 \$'000	\$'000
422	Opening balance - 1 July		1,195
	Receipts		
776	Specific State contributions to fisheries adjustment	<u>1,982</u>	<u>1,982</u>
1,198			3,177
	Payments		
3	Administration	3	
0	Unit buy-back State Scheme	<u>1,482</u>	<u>1,485</u>
3			1,485
1,195	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		1,692

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.

51 FISHERIES PRIVATE MONEYS TRUST ACCOUNT

2008 \$'000		2009 \$'000	\$'000
92	Opening balance - 1 July		21
	Receipts		
13	Proceeds from the sale of seized fish	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>
105			61
	Payments		
11	Monies Transferred	0	
73	Monies Repaid	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
84			
21	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		60

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.

52 FISH FARM BOND DEPOSITS TRUST ACCOUNT

2008 \$'000		2009 \$'000	\$'000
26	Opening balance - 1 July		68
	Receipts		
0	Interest	26	
42	Deposits received	<u>11</u>	<u>37</u>
68	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		105

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 2008 TO 30 JUNE 2009

53 CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

2008		2009	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
34	Opening Balance		7
	Income		
<u>477</u>	Reimbursements	<u>477</u>	<u>477</u>
511			484
	Expenditure		
140	Salaries	128	
80	Travel and accommodation	73	
131	Administration	52	
<u>153</u>	Oncosts	<u>140</u>	<u>393</u>
504			393
<u>7</u>	Balance 30 June		<u>91</u>

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

OTHER FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

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Pricing Policy for Services Provided _____	121

Other Financial Disclosures

Capital Works Program

The Department of Fisheries planned to spend \$9.4 million as part of the 2008/09 Capital Works Program, with actual expenditure being \$6.8 million.

The table below details the key areas of investment providing the necessary infrastructure to enable the Department of Fisheries to deliver against the planned outputs.

The projects include the building of a Marine Operations Centre in Mandurah, the replacement of two medium size vessels, and various replacement programs and upgrades for operating plant and equipment, small boats and outboards, and computer hardware and software.

Where actual expenditure exceeds planned expenditure, adjustments are made to future years to compensate.

Table 6 Capital Works Program 2008/09

Project Description	Planned Expenditure \$'000	Actual Expenditure \$'000
Information Systems	1,021	436
Plant and Equipment	596	798
Physical Infrastructure	4,721	3,782
Vessels	3,032	1,774
Total: Capital Works Program	9,370	6,790

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. 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.

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Detailed Key Performance Indicator Information

Performance Indicators

Certification of Performance Indicators

Treasurer's Instruction 905

Financial Management Act 2006

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 2009.



Stuart Smith

Accountable Authority

21 August 2009

Performance Indicators 2008/09 for the year ended 30 June 2009

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 Fisheries 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 (which have sufficient data) for which the breeding stocks of each of the major target or indicator species are being maintained at levels that ensure catches could be sustained at maximum yields, given effort levels and environmental variations, or are recovering from a depleted state at an appropriate rate following management intervention.

For the 2008/09 performance review, 37 fisheries have been utilised. This is the same number used in 2007/08.

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 the other 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 unmonitored stocks have the potential to become overfished, they are given priority for new research and/or management.

Within the group of 35 assessed fisheries, 28 involve stocks that are considered to have adequate breeding stock levels (80 per cent of fisheries). Two additional fisheries have breeding stocks that are now considered to be recovering at acceptable rates.

DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

For the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery, following a series of reductions in the Total Allowable Commercial Catch, this fishery has now been assessed as being in a recovery phase. Similarly, following the closure of the crab fishery within Cockburn Sound during the 2006/07 season, recent assessments found that while the breeding stock level was still too low to open the fishery, it was beginning to improve. The recovery of these stocks is currently being monitored. In conclusion, a combined total of 86 per cent of fisheries have breeding stock management that is considered satisfactory.

For the remaining five fisheries, three have been identified as having inadequate breeding stocks – the Northern Shark Fishery, some species within the Southern and West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Longline Fishery (southern shark), and the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery. There is also still uncertainty about the stock status of the south coast herring and the south coast crustacean fisheries.

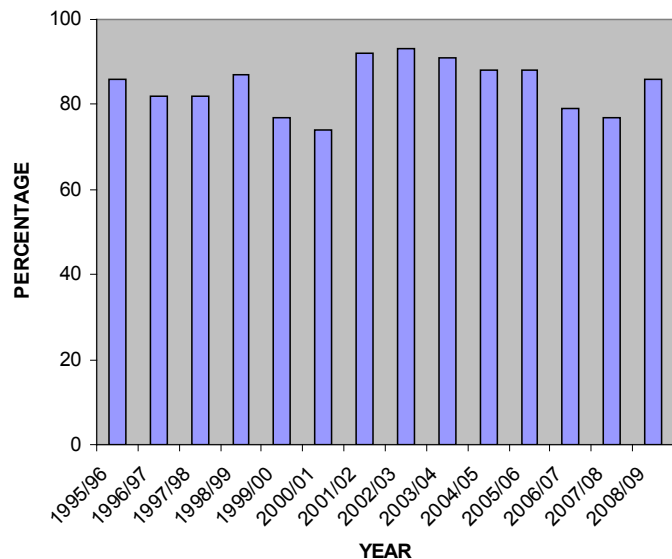
For the southern shark fishery, two of the four target species (dusky whaler and sandbar) have spawning biomass levels that will continue to decline for some time due to previous fishing activities, not from current fishing levels. In the Northern Shark Fishery, whilst there has been a significant reduction in effort, the impacts on the breeding stock from previous activities will also continue to affect the recruitment to the breeding stock.

The most recent assessment of exploitation rates for the indicator species within the West Coast Demersal Fishery (dhufish, pink snapper, baldchin groper) found that overfishing was still occurring. New management arrangements for the commercial fishery have already been introduced which have reduced the fishing mortality on these stocks by 50 per cent. Comparable reductions in the catch and effort by the recreational and charter sectors are also expected to be introduced. Monitoring of the stocks and the catch taken by all three catching sectors is currently underway to determine if the current and any future

management restrictions generate the required reductions in fishing mortality.

The long-term decline in catches of herring on the south coast suggests that further research is required to determine whether this result 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 under development. The management arrangements for the south coast crustacean fishery are currently being reviewed. It is expected that the new arrangements will be robust to even high levels of uncertainty about the stock status.

Figure 3 – The proportion (%) of commercial fisheries where breeding stocks of the major target species are both assessed and either adequate or recovering adequately to levels to ensure catches can be 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, each management plan seeks to directly control the amount of fishing effort applied to stocks, with the level of catch taken providing an indication of the effectiveness of the plan. Where the plan

is operating effectively, the catch by the fishery should fall within a projected range. The extent of this range reflects the degree to which normal environmental variations affect the recruitment of juveniles to the stock, which cannot be ‘controlled’ by the management plan.

For quota-managed fisheries, the measure of success for the management arrangements is firstly that the majority of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is achieved, but, additionally, that it has been possible to take this catch using an acceptable amount of fishing effort. If an unusually large expenditure of effort is needed to take the TAC, or the industry fails to achieve the TAC by a significant margin, this may indicate that the abundance of the stock is significantly lower than anticipated. For these reasons, an appropriate range of fishing effort to take the TAC has also been incorporated for assessing the performance of quota-managed fisheries (Appendix 5).

Comparisons between the actual catches (or effort) with the target ranges have been undertaken for 28 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, for which the fisheries are still rebuilding following an exotic virus attack and the effort levels to take the current quotas have not been established.

Issues with the data validation of shark fisheries have precluded the assessment of their catch ranges this year. For the mackerel and deep sea crab fisheries, which have both just moved to quota-based management, effort ranges are not yet available so catch ranges will continue to be used. Finally, some fisheries had negligible fishing activity for economic reasons and were therefore not assessed.

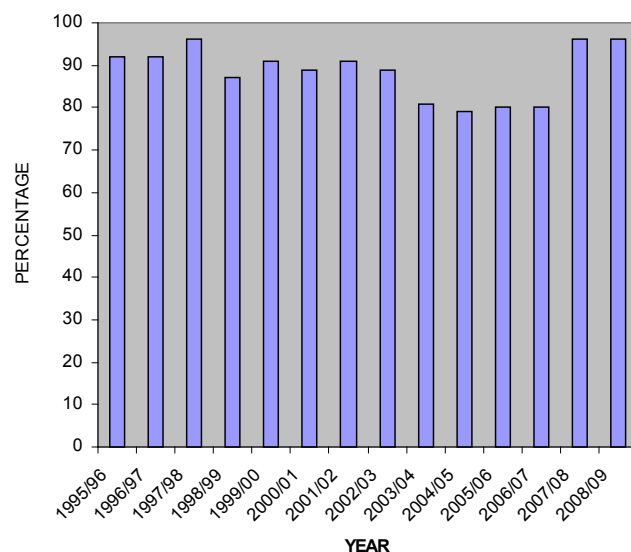
Of the 28 fisheries where ‘target ranges’ were available and a material level of fishing was undertaken in 2008/09, six were catch-quota managed (through a TAC allocated through individually transferable quotas) with 22 subject to

effort control management (including those with individually transferable effort ‘quotas’).

All of the catch-quota managed fisheries operated within their target effort/catch ranges or were acceptably below the effort range (Roe’s abalone). In the 22 effort-controlled fisheries, 21 produced catches that were within or acceptably above (three) or below (six) their target catch ranges. The only fishery identified where the catch levels were considered to be problematic continues to be the Northern Demersal Fishery. This fishery has recently been reviewed and the outcomes from the review will assist to determine future management settings.

In summary, 27 (96 per cent) of the 28 fisheries assessed were considered to have met their performance criteria, or were affected by factors outside the purview of the management plan/arrangements.

Figure 4 – The proportion (%) of commercial fisheries where the catch or effort reported is acceptable relevant to the target management range being applied.



1.3 The percentage of fisheries or fished sectors where current catch shares are known and where catch share allocations are in process or in place

The primary object of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* is ‘to conserve, develop and share the fish resources of the State for the benefit of present and future generations’. This indicator has been developed to allow reporting on the ‘sharing’ of fish resources in Western Australia. In the context of this indicator, ‘sharing’ means to allocate the fish resources of the State, within sustainability limits, on an equitable basis to various sectoral user groups.

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.

DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

since 2003/2004). 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 is currently closed and is not included). Over time, the indicator may need to expand to include reference to fisheries or stocks for which there are other 'material' sectoral shares (e.g. customary fishing).

The most recent catch share data used for the first part of the indicator will be reported in the Department's *State of the Fisheries Report 2008/09*. 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).

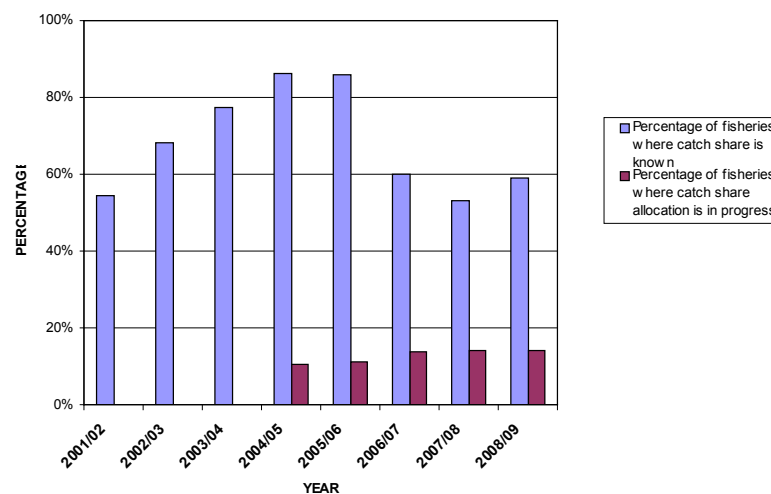
On this basis, the share of catch attributable to the commercial sector and the recreational sector for 2007/08 has been estimated for 13 of the 21 fisheries (62 per cent). This is an increase on the previous year resulting from a survey completed on recreational crab fishing in the Peel Harvey estuary. In addition, the analyses of the West Coast boat-based survey undertaken in 2005/06 have now been fully completed and data for recreational catch of Spanish mackerel in this region are now available.

The second part of the indicator only relates to those fisheries expected to have both ongoing and significant commercial and recreational sectors into the future. For these fisheries, the IFM initiative will generate explicit allocations and/or re-allocations to specific sectors using a formal and structured allocation process. This process

has already been completed for the western rock lobster and metropolitan abalone fisheries, it is currently underway for the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery and others may follow. The proportion of fisheries or fished stocks with formal share allocations should increase over time.

This indicator may need to be further developed and refined as the IFM framework develops.

Figure 5 – 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.

DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

The value, at first point of sale, of the production from WA's commercial and pearling/aquaculture sectors is published by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) annually, based on data supplied by industry to the Department's Research Division. Information for the years 2005/06 to 2007/08 in broad groupings is provided in Table 7.

The overall tonnage of commercially-caught crustaceans in 2007/08 was similar to that in 2006/07. The slight decline in production value was mainly due to markets and the exchange rate affecting the value of the increased lobster catch, combined with the slight decline in prawn catch.

The production and value of the molluscan fisheries in 2007/08 were substantially greater than obtained in 2006/07. This was primarily due to the increases in catches of scallops in both the Shark Bay and Abrolhos Islands scallop fisheries.

The finfish sector continues to be supported by a large number of stocks. The annual production in 2007/08 was

similar to 2006/07 with a total of 10,153 tonnes, and the value of production similarly stable at \$34 million.

The value of pearl production in 2007/08 declined compared to previous years but WA 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 2007/08 were an improvement on 2006/07 levels due to increased production of fish.

In summary, despite an increase in the overall tonnage of production in 2007/08, the total value of WA fisheries was lower than in 2006/07, continuing a downward trend. The WA commercial fishing sector continues to be affected by a combination of significant external influences on market values and from the impacts of natural fluctuations in the abundances of key species. Nonetheless, WA still remains one of the largest jurisdictions nationally, generating over 20 per cent of the total value of all Australian fisheries production.

Table 7 – Western Australian fisheries production – Years 2005/06 to 2007/08

	2005/06		2006/07 (e)		2007/08 (f)	
	t	\$ m	t	\$ m	t	\$ m
Crustaceans	15,016	338	12,486	283	12,615	250
Molluscs (a)	3,497	36	3,042	33	5,520	41
Fish	15,374	44	11,602	36	10,153	34
Pearling (b, c)	n/a	122	n/a	122	n/a	113
Aquaculture (d)	943	6	850	7	1,013	10
TOTAL PRODUCTION	34,830	546	27,980	481	29,301	448

- (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 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 survey 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 all four programs (Commercial Fisheries, Recreational Fisheries, Pearling and Aquaculture, and Fish and Fish Habitat Protection); and
- examine key aspects of community fishing and marine habitat appreciation.

The survey was conducted by telephone during June 2009. The telephone numbers were randomly selected from the white pages. Respondents were males and females older than 17 years residing in Western Australia. The total sample of 708 interviews comprised:

- 140 Perth metropolitan area, north of river;
- 143 Perth metropolitan area, south of river;
- 142 Perth metropolitan area, east of airport;

- 92 regional WA northern;
- 91 regional WA Goldfields/eastern; and
- 100 regional WA south west

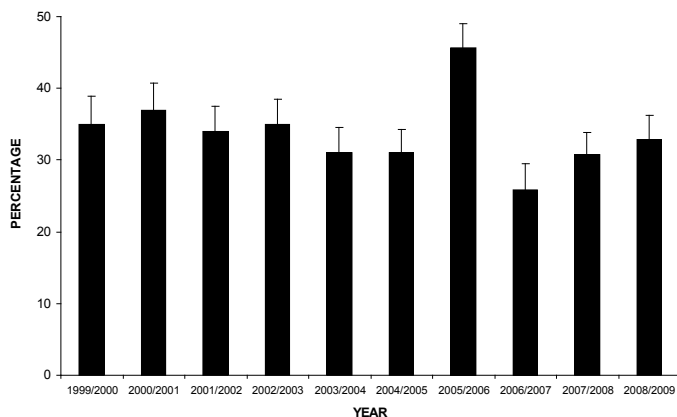
Patterson Market Research conducted the field-work to collect data from the community. The Stock Assessment and Data Analysis Branch of the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories performed the analysis of the survey data.

3.1 The participation rate in recreational fisheries

The participation rate for recreational fishing in Western Australia was estimated as 32.9 per cent in 2008/09 compared with 30.8 per cent in 2007/08 and 25.8 per cent in 2006/07 (Figure 6). The improved response rates of 20 per cent for 2008/09 and 19 per cent for 2007/08 (calculated as percentage of contacts that resulted in a completed interview) provided a less biased estimate of the participation rate than achieved in previous years. It is likely that the participation rate and other statistics for 2006/07 included larger 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 603,000. This was estimated as 32.9 per cent of the States' population older than four years of age (using Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates from the 2006 census).

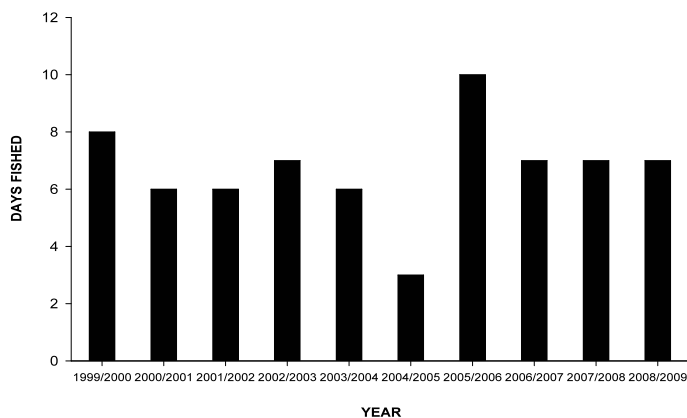
Figure 6 – Participation rate in recreational fisheries 1999/2000 – 2008/09



Days Fished

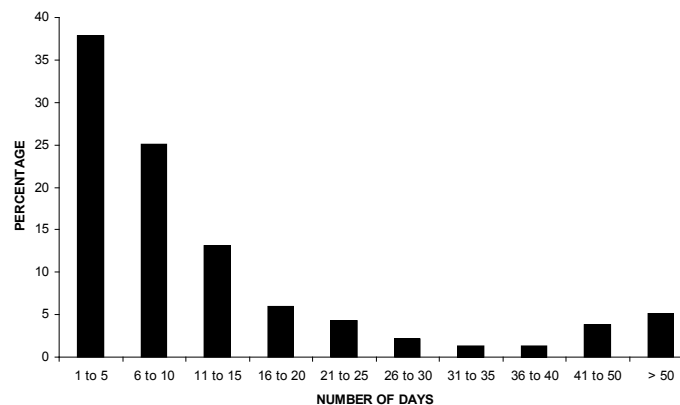
The median number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last twelve months was seven days (Figure 7). The median number of days fished has remained the same for the last three years.

Figure 7 – Median number of days fished by recreational fishers 1999/2000 – 2008/09



The number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last twelve months ranges from one to 206 days. The mean number of days fishing was 15 days. The majority of recreational fishers in Western Australia fished between one and ten days. However, some fished for considerably more days, giving a skewed frequency distribution (Figure 8).

Figure 8 – Distribution for numbers of days fished by recreational fishers



Most recreational fishing effort occurred in the Perth Metropolitan area from Yanchep to Mandurah (38 per cent). Other areas that people fished were South Coast – Marine (20 per cent), West Coast other than the Perth Metropolitan area (18 per cent), Pilbara/Kimberley – Marine (13 per cent), Gascoyne (8 per cent), South Coast – Freshwater (2 per cent), and Pilbara/Kimberley – Freshwater (1 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

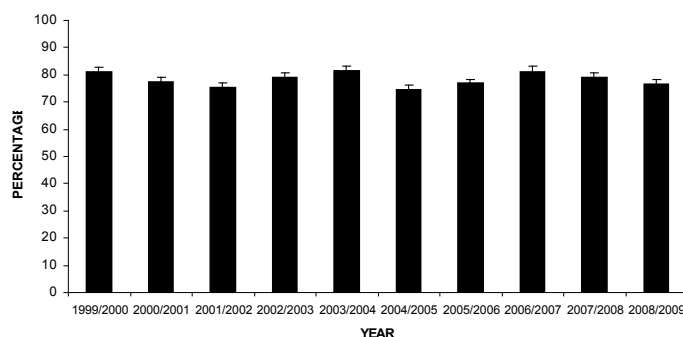
Management = The level of the person's awareness of rules and regulations.

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 years 2006/07 and earlier 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. The satisfaction index for recreational fishing was 76.6 per cent with a 95 per cent confidence interval between 74.9 per cent and 78.3 per cent (Figure 9). The satisfaction index is significantly lower than the value of 79.0 per cent for 2007/2008. This was due to lower confidence in all areas, particularly number of fish caught and variety of fish caught.

Figure 9 – Satisfaction index for persons participating in recreational fishing 1999/2000 – 2008/09



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.

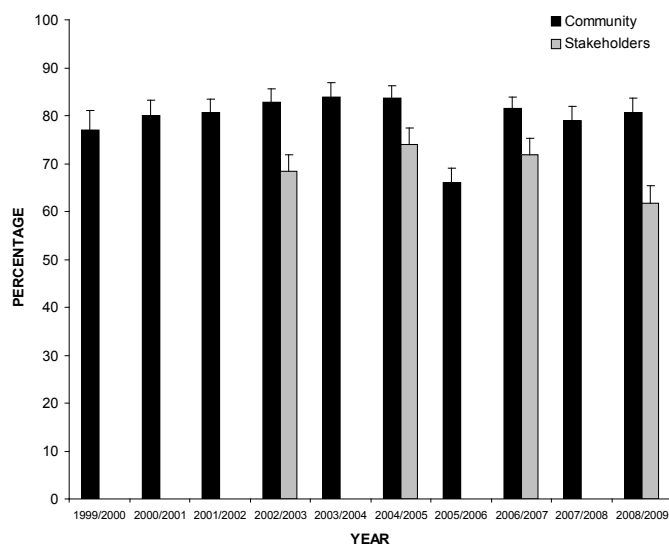
The Department of Fisheries was given a satisfaction rate of 80.7 per cent by the Western Australian public across its four service areas of commercial fishing, recreational fishing, fish and fish habitat protection, and aquaculture and pearling. The 95 per cent confidence interval for the satisfaction rate given by the community was between 77.7 per cent and 83.7 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 for 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 79.0 per cent for 2007/08 (Figure 10). The satisfaction rate given the Department by the community ranges from 66.1 per cent for 2003/2004 to 83.9 per cent in 1998/99.

During 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008 an additional survey was conducted to measure the satisfaction of Department of Fisheries' stakeholders. The 2008 survey comprised 149 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 61.8 per cent by Department of Fisheries stakeholders (Figure 5). The 95 per cent confidence interval for the satisfaction rate is between 58.2 per cent and 65.4 per cent. The satisfaction rate is significantly lower than the value of 71.8 per cent from the 2006 stakeholder survey (Baharthah, 2006). This is mainly due to a decrease in satisfaction with the management of commercial and recreational fisheries.

The satisfaction rating of stakeholders was significantly lower than the satisfaction rating of the broader community. The satisfaction rating was 61.8 per cent for stakeholders and 80.7 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 10 – Satisfaction rating of the broader community and Department’s stakeholder 1999/2000 – 2008/09



Efficiency indicators

The Department adopted a new Outcome-Based Management reporting structure as part of the 2008/09 budget process. These new measures that are reported for the first time in this annual report will result in improved reporting of efficiency.

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.

The reported hourly cost includes a component to cover fixed indirect costs.

In calculating the efficiency indicator targets, it is assumed that the Department will operate at full capacity (i.e. all positions occupied) for the full year. This is not normally the case and consequently the target cost per hour is normally less than the actual cost. This fact is demonstrated in the closer alignment between the actual results from one year to the next.

Explanations for those variances greater than 10 per cent have been included within each service.

Outcome: Conservation and sustainable development of the State’s fish resources.

Service 1: Fisheries Management

Service Description:

Fisheries management includes licensing, the development of policy and procedural frameworks including legislation and management plans, consultation with fishing industry stakeholders and the community.

Efficiency in Service 1 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered excluding payments for grants and fisheries adjustment schemes.

DETAILED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR INFORMATION

Table 8 – Service 1

Service 1 Fisheries Management	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Actual 2008/09	Variance Actual	Variance Target
Average cost per hour of management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments)	\$101	\$114	\$112	\$11	\$(2)

Service 2: Compliance and Education

Service Description:

Through the compliance and education service the Department raises community awareness and understanding of the issues and the need to adhere to the rules governing fishing activities. This service enforces fishing rules and also plans and instigates investigations and enforcement strategies.

Efficiency in Service 2 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered as outlined in the following table.

Table 9 – Service 2

Service 2 Compliance and Education	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Actual 2008/09	Variance Actual	Variance Target
Average cost per hour of compliance and education.	\$173	\$139	\$229	\$56	\$90

Explanation of Significant Variances

Actual 2007/08 against Actual 2008/09
The increase in the hourly rate for service delivery has been impacted by a significant reduction in the number of hours delivered in this service. The resultant reduction in salaries and associated costs was offset by increased depreciation expense that resulted from the commissioning of new patrol vessels.
Target 2008/09 against Actual 2008/09
The increase in the hourly rate for service delivery has been impacted by a significant reduction in the number of hours delivered in this service compared to that originally planned and some increase in fixed costs as described above.

Service 3: Research and Monitoring

Service Description:

The research and monitoring service provides scientific knowledge for the sustainable management of the State's fisheries and aquatic resources and the associated environment.

Efficiency in Service 3 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered within each of the three functional areas as outlined in the following table.

Table 10 – Service 3

Service 3 Research and Monitoring	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Actual 2008/09	Variance Actual	Variance Target
Average cost per hour of research and monitoring	\$134	\$120	\$137	\$3	\$17

Explanation of Significant Variances

Target 2008/09 against Actual 2008/09
 The increase in the hourly rate for service delivery has been impacted by a reduction in the number of hours delivered and the amount of grants payments occurring in this service compared to that originally planned.

Service 4: Marine Safety

Service Description:

The marine safety service is delivered on behalf of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. This service includes checks by Fisheries and Marine Officers of recreational boats to ensure compliance with the safety requirements.

Efficiency in Service 4 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered within each of the three functional areas as outlined in the following table.

Table 11 – Service 4

Service 4 Marine Safety	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Actual 2008/09	Variance Actual	Variance Target
Average cost per hour for delivery of marine safety services	\$129	\$116	\$134	\$5	\$18

Explanation of Significant Variances

Target 2008/09 against Actual 2008/09
 The increase in the hourly rate for service delivery has been impacted by a significant reduction in the number of hours delivered in this service compared to that originally planned and some increase in fixed costs as described above.

OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

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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:

Table 12 – Advertising and Sponsorship

Expenditure with:	
Advertising agencies - Marketforce Express and Adcorp	\$67,428.59
Market research agencies	\$0.00
Polling agencies	\$0.00
Direct mail agencies	\$0.00
Media advertising agencies – Media Decisions	\$13,340.62
Total Expenditure	\$80,769.21

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Through its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP), the Department of Fisheries is committed to delivering services for people with disabilities. The DAIP ensures equal access to the Department's services that include fisheries management, compliance and education, research and monitoring, and marine safety.

The DAIP ensures 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.

The DAIP identifies 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 has developed standard wording for all information bulletins and event invitations, to enable attendees to indicate the nature of any access requirements.

Outcome 2

The Department has undergone ongoing audits to identify any access barriers to its premises.

Outcome 3

The Department's web site has been developed according to W3C guidelines as outlined in the State Government's Access Guidelines.

The Department continues to be committed to improving community awareness of departmental information by making it available in alternative forms.

Outcome 4

The Department is committed to improving staff awareness of disability and access issues with the aim of providing improved service delivery.

Outcome 5

The Department is committed to ensuring that current complaints policies and procedures are accessible to people with disabilities.

OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Outcome 6

The Department monitors the progress of its DAIP. The Department will continue to progress 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

The Department of Fisheries' human resource management policies are written to support the achievement of its human resource strategy and to comply with the Human Resource Management Standards.

All Human Resource policies and Code of Conduct are available to staff via the Department's intranet. The Department continues to have very low numbers of claims relating to breaches of standards and the ethical codes.

Table 13 – Human and ethical compliance issues and actions 2009/09

Compliance issues	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
<p>Public Sector Standards (PSS) Breach claims were lodged against the following standards:</p> <p>No breach claims for 2008/09</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about the standards included on the departmental intranet. • Quality assurance audit of all recruitment, selection and appointment processes for appointments exceeding six months undertaken independently by the Human Resources Branch. • Ongoing support provided to selection panels to ensure compliance with relevant standards. • Consolidation of the grievance and dispute resolution processes commences as part of the Code of Conduct review.
<p>WA Code of Ethics</p> <p>Nil reports of non-compliance with the Code of Ethics for 2008/09</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of an online conduct and behaviour course for completion by all staff that included information on the Code of Ethics key principles. • Significant review and update of Code of Conduct and existing policies and procedures.
<p>Agency Code of Conduct</p> <p>Four allegations of misconduct were made resulting in the following outcomes:</p> <p>Case 1 – Process discontinued – staff member no longer employed.</p> <p>Case 2 – Allegation not substantiated.</p> <p>Case 3 – Pending outcome of Investigation.</p> <p>Case 4 – Transferred out of position and increment reduced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees advised of the release of the new Public Sector Code of Conduct by the Office of Public Sector Standards Commissioner (OPSSC). • Information about the current Code of Conduct included on the departmental intranet. • The Code of Conduct extensively reviewed and an online conduct and behaviour training course developed and implemented.

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*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- *Financial Management Act 2006*
- *Firearms Act 1973*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1992*
- *Government Employees' Housing Act 1964*

- *Government Financial Responsibility Act 2000*
- *Industrial Relations Act 1979*
- *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*
- *New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*
- *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*
- *Occupiers Liability Act 1985*
- *Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972*
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2003*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*
- *Spent Convictions Act 1988*
- *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004*
- *State Records Act 2000*
- *State Superannuation Act 2000*
- *State Supply Commission Act 1991*
- *State Trading Concerns Act 1916*
- *Trade Practices Act 1974*
- *Volunteers and Food and Other Donors (Protection from Liability) Act 2002*
- *Western Australian Marine Act 1982*
- *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*
- *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004*.

Numerous other State and Federal laws also 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 incurring of liabilities, have been in accordance with legislative provisions.

OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

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



Stuart Smith
Accountable Authority



Bruno Mezzatesta BBus MBA FCPA
Chief Finance Officer

30 June 2009

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*, every government department is required to have a Record Keeping Plan, (RKP), that has been approved by the State Records Commission.

The Record Keeping Plan sets out the matters about which records are to be created by the Department and how it is to keep its records. Essential components of the Record Keeping Plan are documentation regarding the Department's record keeping system, disposal arrangements, policies, practices and processes. These components provide an accurate reflection of the record keeping program within the Department and constitute evidence of compliance with the *State Records Act 2000*.

In December 2003 the Department's Record Keeping Plan was endorsed by the State Records Commission. Under part 3, Division 4 of the *State Records Act 2000*, the Department

must review its plan within five years of the approval dated (by December 2008).

In February of 2009 the Department submitted a review report of the Record Keeping Plan and the Retention and Disposal Schedule for Functional Records to the State Records Office. The report was tabled at the State Records Commission meeting on 23 March 2009. The report provided evidence of the Department's progress towards 'better practice' record keeping, with a commitment to submit an amended plan and an amended schedule by 30 November 2009.

The Department's record keeping function was last audited in February 2007. The audit concluded that there has generally been a good level of control maintained over records management functions and there were no major or critical issues identified. The three moderate concerns that were identified in the audit have been resolved. The Department is continually re-evaluating processes to improve its overall quality of management control in regards to record keeping.

The Department implemented an online record keeping training and awareness program in December 2004. It is a requirement that all staff throughout the State complete the course. Ninety per cent of staff have completed the course and reported that it vastly improved their understanding and responsibilities on record keeping.

The Department recently implemented an online induction course, which includes a section on record keeping. This record keeping section also refers new employees to the online record keeping training and awareness course.

The Department's records management staff regularly conducts hands-on records awareness training sessions and training in the Total Records and Information Management (TRIM) records management system with clerical, finance and administrative staff located in metropolitan, 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.

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.

Nil public interest disclosures were received during 2008/09.

GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS

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Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) and Injury Management _____	142

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, procedures, and an organisational culture that is supportive of, and consistent with, public sector and departmental codes of conduct and relevant legislation.

In 2008/09, the Department instigated the following:

- Made available to all staff, via the internal website, the process to be followed when making a public interest disclosure in accordance with the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003*.
- Completed a comprehensive review of the Department's Code of Conduct following the release of the revised Public Sector Code of Conduct by the Office of Public Sector Standards Commissioner (OPSSC).
- An online conduct and behaviour training course was implemented and is mandatory for all staff to complete. The accompanying, comprehensive conduct and behaviour guide will be released in 2009/10.
- Senior departmental managers attended a presentation given by the Corruption and Crime Commission on 'misconduct resistance'. A misconduct resistance policy is currently being developed.
- 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.
- All new employees are required to complete the 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. When this course was launched in November 2007 all staff were required to complete it.

- An annual department-wide review was conducted to identify and capture risks in the Department's risk register related to corruption, fraud and misconduct.
- The conflict of interest policy, associated forms and management strategy have been extensively reviewed and amended.

Substantive Equality

The Department of Fisheries has been implementing substantive equality as part of a broader reform of its consultation processes. For the next financial year the Department of Fisheries will focus on implementation of consultation reform outcomes, including assessing the accessibility of the Department's consultation programs to Indigenous and ethnic minority people.

The needs and impact assessment was undertaken across all divisional areas of the Department of Fisheries and included significant contributions from external stakeholders. Assessing impacts of implementation of the Department's reformed consultation programs on indigenous and ethnic minority people will come within the divisional area of Aquatic Management.

The Department of Fisheries has reviewed its broad consultation structures and principles. In doing so, it has found that there were limitations in the flexibility of existing statutory consultation structures that has impacted on the capacity of minority ethnic and indigenous groups to engage with the Department of Fisheries.

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 the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Committee and its employees, the Department aims to engage in 'best

GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS

practice' safety and health management practices, including education, training, reporting, discussion and accountability.

- The OSH Committee is comprised of elected representatives from regional and metropolitan offices, and by 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 formal 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. OSH training was completed by 80 per cent of staff, which covered the roles and responsibilities of employees and managers, the Department's processes for reporting accidents and incidents, and preventative measures to improve workplace health and safety.

The Department of Fisheries incorporates injury management within its Workers' Compensation policy. This policy, which also outlines the steps that staff and their managers should follow if an injury is sustained, is available to all staff and contractors via the Department's intranet.

Injury management is dealt with on a case-by-case basis and return to work programs are developed in line with the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981* and the *Workers' Compensation Code of Practice*

(*Injury Management*) 2005, where each injured individual is actively involved in discussions with their treatment provider, manager and the Department to document and implement an agreed and compliant 'return to work' plan.

In the first half of 2009, the Department of Fisheries engaged an external accredited consultant to assess its OSH management systems against the WorkSafe Plan. The Department was found to have a sound management system in place.

Table 14 – Occupational Safety and Health and Injury Management Performance against Key Indicators

Indicator	Target 2008/09	Performance 2008/09
Number of fatalities	Zero	Zero
Lost time injury/disease (LTI/D) incidence rate	Zero or 10% reduction on previous year	1.41
Lost time injury severity rate	Zero or 10% improvement on previous year	Zero
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 28 weeks	Actual percentage results to be reported	100%
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	Greater than or equal to 50%	The recommendations arising from the 2009 assessment will be used to inform a targeted training program for all managers and employees, with particular focus on injury management

APPENDICES

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An archival tag can be used to find out about a lobster's life. This is set in buoyant foam, so it will float to the surface when the lobster moults.



Appendix 1

Management Advisory Committees

A review of consultation structures including Management Advisory Committees was commenced during 2008/09. The outcome of this review will be known in late 2009.

The full membership of the Management Advisory Committees (except for the Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees) can be found at the Department of Fisheries website at 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 (in abeyance pending outcome of consultation review)
- Abalone Management Advisory Committee (in abeyance pending outcome of consultation review)

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 Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management
- West Coast Estuarine and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management. (Closed 29 August 2008)
- 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. 50 Western Rock Lobster Stock Assessment and Harvest Strategy Workshop, 16 – 20 July 2007, at the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories. Internet Publication (August 2008).
- No. 51 Code of Practice for Recreational Fishers in WA (October 2008).
- No. 52 Geelong Revisited: From ESD to EBFM – Future Directions for Fisheries Management. FRDC 2008/057. Workshop Report (November 2008).
- No. 53 Proceedings of the Western Rock Lobster Ecological Effects of Fishing Workshop (November 2008).
- No. 54 Introduced Aquatic Organism Incident Response Manual (in press).
- No. 55 A Review: Biosecurity Risks Posed by Vessels and Mitigation Options (May 2009).
- No. 56 Western Rock Lobster Ecological Risk Assessment and Harvest Strategy Workshop. (November 2008)
- No. 57 Introduced Marine Species in WA. By Fred E. Wells, Justin I. McDonald and John M. Huisman (March 2009).
- No. 58 Research and Development Plan 2008-2009. (December 2008).
- No. 59 Review of the draft paper “Proposed Quota Settings for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery” (February 2009)
- No. 60 An Analysis of Maximum Economic Yield in the Western Rock Lobster Fishery (February 2009)

- No. 61 Proposed Quota Settings for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (February 2009).
- No. 62 Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Island’s Introduced Aquatic Organism Incident Response Manual (in press).
- No. 63 A Quota Management System for the Western Rock Lobster Fishery (March 2009).
- No. 64 An Input Control Management System for the Western Rock Lobster Fishery (in press).

Fisheries Management Papers

- No. 226 Integrated Fisheries Management Allocation Report for Roe’s Abalone – Perth Metropolitan Area (April 2009).
- No. 229 Finfish Aquaculture in Western Australia. Final ESD Risk Assessment Report for Sea-cage and Land-based Finfish Aquaculture (October 2008).
- No. 230 Prawn Aquaculture in Western Australia. Final ESD Risk Assessment Report for Prawn Aquaculture (January 2009).
- No. 232 The South Coast Crustacean Fishery. A Discussion Paper (January 2009).
- No. 233 Finfish Aquaculture in Western Australia. Final ESD Management Report for Sea-cage and Land-based Finfish Aquaculture (June 2009).

Fisheries Research Reports

- No. 178 Aquaculture Feed Grains Program. Final Report to Grains and Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.
- No. 180 Stock Assessment for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery - Draft.
- No. 181 Developing Long-term Indicators for the Sub-Tidal Embayment Communities of Cockburn Sound.

APPENDIX 2 – MAJOR PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

- No. 182 A Likelihood Analysis of Non-Indigenous Marine Species Introduction to 15 Ports in Western Australia.
- No. 183 Development of a Long-Term Program to Monitor Coastal Communities within the Swan Region.
- No. 184 Macroscopic and Microscopic Description of Snapper (*Pagrus auratus*) Gonads From Shark Bay, Western Australia.
- No. 185 Performance Indicators, Biological Reference Points, and Decision Rules for Western Australian Abalone Fisheries (*Haliotis* sp.): (1) Standardised Catch Per Unit Effort.
- No. 187 Management and Monitoring of Fish Spawning Aggregations within the West Coast Bioregion of Western Australia.
- No. 188 Results of the 2007 Survey of the Albany Marine Area for Introduced Species.
- No. 189 Results of the 2007 Survey of the Swan River Region for Four Introduced Species.
- No. 190 ESD Reporting and Assessment Sub-Program: Strategic Planning, Project Management and Adoption - Stage 2.
- No. 191 Maximising Survival of Released Undersize West Coast Reef Fish. Final Report to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation on Project No. 2000/194.
- No. 192 Determination of a Cost Effective Methodology for Ongoing Age Monitoring Needed for the Management of Scalefish Fisheries in Western Australia.

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 Department of Fisheries' Registrar and payment of appropriate fees – see section 125 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA)*.

17 aquaculture leases have been granted in the 2008/09 financial year.

At 30 June 2009, there were 61,385 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 2009, there were 448 aquaculture licences recorded on the State Register.

At 30 June 2009, there were 6,668 commercial authorisations recorded on the State Register. The commercial authorisations on the State Register were made up of the following:

Interim Managed Fishery Permits	181
Mackerel Fishery	65
Pilbara Fish Trawl	11
Shark Bay Crab	5
West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean	7
West Coast Demersal Gillnet & Demersal Long Line	20
West Coast Estuarine	12
West Coast Demersal Scalefish	61
Managed Fishery Licences	1,229
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	8
Exmouth Prawn	16
Kimberley Gill Net & Barramundi	7
Kimberley Prawn	137
Marine Aquarium Fish (Corporate)	1
Marine Aquarium Fish (Individual)	12
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	33
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	2
West Coast Rock Lobster	612
Other	5,258
Commercial Fishing Licence	2,827
Fish Processing (Land)	123
Fish Processing (Sea)	132
Fishing Boat Licence	1,495
Aquatic Eco Tour	5
Fishing Tour Operators Licence	257

APPENDIX 3 – STATE REGISTER OF AUTHORISATIONS, EXEMPTIONS AND AQUACULTURE LEASES

Restricted Fishing Tour	32
Permit to Construct a Fish Processing Establishment	361
Rock Lobster Pot Licence	26

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*.

Transactions on the Register	856
Extracts	514
Searches	24
Notation of Security Interest	123
Removal of Security Interest	182
Variation of Security Interest	13

The Registrar recorded 76 convictions against 37 authorisations in the relevant period, pursuant to the statutory obligation under section 224 (1) of the *FRMA*.

There were three 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 one occasion.

Appendix 4

Legislative Amendments and New Legislation

1. Summary

1.1 Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA)

There was one amendment made to the *FRMA* by the Statutes (*Repeals and Miscellaneous Amendments*) Act 2009 which commenced 21 May 2009. A register provision (section 126 *FRMA*) had a minor grammatical change made.

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 no new management plans, 14 amendments were made to existing management plans, and no management plans were revoked (see items 2.1.2 below).

1.1.2 Orders

There were four new orders, four amendments were made to existing orders and no orders were revoked (see items 2.1.3 below).

1.1.3 Notices

There were 25 notices published in the Gazette (see 2.1.4 below).

1.2 Pearling Act 1990

There were no amendments made to this Act.

1.2.1 Pearling (General) Regulations 1991

There were no amendments made to the Regulations.

1.2.2 Notices

There were 18 notices published in the Gazette and no notices were revoked (see items 2.2.1 below).

1.3 Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987 (FASA)

There was one amendment made to the *FASA* by the Statutes (*Repeals and Miscellaneous Amendments*) Act 2009 which commenced 21 May 2009. A committees of management provision in the voluntary adjustment schemes part of *FASA* (section 11) had a minor change made confirming the application of the amended paragraph to voluntary fisheries adjustment schemes only.

1.3.1 Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Regulations 1988

There were no amendments made to the Regulations.

1.3.2 Notices

There was one new notice. No amendments were made to existing notices (see items 2.3.1 below).

1.4 Fishing Industry Promotion Training and Management Levy Act 1997

There were no amendments made to this Act.

1.5 Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997

There were no amendments made to this Act.

1.5.1 Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Regulations 1998

There were no amendments made to the Regulations.

1.5.2 Notices

There were no new orders and no amendments made to existing orders.

2. Subsidiary Legislation

2.1 Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 (FRMR)

2.1.1 Regulations

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 11) 2008. These amendments introduced a possession limit of 24 for western rock lobster in the West Coast region,

APPENDIX 4 – LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND NEW LEGISLATION

and reduced the bag limit of rock lobster from eight to six. Published on 21 November 2008 in Government Gazette number 195, page 4926.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 8) 2008. These amendments provide for recreational fisheries management arrangements for demersal species in the West Coast Bioregion. Published on 19 December 2008 in Government Gazette number 221, page 5361.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2009. These amendments removed Part 4B division 4 relating to grouped bag limit for certain finfish for fishing tours. Published on 3 February 2009 in Government Gazette number 14, page 227.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 3) 2009. These amendments changed grant or renewal fees for managed fishery licences as set out in Schedule 1, Part 3, item 3. Published on 11 February 2009 in Government Gazette number 18, page 287.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations 2009. These amendments relate to whaler shark rule changes and totally protected fish in the Rowley Shoals Marine Park. Also inserts an Infringement penalty for breaches of aquaculture licence conditions. Published on 13 February 2009 in Government Gazette number 19, page 297.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 8) 2009. These amendments refer to changing the size limit to western rock lobster and female western rock lobster in Schedule 2 Part 2 Division 5. Published on 10 March 2009 in Government Gazette number 39, page 760-1.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 5) 2009. These amendments refer to changing the size limit to “Bream, Yellowfin” from 350mm to 300mm, in Schedule 2 Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision 2. Published on 27 March 2009 in Government Gazette number 47, page 922.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 9) 2009. These amendments change general, application and grant or renewal fees listed in Schedule 1. Published on 9 June 2009 in Government Gazette number 98, page 1911.

2.1.2 Management Plans

(a) New Management Plans

None

(b) Amendments to Existing Management Plans

Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2008. The amendment is to clause 20, which relates to the extent of the entitlement arising from a fish trawl unit. Published on 25 July 2008 in Government Gazette number 129, page 3393.

West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment 2008. The amendment is to clause 14, which relates to the capacity of the fishery. Published on 2 September 2008 in Government Gazette number 153, page 4135.

West Coast Estuarine Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2008. The amendment is to clause 3, which amends the expiry date of the plan to 7 November 2010. Published on 28 October in Government Gazette number 184, page 4753.

West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment (No 2) 2008. The amendment is to clause 9, which relates to Sunday closures and clause 14, which relates to the capacity of the fishery. Published on 12 November 2008 in Government Gazette number 191, page 4851.

West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2008. The amendment relates to a number of clauses including amending or inserting clauses regarding current units of entitlements, port areas and automatic location communicators. Published on 16 December 2008 in Government Gazette 214, page 5267.

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West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2008. This amendment relates to Clause 13 by changing “grant” to “renewal” and removing the reference to 31 December 2008 expiration. Published on 17 December 2008 in Government Gazette 219, page 5347.

West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2008. This amendment is to Schedule 8, which relates to the fee per unit - 2009. Published on 22 December 2008 in Government Gazette 224, page 5461.

West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment 2009. The amendment is to clause 10, which closes the fishery in the Big Bank area. Published on 20 February 2009 in Government Gazette number 21, page 356.

West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment (No.2) 2009. The amendment is to clause 14 and sets a new capacity of the fishery and also clause 16 replacing “Senior Fisheries Officer” with “regional manager, compliance manager or fisheries officer”. Published on 24 February 2009 in Government Gazette number 26, page 469.

West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment (No.3) 2009. The amendment is to clause 9, introducing the Saturday, Sunday, Monday closures within the fishery and pot soaking changes and to Clause 21A. Published on 5 March 2009 in Government Gazette number 34, page 679 - 680.

South West Trawl Management Plan Amendment 2009. This amendment is to insert the relevant clauses for the introduction of Approved Automatic Location Communicator into the fishery. Published on 7 April 2009 in Government Gazette number 56, page 1141 - 1148.

West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan Amendment (No.4) 2009. The amendment is to clause 9A and 9I, reinstating Monday as a fishing day within the fishery. Published on 1 May 2009 in Government Gazette number 74, page 1449 - 1450.

West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2009. This amendment changes various matters including introducing the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) into the fishery and addition of a Port Areas Schedule (Schedule 8). Published on 22 May 2009 in Government Gazette number 89, page 1716 - 1720.

Pilbara Fish Trawl Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2009. This amendment changes the expiry date of the Management Plan to 30 June 2011. Published on 16 June 2009 in Government Gazette number 106, page 2203.

(a) Revoked Plans

None

2.1.3 Orders

(a) New Orders

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Land Hermit Crabs) Order 2008. New Order (15 of 2008) made under S43 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, to prohibit the commercial take of land hermit crabs. Published on 2 December 2008 in Government Gazette number 202, page 5066.

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Muiron Islands Marine Management Area) Order 2008. New Order (9 of 2008) made under S43 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, to prohibit commercial fishing in the newly defined area of the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area. This order revokes the Prohibition on Taking Fish (South Muiron Island Notice 1994 (Notice No 672)). Published on 30 December 2008 in Government Gazette number 229, page 5650.

Prohibition on Recreational Fishing (Muiron Islands Marine Management Area) Order 2008. New Order (10 of 2008) made under S43 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, to prohibit recreational fishing in the newly defined area of the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area. Published on 30 December 2008 in Government Gazette number 229, page 5651.

APPENDIX 4 – LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND NEW LEGISLATION

Prohibition on Line Fishing (Metal in Lines and Traces) Order 2008. New Order (14 of 2008) made under S43 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, to prohibit commercial fishing by means of fishing line containing metal wire or chain. Published on 30 December 2008 in Government Gazette number 229, page 5653.

(b) Amendments to Existing Orders

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Barrow Island Marine Park and Montebello Islands Marine Park) Order 2008. Order No 13 of 2008. Amends the sub-clause in clause 5. Published on 11 July 2008 in Government Gazette number 122, page 3255.

Kalbarri Blue Holes Fish Habitat Protection Area Amendment Order 2008. The amendment is in relation to Clause 2, which changes the definition of the waters of the Kalbarri Blue Holes. Published on 14 November 2008 in Government Gazette number 193, page 4884.

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Rowley Shoals Marine Park) Order 2009, Notice No 1 of 2009. This order revokes a previous order and prohibits commercial fishing in the Rowley Shoals Marine Park. Published on 13 February 2009 in Government Gazette number 19, page 316 - 317.

Prohibition on Recreational Fishing (Rowley Shoals Marine Park) Order 2009, Notice No 2 of 2009. This order revokes a previous order and prohibits recreational fishing in the sanctuary areas of the Rowley Shoals Marine Park. The order also includes other recreational fishing prohibitions in areas outside sanctuary areas but inside the Rowley Shoals Marine Park. Published on 13 February 2009 in Government Gazette number 19, page 317 - 321.

(c) Revoked Orders

None

2.1.3 Notices

Abalone Management Plan 1992 – Clause 18 – Notice of Approved Fish Processors. Lists approved fish processors in respect of abalone. Published on 11 July 2008 in Government Gazette number 122, page 3254.

Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993 – Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns. Cancelled the previous notice published in Government Gazette on 9 November 2007. Notice of the areas, times and dates where and when fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Commenced on 18 July 2008. Published on 18 July 2008 in Government Gazette number 126, page 3332.

Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993 - Clause 10 – Closures of Areas within the Fishery. Cancelled Determination No. 1 of 2008 published in Government Gazette on 22 February 2008. Notice that Determination No. 2 of 2008 has been made of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Commenced on 5 August 2008. Published on 5 August 2008 in Government Gazette number 134, page 3487.

Regulation 55AA(3) - Notice of Approved Directions. Cancelled the previous notice published in Government Gazette dated 28 March 2008 and approved the list of directions for the installation, use and testing of approved Automatic Location Communicators for managed fisheries. Published on 30 September 2008 in Government Gazette number 167, page 4420.

Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2004 – Notice of Determination. Determination of the Capacity of the Mackerel Interim Managed Fishery for the 2009 Permit Period. Determination by the Chief Executive Officer of the amount of mackerel that may be taken in 2009 from the three areas of the fishery. Commenced on 1 January 2009. Published on 5 December 2008 in Government Gazette number 205, page 5091.

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Pilbara Trap Limited Entry Fishery Notice 1992 – Notice of Determination - Determination of the Capacity of the Pilbara Trap Managed Fishery for the 2009 Licensing Period. Notice of Determination of the capacity of the fishery for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009. Published on 5 December 2008 in Government Gazette number 205, page 5092.

Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery Management Plan 2000 - Notice of Determination – Determination of the Capacity of Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery for the 2009 Licensing Period. Notice of Determination of the capacity of the fishery for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009. Published on 5 December 2008 in Government Gazette number 205, page 5092.

Regulation 55AA(3) - Notice of Approved Directions. Cancelled the previous notice published in Government Gazette dated 30 September 2008 and approved the list of directions for the installation, use and testing of approved Automatic Location Communicators for managed fisheries, adding the Western Australia North Coast Shark Fishery. Published on 5 December 2008 in Government Gazette number 205, page 5093.

Full-Moon and Easter Closure Times In the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery. This Notice closes the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery during specific times from 1st February 2009 and ending on 30 June 2009. Published on 19 December 2008 in Government Gazette number 221, page 5373.

Regulation 55AA(3) - Notice of Approved Directions. Cancelled the previous notice published in Government Gazette dated 1 December 2008 and approved the list of directions for the installation, use and testing of approved Automatic Location Communicators for managed fisheries, adding the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery and the Shark Bay Snapper Managed Fishery. Published on 30 December 2008 in Government Gazette number 229, page 5653 - 5654.

Regulation 55AA(3) - Notice of Approved Directions. Cancelled the previous notice published in Government Gazette dated

22 December 2008 and approved the list of directions for the installation, use and testing of approved Automatic Location Communicators for managed fisheries, adding the West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Managed Fishery. Published on 2 January 2009 in Government Gazette number 1, page 5 - 6.

West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2007 – Approved Fish Processors. This notice publishes the list of approved fish processors for the West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery. Published on 6 January 2009 in the Government Gazette number 2, page 16.

Abalone Management Plan 1992 – Statement Of Determination. This notice determines the maximum quantity of abalone allowed to be taken from each Area during the licensing period commencing 1 April 2009. Published on 3 March 2009 in Government Gazette number 33, page 664.

Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993 – Clause 10 Closure of areas within the Fishery. This notice advises that a new determination has been made for the Shark Bay Prawn Fishery, by the Chief Executive Officer, setting out the dates, times and areas that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Published on 6 March 2009 in Government Gazette number 35, page 696.

Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993 – Determination of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns – Determination of 1 of 2009. This notice cancels the previous notice and determines the dates, times and areas that fishing is prohibited in the Shark Bay Prawn Fishery. Published on 6 March 2009 in Government Gazette number 35, page 696 - 697.

Shark Bay Scallop Management Plan 1994 – Determination of Areas Closed to Fishing for Scallops – Determination of 1 of 2009. This notice cancels the previous notice and determines the dates, times and areas that fishing is prohibited in the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery. Published on 10 March 2009 in Government Gazette number 36, page 707 - 709.

APPENDIX 4 – LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND NEW LEGISLATION

Shark Bay Scallop Management Plan 1994 – Clause 9 Closure of Areas within the Fishery. This notice states a new determination has been made for the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery, by the Chief Executive Officer, setting out the dates, times and areas that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Published on 10 March 2009 in Government Gazette number 36, page 709.

West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1994 – Notice No 2 of 2009 - Abrolhos Islands Designated Rock Lobster Pot Soaking Areas. This notice was made by the Chief Executive Officer under Clause 9 of the West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993, designating the areas for pot soaking in the Abrolhos Islands area. Published on 10 March 2009 in Government Gazette number 37, page 741 - 743.

Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993 – Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns – Notice 1 of 2009. This notice cancels previous Notice No 1 of 2008 dated 9 July 2008, and has been made by the Chief Executive Officer under Clause 17 of the Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993, prohibiting the fishing for prawns in the waters described in the Notice. Published on 17 March 2009 in Government Gazette number 40, page 784 - 785.

Onslow Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1991- Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns – Notice No 1 of 2009. This notice cancels the previous notice dated 10 March 2008 and prohibits fishing for prawns in the listed areas. Clause 10 of management plan does not require gazettal of this notice, however, for public information reasons, this notice was uploaded onto the Department of Fisheries website on 30 March 2009.

Nickol Bay Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1991- Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns – Notice No 1 of 2009. This notice cancels the previous notice dated 27 February 2008 and prohibits fishing for prawns in the listed areas. Clause 9 of the Management Plan does not

require gazettal of this notice, however, for public information reasons, this notice was uploaded onto the Department of Fisheries website on 30 March 2009.

Regulation 55AA(3) - Notice of Approved Directions. Cancelled the previous notice published in Government Gazette dated 2 January 2009 and approved the list of directions for the installation, use and testing of approved Automatic Location Communicators for managed fisheries, adding South West Trawl Fishery. Published on 24 April 2009 in Government Gazette number 71, page 1390.

Shark Bay Scallop Management Plan 1994 – Clause 9 Closure of Areas within the Fishery – Notice 2 of 2009. This notice advises that a new determination has been made for the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery, by the Chief Executive Officer, setting out the dates, times and areas that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Published on 15 May 2009 in Government Gazette number 86, page 1659.

Regulation 55AA(3) - Notice of Approved Directions. Cancelled the previous notice published in Government Gazette dated 17 April 2009 and approved the list of directions for the installation, use and testing of approved Automatic Location Communicators for managed fisheries, adding West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery. Published on 29 May 2009 in Government Gazette number 94, page 1835.

Broome Prawn Management Plan 1993 – Clause 12 Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns – Notice 1 of 2009. This notice cancels Notice 1 of 2008 and prohibits fishing for prawns in certain areas during certain times. Published on 16 June 2009 in Government Gazette number 108, page 2209.

2.2 Pearling Act 1990

2.2.1 *Regulations*

None

2.2.2 *Notices*

(a) *New Notices*

Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm – Quondong Point. Notice of the grant of a pearl oyster farm to Clipper Holdings Pty Ltd. Published on 15 July 2008 in Government Gazette number 124, page 3282.

Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Freshwater Bay. Notice of the grant of a pearl oyster farm lease to Paspaley Pearling Co Pty Ltd, Roebuck Pearl Producers, Pearls Pty Ltd & The Australian South Sea Pearl Company Pty Ltd. Published on 8 August 2008 in Government Gazette number 137, page 3514.

Grant of a Pearling Lease – Shenton Bluff. Notice of grant of emergency pearl oyster farm lease to Cygnet Bay Pearls, in Shenton Bluff till 27 April 2009. Published on 5 September 2008 in Government Gazette number 154, page 4144.

Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm – Parry Harbour. Notice of the grant of a pearl oyster farm to Paspaley Pearling Co Pty Ltd. Published on 19 September 2008 in Government Gazette number 160.

Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Sandy Point. Notice of the grant of a pearl oyster farm lease to Paspaley Pearling Co Pty Ltd, Roebuck Pearl Producers Pty Ltd, Pearls Pty Ltd and the Australian South Sea Pearling Company Pty Ltd. Published on 17 October 2008 in Government Gazette number 178, page 4608.

Grant of Variation to a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Seaflower Bay B. Notice of the grant of a pearl oyster farm lease to Paspaley Pearling Co Pty Ltd. Published on 17 October 2008 in Government Gazette number 178, pg 4608.

Cancellation of Pearl Oyster farm Leases and the Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Leases – Numerous. Notice granting applications submitted by Pearls Pty Ltd, The Australian South Sea Pearling Company Pty Ltd, Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd and Roebuck Pearl Producers. The granted applications result in the cancelling of various pearl oyster farm leases and the conditional granting of various new pearl oyster farm leases. Published on 6 November 2008 in Government Gazette number 188, page 4801.

Pearling (Annual Fees) Notice 2008. Established the fees payable for various pearling licences and permits for the year commencing 1 January 2009. Published on 16 December 2008 in Government Gazette number 214, page 5266.

Grant of a Pearling Licence – SJ & JD Arrow. Notice of a grant of a Pearling (Wildstock) Licence, a Pearling (Seeding) Licence and a Pearl Oyster Hatchery (Nursery) Licence to SJ & JD Arrow. Published on 3rd March 2009 in Government Gazette number 33, page 663.

Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Beagle Bay – Site 1. Notice of a grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease at Beagle Bay – Site 1, to SJ & JD Arrow. Published on 3rd March 2009 in Government Gazette number 33, on page 664.

Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Beagle Bay – Site 2. Notice of a grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease at Beagle Bay – Site 2, to SJ & JD Arrow. Published on 3rd March 2009 in Government Gazette number 33, page 664.

Grant of a Pearling Licence – Tennereef Pty Ltd. Notice of a grant of a Pearling (Wildstock) Licence, a Pearling (Seeding) Licence and a Pearl Oyster Hatchery (Nursery) Licence to Tennereef Pty Ltd. Published on 20th March 2009 in Government Gazette number 43, page 841.

Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Strickland Bay. Notice of a grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease at Strickland Bay, to Tennereef Pty Ltd. Published on 20th March 2009 in Government Gazette number 43, page 841.

APPENDIX 4 – LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND NEW LEGISLATION

Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – West Moore Island – Site 2. Notice of a grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease at West Moore Island, to Tennereef Pty Ltd. Published on 20th March 2009 in Government Gazette number 43, page 841.

Pearling (Annual Fees) Amendment Notice 2009. Notice to amend fees by decreasing the amount, in Clause 3 (b) and (c). Published on 24 March 2009 in Government Gazette number 46, page 913.

Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Gourdon Bay North. Notice of a grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease at Gourdan Bay North, to Tennereef Pty Ltd. Published on 17th April 2009 in Government Gazette number 68, pg 1330 -1331.

Grant of a Pearling Lease – Shenton Bluff. Notice of grant of emergency pearl oyster farm lease to Cygnet Bay Pearls, in Shenton Bluff until 27 July 2009. Published on 28 April 2009 in Government Gazette number 73, page 1421.

Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Lease Variation – Natural Pearls Pty Ltd. Notice of grant of pearl oyster farm lease variation to Natural Pearls Pty Ltd, in Montague Sound (various locations) Published on 19 May 2009 in Government Gazette number 87, page 1676.

(b) Revocations
None

2.3 Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987

2.3.1 Notices

(a) New Notices

Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Managed Fishery Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Notice 2009. Notice informing of the establishment of a Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme for the Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Managed Fisheries. Published on 15 May 2009 in Government Gazette Number 85 on page 1647 - 1648.

(b) Amendments to existing Notices

None

2.4 Fishing Industry Promotion Training and Management Levy Act 1997

2.4.1 Notices

None

2.5 *Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997*

2.5.2 Notices

None

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 report *State of the Fisheries*. The fisheries referred to in the table are the management units that are either fully managed fisheries or they 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 ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
WEST COAST BIOREGION							
West coast rock lobster	Yes	Adequate	8,166 - 14,523	8,926 (Includes Windy Harbour and Augusta)	2007/08	Yes	The below average catch was due to relatively low puerulus settlement three to four years previously. The run of low settlements has resulted in significant effort reductions being introduced in 2008/09.
Roe's abalone	Yes	Adequate	106.7 (Q) (620 – 750 days)	93.2 (580 days)	2008	Yes	Full quota not taken, therefore lower effort was used.
Abrolhos Islands and mid-west trawl	Yes	Adequate	95 – 1,830	1,216	2008	Yes	The annual recruitment (and therefore catch) of scallops is highly variable and dependent upon favourable environmental conditions. Good catches for this season were predicted from recruit surveys.
South-west trawl	No	NA	Not available	Prawns 8t Scallops 7t	2008	NA	
Cockburn Sound crab	Yes	Recovering	Not Applicable	0	2007/08	NA	The fishery continued to be closed for the 2007/08 season due to low breeding stock. The level of recovery of the stock is being monitored.
Deep sea crab	Yes	Adequate	140 t (Q)	139	2008	Yes	The introduction of a 140 t TACC for this fishery began in 2008. The acceptable effort range to take the TACC will be determined over coming years.

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 ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Estuarine fin fisheries (west coast)	No	NA	75 – 220 (Peel-Harvey only)	174	2008	Yes	Catches have been stable since 2000.
West coast beach bait	Yes	Adequate	60 – 275 (whitebait only)	57	2008	Yes	Yearly fluctuations in whitebait stocks are due to environmental conditions.
West coast purse seine	Yes	Adequate	3,000 (Q)	413	2008	NA	Continued low catches are due to a combination of market competition, irregular availability of market sized fish and low activity levels by the fleet.
West coast demersal scalefish	Yes	Inadequate	< 480 t	413	2007/08	Yes	Commercial catch was reduced through limited access management in January 2008. A TACC introduced in January 2009 is designed to maintain this catch in the desired range. Note – recreational catch still requires reductions.
GASCOYNE COAST BIOREGION							
Shark Bay prawn	Yes	Adequate	1,501 – 2,330	1,232	2008	Yes	King and tiger prawns were below the target range due to targeting of larger-sized prawns for economic reasons. In addition, less effort was spent on prawns due to increased targeting of scallops.
Exmouth Gulf prawn	Yes	Adequate	771 – 1,276	1,170	2007	Yes	The total catch was in the target range but both tiger and endeavour prawns were above their individual levels. This was related to good recruitment of these species. King prawns were below due to targeting of tiger prawns.
Shark Bay scallop	Yes	Adequate	1,250 – 3,000	3,674	2008	Yes	The scallop catch was predicted to be above the acceptable levels due to good recruitment.

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 ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Shark Bay beach seine and mesh net	Yes	Adequate	235 – 335	269	2008	Yes	Total catch and effort were higher than 2007 but the catch rates of all species were maintained.
Shark Bay snapper	Yes	Recovering	276.8 t (Q) (380 – 540 days)	229 t (382 days)	2008	Yes	At current TACC levels, the spawning biomass is projected to recover to the targeted level by 2014.
NORTH COAST BIOREGION							
Onslow prawn	Yes	Adequate	60 – 180	33	2008	Yes	The low catch was associated with low fishing effort.
Nickol Bay prawn	Yes	Adequate	90 – 300	86	2008	Yes	The catches of banana prawns were below the predicted catch range. King prawn catches were low throughout the northern bioregion in 2008.
Broome prawn	Yes	Adequate	55 – 260	Negligible	2008	NA	Extremely low level of effort this year.
Kimberley prawn	Yes	Adequate	240 – 500	168	2008	Yes	Banana prawn catch below range due to lower effort and change to management strategy.
Kimberley gillnet and barramundi	Yes	Adequate	25 – 40 (barramundi)	50	2008	Yes	The catch of barramundi has increased substantially due to increased effort. This will be monitored closely.
Northern demersal scalefish	Yes	Adequate	Total 600 – 1,000 (goldband <433) (red emperor <204)	Total 983 (goldband 450) (red emperor 167)	2008	No	The outcomes of an independent science review will be incorporated into future assessments and management settings.
Pilbara fish trawl	Yes	Adequate	2,000 – 2,800	1,294	2008	Yes	Reduced catch levels were due to unused effort and the natural cycles in catch rates of some shorter-lived species. The acceptable catch range is currently being reviewed.

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 ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Pilbara demersal trap and line	Yes	Adequate	400 – 600 (trap) 50 – 115 (line)	508 (trap) 86 (line)	2008	Yes	Catches have increased due to higher retention of some species and higher abundance of target species (goldband and red emperor).
Mackerel	Yes	Adequate	410 (Q) 246 - 410 t (all except grey mackerel)	323	2008	Yes	Catch rates are increasing in the Kimberley and Pilbara. As the quota is accumulated over four zones a catch range will continue to be used to assess acceptability.
Northern shark	Yes	Depleted	< 20 (key species)	NA	2007/08	N/A	Protocols for validating new trip logbooks are still being finalised. Therefore estimates of catch remain uncertain. Status of stocks remains the same.
Pearl oyster	Yes	Adequate	877,600 oysters (Q) (14,071 – 20,551 dive hours)	820,207 oysters (15,786 dive hours)	2008	Yes	Despite record high catches, effort was relatively low due to the predicted entry of record year classes. The high abundance levels have resulted in an increased TAC of 1,060,400 for 2009.
Beche-de-mer	Yes	Adequate	50 – 150	196	2008	Yes	Total catch was above targeted range but two species are now being exploited. Species-specific indicators are currently under development for this fishery.
SOUTH COAST BIOREGION							
South coast crustacean	No	Uncertain	50 – 80 (southern rock lobster)	37	2007/08	Yes	The management arrangements, including the acceptable catch range, are currently being reviewed.
Abalone (greenlip/brownlip)	Yes	Adequate	205 (Q) (907 – 1,339 days)	197 (1,144 days)	2008	Yes	
Estuarine fisheries (south coast)	Yes	Adequate	200 – 500	207	2008	Yes	The total catch is below 10-year average but the stock levels of key species are still considered adequate.

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 ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Western Australian salmon	Yes	Adequate	1,200 – 2,800	879	2008	Yes	The total catch was similar to the previous year. Recent catches continue to be low relative to historic levels due to low effort from limited market demand.
Australian herring	Yes	Uncertain	475 – 1,200 (south coast only)	192	2008	Yes	Stock levels appear to have declined from poor recruitment. The commercial catches have also been low as a result of the low effort levels from the poor markets.
Albany/ King George Sound purse seine	Yes	Adequate	2,722 (Q)	1,448	2007/08	NA	Similar catch level to last few years.
Bremer Bay purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (Q)	192	2007/08	NA	Similar catch level to last few years
Esperance purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (Q)	82	2007/08	NA	Some increase has occurred this year but the catch levels remain low.
Southern and west coast demersal gillnet and longline	Yes	Gummy and whiskery recovering. Dusky and sandbar depleted.	725 – 1,095	NA	2007/08	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 previous assessment.
NORTHERN INLAND BIOREGION							
Lake Argyle catfish	Yes	Adequate	95 – 155	126	2008	Yes	Catch level similar to last year

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 2008/09

The Minister for Fisheries or the Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries (under more restricted circumstances) 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.

<p>Exemption No. 1651 Applicant Cape Dive Pty Ltd Period of Exemption 10/06/2008 – 30/06/2009 Provisions <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> Purpose Conduct fishing tours in the West Coast zone as defined in Schedule 15(3) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> from its operational base of Dunsborough.</p>	<p>Exemption No. 1656 Applicant Simon Hawke Period of Exemption 22/11/2007 – 31/12/2007 Provisions Clause 4(1)(b) of Order No. 11 of 2007 Purpose For the purpose of collecting no more than 100 kilograms of coral in any one day to allow the remainder of the coral quota allocated to Marine Aquarium Fish Managed Fishery Licence number 2573 to be collected by the end of the calendar year.</p>
<p>Exemption No. 1652 Applicant Geraldton Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd Period of Exemption 01/07/2008 – 31/08/2008 Provisions Sections 79 and 82 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>. Purpose To allow Geraldton Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd to process western rock lobster under the authority of Fish Processing Licence numbers 1066, 1095 & 1039 whilst the formal transfer applications are being considered.</p>	<p>Exemption No. 1657 Applicant Education and communications staff as employed by the Department of Fisheries Period of Exemption 01/07/2007 – 30/06/2008 Provisions Sections 43, 46, 50, 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>, and regulations 38D, 38H, 38I, 38M, 38N, 38O, 44, 64F, 64K, 64S of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>. Purpose To conduct and assist with education, communications and promotional activities associated with the Department of Fisheries.</p>
<p>Exemption No. 1653 Applicant All Roe's Abalone Managed Fishery Licence holders Period of Exemption 29/05/2008 – 30/06/2010 Provisions Clause 19B of the Abalone Management Plan 1992, <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> Purpose The disposal of the shell of shucked Roe's abalone (<i>Haliotis roei</i>) prior to the consignment of abalone being received by the consignee.</p>	<p>Exemption No. 1658 Applicant Western Australian Abalone Ltd Period of Exemption 07/08/2008 – 01/07/2011 Provisions Subsection 50 (3), 51 (2) and section 74 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>, Regulation 121 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>, Clauses 4 (1) and 21 of the Abalone Management Plan 1992. Purpose To allow WA Abalone Ltd to collect abalone broodstock for hatchery operations.</p>
<p>Exemption No. 1655 Applicant Raymond McAlpine Walker Period of Exemption 13/11/2007 – 12/11/2008 Provisions Specimen Shell Management Plan 1995 Purpose For the purpose of operating in the Specimen Shell Managed Fishery to develop and explore deepwater specimen shell fishing using a remote controlled underwater vehicle.</p>	

APPENDIX 6 – STATE REGISTER OF EXEMPTIONS 2008/09

Exemption No.	1661	Exemption No.	1666
Applicant	Western Kingfish Ltd	Applicant	Danny Wimpres
Period of Exemption	06/04/2008 – 31/05/2010	Period of Exemption	01/10/2008 – 31/01/2009
Provisions	Section 43(3)(a) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , Clauses 17,19,22 & 23 of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Management Plan 2007 and Clause 4 of Order No. 15 of Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Metropolitan Waters) Order 2007.	Provisions	All of those provisions of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent that person from lawfully undertaking the research activities.
Purpose	To allow for the collection of 30 yellowtail kingfish per year over 600mm in length, using specific traps or baited hooks.	Purpose	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.
Exemption No.	1662	Exemption No.	1667
Applicant	Western Kingfish Ltd	Applicant	Ryan Thipthorp
Period of Exemption	06/04/2008 – 31/03/2011	Period of Exemption	01/10/2008 – 31/01/2009
Provisions	Sections 50, 51, 90 & 91 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Regulation 64Y of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> .	Provisions	All of those provisions of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent that person from lawfully undertaking the research activities.
Purpose	To allow Western Kingfish Ltd to hold and engage in the aquaculture of <i>Panulirus versicolor</i> and to allow the collection of broodstock of <i>Panulirus ornatus</i> and <i>Panulirus versicolor</i> primarily for aquaculture purposes.	Purpose	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting required samples for biological analysis.
Exemption No.	1664	Exemption No.	1668
Applicant	James Chandler	Applicant	Marine Farms Ltd
Period of Exemption	19/10/2008 – 9/11/2008	Period of Exemption	09/03/2008 – 28/02/2011
Provisions	<i>All of those provisions of the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent that person from lawfully undertaking the research activities</i>	Provisions	<i>Sections 50, 90 & 91 of the Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
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 Marine Farms Ltd to hold and engage in the aquaculture of <i>Tridacna maxima</i> , <i>Tridacna squamosa</i> and <i>Tridacna derasa</i> , and to allow the collection of broodstock of <i>Tridacna gigas</i> , <i>Tridacna maxima</i> , <i>Tridacna squamosa</i> and <i>Tridacna derasa</i> .
Exemption No.	1665	Exemption No.	1669
Applicant	Nils Stokke	Applicant	Officer of the Department of Fisheries' Environment Branch and those people assisting this Officer.
Period of Exemption	19/10/2008 – 09/11/2008	Period of Exemption	02/10/2008 – 02/10/2009
Provisions	All of those provisions of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent that person from lawfully undertaking the research activities.	Provisions	Sections 43, 46, 47, 50 & 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> or any subsidiary legislation that would otherwise prevent 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	The control or eradication of any marine or freshwater fish species.

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Exemption No.	1670	Applicant	Lobster Harvest Pty Ltd	Period of Exemption	20/10/2008 – 31/01/2010	Provisions	Section 46 and 90 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations to the extent that those provisions would otherwise prevent the holder conducting the activities.	Purpose	To assist the 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.
Applicant		Period of Exemption		Provisions		Purpose	To allow Lobster Harvest Pty Ltd to continue research into tropical rock lobster species, focusing on increasing survival of progeny and grow-out of juvenile lobster.	Exemption No.	1674
Applicant		Period of Exemption		Provisions		Purpose		Applicant	Master and crew of all vessels authorised to operate in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery
Exemption No.	1671	Applicant	Central West TAFE	Period of Exemption	18/10/2008 – 30/09/2013	Provisions	Sections 50, 51, 74, 90 & 91 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , Regulations 117, 121 Clauses 4(1) and 21 of the Abalone Management Plan 1992 and the Prohibition on Fishing (Diving) Order 1999.	Period of Exemption	15/11/2008 – 30/06/2009
Applicant		Period of Exemption		Provisions		Purpose	To allow Central West TAFE to hold and engage in the aquaculture of various local finfish species on the existing aquaculture site (Licence No. 1625), and to allow the collection of multiple broodstock species for aquaculture purposes.	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> .
Applicant		Period of Exemption		Provisions		Purpose		Purpose	To enable members of the commercial fishing industry to assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in recapturing tagged lobsters.
Exemption No.	1672	Applicant	Scott Andrew Szulc	Period of Exemption	18/10/2008 – 30/09/2011	Provisions	Sections 50(3), 90 & 91 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , Regulation 64Z of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> and the Prohibition on Fishing (Diving) Order No. 3 1999.	Exemption No.	1675
Applicant		Period of Exemption		Provisions		Purpose	To allow Scott Andrew Szulc to hold and engage in the aquaculture of <i>Pinctada fucata</i> and to allow the take of broodstock <i>Pteria penguin</i> , <i>Pinctada margaritifera</i> and <i>Pinctada fucata</i> for aquaculture purposes.	Applicant	P Vinci, C. Moss, B. Stone, S. McCleary, B. Cockman, P Burton, C. Patman & L. Litchfield
Applicant		Period of Exemption		Provisions		Purpose		Period of Exemption	15/11/2008 – 30/06/2009
Exemption No.	1673	Applicant	Licensed Rock Lobster Processors	Period of Exemption	15/11/2008 – 15/07/2009	Provisions	Section 46(b) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully undertaking the research activities.	Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully undertaking the research activities.
Applicant		Period of Exemption		Provisions		Purpose		Purpose	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in developing and testing a more efficient rock lobster pot.
Applicant		Period of Exemption		Provisions		Purpose		Exemption No.	1676
Applicant		Period of Exemption		Provisions		Purpose		Applicant	Commercial rock lobster fishers as described in Schedule 1 of the exemption.
Applicant		Period of Exemption		Provisions		Purpose		Period of Exemption	15/11/2008 – 30/06/2009
Applicant		Period of Exemption		Provisions		Purpose		Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully undertaking the research activities.
Applicant		Period of Exemption		Provisions		Purpose		Purpose	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in determining the complete size range of lobsters present in the various water depths and areas of the fishery.

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Exemption No.	1677	Exemption No.	1682
Applicant	Geraldton Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd	Applicant	McMerks Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption	15/11/2008-30/06/2009	Period of Exemption	18/09/2008-29/06/2009
Provisions	Sections 79 and 82 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .	Provisions	Sections 46, 50 and 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
Purpose	To allow Geraldton Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd to process western rock lobster at 393 Marine Terrace, Geraldton and 7B Point Leander Drive, Port Denison Boat Harbour, Dongara, whilst their formal applications are being considered.	Purpose	Bring onto land pink snapper at the Monkey Mia townsite where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of pink snapper is greater than the daily bag limit or possession limit; and • The pink snapper are less than 50cm or greater than 70cm in length.
Exemption No.	1679 (1678 – CANCELLED DUE TO ERROR)	Exemption No.	1684
Applicant	Ian John Rowland and Jesse Vivian Rowland	Applicant	Regal Choice Holdings Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption	9/11/2008 – 30/06/2009	Period of Exemption	11/09/2008-31/03/2009
Provisions	36, 117 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .	Provisions	Regulations 14, 15, 16D and 21 of the <i>Fish Resource Management Regulations 1995</i> .
Purpose	To operate in the areas described as Zone A of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.	Purpose	Filleting of legal-sized fish below 30 cm and possessing fish in excess of the prescribed possession limit.
Exemption No.	1680	Exemption No.	1685
Applicant	Antonino LaMacchia & Carmelo LaMacchia	Applicant	Bill Mills
Period of Exemption	10/11/2008-30/06/2009	Period of Exemption	11/09/2008-31/03/2009
Provisions	36, 117 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .	Provisions	Regulations 14, 15, 16D and 21 of the <i>Fish Resource Management Regulations 1995</i> .
Purpose	To operate in the areas described as Zone C of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.	Purpose	Filleting of legal-sized fish below 30 cm and possessing fish in excess of the prescribed possession limit.
Exemption No	1681	Exemption No.	1686
Applicant	Crystal Cree	Applicant	The master of, or a holder of a commercial fishing licence fishing for rock lobster under the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.
Period of Exemption	24/10/2008- 31/12/2009	Period of Exemption	17/11/2008 – 30/06/2009
Provisions	Clause 9(3) of the <i>Marine Aquarium Fish Management Plan 1995</i> .	Provisions	1. Clause 17 of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Management Plan 2007, and 2. Clause 22 of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish (Interim) Management Plan 2007.
Purpose	To Allow Mr Wayne Mackenzie Brown to be the nominated operator of Managed Fishery Licence No 2572 in addition to Managed Fishery Licence No 2567 due to illness of the holder of Managed Fishery Licence No 2572.	Purpose	To permit a person specified in Schedule 1 to take, store and transport demersal scalefish taken as by-catch in a pot authorised for use under a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence.

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Exemption No.	1687	Exemption No.	1691
Applicant	MScience	Applicant	Commercial Fishing Licence numbers 6500, 88204, 88346, 13833, and 3349
Period of Exemption	11/11/2008 – 10/11/2013	Period of Exemption	10 December 2008 – 31 January 2012 or until such time as this exemption is otherwise withdrawn.
Provisions	Order No. 11 of 2008.	Provisions	Provisions of Order No 15 of 2008
Purpose	Collection of corals for taxonomic identification and/or biological assessment.	Purpose	The taking of land hermit crabs, <i>Coenobita variabilis</i> by hand north of 22° 30'S (Exmouth Gulf).
Exemption No.	1688	Exemption No.	1692
Applicant	Le Mer Marketing and Consultancy Pty Ltd	Applicant	Tasmanian Seafoods Pty Ltd, RB Lowden Pty Ltd, Shine Year Fisheries (Aust) Pty Ltd and Scott Wallace Steele
Period of Exemption	17/11/2008 – 03/11/2011	Period of Exemption	24/12/2008 – 25/12/2013
Provisions	Section 50(3) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , Regulations 64(Z) and 121 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> and the Prohibition on Fishing (Diving) Order No. 3 of 1999 and Order 366 of 1988.	Provisions	Those provisions of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> , the North Coast Shark Fishing (Professional) Fishing Notice 1993 and the Mackerel Fishing (Interim) Management Plan 2004.
Purpose	To collect those species listed in Schedule 4 for aquaculture broodstock purposes only, from locations outlined in Schedule 5.	Purpose	To fish for sharks in the WA North Coast Shark Fishery
Exemption No.	1689	Exemption No.	1693
Applicant	Roland Ronald Wilkin	Applicant	Fremantle Octopus Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption	01/01/2009 – 30/06/2009	Period of Exemption	12/01/2009 – 31/01/2011
Provisions	The <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent that person from lawfully undertaking the research activities.	Provisions	Fish Traps Restriction Notice 1990 and Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1990.
Purpose	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological information (length/reproductive/age/DNA data) on dhufish (<i>Glaucosoma hebraicum</i>).	Purpose	Explore/develop the octopus fishery, fishing technology and gather data about octopus stocks in WA.
Exemption No.	1690	Exemption No.	1694
Applicant	Central West College of TAFE	Applicant	Western Australian Maritime Training Centre
Period of Exemption	26/11/2008 – 30/06/2013	Period of Exemption	12/01/2009 – 31/12/2012
Provisions	Sections 50, 51, 74, 90 and 91 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , Regulations 117, 121, Clauses 4(1) and 21 of the Abalone Management Plan 1992 and the Prohibition on Fishing (Diving) Order 1999.	Provisions	Sections 46, 47, 50, 51 & 74 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , Regulations 15, 50, 51, 117 & 121 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> and Clauses 4(1) and 21 of the Abalone Management Plan 1992.
Purpose	To allow Central West TAFE to hold and engage in aquaculture of finfish on the existing aquaculture site (Licence No. 1625), and to allow the collection of multiple broodstock species for aquaculture purposes.	Purpose	To allow the Western Australian Maritime Training Centre to collect broodstock for commercial seed production and to provide training activities relating to aquaculture.

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Exemption No.	1695	Exemption No.	1699
Applicant	Bealwood Pty Ltd	Applicant	McKerrow Holdings Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption	12/01/2009 – 31/12/2011	Period of Exemption	03/02/2009 – 31/01/2011
Provisions	Sections 50 & 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Regulations 117 & 121 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> .	Provisions	<i>Fish Traps Restriction Notice 1990</i> and the <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1990</i> .
Purpose	To allow the collection of defined multiple species for aquaculture broodstock purposes and aquaculturing of these species.	Purpose	Explore/develop the octopus fishery, fishing technology and gather data about octopus stocks in WA.
Exemption No.	1696	Exemption No.	1700
Applicant	Nichola Thompson, Tracey Brothers, Duncan Brothers and the students of Albany Senior High School Marine Studies Unit.	Applicant	Commercial rock lobster fishers as described in Schedule 1 of the exemption.
Period of Exemption	13/01/2009 - 2/02/2012	Period of Exemption	15/11/2008 – 30/06/2009
Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>	Provisions	All of those provisions of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations thereunder which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully undertaking the research activities.
Purpose	To identify, count, weigh and measure fish as part of the field trips for the Marine Studies Unit offered by Albany Senior High School.	Purpose	Determining the complete size range of lobsters present in the various water depths and areas of the fishery.
Exemption No:	1697	Exemption No.	1701
Applicant:	The persons listed in Schedule 1 of the Exemption	Applicant	Marine Farms Ltd
Period of Exemption:	13/01/2009 – 28/02/2012	Period of Exemption	24/02/2009 – 28/12/2012
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .	Provisions	Section 117, Section 121 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Division 1 Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> .
Purpose:	To identify, count, weigh and measure fish as part of the field trips for the Marine Studies Unit offered by Albany Senior High School.	Purpose	To allow Marine Farms Ltd to collect mahi mahi and cobia for use as aquaculture broodstock.
Exemption No.	1698	Exemption No.	1702
Applicant	Trevor Wheatcroft	Applicant	Kieran O'Connor
Period of Exemption	02/02/2009 – 31/01/2011	Period of Exemption	01/03/2009 – 01/04/2009
Provisions	<i>Fish Traps Restriction Notice 1990</i> and the <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1990</i> .	Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulation 1995</i> .
Purpose	Explore/develop the octopus fishery, fishing technology and gather data about octopus stocks in WA.	Purpose	To conduct behavioural fieldwork studies on rock lobster in early March in Jurien. They will retrieve one pot with video equipment and three normal pots (total of four pots). All lobsters caught will be measured and returned to the water alive.

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Exemption No.	1703	Exemption No.	1707
Applicant	All persons acting under the authority of a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence	Applicant	All persons acting under the authority of a West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Managed Fishery Licence.
Period of Exemption	19/03/2009 – 30/06/2009	Period of Exemption	26/03/2009 onwards
Provisions	Clause 9A (1) of the West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993.	Provisions	Schedule 1 for the period specified in Schedule 2 for the purposes specified in Schedule 3 under the conditions specified in Schedule 4.
Purpose	To pull un-baited rock lobster pots in Zone A of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery on the last day of any closure period.	Purpose	For the purpose of allowing a greater variety of bait to be used in the West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery.
Exemption No.	1704	Exemption No.	1708
Applicant	Sinclair Knight Mertz	Applicant	Alan Fraser
Period of Exemption	01/04/2009 to 30/11/2009	Period of Exemption	27/03/2009 – 04/03/2009
Provisions	Prohibition on Fishing (Coral, 'Live Rock' and Algae) Order 2007 - Order 11 of 2007	Provisions	Clause 4 of the <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i> (Notice No. 677).
Purpose	To provide information on coral reproduction, to contribute to research towards understanding the impact of plumes (associated with port-related dredging activity) on coral spawning (April, October, November only).	Purpose	To take brown mud crabs (<i>Scylla olivacea</i>) and green mud crabs (<i>Scylla serrata</i>) with a maximum of 300 crab traps, within the waters located east of 123° 15' east longitude, except within the areas specified in Schedule 3.
Exemption No.	1705	Exemption No.	1709
Applicant	All persons who are authorised to operate under the Specimen Shell Managed Fishery Licence.	Applicant	Warren Arms
Period of Exemption	26/03/2009 to 31/03/2012	Period of Exemption	27/03/2009 – 04/03/2009
Provisions	Clauses (7), (12) (3), (13) (a), (13) (b) and (15) of the Specimen Shell Management Plan 1995 and clauses 4 (1) and 5 of the Abalone Management Plan 1992.	Provisions	Clause 4 of the <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i> (Notice No. 677).
Purpose	For the purpose of developing and enhancing the Specimen Shell Managed Fishery and in particular addressing safety issues and providing for operational flexibility.	Purpose	To take brown mud crabs (<i>Scylla olivacea</i>) and green mud crabs (<i>Scylla serrata</i>) with a maximum of 300 crab traps, within the waters located east of 123° 15' east longitude, except within the areas specified in Schedule 3.
Exemption No.	1706	Exemption No.	1710
Applicant	Jason Stanley and Emilee MacDonald	Applicant	Rob McIntosh
Period of Exemption	01/04/2009 to 31/01/2011	Period of Exemption	27/03/2009 – 04/03/2009
Provisions	Clause 2 of the Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 (Notice No. 462) and from only Clause 4 of the Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (Notice No. 677).	Provisions	Clause 4 of the <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i> (Notice No. 677) that
Purpose	Explore/develop the octopus fishery, fishing technology and gather data about octopus stocks in WA. Gather baseline data about octopus stocks within WA waters under a controlled management regime.	Purpose	To take brown mud crabs (<i>Scylla olivacea</i>) and green mud crabs (<i>Scylla serrata</i>) with a maximum of 300 crab traps, within the waters located east of 123° 15' east longitude, except within the areas specified in Schedule 3.

APPENDIX 6 – STATE REGISTER OF EXEMPTIONS 2008/09

Exemption No.	1711	Exemption No.	1715
Applicant	Adrian Templeman	Applicant	Occoculture Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption	01/04/2009 – 30/03/2011	Period of Exemption	01/05/2009 – 30/04/2013
Provisions	<i>Fish Traps Restriction Notice 1990</i> and the <i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1990</i>	Provisions	Sections 90 & 91 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , the <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.
Purpose	(a) 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) Gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks in the waters of the Mandurah to Bunbury Developing Crab Fishery within WA waters under a controlled management regime.	Purpose	To engage in the aquaculture of octopus (<i>Octopus tetricus</i>)
Exemption No.	1712	Exemption No.	1716
Applicant	Bealwood Pty Ltd	Applicant	Commercial Fishing Licence Numbers 6500, 88204, 101083, 13833, 3349
Period of Exemption	23/03/2009 – 31/12/2011	Period of Exemption	06/05/2009 – 31/01/2012
Provisions	Sections 50 and 51 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> (FRMA), Regulations 117 and 121 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> .	Provisions	Schedule 1 of the provisions of the order 15 of 2008.
Purpose	To collect those species listed in Schedule 4 for aquaculture broodstock purposes only. To engage in the aquaculture of those species listed in Schedule 4.	Purpose	Taking of land hermit crabs (<i>Coenobita varabilis</i>) by hand north of 22° 30'S (Exmouth Gulf).
Exemption No.	1713	Exemption No.	1725
Applicant	Ardyaloon Incorporated	Applicant	N.M. & A.M. Lucas
Period of Exemption	23/03/2009 – 30/04/2014	Period of Exemption	25/05/2009 – 31/03/2011
Provisions	Sections 50, 51, 74, 90, and 91 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> (FRMA); Regulations, 117, 121, Clauses 4 (1) and 21 of the Abalone Management Plan 1992; and the Prohibition on Fishing (Diving) Order 1999.	Provisions	<i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i> (Notice No. 677) and the <i>Fish Traps Restriction Notice 1990</i> (Notice No. 462).
Purpose	To collect those species listed in Schedule 4 for use as broodstock for aquaculture purposes, from locations outlined in Schedule 6. To collect those species listed in Schedule 5 for display purposes only, from locations outlined in Schedule 6.	Purpose	(a) 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) Gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks in the waters of the Mandurah to Bunbury.
Exemption No.	1714	Exemption No.	1726
Applicant	Westyle Oysters Pty Ltd	Applicant	Challenger TAFE WA Maritime Training Centre
Period of Exemption	20/04/2009 – 31/05/2011	Period of Exemption	01/01/2009 – 31/12/2013
Provisions	Sections 90 and 91 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , and the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> .	Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
Purpose	To engage in the aquaculture of those species listed in Schedule 4.	Purpose	Educational programs for training Challenger TAFE students in commercial fishing practices; and assisting with research through the provision of biological samples to the Department of Fisheries' Research Division.