

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARLIAMENT 2005/06



Department of
Fisheries



Fish for the future



**To the Hon. Jon Ford JP MLC
Minister for Fisheries**

Sir

In accordance with Section 62 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* (FAAA) 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 2006.

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*.

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From the Chief Executive Officer



Early in 2005/06, the Department of Fisheries celebrated a momentous occasion - the official opening of the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories (WAFMRL) at 39 Northside Drive, Hillarys. The new laboratories are a modern, purpose-built centre for research, well equipped to underpin the sustainable management of Western Australia's valuable fisheries and aquatic resources.

While the laboratories were fully operational throughout most of 2005/06, the development of another key component to the building - the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre - continued throughout the year. Due to open in 2006/07, the centre will offer a stimulating and informative public 'window' into Western Australia's aquatic environment and serve to promote messages of stewardship and sustainability.

The opening of WAFMRL was a buoyant note in an eventful year for the Department's capital works program, which also included the completion of a new Marine Operations Centre at Fremantle and the Abrolhos Islands Research Institute at Geraldton. All of these facilities will, in different but complementary ways, support the Department in the delivery of its fisheries management services.

The year was exceptional not only for these capital works developments, but also for the successful staging of a landmark event - the *Sharing the Fish Conference 06*. Hosted by the Department in February/March, this event attracted over 300 delegates from Australia and around the world, providing a timely forum to share information and views on the international issues surrounding fish resource allocation across jurisdictions and sectors.

On a note of concern, foreign fishing incursions in the northern waters of Western Australia reached record numbers during the year, again underscoring the relevance and timeliness of the *Sharing the Fish Conference 06*. The Department's contract compliance role in responding to this problem concluded at the end of the year, with the termination by the Commonwealth Government of its long-standing arrangement for the Department to carry out compliance operations on behalf of the Commonwealth within the 200 nautical mile Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ).

Hence our officers within the International Operations Group, who had been engaged in compliance operations within the AFZ,

have been redeployed to other areas of the Department or have left the agency for other employment.

In the coming year, the Department will be reviewing its role in the future management of Commonwealth fisheries off the State's coastline but will continue to be forthright in gaining Commonwealth co-operation in addressing illegal foreign fishing impacts on Western Australian and Australian fisheries.

The Integrated Fisheries Management agenda continued to be advanced during the year. Milestones were reached in the first three fisheries to which the Department of Fisheries is applying its Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) strategy - for western rock lobster, Roe's abalone in the Perth metropolitan area, and demersal scalefish on the State's west coast.

I would like to acknowledge the expertise and commitment of the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC). In particular I would like to thank outgoing chairman Murray Jorgensen for his guidance and dedicated service and welcome Jim McKiernan as the new chairman.

Jim McKiernan will preside over the next phases of the IFM implementation, including the release of the final western rock lobster allocation report, the draft abalone allocation report, and development of a draft allocation report for the west coast demersal scalefish fishery.

The State's most valuable fishery - the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery - was the subject of a major review during 2005/06, resulting in the release of four management papers that propose a number of recommendations aimed at ensuring the fishery remains successful and sustainable.

Research and development work continued on the use of Sea Lion Exclusion Devices (SLEDs), designed to prevent Australian sea lion pups from becoming trapped in craypots without compromising the capture of western rock lobster by commercial and recreation fishers. The Minister announced that these devices would become mandatory in the fishery between Freshwater Point, near Dongara, and Wedge Island in the 2006/07 western rock lobster fishing season.

Following an extensive review of the demersal gillnet and demersal longline fisheries, a range of management measures was developed during the year for implementation in the 2006/07 fishing season in both shark fisheries, as well as in other fisheries where shark is taken. The Minister for Fisheries approved the measures for the west coast fishery. In the case of the southern shark fishery south of 33°S (which is a Joint Authority fishery) the State and Federal Fisheries Ministers agreed to implement the measures in that fishery.

The State's regional recreational fisheries were also subject to major review. On 1 January 2006, changes to fishing rules were introduced in the South Coast and Pilbara/Kimberley regions, designed to address specific regional issues and variations in stock abundance. This complemented similar changes carried out previously in the West Coast and Gascoyne Regions. It was pleasing to see the high levels of compliance with the new rules, no doubt assisted by a comprehensive communication program including radio and press advertising and a new series of fishing rule information brochures and species identification guides.

The introduction of new fishing rules for sanctuary zones in the Ningaloo Marine Park signalled an era of increased responsibility for the Department in marine park management. An Inter-Departmental Committee was established between the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the Department of Fisheries to develop a collaborative approach to planning and management of marine protected areas at Ningaloo and elsewhere.

In a dramatic incident that attracted considerable media and public attention, the Department took the lead role in responding to an incursion of feral fish at Bennett Brook in the Swan River. The control measures were implemented efficiently and the incident provided a platform for disseminating important messages about the risk of releasing feral species into waterways.

Pearling was also a major focus during the year, with a Memorandum of Understanding being signed between the Ministers for Fisheries in Western Australia and the Northern Territory for the management of the Australian pearling industry.

Working from the new WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories, the Department's Research Division is better equipped than ever before to conduct the scientific research required to underpin the management of the State's fisheries. In 2005/06 the Research Division secured external funding totalling around \$3 million for priority research through successful applications to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Natural Heritage Trust, Northern Agricultural Catchments Council, South West Catchments Council, and Grains Research and Development Corporation.

The Research Division was restructured during the year and a Biodiversity Research Branch created, as part of the Department's implementation of ecosystem-based management.

A major milestone for the Department was the retirement of the Director of Research, Dr Jim Penn, after many years of long and distinguished service to the Department. Jim's vision and energy were behind the development of the new WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories and it was very satisfying for him to see the new facility come to fruition before his retirement.

The year ahead brings many new challenges, including the continued implementation of IFM and the restructure of the Department to reflect and support the transition to an integrated system of fisheries management.

Our joint responsibilities in the area of marine park management with the Department of Environment and Conservation will escalate, with new legislation expected to be proclaimed for the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area, Montebello/Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserves and the Rowley Shoals Marine Park in the next year.

As a pilot agency in the Shared Services Centre model, the Department and all of its employees will have major adjustments to make in the 2006/07 year, as we learn to work with new systems. Coinciding with the implementation of the model is a significant cut in funding to the Department and a need to re-engineer work practices.

Management demands for fisheries continue to outstrip the resources available to meet community and stakeholder expectations requiring careful priority setting and a need to find new and innovative ways of undertaking departmental service delivery.

On a final note, I would like to express, on behalf of the Department, our appreciation to the Minister for Fisheries and his staff for their able guidance and support throughout the year. I would also like to acknowledge departmental staff, our stakeholder groups of commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers, charter operators, pearlers and aquaculturalists, conservation representatives and the many community volunteers for their invaluable contribution to our collective goal of ensuring the sustainable management of our fisheries, aquaculture and the aquatic environment.

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



Peter Rogers
Chief Executive Officer

Highlights for 2005/06

- A major 12-month review commenced of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, the main piece of legislation that governs fisheries and aquaculture management in Western Australia. The Act is being reviewed to ensure it reflects new management directions such as Integrated Fisheries Management. A Ministerial Review Committee will also look at how well the Act currently meets its goals of conserving, developing and sharing the State's fish resources, and protecting fish habitats and aquatic diversity. Various proposed amendments to the legislation are planned, addressing contemporary issues such as the increased interest of organised crime in the fishing sector.
- Capital works were dominated by the \$16 million Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys Boat Harbour, the \$2 million Abrolhos Islands Research Institute and the \$2.4 million Marine Operations Centre in Fremantle. Collectively these projects marked the Department's single biggest capital investment program in more than 30 years.
- The Department's on-line international seafood marketing website has proved a success, particularly with buyers from the United States, China and Singapore. By the end of 2005/06 it had received over 30,000 hits since its launch 18 months previously. SeafoodWesternAustralia.net enables seafood buyers worldwide to access an easy-to-use database of local suppliers and seafood companies, designed to be searched according to species and updated by the Western Australian companies listed on it.
- The Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) initiative to manage Western Australia's fisheries in a sustainable manner and share the overall catch between commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers has made major strides. Milestones have been reached in the first three fisheries to which the Department of Fisheries is applying its IFM strategy – for western rock lobster, Roe's abalone in the Perth metropolitan area and demersal scalefish on the State's west coast.
- The Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC) was finalising recommendations in its allocation report on western rock lobster and released its draft allocation report on the Perth metropolitan Roe's abalone fishery for public comment. In addition, the end of 2005/06 marked the conclusion of a 12-month survey of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery. The survey results will be used to provide information to help with the recommendation of catch allocations.
- A specially designed water craft was launched to help recreational fishers in wheel chairs to fish more easily in the Swan-Canning Rivers. The six-metre covered pontoon was designed by Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer (VFLO) Neville Thomas OAM who has pioneered the development of equipment for fishers with disabilities. It was built by Challenger TAFE students and will be operated by specially-trained VFLOs on behalf of the Fishers with Disabilities Association.
- Four review papers that will play a vital part in the future decisions about the management of the State's West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery – the most valuable single species fishery in Australia - were released for public comment. The papers, two prepared by independent researchers, provided comprehensive assessments of options to keep the Western Rock Lobster Fishery successful and sustainable. The aim of the papers was to help Western Australia's commercial rock lobster fishers assess the relative costs and benefits of three different potential contemporary management scenarios for the fishery.
- A \$200,000 funding boost was secured for the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre (NMDC) to enhance its role as the public face of fisheries research and education in Western Australia. The centre will offer significant education opportunities for school students and other visitors through world-class multi-media and interactive experiences when it opens in the second half of 2006. The NMDC will become part of a national network of marine discovery centres, providing for exchange of ideas, educational programs and resources across Australia's states.
- Fishing rules were finalised for sanctuary zones in the Ningaloo Marine Park, home of one of the world's greatest fringing coral reef ecosystems. The new fishing rules complemented the sanctuary zones that fully protect representative examples of the entire 300km of the Ningaloo Reef system, whilst keeping more than 60 per cent of the park open to recreational anglers. Department of Fisheries and Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) officers are conducting compliance and education activities in the area to ensure visitors understand and comply with the new arrangements.
- Joint research by Department of Fisheries and Chemistry Centre scientists has produced a vital DNA database to identify protected and commercially-important shark species. Using grant money provided by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, a reference database of genetic profiles has been established for nine key species. Having DNA fingerprints for these species gives the Department a legally-robust method of checking evidence in cases of illegal fishing, enabling the identification of a particular flesh or fin samples to determine they have been taken from a protected or at-risk species.
- New regional recreational fishing rules, aimed at protecting coastal fish stocks, were introduced into the South Coast and Pilbara/Kimberley regions of the State on 1 January 2006. Differences in fishing pressure and the variations of abundance of popular fish species from region –to region have created a clear need to have specific sets of rules for each region. As some fishers were not clear on the differences between the juveniles of some species and the adults of others, Species Identification Guides, in brochure form and Internet web form, were also introduced in each region, with illustrations by world-famous fish illustrator Roger Swainston.
- Researchers from the Department have advanced the potential for a multi-million dollar export at Port Gregory based on the humble 'sea monkey' – a tiny brine shrimp with the potential to fetch around \$250 per kilogram as an aquaculture feed. Ironically, the brine shrimp lives in the pink lakes at Hutt Lagoon which produce the natural food colouring beta-carotene and were previously considered a

pest by beta-carotene growers. Sea monkeys, or artemia, are a specialty feed used by prawn and fish farmers and the aquarium trade, with most of the world's supply currently coming from the Great Salt Lake in Utah, USA.

- Over 300 national and international fisheries managers, research scientists and academics from 40 countries attended a conference on sharing fish resources, hosted in Fremantle by the Department, in cooperation with the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. The aim of the conference was to identify solutions to the ever-increasing problem of the decline of fish stocks worldwide and the growing competition for a share of these resources internationally. Papers were delivered on topics ranging from the future of the world's fishing industry to international cooperation between fishing countries to the allocation and distribution of fish resources.
- The first phase of a ground-breaking research project into methods of farming western rock lobster has shown the species is well suited to aquaculture. The research carried out by Department of Fisheries scientists demonstrated that the lobsters thrived even in high densities and could be grown to legal size within three years of being collected in the wild as pueruli. There is a case to examine whether management arrangements can be developed to allow commercial aquaculture of rock lobster based on pueruli.
- Western Australians interested in fishing recreationally for western rock lobster, abalone or marron or in freshwater angling or net fishing can now apply for a new licence using the Internet. Since mid-December 2005, the Department's on-line recreational licence renewal system has been expanded to include first-time applicants or people whose licences had lapsed. Recreational fishing is a major social activity in Western Australia, involving an estimated 34 per cent of the population and generating more than \$570 million for the State's economy.



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Profile of the
Department of Fisheries

Our Philosophy and
our Context

Operating environment
Significant issues and trends

Operating
Structure



*Fisheries researchers
Dr Kim Smith (left) and
Sam Norton.*

Profile of the Department of Fisheries

Vision: *World class management of fisheries, marine and aquatic resources.*

Purpose: *To conserve, develop and share the fish and aquatic resources of Western Australia 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. 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 Planning and Infrastructure under the *Western Australian Marine Act 1982*.

The Department also carries out fisheries compliance activities on behalf of the Commonwealth in waters adjacent to Western Australia in the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ), in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth's *Fisheries Management Act 1991*. The AFZ extends 200 nautical miles (370 kilometres) from the State's coastal baselines. This service agreement with the Commonwealth as it relates to foreign fishing ceased on 30 June 2006.

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

The following lists show fisheries in Western Australia that fall under State, joint or Commonwealth jurisdiction and activity

under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement Agreement (refer to Fisheries Management Paper No. 77 for further details of the Offshore Constitutional Settlement Agreement).

Fisheries under Western Australia State Jurisdiction

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

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

(Note: bycatch is also included in these fisheries.)

Fisheries under Western Australia Joint Authority Jurisdiction

The following fisheries are controlled jointly by the State and Commonwealth under State law:

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

Fisheries under Commonwealth Jurisdiction

The following fisheries are controlled by the Commonwealth in accordance with Commonwealth fisheries legislation:

- the Northern Prawn Fishery;
- the Southern and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery;
- the Western Deepwater Trawl;
- the North-West Slope Trawl;
- the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery;
- the Skipjack Tuna Fishery;
- the Small Pelagic Fishery; and
- the Southern Scalefish and Shark Fishery.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Offshore Constitutional Parties, representatives of the Commonwealth, Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia must meet at least once per year to discuss management of northern fish stocks subject to their respective Offshore Constitutional

Settlement agreements and Joint Authority arrangements.

One such meeting of the Northern Australian Fisheries Management group was held in September 2005. The Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority also met in September 2005. The activities of fisheries managed through the Joint Authority are described separately in a report tabled in the Commonwealth and Western Australian Parliaments.

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 resources management programs:

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

Major Stakeholder Groups

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

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

- the community of Western Australia;
- Management Advisory Committees;
- commercial fishers;
- pearlers;
- aquaculturalists;
- the conservation sector;
- fish processors and others involved in the commercial utilisation of Western Australia's aquatic resources;
- recreational fishers in Western Australia;
- Indigenous communities;
- fisheries volunteers;

- environmental groups, passive users and ecotour operators;
- Department of Fisheries staff; and
- other state, national and international government agencies and tertiary institutions.

Department Outcomes and Services

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

This outcome is achieved through four key services:

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

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

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

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

The Department's performance in delivering services is reported in the 'Report on Operations' section of this report.

Our Philosophy and our Context

The Department of Fisheries is responsible for the conservation of most marine and freshwater species in Western Australia, the protection of their environment including associated food chains, and ensuring that the exploitation of these resources is undertaken in a sustainable manner.

The Department is also committed to the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) through the objects of its primary enabling legislation – the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA)*.

It operates using an ESD policy that incorporates an ecosystem-based fisheries management approach. This approach includes managing human impacts on target species, by-catch species and habitats, plus any potential indirect impacts of these removals on the broader ecosystem.

These processes and responsibilities provide overall marine environment protection for the entire Western Australian coast, including the Commonwealth waters, out to 200 nautical miles.

The Department of Fisheries works in the context of limited fish and environmental resources; a growing human “footprint” on the marine and freshwater environment; a growing population; developing coastal infrastructure; and rapidly advancing technology.

We also work in a social and political context that has endorsed and supported the development of science-driven, sophisticated and highly regulated fishery management systems for more than 40 years. Today, more than 80 per cent of Western Australia’s marine waters are protected by closures or controls on fishing methods that can impact directly on marine habitat (for example trawling) and are totally closed to highly destructive fishing methods (for example dredging and explosives).

These management structures also establish strong controls on the total level of fishing effort (or catch) that can be used within the areas and times that a commercial fishery is permitted to operate.

In this report the Department presents its summary of operations and outcomes during the 2005/06 financial year to Parliament and to the community, based around the Government’s strategic planning framework and three key performance indicators that reflect the components of ESD and its “triple bottom-line” of economic, environmental and social accountability.

Operating Environment

Significant Issues and Trends

Conservation and Sustainability are 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 are:

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

- continuing to undertake and expand research and monitoring of all significant fisheries in the State and the publication of these findings annually in the *State of the Fisheries* report;
- continuing to work with the Environmental Protection Authority, Department of Environment and Conservation (formerly the Department of Environment and the Department of Conservation and Land Management) and other relevant government agencies and environmental interest groups on fish habitat and marine conservation issues;
- continuing to implement satellite vessel monitoring and tracking technology (VMS) and by-catch action plans in the State's fisheries;
- continuing to implement a policy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) for all fisheries and aquaculture sectors within the State;
- continuing to work with other relevant government agencies to monitor the effects of climate change on the marine environment;
- contributing to the preparation of regional Natural Resource Management strategies;
- preparing a Kimberley Plan to provide a framework for future aquatic resource management and protection of fish habitats in the region; and
- developing a broader ecosystem-based fisheries management approach, using the Gascoyne region as a model.

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:

- delivering the Government's at-sea marine safety function;
- participating in planning for the marine conservation reserves system in Western Australia, including the Dampier Archipelago /Cape Preston Marine Conservation Reserve; Geographe Bay/Leeuwin-Naturaliste/Hardy Inlet Marine Park; Shoalwater Islands Marine Park; and Walpole-Nornalup Inlets Marine Park;
- participating in the Department of Conservation and Land Management (now the Department of Environment and Conservation)/Department of Fisheries Inter-Departmental Committee to assist in streamlining the marine park planning process and enhancing a "whole of government" approach;
- working in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Land Management (now 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;
- developing and refining community education and volunteer programs to support sustainable community behaviour;
- recovering the costs of management for the State's major commercial fisheries from the commercial fishing sector; and
- 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.

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

- implementing an Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) strategy for Western Australia's coastal fisheries;
- facilitating fisheries adjustment schemes and voluntary resource-sharing in partnership with the commercial and recreational fishing sectors;
- continuing to review and refine strategies for the management of recreational and commercial fisheries; and
- reviewing the "wetline" component of commercial fishing with a view to implementing more formal management arrangements.

Operating environment Significant issues and trends

There is growing community interest in the concept of high-quality recreational fisheries (based on ESD principles) and low-impact eco-tourism experiences in some regions. In response, the Department is:

- implementing regional recreational fishing plans in consultation with the WA community; and
- refining management and licensing arrangements for the fishing tour and aquatic eco-tour sectors.

Through the Commonwealth 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 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity legislation. In response, the Department has:

- completed and lodged 28 assessments encompassing 35 of the State's export fisheries in accordance with the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. As of 30 June 2006, 27 had been accredited by the Department of Environment and Heritage;
- together with other State agencies, continued to work with the National Oceans Office with respect to integrated oceans management and integrated coastal zone management with a particular focus on the southern coast of Western Australia; and
- together with other agencies, academia and the Commonwealth, participated in the establishment of the Western Australian Marine Science Institute, where the Department of Fisheries is represented on the governing board.

With the harvest of wild capture fisheries worldwide generally at or beyond maximum sustainable levels, there continues to be strong emphasis on developing aquaculture industries. In response, the Department has:

- implemented a development plan to provide strategic direction to the aquaculture industry; and
- continued to provide licensing and policy services for development of the aquaculture industry.

The dynamic trading and market environment confronting the fishing industry continues to pose new threats and opportunities to be managed by industry and individual enterprises. In response, the Department has:

- continued to support in-bound trade and fisheries delegations;
- provided support to the seafood industry through the publication of newsletters, provision of advice on trade and market enquiries and development of a website designed to help international commercial seafood buyers to source prime Western Australian seafood.
- with industry, responded to specific trade and market issues such as declines in traditional markets and changes in international market trends.

Consumer demand for quality seafood continues to grow, with new safe food 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 safe food requirements; and
- continued to administer, with the Department of Health, a Western Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program to ensure that shellfish products farmed in WA are safe for human consumption.

Indigenous fishing issues and the development of the law in respect to Native Title have highlighted the need for an Aboriginal fishing strategy and targeted aquaculture development. In response, the Department has:

- developed an Aboriginal Fishing Strategy focused on improving the integration of, and opportunities for, Aboriginal involvement in management of the State's fisheries;
- commenced work on customary fishing arrangements for regional Western Australia, with an initial focus on the Kimberley; and
- further advanced consultative processes with the indigenous community through meetings with Aboriginal groups and through existing formal channels.

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

- acted as a pilot agency in implementing the Shared Services model for the provision of business management services across the whole of Government;
- restructured its Corporate Services Division to better reflect the Shared Services environment and business improvement requirements;
- continued to refine its risk management process and risk register;
- implemented an integrated project and activity-based costing system to provide more accurate data relating to the cost of services it provides;
- continued to implement risk assessment-based compliance programs;
- continued to operate and refine a Departmental Performance Indicator measurement system;
- reviewed its customer feedback system;
- maintained an emphasis on corporate governance processes and internal reporting; and
- commenced implementation of the Government's policy framework for substantive equality.

Operating Structure

Functional Organisational Structure

The Department of Fisheries' operating structure consists of a directorate and three divisions; Fisheries Management Services, Fisheries Research and Corporate Services.

The Corporate Services Division was created during 2005/06 following a review of the Finance and Administration Branch as a result of the 'shared corporate services' initiative.

The Strategic Planning and Policy Branch and the Legal and Registry Services Unit provide direct support to the Executive Directorate.

Process Structure

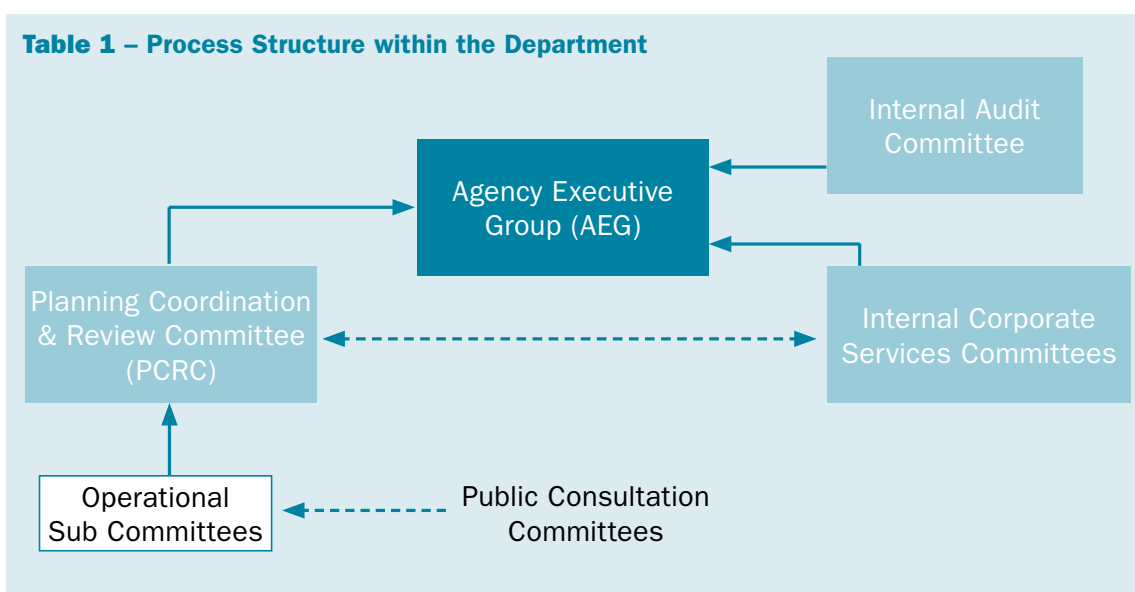
The Department must address many complex issues impacting on the sustainable management of the State's fish resources. To deal with these issues effectively, the Department maintains operating processes designed to facilitate planning and promote coordinated and efficient service delivery across all divisions to the Department's four program output areas.

Through these processes, which involve participation in a number of multi-disciplinary committees, staff members are better able to contribute to the Department's decision-making. The committees also serve to improve communication between operating areas of the Department. They promote department-wide collaboration toward achieving the Department of Fisheries' strategic objectives and the Government's desired outcome for the Department - *'the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fisheries'*.

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

Advisory committees with representatives from the government and non-government sectors are also an important component of this process and an effective consultative mechanism for fisheries management.

Table 1 – Process Structure within the Department



Who we are and what we do

Report on operations - Outputs

Report on operations - Department services

Report on corporate services

Audit Opinion

Financial statements

Performance indicators

Obligatory reporting

Appendices

Agency Executive Group (AEG)

The AEG comprises the Chief Executive Officer, the Department's three directors and the managers of the Strategic Planning and Policy Branch, the Communications and Education Branch and the Legal and Registry Services Unit. The AEG is responsible for the overall strategic and financial direction of the Department arising from internal and external consultative processes, priority setting and resource allocation, and the administration of risk management processes.

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

Planning Coordination and Review Committee (PCRC)

The PCRC is made up of the Chief Executive Officer, the Department's three directors, its program managers, branch managers and senior research scientists. It monitors and reviews departmental programs, projects and service delivery, and advises the AEG on program planning and priorities to assist the budget preparation process.

The PCRC also advises on strategic policy issues arising from, and across, programs and provides a forum for discussion on key fisheries policy and related 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 Health and Safety Committee and the Information Systems Strategic Planning Committee.

Operational Sub-committees (OSCs)

The PCRC is supported by a number of fishery or program-specific Operational Sub-committees (OSCs) which 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.

During 2005/06, the OSCs were expanded to ensure proper coverage of minor commercial and regional fisheries.

Internal Audit Committee (IAC)

The 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 identify and quantify the risks to the achievement of the Department's goals, and to ensure its operations and functions are effectively reviewed.

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 sustainable use of fish resources can happen only by ensuring that stakeholders have a strong sense of stewardship and involvement in the management of fisheries.

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

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

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

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

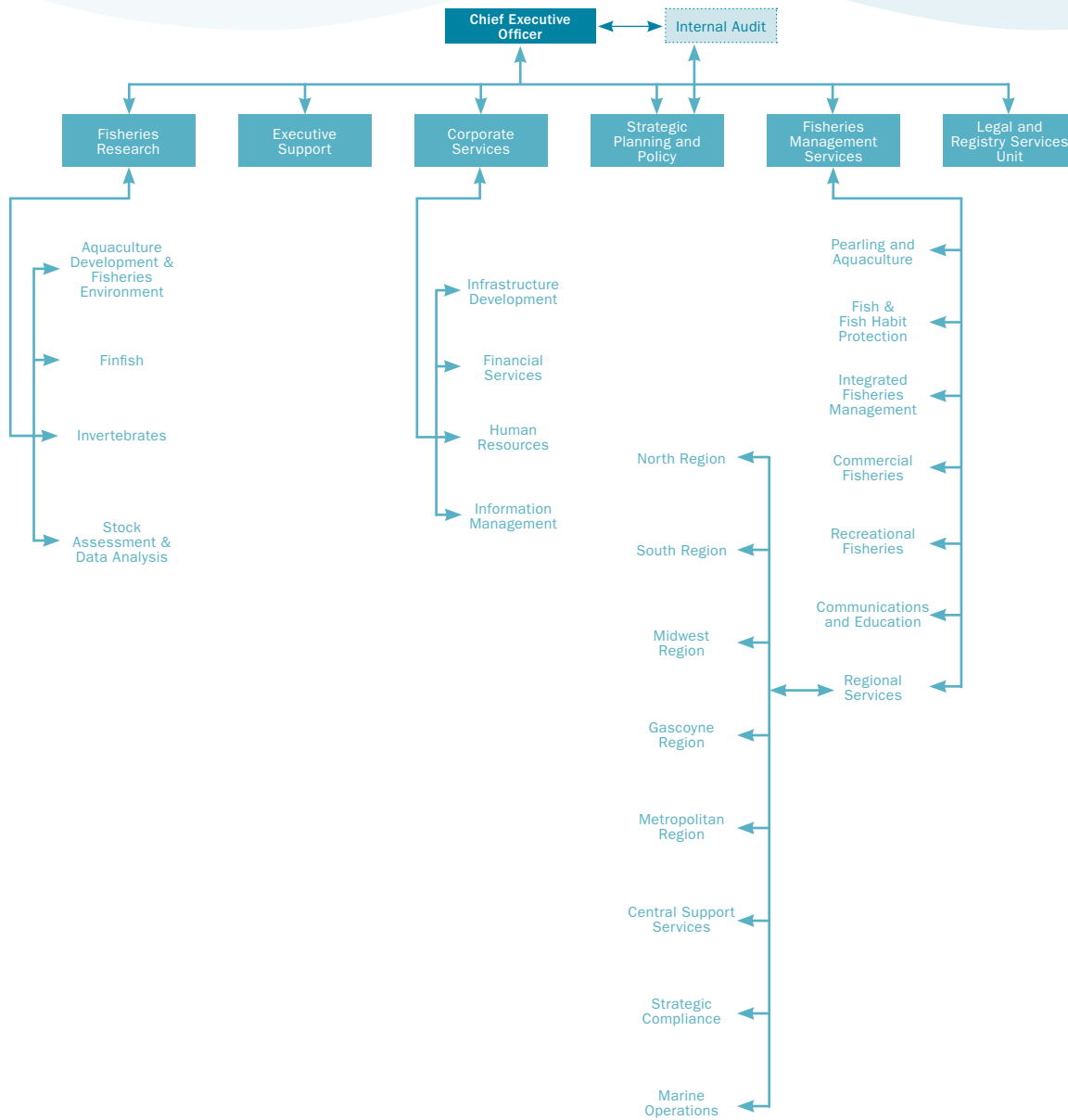
In commercial fisheries, where the formation of an advisory committee is not warranted, the Department aims to ensure that meetings are held with licensees on at least an annual basis. Consultation with interest groups and individuals not directly involved in commercial fishing occurs through the publication of management papers for public comment, seminars and regular stakeholder surveys.

The Department of Fisheries Operations

The Department operates from its head office in Perth 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 Pemberton.
- The International Operations Branch is located at the site of the former Western Australian Marine Research laboratories at Waterman Bay.
- The Marine Operations Centre operates from 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.

Table 2 – Department Functional Structure Chart as at 30 June 2006



- Who we are and what we do
- Report on operations - Outputs
- Report on operations - Department services
- Report on corporate services
- Audit Opinion
- Financial statements
- Performance Indicators
- Obligatory reporting
- Appendices

Executive Team

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

Dr. Peter Rogers* BSc (Agric) (Hons) MBA FAICD Chief Executive Officer

As Executive Director of the Department of Fisheries for the past 16 years, Peter Rogers has overseen a dramatic transformation of the Department. He has worked for the Department for all but two of the past 33 years, accumulating broad experience and specialist knowledge in all facets of fisheries resource management.

Peter's role in the Department has been integral to the implementation of Ecologically Sustainable Development of fisheries and their reporting and dealing with allocation under a now Government-adopted Integrated Fisheries Management framework.

This commitment to the fishing industry and community of Western Australia was publicly recognised when Peter was awarded an honorary doctorate in Science from Murdoch University in April 2005.

**Terms of Appointment: The Chief Executive Officer is appointed under Part 3 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994. The current term of the Chief Executive Officer expires on 6 July 2007.*

Peter Millington BSc (Hons) M Env St. MSc FAICD Director, Fisheries Management Services

Peter Millington is responsible for the program, policy and service delivery elements for the Department. He has worked for both the State and Australian Government in fisheries management and policy.

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

Dr. Jim Penn Dip Ag, BSc PhD Director, Fisheries Research Services

Dr Jim Penn retired from the Department of Fisheries on 10 May 2006, after being the Director of Research and chief scientist for 18 years, within a career with the Department spanning 37 years. His extensive research and management expertise has involved work on most of the State's major fisheries and their environments.

The Director of Research is responsible for the Department's strategic research, which provides the information to underpin its successful natural resource management programs.

Bruno Mezzatesta BBus FCPA GAICD Director, Corporate Services

Bruno Mezzatesta was appointed as Director of Corporate Services during 2005/06, following the restructure of the corporate services area of the Department to better reflect the

Government's Shared Services and business improvement requirements. Prior to this, Bruno was the Department's Manager, Finance and Administration.

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

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

Agency Executive Group

Heather Brayford BSc Grad Dip Bus GAICD, Manager, Strategic Planning and Policy

Heather has been with the Department of Fisheries since 1986, principally in the fisheries policy area. She is currently the Manager, Strategic Planning and Policy, having held that position since the beginning of 2002.

Heather's experience extends across the commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture sectors and includes management of the Pearling Sub-Program within the Pearling and Aquaculture Program. As Manager of the Strategic Planning and Policy Branch, Heather is responsible for the provision of strategic policy and business planning advice and also for management of the Department's audit and risk functions.

Glenn Cridland BA LLB PgradDipAq PgradDipLaws LLM MAQ Registrar and Manager of the Legal and Registry Services Unit

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

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

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

Andrew Cribb BA Manager, Communications and Education

Andrew has enjoyed a number of senior roles with the Department over the past 18 years, most recently Manager of the Department's Communications and Education Branch and previously Recreational Fisheries Program Manager.

Major projects in recent years have included the restructure

of the Department's community relations program, planning the development of a fresh approach to community education incorporating the new Hillarys education centre, strategic planning for the management of the State's recreational fisheries, restoration of the Shark Bay inner gulf snapper fishery, the development of four major regional management strategies for recreational fisheries and the introduction of a licensed charter fishery.

Declaration of Interests

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



REPORT ON OPERATIONS – PROGRAMS

Integrated
Fisheries Management

Commercial
Fisheries

Recreational
Fisheries

Aquaculture and
Pearling

Fish and
Fish Habitat Protection



Integrated Fisheries Management

Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) is an initiative aimed at addressing the issue of how fish resources can be best shared between competing Indigenous, recreational (including charter) and commercial users, within the broad context of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD).

This approach, believed to be a world first, will ensure that Western Australia's fisheries are maintained for the future.

The then Minister for Fisheries launched the Government's IFM initiative and policy in October 2004. The Government has continued its strong commitment to the IFM process with \$4.9 million funding until 2008/09. These funds will support the IFM process including consultation, management, policy, fisheries research and education and compliance.

The Minister established the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC) in October 2004 to investigate resource allocation issues and make recommendations on optimal resource use.

IFM involves:

- setting the total sustainable harvest level of each resource that allows for an ecologically sustainable level of fishing;
- allocation of explicit catch shares for use by commercial, recreational and Indigenous fishers;
- continual monitoring of each sector's harvested catch;
- managing each sector within its allocated catch share; and
- developing mechanisms to enable the reallocation of catch shares between sectors.

As the community's use of fish resources changes, reallocation mechanisms will be introduced to enable changes in catch allocation.

Catch allocation will be determined by the Minister following advice and recommendations from the IFAAC.

Major progress was made in 2005/06 in the western rock lobster resource IFM process. The IFAAC released its draft allocation report for the western rock lobster resource, managed a comprehensive consultation process and then provided advice and recommendations to the Minister in a final report.

A draft allocation report on the abalone resource (with emphasis on the Perth metropolitan fishery) was prepared for public consultation. The west coast demersal scalefish resource (with emphasis on dhufish, baldchin groper and snapper as indicator species) resource will be considered in 2007.

The Department released a Fisheries Management Paper, *Integrated Fisheries Management Report - Abalone Resource* in September 2005 and the IFAAC finalised its draft allocation report in 2006.

Substantial research programs began in 2005 to provide information for consideration of allocation for west coast demersal scalefish.

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

Major achievements 2005/06

- A draft 10-year strategic plan and budget for implementation of IFM were prepared.
- A draft IFM resource allocation report for the western rock lobster resource was released and the IFAAC provided final advice to the Minister on allocations to various sectors.
- A Fisheries Management Paper on the *Integrated Fisheries Management Report - Abalone Resource* was released.
- A draft allocation report on the abalone resource (with emphasis on the Perth metropolitan fishery) was released.
- A change of management process commenced within the Department to align with and support the IFM approach.
- An assessment of the need for legislative change flowing from the implementation of IFM was undertaken.
- A project was scoped to address the need to develop a mechanism to allow reallocations between the sectors.
- A fisheries data collection program for the West Coast Demersal Finfish Fishery was implemented to underpin the IFM process for that resource.

Major initiatives 2006/07

- An *Integrated Fisheries Management Report - West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource* will be released.
- A draft allocation report for abalone will be released.
- IFAAC's final advice will be provided to the Minister on allocations to sectors for the abalone resource.
- A change of management process will be finalised within the Department to align with and support the IFM approach.
- Reallocation mechanisms will continue to be developed.
- The strategic plan for IFM will be finalised.
- A research program for the Gascoyne demersal scalefish resource will be implemented.

Commercial Fisheries

The mission of the Department's Commercial Fishing Program is to deliver the optimum long-term return to Western Australia from its commercial fisheries, while considering environmental issues and community social values.

Commercial fishing provides jobs, income to the State and premium seafood to people locally and around the globe. The "beach price" value of Western Australia's commercial fisheries production for 2004/05 was estimated to be \$411 million.

Commercial fisheries are managed under the *Fisheries Resources Management Act 1994* and in accordance with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD). A total of 28 ESD reports for 35 WA fisheries have now been completed and lodged with the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH). As of 30 June 2006, 27 had been accredited by the DEH, with the developing octopus fishery still undergoing assessment.

The Western Rock Lobster Fishery is going through significant review and change. Major projects undertaken during the 2005/06 year include the development and implementation of an up-dated resource sustainability management package for the fishery, development of Sea Lion Exclusion Devices (SLEDs) and reviews of the management strategy and the minimum unit holding requirement.

The Minister for Fisheries approved a comprehensive sustainability package for Western Australia's shark fisheries, to take effect in the 2006/07 season. The management measures are targeted at whiskery, dusky and sandbar sharks, but will have benefits for all species taken in the shark fisheries.

This year, as well as management plans and regulations, all orders have been made available through links on the Department's website to the State Law Publisher. Orders cover a range of subjects, such as legislation relating to gear controls; area closures; species prohibitions outside management plans and regulations; and determinations (such as temporary spatial closures in the trawl fisheries and Total Allowable Catch levels in some fisheries).

Department of Fisheries staff received a high commendation in the annual Premier's Awards for Excellence in Public Sector Management for their work on Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs). Bycatch has been identified as a major ecological issue in Western Australia's prawn and scallop fisheries and needed to be addressed before these fisheries could secure export approval. In conjunction with industry, staff developed effective BRDs (grids fitted to trawl nets to exclude unwanted and endangered species such as sharks, rays, turtles and large fish) for the Shark Bay prawn and scallop and the Exmouth Gulf prawn trawl

fisheries. The BRDs have become part of the standard fishery management measures.

Wetline Review

The term "wetline" refers to fisheries that are not under formal management arrangements. The term is usually used to describe the catching of scalefish (fish with fins not including sharks), using handlines or droplines. Wetlining has been the only commercial fishing activity available to commercial fishermen in Western Australia who do not hold a Managed Fishery Licence.

The two panels reviewing the wetline fisheries (the Management Planning Panel (MPP) and the Commercial Access Panel (CAP) have both reported to the Minister on the commercial scalefish fisheries in the West Coast and Gascoyne bioregions. They have made recommendations to the Minister about access to, and allocations within, the proposed managed fisheries as well as management arrangements for those fisheries.

Shark Fisheries

An extensive review of the two temperate shark fisheries (known as the demersal gillnet and demersal longline fisheries) was completed and a range of management measures were recommended for implementation in the 2006/07 fishing season in both shark fisheries, as well as in other fisheries which take shark. The Minister for Fisheries approved the measures for the west coast fishery. In the case of the southern shark fishery south of 33°S (which is a Joint Authority fishery) the State and Federal Fisheries Ministers agreed to implement the measures in that fishery.

The new measures involve:

- a shift in existing controls from a monthly unit of time access to a daily unit;
- closure of inshore waters to fishing between 16 August and 15 October from north of Kalbarri to Albany;
- changes to longlines to reduce their ability to take large sharks;
- imposition of a maximum size limit for dusky sharks;
- introduction of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to manage the closures and daily time unit;
- a prohibition on the use of wire trace (outside the mackerel fishery);
- a prohibition on the take of sharks outside the shark fisheries; and

- significant increases in penalties for taking shark and fins.

There were major changes in the management of the tropical shark fisheries, including a closure of the fishery between the North West Cape and Broome. In the area north of Broome, shark boats operate under strict effort controls and are monitored by VMS. In this area the fleet has encountered foreign fishing boats taking shark fin, and there is concern about the impact of these foreign vessels on local shark stocks.

West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery

This fishery is widely recognised as one of the best-managed fisheries in the world. This reputation is based on the active approach to management of this fishery, which ensures that it remains one of Australia's most valuable single species commercial fisheries.

During the 2005/06 rock lobster season, a resource sustainability management package to reduce effective effort in the fishery was introduced.

To ensure the sustainability of the resource, a 15 per cent reduction in effective fishing effort was introduced in the northern region of the fishery (Zones A and B), and a five per cent reduction was introduced in Zone C. The effectiveness of the package will be assessed after the 2005/06 season.

As a requirement of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery ESD process and Department of Environment and Heritage and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification/accreditation, it was necessary to investigate and implement measures that would eliminate the bycatch of Australian sea lion pups from rock lobster pots.

The Department and industry have developed a solution known as Sea Lion Exclusion Devices (SLEDs), designed to keep sea lions out of lobster pots. SLEDs were the subject of a discussion paper released on May 2005. During 2005/06 research was conducted on SLEDs to determine their effect on lobster catch rates. This research has shown that an upright bolt device fixed to the base of the pot below the neck is effective at keeping sea lions out and will not significantly affect the catch of rock lobsters. It is proposed the exclusion devices be fitted to all pots used in waters less than 20 fathoms between Wedge Island and Little Freshwater near Dongara (where there are sea lion breeding colonies) for the 2006/07 rock lobster fishing season.

Following stakeholder consultation during the past year, the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) has recommended there be no change to current arrangements regarding the minimum unit holding required in the commercial fishery.

A review of the current management system and investigation and assessment of alternative management models has continued. Four management papers have been released, covering economic and social aspects of the current and alternative management options. Over 300 fishers have attended small focus group meetings to discuss the information provided. An industry poll on whether to stay with or change the current input control system (controlling fishing effort) to an output control system (quotas) is expected to take place in late 2006.

Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery

A total of 25 of the 27 licensed vessels operated in the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery in 2005, with total recorded landings of 1,628 tonnes (1,049 tonnes of king prawns and 579 tonnes of tiger prawns). The reduction in the number of boats active in the fishery is the result of a gear amalgamation arrangement that is currently operating under Ministerial Exemption. The estimated annual value of the fishery in 2005 was \$22.5 million.

As with the other Western Australian trawl fisheries, there are strict limits on the fishing gear size used in the fishery. During the 2005 season, several licensees in the fishery carried out trials using quad gear, instead of the standard twin gear. The aim of the trials is to examine the potential for improved operating efficiencies by redistributing the available gear allowance.

The implementation of Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) continued during 2005. Boats were required to use grids in all of the nets used (except try nets) and in addition, there was a new mandatory requirement to use fish escape devices (FEDs) in all of the nets used (except try nets).

Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery

The Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery consists of 16 licences held by two licensees. There are 12 vessels active in the fishery as the result of a gear amalgamation program. The total catch for the 2005 season was 1,068 tonnes (king, tiger and endeavour prawns), valued at about \$12.6 million.

The implementation of BRDs continued during 2005. Vessels were required to use grids in all of the nets used (except try nets) and in addition, there was a new mandatory requirement to use FEDs in all of the nets used (except try nets).

Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery

The 2005 Shark Bay saucer scallop season catch was approximately 385 tonnes (meat weight). The estimated annual value of the fishery was \$ 6.5 million.

A fleet of 39 vessels was active in the fishery, made up of 14 'A' Class licensees (licensed to trawl for scallops only with 100mm mesh nets), and 25 'B' Class licensees (licensed to trawl for prawns and scallops using net with a mesh of 60mm or less).

The implementation of BRDs continued during 2005 with vessels required to use grids in all of the nets used (except try nets). Due to the large net mesh size used by vessels operating under an 'A' Class licence, FEDs are not required for this group.

Abalone Fishery

The Abalone Fishery operates off the west and south coasts of the State. The fishery takes three species of abalone – Roe's abalone (south and west coasts) and greenlip and brownlip abalone (south coast). It has an annual gross value of production of about \$13 million.

The fishery is divided into eight management areas, and a separate annual Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) is determined for each species taken in each area. The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries determines the TACC following consideration of research advice and industry feedback from the Abalone Management Advisory Committee.

The Integrated Fisheries Management process, which allocates

the catch between various users, has considered the abalone resource and is expected to deliver recommendations to the Minister in 2006.

Other Fisheries

Management of the commercial mackerel fishery moved to Individual Transferable Quotas from 1 January 2006. This fishery operates between the Western Australia/Northern Territory border and Cape Leeuwin and targets primarily Spanish mackerel. The fishery is divided into three management areas: Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne-West Coast. There are designated fishing seasons and a limit is imposed on the number of permits issued for each area.

The pilchard fishery on the south coast is recovering following a virus that devastated pilchard stocks in the late 1990s.

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes were established for the South West Salmon and West Coast Estuarine Fisheries in 2004/05 and were extended in 2005/06 to continue until March 2008 and February 2007 respectively. Two fishing units were surrendered to the South West Coast Salmon Fishery Adjustment Scheme.

Two further fishing units, licensed to operate in the Swan and Canning Rivers, were also surrendered to the West Coast Estuarine Fishery Adjustment Scheme. Consideration is being given to establishing an Adjustment Scheme for the South Coast Salmon Fishery.

Major Achievements For 2005/06

- A strategic review of management systems for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, specifically quota versus input, continued during the year.
- Resource sustainability management packages were implemented for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.
- Ministerial Policy Guidelines were developed for the ecologically sustainable management of the Shark Bay Snapper, Western Rock Lobster, Shark Bay Prawn and Scallop and Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fisheries.
- The recommendations of the Commercial Access Panel and the Management Planning Panel for management arrangements for the State's wetline fisheries were published and provided to the Minister.
- 28 Ecological Sustainability assessment reports were completed in line with the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) 1999* to ensure approval to export from WA's commercial fisheries.
- Revised management arrangements were introduced for the northern shark fisheries.
- A management package for the temperate shark fisheries was finalised.
- Quota-based management was implemented in the mackerel fishery.

Major Initiatives 2006/07

- The industry discussion phase of the strategic review of management for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed fishery will be completed.
- A management plan will be implemented for the South Coast Trawl fishery to give stakeholders more certainty of access and limit potential effort increases.
- A quota-based management arrangement will be implemented for the Deep Sea Crab fishery.
- Ministerial Policy Guidelines will be developed for the ecologically sustainable management of fisheries which have been accredited by the DEH under the *EPBC Act 1999*.
- A Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will be implemented into the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, the Shark Bay Snapper Managed Fishery and South West Trawl Managed Fishery.
- The strategic review of management systems for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery will be completed.
- Management measures for the Shark Bay Prawn and Scallop fisheries will be reviewed to address equity issues and ensure economic efficiency.
- The requirement for BRDs will be incorporated into trawl fishery management plans.
- The trawl fishery management plans will be amended to remove the 375 boat unit rule and introduce gear unitisation and a maximum vessel length.
- A new management plan will be implemented for the West Coast Purse Seine Fishery to extend the area of the fishery and introduce quota-based arrangements to reduce overall effort.
- Approved management measures, including VMS, will be implemented in temperate shark fisheries.
- Draft management plans will be developed for the West Coast and Gascoyne Managed Wetline Fisheries.
- Outcomes of the Developmental Fisheries Program will be reviewed and formal management arrangements implemented for successful developmental fisheries.

Recreational Fisheries

Each year around 540,000 Western Australians enjoy the experience of fishing recreationally. The Department of Fisheries' Recreational Fisheries Program, in consultation with the community, plans and implements the management arrangements for the recreational fishing sector, including the fishing and aquatic tour industry. The Program is concerned with areas such as fisheries management, compliance, community education and fisheries and marine research.

In Western Australia recreational fishers need a licence to fish for rock lobster, abalone and marron and to participate in freshwater angling and netting. All revenue from recreational fishing licences is used to protect and conserve the State's vulnerable fish stocks and help ensure the future of recreational fishing throughout Western Australia. In 2005 more than 54,000 recreational licences were issued.

As part of a major shift in its approach, the Recreational Fisheries Program completed the roll-out of regional recreational fishing strategies for the State in 2005/06, with the implementation of new arrangements for the South Coast and Pilbara/Kimberley regions.

These strategies provide a flexible fisheries management tool, capable of matching key management measures to the level of stock abundance and fishing pressure. Importantly, they also provide a framework to enable the management of recreational fishing to be integrated with other sectors such as commercial fishing.

The strategies cover the South Coast, West Coast, Gascoyne and Pilbara/Kimberley bioregions. They seek to protect the biological sustainability of fish stocks and maintain high-quality recreational fishing experiences. At the same time, they recognise and address the impact human activity has on the aquatic ecosystem.

The development of a regional approach will also assist with the implementation of the Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) framework over coming years. The four regional strategies include measures that integrate the management of recreational and charter fishing with commercial fishing, customary fishing and other user activities in each region, such as conservation programs, eco-tourism and aquaculture.

Another major achievement of the year was the review of management arrangements for pink snapper fishing in Cockburn Sound and the inner gulfs of Shark Bay, with the aim of ensuring adequate protection for breeding aggregations in both fisheries. The Recreational Fisheries Program also completed a comprehensive review of the management of the recreational marron fishery.

Major achievements for 2005/06

- New regulations and community education and compliance strategies were implemented for the management of recreational fishing in the South Coast and Pilbara/Kimberley regions.
- New regulations and community education and compliance strategies were developed for the management of recreational fishing on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- New management arrangements were implemented for Shark Bay inner gulf fish stocks.
- New bag limits were implemented for pink snapper in oceanic waters outside Shark Bay to address falling recruitment.
- New management arrangements were introduced for metropolitan pink snapper stocks, including Cockburn Sound.
- The first research report was published on the aquatic tour industry, reviewing the effectiveness of management and the licensing framework after five years of management.
- New management arrangements were finalised for the recreational marron fishery.
- Surveys of catch and effort continued in key recreational fisheries including west coast finfish, abalone, rock lobster, marron and freshwater finfish and aquatic tour operator (charter) fisheries.
- Research projects continued on Shark Bay pink snapper, the status of west coast demersal scalefish, the status of estuarine species and impact of fish kills, and the status and future needs of the marron fishery.
- The development of a fishing strategy for Christmas Island commenced.

Major initiatives for 2006/07

- A new strategic plan will be developed for the future management of recreational fishing, building on a new framework of regional plans.
- Surveys of catch and effort will continue in key recreational fisheries including west coast finfish, abalone, rock lobster, marron and freshwater finfish fisheries.
- Research projects will continue on Shark Bay snapper, the status of west coast demersal scalefish, the status of estuarine species and impact of fish kills, key coastal nursery habitats and the status and future needs of the marron fishery.
- Ministerial Policy Guidelines will be reviewed and amended for entry into the aquatic tour sector.
- The management arrangements for the recreational freshwater fisheries including trout and native fish species will be reviewed.
- A review of consultation structures will be completed for recreational fisheries to ensure good communication with recreational fishers and their representative bodies.
- A review of the West Coast and Gascoyne recreational fishing strategies will take place.

Pearling and Aquaculture

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

Pearling

The Pearling sub-program is responsible for the management and regulation of the wild capture fishery for the South Sea pearl oyster (*Pinctada maxima*) and the subsequent culture of pearls from that shell. The sub-program is also responsible for the management and regulation of the more recently developed hatchery production element of the industry in which South Sea pearl oyster shells are bred and produced in a hatchery environment as an alternative and/or additional means of generating shell to be seeded for pearl culture.

The Aquaculture sub-program deals with the management of the production of pearls from other species.

The Pearling sub-program projects encompass:

- the management of the wild capture oyster stock and hatchery sector;
- the development of policies and legislation to support this management;
- research on the wild pearl oyster stocks and monitoring of fishing effort;
- disease management;
- compliance and education; and
- lease and licence assessment and administration.

The sub-program is also responsible for ensuring the ongoing environmental management of the Western Australian pearling industry. The industry has achieved Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage accreditation as being environmentally sustainable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The pearling industry is managed using a quota management system. This system limits the total amount of wild shell that can be harvested and also the total amount of hatchery shell that can be seeded. The setting of quotas provides for ecologically sustainable management of the wild catch of pearl oysters and assists in minimising the impact of pearling on the marine environment. It also limits the total number of pearls cultured over a given time period, in turn maximising the return to the State by maintaining optimum pearl prices and market confidence.

Production of the Western Australian pearl industry was valued at \$120 million in 2005. There are 17 pearling licensees, collectively holding 572 units in the wild stock fishery and 350 hatchery units. The value of the wildstock units, in terms of the number of shells permitted per unit, is reviewed annually based on recruitment and stock assessment data collected through the research program.

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

The research data shows that wild pearl oyster stocks in Zone 1 continue to recover from past cyclone events. The total allowable catch from Zone 1 for the 2005 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 units within Zones 2 and 3 was increased by 10 per cent to a value of 1,100 oysters per unit. This unit value remained in place in 2005.

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

Aquaculture

The Aquaculture sub-program is responsible for the management and regulation of the Western Australian's growing and diverse aquaculture industry. The sub-program's main functions include industry management, policy development, research, disease management, compliance and education, and licence and exemption assessment and administration.

Major species currently under commercial aquaculture production in Western Australia include mussels, barramundi, abalone, western rock oysters, silver perch, trout, pearl oysters producing black pearls, and marron and yabbies. Algae are also grown for the production of *beta carotene*.

Management arrangements ensure that the aquaculture industry in Western Australia is developing in an environmentally sustainable manner. It is already a requirement for the granting of a licence that the proposed operations are unlikely to adversely affect other fish and aquatic environments, but the Department also began ESD reporting for each sector of the WA aquaculture

industry. The aquaculture industry in WA will significantly contribute to meeting ESD principles for the State, including environmental, social and economic objectives.

The development of the State's aquaculture industry will be a significant contributor to regional growth as most activities are suited to particular regional areas, and with them will attract 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 the abalone aquaculture industry along the State's south coast and the development of a black pearl industry in the Abrolhos Islands, with some additional activity around these species also at Shark Bay. The need for appropriate infrastructure to support these industries during their infancy stages will be a challenge for Government.

Following the aquaculture review in 2004, recommended restructures have now occurred. The Aquaculture Development Council (ADC) membership has been reviewed and its activities focus on the main factors in industry development; investment attraction, business facilitation and infrastructure support. The ADC is committed to the implementation of numerous other recommendations resulting from the review, which is available on the Department's website.

The ADC is undertaking key initiatives that it believes will form the foundations for future aquaculture industry development in Western Australia. For example, ADC will identify sites in Western Australia capable of supporting large-scale aquaculture industry development and has commissioned an economic assessment of abalone aquaculture on the south coast.

Major achievements for 2005/06

- A review of pearl oyster hatchery policy was finalised.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministers for Fisheries in Western Australia and the Northern Territory for the management of the Australian pearling industry.
- Drafting instructions were being prepared for the proposed new pearling legislation following a review of the *Pearling Act 1990*.
- A review of fees and charges continued.
- Arrangements to introduce a satellite-based Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) within the Western Australian pearling industry were finalised.
- Implementation of the findings of the Aquaculture Legislative Review continued.
- A draft discussion paper on the aquaculture of coral and associated products was released for public comment.
- A draft policy on the granting, renewal and regulation of aquaculture leases in Western Australia was released for public comment.
- A discussion paper on the proposed fees and charges for Section 97 Aquaculture leases was released for public comment.
- A proposal to expand the Southern Flats mussel farm site (Cockburn Sound) by 6 ha was approved.

- The classification of the Mistaken Island (near Albany) mussel growing area was finalised to gain approval for export.

Major initiatives for 2006/07

- Drafting instructions for new pearling legislation will be finalised and submitted to Cabinet for approval to draft.
- The development of a strategic plan for future activities and management of the pearling industry will continue.
- A new pearl oyster hatchery policy will be implemented.
- Negotiations with Fremantle Ports will continue in relation to the issuing of a head lease to the Minister for Fisheries for the Cockburn mussel farm locations.
- A pearling industry fees and charges review will be finalised and new changes implemented.
- ESD reports will be developed for the prawn and finfish aquaculture sectors.
- A review will be undertaken of the Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 8 *Assessment of applications for authorisations for Aquaculture and Pearling in coastal waters of Western Australia*.
- A framework for the allocation of Western Rock Lobster puerulus (juveniles) for aquaculture purposes will be developed.
- The marron aquaculture licensing framework will be reviewed.

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program provides environmental guidance and support to the Department concerning the management of marine, estuarine and riverine ecosystems. The Program plays a key role in inter-governmental liaison and meeting the Department's ESD requirements, as well as developing positions, policies and management frameworks for aquatic environmental protection. The creation of Fish Habitat Protection Areas (FHPAs) is also a major initiative of the Program.

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program has a significant role to play in the planning associated with the creation of marine parks. It also contributes to State and Commonwealth regional marine and coastal planning processes and development.

Management and staff of the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program represent the Department on various external committees and organisations, including the Cockburn Sound Management Council, State Water Planning Implementation Committee, Coastal planning and Coordination Council. Their involvement ensures that fisheries and marine values are considered and that there is effective co-ordination of Government planning and management programs concerning fisheries interests.

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program is the major participant on behalf of the Department of Fisheries in the Commonwealth's Natural Resource Management (NRM) activities.

During the year, the Program targeted significant resources toward the co-ordination of ESD assessment and approval processes for commercial fisheries in accordance with the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. All major commercial export fisheries have now been completed and the focus in the coming year will move to demonstrating ESD for the minor fisheries and aquaculture.

The Program provided advice on behalf of the Department to industry, government, and statutory authorities such as the Environment Protection Authority, on the potential effects of proposed developments on fisheries, aquaculture and the marine environment generally. Significant developments that were considered in the 2005/06 year included the Gorgon gas development, Straits Resources Exmouth Gulf solar salt proposal and the Yarradagee ground water extraction proposal.

An emerging field for the Program is that of biosecurity, including the regulation of fish movement into and within the State (i.e. translocation), and the management of introduced

marine and freshwater pests. The year focused on the preparation of legislation, policy and management arrangements to help implementation of new management measures in July 2007. The Program also responded to feral marine and freshwater pest incursions during the year.

Major achievements for 2005/06

- An Inter-Departmental Committee was established between the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the Department of Fisheries to develop a collaborative approach to planning and management of marine protected areas.
- A review of the Abrolhos Islands Management Plan was initiated.
- A working group with government and stakeholders developed guidelines for administering marine parks compensation legislation.
- The Program led a response to feral fish incursions (cichlids) in Bennett Brook.
- The Program co-ordinated the government arrangements for shark hazards.
- Liaison continued with stakeholders and other government agencies in respect to fisheries issues around proposed and existing marine conservation reserves.
- Legislation was finalised to give effect to changes to the Ningaloo Marine Park and the Jurien Bay Marine Park.
- ESD assessments were completed for the major export commercial fisheries.
- The Program worked with other government agencies and stakeholders in progressing regional marine planning including engagement with the National Oceans Office to address the South West marine planning process.
- The Department, through the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program, continued to fulfil the role of lead agency within Western Australia in developing policies, legislation and response to introduced marine pests that will reflect the National System to be introduced in 2007.

Major initiatives for 2006/07

- A Biosecurity Unit will be established to implement new legislation and management arrangements for a national system aimed at preventing the incursion of marine pests through shipping activities.
- The Program will coordinate processes and applications to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage for ESD assessments of Western Australian fisheries and aquaculture activities.
- The Program will assist in the development of a regional strategic plans for the management of fish and fish habitats, including the identification of a proposed FHPA.
- The Kalbarri Blue Holes FHPA will be established and legislation will be developed to implement the management plan for the Point Quobba FHPA.
- The Program will work with government and stakeholders on regional marine planning initiatives for the southwest region.
- Proactive participation in Natural Resource Management (NRM) programs will continue.
- Actions arising from the DEC/Department of Fisheries Interdepartmental Committee in relation to marine park planning and services will be implemented.
- Liaison will take place with stakeholders and government over issues around proposed Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston, Walpole/Nornalup and Capes marine conservation reserves and plans for existing parks such as the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.
- Legislation will be proclaimed for the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area, Montebello/Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserves and the Rowley Shoals Marine Park.
- The Department, through the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program, will continue to provide advice on the impact of coastal developments and activities on fisheries, aquaculture, pearling and the marine environment.



REPORT ON OPERATIONS – DEPARTMENT SERVICES

Regional
Services

International
Operations

Fisheries
Research Division

Strategic Planning
and Policy Branch

Communications and
Education Branch

Legal and
Registry Services Unit

Licensing



Two new patrol vessels were delivered during the year to assist in a variety of fisheries and marine safety compliance tasks.

Regional Services

The Regional Services Branch is widely dispersed around coastal areas of the State, with more than 130 staff in five regional and 13 district offices. The Branch is responsible for the delivery of fisheries enforcement in recreational and commercial fisheries, the pearling and aquaculture industries and fish and fish habitat protection areas. It also provides education services and agreed marine safety services on behalf of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. In future there will be a greater emphasis on marine park compliance services in Ningaloo, Rowley Shoals, Montebello and Jurien Bay Marine Parks.

The Department's marine resources, including two new patrol boats acquired in 2005/06, are key Government assets in delivery of marine-based compliance services across Western Australia. A wide range of compliance tools is utilised such as land and sea patrols, aerial surveillance, covert operations, mobile patrols and education activities to ensure that industry and the public are complying with fisheries legislation. Compliance strategies are developed and resources are allocated to fisheries and areas of highest risk.

The Branch is also actively involved in joint operational planning and cross-authorisation training with the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM - now Department of Environment and Conservation, or DEC) to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of both Departments' compliance and at-sea servicing requirements in marine parks and reserves.

International Operations

The culmination of 2005/06 financial year saw the closure of the International Operations Section and the end of the State's 30-year involvement with foreign fishing compliance in the Australian Fishing Zone on behalf of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA). From July 2006 the Branch will deliver compliance services for AFMA only in respect to Commonwealth-managed domestic fisheries operating off the Western Australian coast (*see International Operations Overview for more details*).

The patrol vessels business unit continues to provide a high level of at-sea compliance within key commercial fisheries, aquaculture, pearling, fish habitat protection areas and research programs across the State. During this year the patrol vessel group has also provided sea-going research platforms for various other State and Commonwealth departments.

During the latter part of 2005, to meet a shortfall in the Commonwealth compliance program, the PV *Walcott* was extensively deployed in the detection and apprehension of illegal

Indonesian fishermen operating within State and Commonwealth waters in the northern waters of Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

The patrol vessel operated independently and in conjunction with the Australian Navy, Customs vessels and the Coastwatch air surveillance services. At short notice, the Western Australia Police Service generously provided armed protection for departmental staff when boarding and escorting apprehended Indonesian fishing vessels.

Foreign fishing compliance

To accommodate the delivery of the unprogrammed foreign fishing sea patrols, it was necessary to redeploy land-based compliance staff to the Patrol Boat Business Unit at the cost of other consolidated funded programs.

Two Broome-based officers and an eight-metre patrol vessel were also deployed in King Sound between January to April to provide additional protection to the trochus stocks that are fished by the One Arm Point Aboriginal community. Illegal Indonesian fishing vessels were specifically targeting the trochus stocks. Members of the community were employed as part-time marine rangers to support the Unit and provide expertise with regard to local waters and trochus beds. This outcome could only be achieved by dedicated staff prepared to work additional hours in difficult circumstances.

Major Achievements for 2005/06

Perth Metropolitan

- A Volunteer and Education Activity Coordinator was appointed in July 2005.
- The Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLOs) worked with Royal Life Saving to collect data about fishing safety through the 2005 abalone season.
- VFLOs worked with the Fishers with Disabilities Association Incorporated to launch the *Nev Thomas* in April 2006. This pontoon-style vessel is capable of taking people with disabilities fishing on the Swan and Canning Rivers.
- The 6th annual Seaweek Educators Expo was held at the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre in March 2006 as part of the national Seaweek campaign, "Footprints for our future". The event was held for educators with an interest in marine and coastal ecology and biology, offering an array of hands-on learning activities.
- A Compliance Manager South position was established.

Table 3 – Department of Fisheries Regional Staffing 2005/06

Area	Offices	Regional Services Staff	Fisheries Managed	Regionally Based Policy Officers	Regionally Based Research staff	VFLOs	MACs
Southern Region	4	20.8*	13	1	0	58	3
Perth Metropolitan Region	5	37*	8	1	0	90	2
Gascoyne Region	3	17	7	1	1	2	1
Midwest Region	3	21**	5	1	0	11	1
Northern Region	2	18.2***	4	1	1	23	1

* Includes two-person recreational mobile patrol that can operate throughout WA.

** Includes one person hosted for Northern Agriculture Catchment Council for National Resource management.

*** Includes two International Operations staff based in Broome.

- Regional and Fremantle District Offices moved to the new Marine Operations Centre in Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour.

Northern

- Two additional Fisheries and Marine Officers were appointed for the Karratha District Office to assist in service delivery to the Montebello/Barrow Island Marine Park.
- A temporary office was established in Kununurra to enhance community access to mobile patrol and other agency staff.
- A Section 43 Order was implemented to provide protection to the intertidal reef area adjacent to Point Samson townsite.
- The regional strategic planning process – ‘Kimberley Plan Towards 2015’ commenced.
- The inaugural North West Tourism Award for Excellence in the Charter Fishing and Aquatic Ecotourism category was initiated.
- A class exemption was implemented in recognition of and to accommodate aboriginal customary fishing practices.
- A draft business plan and emergency management plan were completed for the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park.
- The first stocks of viable black tiger prawn broodstock from a Western Australian managed fishery were located, caught, spawned and stocked into commercial ponds.
- The first indigenous model barramundi/red claw farm was licensed at the Mud Springs community.
- Joint patrols were formed with the Bardi Community, One Arm Point, to protect the Trochus fishery from illegal foreign fishing.
- An additional 15 VFLOs were recruited within the Karratha and Broome districts.

- Pilbara/Kimberley recreational review outcomes were implemented.
- Numerous illegal foreign fishing operations in State waters were successfully investigated and, where appropriate, prosecutions were carried out.

Mid West

- A contract fisheries management officer was appointed to enable resources for review of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands System Management Plan into 2006-2016.
- The design was completed and construction commenced of a new replacement vessel for the Abrolhos Islands management group.
- Ministerial approval was obtained to appoint Humphrey Land Developments as the preferred respondent to public calls for Sustainable Tourism land-based projects at the Abrolhos Islands.
- Consultation progressed on the provision of secure tenure for rock lobster fishers with camps on the Abrolhos Islands to the point of final conditions approval by the Minister for Fisheries.
- A senior Fisheries and Marine Officer position was created to act in the role of Abrolhos Islands Compliance Manager.
- Funding approval to the value of \$810,000 was received from the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council for various projects centred on the Abrolhos System.

Southern

- A public consultation process was concluded for the development of management arrangements for the South Coast Trawl Fishery and ministerial approval was obtained for the drafting of a management plan for the fishery.

- A public consultation process was completed regarding the future management of the South West Beach Seine Fishery and final advice provided to the Minister.
- The Southern Regional Office successfully dealt with recommendations and conditions stipulated by the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage for the Salmon Managed Fisheries and the South Coast Trawl fishery.
- A “hairy marron” recovery program was established for the Margaret River. Outcomes included the establishment of a landholder marron monitoring program in the upper Margaret River and a coordinated compliance approach involving the Department and other agencies with production of new signage.
- Volunteer Education and Activity Co-ordinators were appointed in Albany and Busselton with National Heritage Trust funding secured from the South Coast Regional Initiative Planning team and South West Catchment Council.
- A professional development program for 25 teachers was conducted with other environmental education providers in the Warren-Blackwood Education District.
- A healthy fishing clinics program was implemented for children’s at-risk groups in conjunction with the Cancer Council of Australia, Western Australia Police Service and the shires of Busselton and Bunbury.
- VFLO numbers increased to 58, up 25 per cent from the previous year.
- The Southern Regional Office continued to increase efficiencies and maximise its compliance presence with joint land and sea patrols undertaken with other compliance agencies such as the Departments of Planning and Infrastructure and Conservation and Land Management, the WA Police Service and Customs.
- A successful education and compliance plan was developed and implemented to manage the introduction of new fishing regulations arising from the South Coast recreational fishing review.

Gascoyne

- Legislation was gazetted under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* to give effect to the fishing-related management arrangements for the Ningaloo Marine Park.
- Joint servicing arrangements and processes were formalised with the Department of Conservation and Land Management under Compliance Operational Plans for the Ningaloo and Shark Bay Marine Parks.
- A new Patrol Vessel FD47 (PV *Naiad*), specifically designed for compliance and environmental monitoring functions within the Ningaloo Marine Park, was deployed to the Exmouth office.
- The Gascoyne Regional Office significantly increased the number of patrol vessel sea days in the inner gulfs of Shark Bay, providing higher levels of compliance and environmental monitoring in this Marine Park and World Heritage Property Area.

- A compliance operation was successfully completed for the Department of Environment and Heritage in the Commonwealth Waters of the Ningaloo Marine Park.
- Membership was secured on the Rangelands Natural Resource Management Coordinating Group Management Committee (Natural Heritage Trust’s natural resource management process). The Department promoted the importance of coastal and marine issues in that forum, and developed relevant project proposals to address these.
- Operational Compliance Plans were completed for trawl fisheries and aquaculture and pearling activity in the Gascoyne, in addition to the fishing-related management arrangements for the Ningaloo Marine Park and the Shark Bay Marine Park.
- Coastwest funding was secured to develop and implement community-based management, education and monitoring of the Miaboolya Fish Habitat Protection Area.

Major Initiatives for 2006/07

Perth Metropolitan

- “The Life Aquatic - Dive into your ideal career... or just whet your appetite” expo will be held during National Science Week in August 2006 and is designed for students 15 years and over, who are interested in working in an aquatic field.
- The Metropolitan Region will be restructured to increase the compliance capacity in the southern area by doubling the number of fisheries and marine officers in the Rockingham District to four staff.
- Construction of the new Mandurah District and Metro South Regional Office in the Mandurah Ocean Marina will commence.
- A new multi function Rigid Inflatable Boat will be delivered for at-sea compliance services in the Mandurah district.
- Construction will commence of a new multi-function vessel for the Hillarys District to enhance at-sea compliance functions in the northern areas of the Metropolitan Region.
- Aessel rationalisation program will be completed for the metropolitan vessel fleet.
- In conjunction with Department of Planning and Infrastructure, a review will take place of the compliance resources necessary to provide adequate marine safety program in the southern corridor between Rockingham and Mandurah.

Northern

- The 7.3m Patrol Vessel *Naiad* will be delivered to the Karratha District Office to enable Fisheries and Marine Officers improve at-sea servicing and response capability.
- The ‘Kimberley Plan Towards 2015’ will be finalised.
- Amendments to the Northern Demersal Scalefish and Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery management plans will commence.

- A fish tagging research program for barramundi, threadfin salmon, mangrove jack and estuary cod will commence through funding provided by the Pilbara Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee.
- An indigenous model aquaculture venture will be completed and commissioned at Mud Springs.
- A survey of trochus stocks will commence in the Kimberley to estimate fishery capacity and losses associated with illegal foreign fishing.
- Progress will be made in effecting changes to pearling legislation to permit the seeding of Northern Territory pearling quota in Western Australia and overseeing the implementation of this initiative.
- Progress will be made on the implementation of new pearling compliance initiatives consistent with approved changes in pearling industry practices and management arrangements.
- Opportunities will be explored for the development of a pilot aboriginal marine ranger program at One Arm Point.

Mid West

- The review and publication of the Management Plan of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands System 2006-2007 will be completed.
- The process of obtaining ministerial approval will proceed on lease arrangements for the Western Rock Lobster Council in respect to fishers' camps and facilities on portions of the 22 inhabited islands at the Abrolhos. Introduction of the secure tenure arrangements is expected by 1 March 2007.
- An Abrolhos Islands tourism project on Long Island will reach construction stage with a view to completion by 31 December 2007.
- Construction will begin on a 14-metre vessel for the Abrolhos Islands management group to replace an existing vessel.
- Progress will be made on Northern Agriculture Catchment Council funded projects at the Abrolhos and further funding has been obtained for baseline data knowledge.

Southern

- The development and implementation of the South Coast Trawl Fishery Management Plan will be facilitated.
- Proposed fisheries management arrangements in Geographe Bay will be implemented.
- The south coast crustacean fisheries will be consolidated into one management plan.
- A new range of new Section 43 Orders will be implemented. These will remove the need for fishing boat licence 'permissive conditions' in a number of south coast fisheries.
- Progress will be made in assessing the proposal to include the commercial Hardy Inlet fishery in the South Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery.
- A refit of the Bunbury office will be completed to improve client access and service.

- Outreach education programs will be developed from those activities to be conducted through the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre.
- Flowing on from the marron fishery review, strategies will be developed to implement potential new marron regulations for the 2007 season that will flow from the marron fishery review.

Gascoyne

- Co-operative and joint servicing arrangements within the Ningaloo and Shark Bay Marine Parks with the Department of Conservation and Land Management will be reviewed and further developed.
- A new Patrol Vessel will be designed and delivered to provide better levels of compliance, research and environmental monitoring capacity in the Shark Bay Marine Park and World Heritage Property Area.
- Operational Compliance Plans will be developed for the minor commercial fisheries operating in the Gascoyne region.
- New management arrangements will be reviewed, legislated and implemented relating to gear trials and the take of finfish in the Shark Bay Prawn and Shark Bay Scallop fisheries.
- Legislation will be gazetted to give effect to the management arrangements for the Point Quobba and Miaboolya Fish Habitat Protection Areas.
- A compliance audit will be conducted of all aquaculture and pearling leases in the Gascoyne region.
- National Heritage Trust funding will be secured for key marine and coastal projects in the Gascoyne region.
- Progress of the oceanic Shark Bay pink snapper stock recovery will be reviewed and any necessary changes implemented to the management arrangements for the commercial Shark Bay Snapper Managed Fishery;
- Amendments to the Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Managed Fishery Management Plan will be finalised and implemented.

International Operations

For over three decades the Department of Fisheries has been responsible for delivering fisheries compliance operations in six Commonwealth fisheries programs, within the 200 nautical mile Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ). These operations have been undertaken through service delivery arrangements with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

However, in 2005/06 the Commonwealth Government withdrew from the current service delivery arrangements for the foreign fishing compliance program that it has with Western Australia and other State governments around Australia.

Consequently the Department of Fisheries has reduced services to the program over the year as officers have been redeployed to other roles or left the unit to take up other employment.

The compliance operations programs formerly managed by the International Operations Group (IOG) were the Heard and McDonald islands; Southern and Western Tuna and Billfish; Southern Bluefin Tuna; Northern Prawn Fishery; Australian Fishing Zone programs; and apprehensions and prosecutions.

Stationed in Perth and Broome, International Operations officers monitored domestic and foreign fishing activities in all areas of the AFZ. They carried out sea patrols aboard Royal Australian Navy patrol vessels, Australian Customs services vessels and civil charter vessels and aerial surveillance flights aboard Coastwatch aircraft.

Addressing the issues surrounding foreign fishing, officers focussed their field activities on Indonesian fishermen operating adjacent to Western Australia including the outer areas of Ashmore Reef, Seringapatam Reef, Scott Reef and Browse Island, and patrols to the Heard and McDonald islands in the sub-Antarctic region of the Southern Ocean.

Under the new arrangements for these compliance operations programs, AFMA will directly employ Fisheries Officers to undertake all foreign compliance services and base the group in Darwin.

Major Achievements for 2005/06

- The International Operations Unit prosecuted 55 Indonesian foreign fishermen under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*. There has been an increase in prosecutions of illegal fishermen due to an increased response by Australian authorities and through initiatives such as Clearwater II. The majority of these offenders were prosecuted in the Perth Magistrate's Court.

- 124 Indonesian foreign fishermen were prosecuted under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, from the apprehension of 12 vessels in State waters.
- The State provided direct intervention with additional patrol vessels and staff in the North West to supplement a shortfall in Commonwealth vessels available to respond and apprehend illegal foreign fishing vessels off the Western Australian coast.
- Elected members of the Australian Customs Service Southern Ocean Maritime Patrol and Response Unit were trained in sub-Antarctic foreign fishing vessel boarding and investigation technique.
- IOG officers gave expert advice and assistance to AFMA and to staff from the Department of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia in the investigation into alleged foreign fishing offences in the Australian Fishing Zone surrounding Macquarie Island by the Cambodian-flagged vessel *Taruman*.
- The IOG monitored the unloading of three Australian vessels at Albany to ensure that the fishing vessels were complying with their set quota of Patagonian toothfish/icefish.
- An IOG staff member assisted the training of Mauritian fishing authorities to enable that country to comply with agreed conservation measures set by AFMA and the Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. This assignment involved a two-week visit to Mauritius where the IOG provided in-house training and practical activities to help enable Mauritian authorities monitor unloading and exportation of Patagonian toothfish.
- IOG officers conducted five Southern Ocean patrols, equating to more than 2,000 man-hours of surveillance and patrol activity.

Major Initiatives for 2006/07

- Due to the withdrawal of funding for the IOG by AFMA, the Department will review its future role in the management of domestic Commonwealth fisheries in Western Australia.
- The Department will monitor the effectiveness of the new solely Commonwealth program off Western Australia in respect to illegal foreign fishing activities and changes to their operations.

Fisheries Research Division

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

The Research Division's 120-plus staff members have traditionally been structured in four expertise-based branches (Invertebrate Fisheries; Finfish Fisheries; Aquaculture Development; and Stock Assessment and Data Analysis), with research projects carried out through multi-disciplinary teams. In recent years, the understanding and protection of biodiversity have assumed increasing importance in fisheries management worldwide.

In Australia this trend has become particularly important with the passage of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This Act requires the Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage to certify that a fishery is sustainably managed, and that its broader environmental effects are also sustainable, if its product is to be exported. In recognition of the increasing need for biodiversity information and reporting, the Research Division was restructured in late 2005/06 to include a new Biodiversity Research Branch.

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

- scientific knowledge for the sustainable management of the State's wild fish stocks and associated commercial and recreational fisheries;
- maintenance of long-term databases to support scientific assessments of fish stocks and their habitats;
- research and development information to assist the expansion of the State's aquaculture industry;
- strategic research knowledge on aquatic species and their environments for managing aquatic environments and ensuring quality of the State's fish products;
- an understanding of the effects of fishing on bycatch and protected species as well as the ecosystem in general; and
- development of new techniques and basic knowledge to add to the community's understanding of aquatic resources and their environment.

A more detailed description of the functions of the Fisheries Research Division is available from the *State of the Fisheries Report*, which is compiled and edited annually by the Division as part of the Department's reporting process. This publication provides to Parliament and the Western Australian community a detailed summary of the scientific and other information supporting key management and aquaculture development activities of the Department. The document's fishery status reports also incorporate the ESD reporting and assessment framework necessary to meet State and Federal legislative requirements.

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 commercial fisheries. These include rock lobsters, prawns, pearl oysters, scallops, abalone and crabs.

In addition, the Branch carries out biological research and stock monitoring projects for recreational fisheries involving rock lobsters, abalone, marron and crabs. It also undertakes environmental/bycatch research, as well as a number of collaborative projects with universities, the WA Museum and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

The Branch is also responsible for staffing and programming the Department's major research vessel, the R.V. *Naturaliste*. The vessel undertakes an array of research activities throughout the year, encompassing trawling, fish trapping, rock lobster fishing, longlining and environmental monitoring.

Finfish Fisheries

The Finfish Fisheries Branch undertakes research to underpin management of the State's diverse finfish resources, and facilitates fisheries chemistry projects to support finfish research and environmental management. Finfish stocks studied include the West Australian dhufish, temperate snapper, tropical shallow and deep-water snappers, sharks, pelagic stocks (pilchards, whitebait, mackerel), and coastal embayment and estuarine stocks (Australian herring and black bream).

These are harvested by commercial fishers supplying local markets, the recreational fishing sector (involving around 540,000 fishers) and the managed recreational charter sector. Much of this research work relates to stocks that are the focus of

the Department of Fisheries' Integrated Fisheries Management Strategy.

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

Aquaculture Development

The Aquaculture Development Branch undertakes a wide variety of research to support aquaculture development, fisheries pathology services and stock enhancement. Research projects include developing specialist aquaculture technology for marron, yabbies, trout, abalone, marine finfish and brine shrimp.

The branch is involved in the development of aquaculture systems and fish feeds, fish disease identification and testing, trout and trochus stock enhancement, and Aboriginal aquaculture development. Staff also maintain a database of aquaculture production statistics, and manage the Department's marine aquarium facilities.

The Aquaculture Development 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), Challenger TAFE in Fremantle (mariculture), Broome TAFE and the Department's major freshwater research centre at Pemberton.

Joint research facilities are also maintained with industry at Lake Argyle and with the University of Western Australia at Shenton Park. Close liaison with universities has led to a significant number of research students being supervised within the branch.

International linkages are maintained with overseas research and development centres and universities in Spain, Portugal, Japan, Norway, Mexico, New Zealand, France, Vietnam and Cambodia. The Fish Health Unit of the Department is recognised as a Regional Resource Centre by the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific.

Stock Assessment and Data Analysis

The Stock Assessment and Data Analysis Branch provides support for the Research Division in the fields of statistical design and analysis; population dynamics and stock assessment; library services; and research information systems and information technology. This group maintains the Department's extensive commercial fisheries databases and undertakes leading-edge research into the development of fisheries stock assessment models and sustainability reporting techniques.

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

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

Biodiversity Research

The Biodiversity Research Branch will have State-wide responsibilities for the provision of biodiversity information relevant to the sustainable management of fisheries and their environments. This will be undertaken in close collaboration with the other branches of the Research Division and the Department's Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program. Close linkages will also be developed and maintained with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Natural Heritage Trust. The branch will have a particular focus on the Abrolhos Islands, the largest Fish Habitat Protection Area in Western Australia.

Major Achievements for 2005/2006

- The Research Division's new home, the \$16 million, leading-edge WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys Boat Harbour, was officially opened. This complex integrates research laboratories and education facilities, providing direct community access to the scientific basis for the conservation and management of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.
- The Research Division was restructured and a Biodiversity Research Branch created as part of the Department's implementation of ecosystem-based management.
- External funding totalling around \$3 million was secured for priority research through successful applications to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Natural Heritage Trust, Northern Agricultural Catchments Council, South West Catchments Council, and Grains Research and Development Corporation.
- The following research studies were completed and are now being utilised in the Department's management and development processes:
 - development of a DNA database for management of Western Australian sharks;
 - development of a rigorous sampling methodology for a long-term annual index of recruitment for finfish species from south-western Australia;
 - estimation (in collaboration with Murdoch University) of biological parameters for the management of key indicator species in near-shore habitats of north-western Australia;
 - evaluation of alternative management models for recreational finfish fisheries, using Shark Bay snapper as a case study;
 - development of biodiversity and habitat monitoring systems for key Western Australian trawl fisheries;
 - predicting and assessing recruitment variation for management of the *Pinctada maxima* fishery;
 - development of stock allocation and assessment techniques in Western Australian blue swimmer crab fisheries;
 - a survey of recreational fishing in south coast estuaries;
 - improved marron production using genetic and pond management strategies;

- improved biosecurity and production characteristics of a commercial prawn farm;
- translocation risk assessment of abalone and prawns as templates for other species; and
- a series of fish health projects dealing with translocation and biosecurity issues in relation to aquarium fish.
- The Research Division made a major scientific contribution to the Department's extensive review of the management of temperate and tropical shark species.
- A sea lion exclusion device (SLED) was developed to prevent sea lion pups from entering rock lobster pots and running the risk of drowning.
- Researchers successfully bred a pure population of the 'hairy' Margaret River marron at the Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre, forming the basis of a captive breeding program for restocking this critically endangered species.
- The Research Division commercialised the genetic lines produced by the marron selective breeding program, distributing to industry 10,000 marron that grow at around twice the rate of current farmed stocks.
- A large-scale stock enhancement of greenlip abalone at Cape Leeuwin was completed.
- The Research Division engaged in aid projects to assist aquaculture industries in the Southeast Asian region (Vietnam and Cambodia).
- A broodstock population of pygmy perch was established to enable research on the efficacy of restocking this native fish species – an efficient mosquito predator – in south-west wetlands. This achievement could have considerable biodiversity and human health benefits.
- A genetic test was developed using RAPIDS, in collaboration with scientists from the University of Western Australia, to distinguish between the endangered 'hairy' Margaret River marron, 'smooth' marron, and hybrids.
- For the first time, a project succeeded in identifying sexually viable stocks of black tiger prawn broodstock from a Western Australian managed fishery.
- the first formal assessment of the status of Western Australian dhufish and temperate snapper stocks;
- a survey of recreational fishing in the Gascoyne bioregion;
- biodiversity studies as part of the Natural Heritage Trust-funded *Securing WA's Marine Futures* program;
- a study of introduced marine pests, funded by the Natural Heritage Trust;
- a study of molluscs on intertidal platforms in the metropolitan area, funded by the Swan Catchment Council;
- a study on parasites in wild stocks of pearl oysters, in conjunction with Murdoch University; and
- investigation of brown trout egg and sperm viability and implementation of strategies to improve spawning success.
- An enhanced catch and effort database system will be developed to integrate the information obtained from the commercial, recreational and charter sectors and facilitate electronic lodgement of returns.
- A commercial operation for the production of *Artemia* at Hutt Lagoon, Port Gregory will be developed.

Major Initiatives for 2006/07

- The Abrolhos Islands Research Institute (AIRI) will be launched in July 2006. AIRI will encompass the newly completed fisheries research laboratory at Separation Point, Geraldton, and the Saville Kent Centre on Rat Island.
- Scoping studies will be undertaken with Murdoch University on the formation of an Institute for Sustainable Aquaculture and Fish Health.
- 2006/07 will see the commencement of the following new research projects:
 - a study to determine the relative efficiency of fishing gears, and resource availability, in tropical demersal scalefish fisheries;

Strategic Planning and Policy Branch

The Strategic Planning and Policy Branch is responsible for ensuring the preparation and periodic review of the Department's Strategic Plan and supporting Business and Operational Plans, in consultation with relevant divisions.

It is also responsible for the development of policy advice on a wide range of issues that have implications for fish and aquatic resources management in Western Australia and the Department's capacity to deliver stated outputs and outcomes. In addition, the Branch has an overview role in relation to the Department's budget planning process and financial settings, and is responsible for management of the internal audit and risk management functions. The manager of the Branch reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer.

Major Achievements for 2005/06

In the 2005/06 year, the Branch:

- completed a comprehensive review of fees and charges in the pearling industry;
- contributed to the review of the pearl oyster hatchery policy;
- published a discussion paper on proposed amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*;
- commenced implementation of the Government's Substantive Equality Policy Framework; and
- undertook international fisheries projects in Mauritius and Indonesia related to seafood marketing and fisheries compliance respectively.

Major Initiatives for 2006/07

In the coming financial year the Strategic Planning and Policy Branch will:

- complete a review of the Shark Bay Prawn and Shark Bay Scallop Fisheries;
- subject to Ministerial approval, commence formal implementation of the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy;
- complete the review of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*;
- finalise drafting instructions for the new Pearling Management Bill;
- finalise concept approval for development of a unit register of commercial rock lobster entitlements;
- conduct an analysis of market mechanisms for re-allocation of fisheries resources; and
- finalise a restructure of the Branch with a focus on audit and risk, governance, strategic policy, planning and organisational performance.

Communications and Education Branch

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

The Branch plays a strategic communications role in all the Department's programs, keeping the Western Australian community and key stakeholders abreast of developments in fisheries management, research and compliance, and engaging the community in policy and planning processes.

Major activities during the year included media liaison, advertising, coordination of launches for various initiatives, coordination of the Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer Program, community education strategies and the delivery of a significant popular and technical publishing program through print and e-media.

The development of the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre at Hillarys during the past year, and its associated education programs was a major undertaking for the Branch, with the completion and opening anticipated in the latter part of 2006.

The Branch underwent a significant restructure and refocus during the year in order to meet the emerging demands from the Department's new strategic directions.

In November 2005 the Branch changed its name (formerly Corporate and Community Relations Branch) to reflect the main business areas of the branch.

Major programs undertaken during the year included the development and delivery of communication and education strategies in support of:

- changes to recreational fisheries management in the Northern and South Coast bioregions;
- management of the licensed marron, rock lobster, abalone, southern freshwater finfish and recreational net fisheries;
- management of pink snapper in Cockburn Sound and Shark Bay's inner gulfs;
- management of the State's major commercial fisheries including rock lobster, abalone, and Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf prawn trawl fisheries;
- the Department's shark safety program;
- FISHWATCH initiative and compliance activities;
- commencement of the lobster and abalone phases in the Integrated Fisheries Management initiative; and

- planning and delivery of numerous community education activities including workshops, fishing clinics and public events across the State.

Major Achievements for 2005/06

- A Community Education Strategy was finalised.
- Volunteer programs and education activities were conducted in support of overall community education objectives including activities centred on National Volunteer Week and Seaweed.
- MarineDiscoveryWest - a new branding and identity for the Department's education staff and programs - was developed.
- The Department's Annual Report won a Gold Award in the 2005 W.S. Lonnie Awards for Annual Reporting.
- *Western Fisheries* was redesigned and further aligned towards the natural resource management ethos of the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre and its educational outputs.
- The official opening of the WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories, Hillarys, by the Premier of Western Australia, was organised and staged by the Branch.
- The Minister for Fisheries Reward and Recognition program and event was successfully staged.
- The Branch supported the Department's Sharing the Fish 06 conference with public display, public relations and educational materials.
- Considerable progress was made toward the implementation of the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre including development of in-house multimedia production; interactive and multimedia displays; and shopfront, education and interpretive components.
- A range of educational and promotional materials was produced, including the Get Hooked on Fishing and catchcare booklets, bookmarks, stickers, calico bags and display flags to assist and promote the VFLO programs and workshops.
- The VFLO conference was held at the WA Fisheries and Marine Research Institute.

Major Initiatives for 2006/07

- Communication strategies will be developed for licensed marine tour operators, regional services, FISHWATCH, IFM and various fisheries management and research initiatives.
- The Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre will be completed and formally opened.
- MarineDiscoveryWest will undertake further development and implementation of school and community education programs with links to State's school curriculum framework.
- A Marine Discovery website will be developed to complement the resources and programs offered through the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre.

Legal and Registry Services Unit

The Legal and Registry Services Unit was established on 1 July 2005, following an extensive external review that recommended amalgamation of the Department's legislation, litigation, legal, licensing and registrar services. The manager of the unit reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer. Existing departmental staff have, where possible, been transferred or recruited to positions in the unit.

A primary function of the Department of Fisheries' Registrar is to keep a register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases, pursuant to Part 12 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA). Day-to-day registry operations are performed by officers of the Licensing Branch under the authority of the Registrar. Licensing Branch operations, achievements and initiatives are reported on separately in this Annual Report.

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).

Registry work

Major Achievements for 2005/06

In the 2005/06 financial year, in the registry area, the Legal and Registry Services Unit:

- assisted with the costing and development of a report on a proposed "unit register";
- reviewed information available on the public register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases;
- commenced a review of fees for extracts from the register;
- commenced consideration of license administration upon the death of an authorisation holder;
- reviewed the public physical locations of the register; and
- contributed to development of an on-line register service.

Major Initiatives for 2006/07

In the coming financial year, in the registry area, the Legal and Registry Services Unit will:

- oversee the introduction of new public register fees that more closely relate to the cost of particular services delivered.
- audit the use of names on the register and manage the resulting issues (for example, relating to deceased estates, family trusts and use of business names);

- coordinate the addition of new information on the public register; and
- assist in the further development of an on-line register service.

Legal and Litigation Services

The Legal and Registry Services Unit provides the following services:

- legal advice to the Minister, the Chief Executive Officer and officers of the Department of Fisheries on a range of matters concerning the legislation administered by the Department and legislation and other law affecting the activities, powers and functions of the Minister and the Chief Executive Officer;
- management of litigation in which the Department of Fisheries is a party; and
- representation of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries in State Administrative Tribunal matters (statistics reported in Appendix 3).

Major Achievements for 2005/06

In the 2005/06 financial year, in the legal and litigation area, the Legal and Registry Services Unit:

- resolved all tribunal matters outstanding at 1 July 2005;
- developed and introduced an information management and legal advice process that facilitates the internal checking of potentially reviewable decisions and enhances the quality of decision making – greatly reducing the number of applications for review lodged with the Department and the areas of dispute; and
- carried out administrative law training of staff involved in exercising delegated licensing powers of the Chief Executive Officer.

Major Initiatives for 2006/07

In the coming financial year, in the legal and litigation area, the Legal and Registry Services Unit will:

- further refine the information management and legal advice process that facilitates the internal checking of potentially reviewable decisions; and
- carry out further administrative law training of staff involved in exercising delegated licensing powers of the Chief Executive Officer.

Legislation And Drafting Services

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

These services include:

- advising on matters relating to Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangements, as well as legislative power and jurisdictional matters;
- drafting of 'fishery-specific' management plans (and plan amendments);
- drafting orders prohibiting fishing activities;
- drafting a range of other fisheries instruments under the relevant primary legislation;
- instructing Parliamentary Counsel in relation to new fisheries regulations;
- preparing drafting instructions for Bills and Act amendments;
- providing advice in respect of amendments to relevant primary legislation that may be consequential to legislation being proposed by another department; and
- providing advice in respect of policy matters and Ministerial Policy Guidelines.

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

Major Achievements for 2005/06

In the 2005/06 financial year, in the legislation and drafting services area, the Legal and Registry Services Unit:

- prepared detailed drafting instructions, Ministerial and Cabinet submissions, explanatory memorandum and second reading speech for the *Fish Resources Management Amendment Bill 2006* which was introduced into Parliament on 21 June 2006 (which increases penalties and forfeiture / seizure provisions for foreign fishing offences);
- provided submissions on desired legislative change to the Department's *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* Act Amendment Working Group;
- drafted and gazetted the *Shark Bay Crab Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2005*;
- drafted and gazetted various orders increasing prohibitions on fishing in Jurien Bay and Ningaloo Marine Parks and prohibiting fishing for pink snapper at specified times of the year in Warnbro and Cockburn Sounds;
- amended the *West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (Interim) Management Plan* to protect dusky sharks of over 70cm interdorsal length;
- developed regulations implementing a state-wide prohibition on the recreational use of haul nets;
- developed regulations for bag limits in the South Coast and Pilbara / Kimberley regions;

- 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; and
- assisted with the review and repeal of obsolete legislation.

Major Initiatives for 2006/07

In the coming financial year, in the legislation and drafting services area, the Legal and Registry Services Unit will:

- prepare Cabinet submissions and drafting instructions for a Bill to amend the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* provisions relating to Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangements that complement Commonwealth legislative changes;
- prepare and implement further Marine Reserves legislation;
- prepare and develop a range of legislation for the protection of sharks, including legislation amending the management plans for the Joint Authority and State demersal gillnet and demersal longline fisheries;
- provide further training seminars for departmental staff involved in the development of legislation, to assist them understand the legislation process; and
- continue to review access to legislation issues with a view to improving public and internal access to up-to-date unofficially consolidated fisheries legislation, as well as continuing to assist in the review and repeal of obsolete legislation.

Licensing

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

The core business areas of the Licensing Branch are:

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

In July 2005 the Licensing Branch was transferred from under the operating structure of the Fisheries Management Services Division to the newly formed Legal and Registry Services Unit.

The Licensing Branch continues to explore more efficient ways to manage its service delivery. The introduction of new recreational fishing licences online through the Department's website in December 2005 has led to a reduction in licensing costs while also providing greater access to licensing facilities for fisheries clients.

Recreational Fishing

Over 61,000 recreational fishing licences of various combinations were issued during 2005/06. This is slightly down on last financial year's total of 62,500 licences.

In 2001, the renewal of recreational fishing licences went live on the Department of Fisheries website in conjunction with WA Fast Pay. In 2005/06 a total of 8,851 licences were granted and renewed on the Internet as compared to the previous reporting period total of 6,915. Internet usage for the renewal of licences continues to increase.

Commercial Licensing

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

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

In January 2006 the Fisheries Licensing and Management System (FLAMS) underwent a systems upgrade. It is anticipated that user acceptance testing will be concluded in June 2006. The new system upgrade will improve applications processing times and reduce systems timeouts.

Aquaculture Licensing

In 2005/06 there were 346 freehold licences and 114 non-freehold licences issued. This is made up of 285 marron licences and 61 others (including yabby, silver perch trout and ornamental fish). This represents a decrease of eight aquaculture licences from the previous reporting period of 2004/05.

Major achievements for 2005/06

- Recreational fishers are now able to apply for a new recreational fishing licence online through the Department of Fisheries website.
- The Licensing Branch continues to manage the licensing renewal program by sending out renewal notices for a multitude of recreational and commercial fishery licences and aquaculture licences in a timely manner.
- The FLAMS continues to be modified and enhanced to incorporate changes brought about through the advancement of fisheries and aquaculture management.
- A Licensing and Registry service was established at the new Hillarys Customer Service Centre.
- After being relocated from the King Street shop front to the third floor of the SGIO Atrium, the Licensing Branch is now managing the reception area for the Department, in addition to licensing and registry services.

Major initiatives for 2006/07

- Work continues on pearling and aquaculture leases to be recorded on the FLAMS.
- Work continues in the development of an online Register inspection facility.
- Over the counter receipting and plastic card production tenders are to be finalised.
- The FLAMS upgrade is to be finalised.



REPORT ON CORPORATE SERVICES

Customer Service
Council

Human Resources
and Staff Relations

Capital Works
Program



Customer Service Council

The Department's Customer Feedback Service has been established to ensure that complaints are heard and dealt with fairly and quickly.

The management and staff of the Department respect the right of members of the community to complain 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 has established an internal Customer Service Council to develop and continuously improve standards, policy 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 complaints and feedback by members of the public. The charter, known as the Feedback Management Policy, meets the criteria for effective Complaints Handling laid down by the Australian Standard (AS 4269-1995).

The council was actively involved in the development of a customer service feedback system – the Feedback Management System – that enabled 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 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 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 be a complaint, a compliment or suggestion provided

to the Department by clients in person, by telephone, letter, facsimile or email.

The Customer Relations Manager manages the system and Feedback Liaison Officers are assigned to each area and regional office to oversee the day-to-day running of the system.

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

Overview 2005/06

For the past financial year, two compliments, one suggestion and three complaints were submitted through the Feedback Management System.

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

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

The Customer Service Council, Customer Relations Manager and Department of Fisheries customer service staff support the spirit and intent of the State Government's Strategic Planning Framework and State Sustainability Strategy.

Human Resources and Staff Relations

The major staffing issue during 2005/06 was preparation for the implementation of the Government's Shared Service Centre model, for which the Department of Fisheries is a pilot agency. The Financial Services and Human Resources teams have assisted with the development and implementation of a new corporate services structure for the Department to support the shared service arrangements. The Department is working closely with the Office of Shared Services for a successful implementation of the shared services initiative.

Negotiation of a replacement Agency-Specific Agreement progressed during the year and it is anticipated that an agreement will be ready for registration early in the 2006/07 financial year. The Department remains committed to working with staff and their unions to ensure that the Department can continue to deliver services more efficiently and effectively, whilst allowing for improved pay and conditions for staff.

Occupational Safety and Health

Occupational Safety and Health policy review, development and training are key tasks for the Human Resources Branch and the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Committee.

The Department's OSH Committee, comprising staff members from across the State, convened for an intensive policy review workshop. The committee considered many departmental policies that were approaching their review date and ensured the policies were revised to incorporate recent legislative changes and were inclusive of the Department's new research facility located at Hillarys. Committee members now have greater power to issue improvement notices to work areas, and have been trained in these processes.

The number of workers' compensation claims lodged with the Department of Fisheries and the number of lost time injuries has increased slightly from last year. There were 19 claims lodged for the year, only five of which resulted in lost time.

The Department's Human Resources Branch has continued to focus on early intervention strategies to ensure that employees receive the assistance they need to make a speedy recovery from work-related injuries or personal illness. Policies have also been amended to incorporate recent changes to workers' compensation and injury management legislation. Although the number of claims has increased slightly, early intervention strategies have successfully reduced the amount of lost time per claim.

Table 4 – Department of Fisheries workers' compensation claim history 2001 - 2006

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Total claims	16	12	17	11	19
Lost time injuries	9	4	9	3	5
Lost time hours per million hours worked	5,418.30	1,618.90	6,023.30	3,317.70	2,240.60
W/C premium \$ 000	482*	568**	(378)***	0****	(15)*****

* The Workers Compensation premium for 2001/02 comprises of the premium rate \$310,730 plus an arrears adjustment from 1997/98 of \$171,537, resulting in a total premium of \$482,267

** The Workers Compensation premium for 2002/03 comprises of the premium rate \$235,811 plus an arrears adjustment from 1998/99 of \$332,664, resulting in a total premium of \$568,475.

*** The Workers Compensation premium for 2003/04 comprises of the premium rate \$206,192 plus an arrears adjustment from 1999/00 of (\$584,517) resulting in a total premium of (\$378,325). The Department has been credited \$378,325 from RiskCover for the 2003/04 workers' compensation premium.

**** The Workers Compensation premium for 2004/05 comprises of the premium rate \$207,808 plus an arrears adjustment from 2000/01 of (\$206,920) resulting in a total premium of \$888.

***** The Workers Compensation premium for 2005/06 comprises of the premium rate \$194,549 plus an arrears adjustment from 2001/02 of (\$209,970) resulting in a total premium of (\$15,421). The Department has been credited \$15,421 from RiskCover for the 2005/06 workers' compensation premium.

Human resources and staff relations

Long-serving staff

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

20 years +

Theo Berden	Michael Flanagan	Michael O'Dea
Chris Bird	Peter Godfrey	Shane O'Donoghue
Stuart Blight	Graeme Hall	Phil Readhead
Heather Brayford	Kimberly Hillier	Steve Rogers
Gary Brown	Paul Hillier	Mark Rossbach
Laurie Caporn	Peter Hurst	Neil Sarti
Tony Cappelluti	Kevin Johnson	Gerry Segers
Mark Cliff	Lindsay Joll	Phil Shaw
Kerrie Colwell	Tony Lemmon	Errol Sporer
Mike Cranley	Ivan Lightbody	Richards Steckis
Peter Dawson	Eric Loughton	Robert Tregonning
Kevin Donohue	Michael McMullan	Alexander Van Houwelingen
Laurie Edwards	Peter Millington	

30 years+

John Breeden	Tony Goadby	John Looby
Nick Caputi	Peter Johnsen	John Mutter
Kevin Carhart	Barry Jones	Peter Rogers
Alex Cechner	Phil Kelly	Bruce Stevenson
Tony Church	Bob Kirk	Peter Willey
Greg Finlay	Kerry Knapp	

40 years +

Eric Barker	Rod Lenanton
Derek Blackman	John Williams

The Department of Fisheries acknowledges those hard-working people who choose also to volunteer their spare time to make an active contribution to the community. Many staff volunteer their time to assist children's sport, fire and emergency services, and aged care. The Department thanks them for their efforts.

Capital Works Program

The 2005/06 Capital Program budget totalled \$7.46 million with actual expenditure of \$6.45 million. The table below details the projects designed to provide the necessary infrastructure support to enable the Department of Fisheries to deliver against the budgeted outputs. The nature of capital works is such that expenditure crosses financial year boundaries and contributes to the variation against budget.

Project Description	Planned Expenditure \$'000	Actual Expenditure \$'000
Small Boats, Outboards & Trailers	\$1,325	\$905
Fremantle Operations Centre	\$849	\$1,362
Fitout Furniture & Office Equipment	\$447	\$192
New Research and Education Facility	\$300	\$702
Abrolhos Islands Research Institute	\$1,800	\$1,786
Abrolhos Islands Airstrip Maintenance	\$20	\$20
Abrolhos Islands 2001-02 Program	\$19	\$9
Information Systems Development	\$698	\$471
Computing Hardware & Software	\$956	\$560
Ningaloo Marine Park	\$262	\$-
Regional Aquaculture	\$132	\$31
Regional Recreational Initiatives	\$100	\$3
Aquaculture Upgrades	\$68	\$21
Operational Equipment	\$270	\$277
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program	\$82	\$-
Communications Equipment	\$80	\$52
Recreational Fishing Initiatives	\$52	\$58
Total Capital Works Program	\$7,460	\$6,449

Who we are and what we do

Report on operations - Outputs

Report on operations - Department services

Report on corporate services

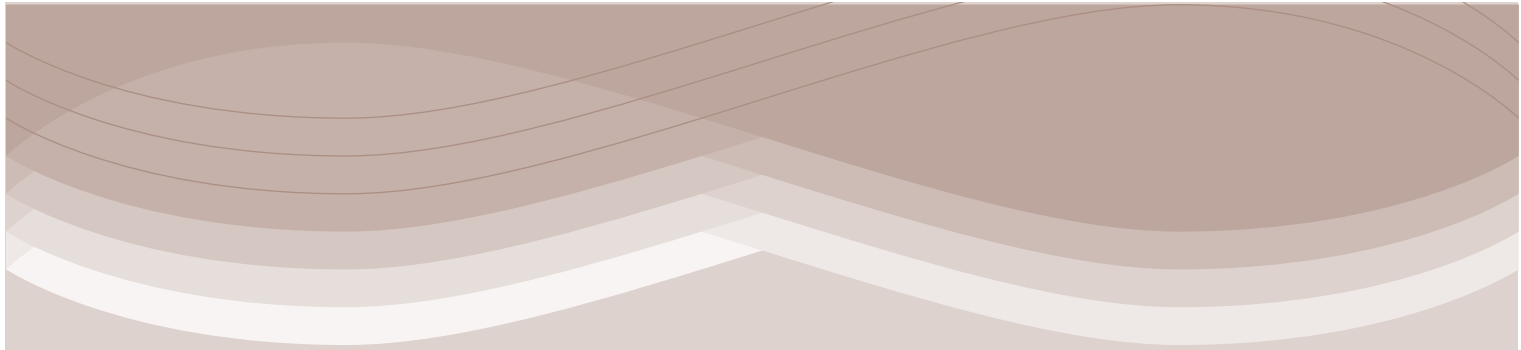
Audit Opinion

Financial statements

Performance indicators

Obligatory reporting

Appendices



AUDIT OPINION

from the Auditor General



*The new Marine Operations Centre in
Capo d'Orlando Drive, Fremantle.*



AUDITOR GENERAL

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

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 2006 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date. They are in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and the Treasurer's Instructions;
- (ii) the controls exercised by the Department provide reasonable assurance that the receipt and expenditure of moneys, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (iii) the key effectiveness and efficiency 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 2006.

Scope

The Executive Director is responsible for keeping proper accounts and maintaining adequate systems of internal control, for preparing the financial statements and performance indicators, and complying with the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 (the Act) and other relevant written law.

The financial statements consist of the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service, Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations and Income Estimates, and the Notes to the Financial Statements.

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

Summary of my Role

As required by the Act, I have independently audited the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators to express an opinion on the financial statements, controls and performance indicators. This was done by testing selected samples of the evidence. Further information on my audit approach is provided in my audit practice statement. Refer "<http://www.audit.wa.gov.au/pubs/Audit-Practice-Statement.pdf>".

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial statements and 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 performance indicators.

D D R PEARSON
AUDITOR GENERAL
15 September 2006

4th Floor Dumas House 2 Havelock Street West Perth 6005 Western Australia Tel: 08 9222 7500 Fax: 08 9322 5664

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Financial Statements

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*Community Education Coordinator
Michael Burke shows school children
one of the displays at the Naturaliste
Marine Discovery Centre.*

Certification of Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

The accompanying financial statements of Department of Fisheries have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2006 and the financial position as at 30 June 2006.

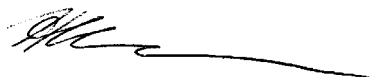
At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



Bruno Mezzatesta BBus FCPA GAICD
Chief Finance Officer
17 July 2006



Peter P Rogers BSc (Agric) (Hons) MBA FAICD DSc
Accountable Officer
17 July 2006



Helen Alexander BComm MBA CPA
Manager Financial Services
17 July 2006

Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

COST OF SERVICES	Note	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	8	28,534	27,929
Supplies and services	9	15,058	14,255
Depreciation and amortisation expense	10	2,372	1,838
Finance costs	11	102	114
Accommodation expenses	12	1,787	1,564
Grants and subsidies	13	4,050	4,150
Capital User Charge	14	4,088	3,781
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	15	852	320
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	17	231	129
Other expenses	16	707	666
Total cost of services		<u>57,781</u>	<u>54,746</u>
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	18	23,728	23,752
Grants and contributions	19	3,256	3,725
Interest revenue	20	587	891
Total revenue		<u>27,571</u>	<u>28,368</u>
<i>Gains</i>			
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	17	105	24
Total gains		<u>105</u>	<u>24</u>
Total Income other than income from State Government		<u>27,676</u>	<u>28,392</u>
NET COST OF SERVICES		30,105	26,354
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriations	21	25,907	23,869
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	21	268	427
Resources received free of charge	22	420	408
Total income from State Government		<u>26,595</u>	<u>24,704</u>
DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD		<u>(3,510)</u>	<u>(1,650)</u>

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

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Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2006

	Note	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	36	5,203	10,891
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	23	730	1,631
Receivables	24	1,288	713
Amounts receivable for services	25	2,841	1,328
Other assets	26	249	255
Total Current Assets		<u>10,311</u>	<u>14,818</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Amounts receivable for services	25	3,925	3,870
Property, plant and equipment	27	42,261	43,530
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>46,186</u>	<u>47,400</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>56,497</u>	<u>62,218</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	29	2,008	1,237
Borrowings	30	180	167
Provisions	31	5,042	4,492
Other current liabilities	32	588	44
Total Current Liabilities		<u>7,818</u>	<u>5,940</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Borrowings	30	1,006	1,186
Provisions	31	2,043	2,148
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>3,049</u>	<u>3,334</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>10,867</u>	<u>9,274</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>45,630</u>	<u>52,944</u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	34	23,407	23,145
Reserves	35	7,026	11,092
Accumulated surplus	33	15,197	18,707
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>45,630</u>	<u>52,944</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		<u>10,867</u>	<u>9,274</u>

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

Statement of Changes In Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

	Note	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
Balance of Equity at start of period		52,944	44,555
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY			
Balance at start of period	34	23,145	14,195
Capital contribution		262	8,950
Balance at end of period	34	<u>23,407</u>	<u>23,145</u>
RESERVES			
Asset Revaluation Reserve			
Balance at start of period	35	11,092	10,003
Gains/(losses) from asset revaluation		(4,066)	1,089
Balance at end of period	35	<u>7,026</u>	<u>11,092</u>
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (RETAINED EARNINGS)			
Balance at start of period	33	18,707	20,357
Deficit for the period		(3,510)	(1,650)
Balance at end of period	33	<u>15,197</u>	<u>18,707</u>
Balance of equity at end of period		<u>45,630</u>	<u>52,944</u>
Total income and expenses for the period		<u>(7,576)</u>	<u>(561)</u>

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

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Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

	Note	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation	21	23,011	21,103
Capital contributions	34	262	8,950
Holding account drawdowns	25	1,328	1,282
Net cash provided by State Government		<u>24,601</u>	<u>31,335</u>
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(27,349)	(27,266)
Supplies and services		(13,861)	(13,693)
Finance costs		(102)	(114)
Accommodation		(1,787)	(1,564)
Grants and subsidies		(4,050)	(4,150)
Capital User Charge		(4,088)	(3,781)
GST payments on purchases		(2,515)	(3,393)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks		(852)	(320)
Other payments		(707)	(666)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		23,800	23,752
Grants and contributions		2,689	3,702
Interest received		587	891
GST receipts on sales		569	598
GST receipts from taxation authority		1,938	2,982
Net cash used in operating activities	36	<u>(25,728)</u>	<u>(23,022)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchases of non-current physical assets		(5,721)	(14,604)
Proceeds from the sale of non-current physical assets	17	426	325
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(5,295)</u>	<u>(14,279)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of borrowings		(167)	(156)
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(167)</u>	<u>(156)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(6,589)	(6,122)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period		12,522	18,644
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of period	36	<u>5,933</u>	<u>12,522</u>

This statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations and Income Estimates for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

Item	2006			2006	2005	VARIANCE \$'000
	ESTIMATE \$'000	ACTUAL \$'000	VARIANCE \$'000	ACTUAL \$'000	ACTUAL \$'000	
DELIVERY OF SERVICES						
47 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	25,738	25,752	14	25,752	23,714	2,038
Amount authorised by other statutes						
- Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	160	155	(5)	155	155	0
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	<u>25,898</u>	<u>25,907</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>25,907</u>	<u>23,869</u>	<u>2,038</u>
CAPITAL						
131 Capital Contribution	262	262	0	262	5,000	(4,738)
GRAND TOTAL	<u>26,160</u>	<u>26,169</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>26,169</u>	<u>28,869</u>	<u>(2,700)</u>
Details of Expenses by Service						
Management of the State's Commercial Fisheries	29,063	31,661	2,598	31,661	26,923	4,738
Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries	14,393	12,962	(1,431)	12,962	15,031	(2,069)
Development and promotion of the State's Aquaculture Industry	6,948	8,053	1,105	8,053	8,833	(780)
Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat	4,466	5,105	639	5,105	3,935	1,170
Total Cost of Services	<u>54,870</u>	<u>57,781</u>	<u>2,911</u>	<u>57,781</u>	<u>54,722</u>	<u>3,059</u>
Less Total Income	(28,182)	(27,676)	506	(27,676)	(28,368)	692
Net Cost of Services	<u>26,688</u>	<u>30,105</u>	<u>3,417</u>	<u>30,105</u>	<u>26,354</u>	<u>3,751</u>
Adjustment for movement in cash balances and other accrual items	(790)	(4,198)	(3,408)	(4,198)	(2,485)	(1,713)
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	<u>25,898</u>	<u>25,907</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>25,907</u>	<u>23,869</u>	<u>2,038</u>
Capital Expenditure						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	7,460	5,721	1,739	5,721	14,652	(8,931)
Adjustment for movement in cash balances and other funding sources	(7,198)	(5,459)	(1,739)	(5,459)	(9,652)	4,193
Capital Contribution (appropriation)	<u>262</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(4,738)</u>

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

Note 40' Explanatory statement' provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2006 and between the actual results for 2005 and 2006.

Schedule of Income and Expense by Service for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

COST OF SERVICES	COMMERCIAL		RECREATIONAL	
	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
Expenses				
Employee benefits expense	15,037	13,612	6,760	7,921
Supplies and services	7,935	6,503	3,567	4,247
Depreciation and amortisation	1,250	838	562	216
Finance costs	54	57	24	31
Accommodation expenses	942	770	423	430
Grants and subsidies	2,943	3,150	435	440
FAS buybacks	852	157	0	88
Capital User Charge	2,154	1,460	969	1,439
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	121	51	55	30
Other expenses	373	325	167	189
Total cost of services	31,661	26,923	12,962	15,031
Income				
User charges and fees	17,682	17,509	1,944	2,490
Grants and contributions	2,093	1,934	229	617
Interest revenue	394	598	75	114
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	54		26	
Total income other than income from State Government	20,223	20,041	2,274	3,221
NET COST OF SERVICES	11,438	6,882	10,688	11,810
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT				
Service appropriation	10,213	5,917	8,909	10,943
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	142	286	63	55
Resources received free of charge	222	274	99	52
Total income from State Government	10,577	6,477	9,071	11,050
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(861)	(405)	(1,617)	(760)

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



PEARLING AND AQUACULTURE		FISH AND FISH HABITAT PROTECTION		TOTAL	
2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
4,035	4,341	2,702	2,055	28,534	27,929
2,130	2,473	1,426	1,032	15,058	14,255
335	514	225	270	2,372	1,838
14	18	10	8	102	114
253	253	169	111	1,787	1,564
575	453	97	107	4,050	4,150
0	52	0	23	852	320
578	610	387	272	4,088	3,781
33	16	22	8	231	105
100	103	67	49	707	666
8,053	8,833	5,105	3,935	57,781	54,722
3,957	3,661	145	92	23,728	23,752
800	871	134	303	3,256	3,725
109	166	9	13	587	891
15		10		105	0
4,881	4,698	298	408	27,676	28,368
3,172	4,135	4,807	3,527	30,105	26,354
2,528	3,722	4,257	3,287	25,907	23,869
38	80	25	6	268	427
59	76	40	6	420	408
2,625	3,878	4,322	3,299	26,595	24,704
(547)	(257)	(485)	(228)	(3,510)	(1,650)

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General	3		Summary Of Significant Accounting Policies
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General	3(b)		Basis Of Preparation
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Assets	3(k)	25	Amounts Receivable For Services (Holding Account)
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Subject	Policy Note	Disclosure Note	Title of Disclosure Note
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Assets	3(h), (i)	23	Restricted Cash And Cash Equivalents
Assets	3(h), (l)	24	Receivables
Assets	3(k)	25	Amounts Receivable For Services
Assets		26	Other Assets
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Assets	3(f)	28	Impairment Of Assets
Liabilities	3(m)	29	Payables
Liabilities		30	Borrowings
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This index does not form part of the financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

1 DEPARTMENTAL MISSION AND FUNDING

The Department's mission is as follows:

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

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

2 FIRST TIME ADOPTION OF AUSTRALIAN EQUIVALENTS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

This is the Department's first published financial statements prepared under Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS). Accounting Standard AASB 1 'First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards' has been applied in preparing these financial statements. The financial statements of the Department until 30 June 2005 had been prepared under the previous Australian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (AGAAP).

The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) adopted the Standards of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) for application to reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005 by issuing AIFRS which comprise a Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements, Australian Accounting Standards and the Urgent Issue Group (UIG) Interpretations.

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

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

In accordance with the option provided by AASB 1 paragraph 36A and exercised by Treasurer's Instruction (TI) 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements', financial instrument information prepared under AASB 132 and AASB 139 will apply from 1 July 2005 and consequently comparative information for financial instruments is presented on the previous AGAAP basis. In the Department's case this has made no difference to the information provided. All other comparative information has been prepared under the AIFRS basis.

Early adoption of standards

The Department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or UIG Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. This TI requires the early adoption of revised AASB 119 'Employee Benefits' as issued in December 2004, AASB 2004-3 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards; AASB 2005-3 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 119]'; AASB 2005-4 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard [AASB 139, AASB 132, AASB 1, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]' and AASB 2005-6 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 3]' to the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2005. AASB 2005-4 amends AASB 139 'Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement' so that the ability to designate financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value is restricted. AASB 2005-6 excludes business combinations involving common control from the scope of AASB 3 'Business Combinations'.

Reconciliations explaining the transition to AIFRS as at 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005 are provided at note 47 'Reconciliations explaining the transition to AIFRS'.

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

Where modification is required and has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Basis of Preparation

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Contributed Equity

UIG Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities' requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions to be designated by the Government (the owners) 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 by TI955 "Contribution by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities" and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

(d) Income

Revenue

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.

Rendering of services

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

Interest

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

Service Appropriations

Service Appropriations are recognised as revenues in the period in which the Department gains control of the appropriated funds. The Department gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited into the Department's bank account or credited to the holding account held at the Department of Treasury and Finance. See note 21 'Income from State Government' for further detail.

Net Appropriation Determination

The Treasurer may make a determination providing for prescribed revenues to be retained for services under the control of the Department. In accordance with the determination specified in the 2005-06 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$2.5

million in 2006 (\$3.58 million in 2005) from the following:
GST receipts on sales and input credits.

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions

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

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

Where contributions recognised as revenues during the reporting period were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the reporting date, the nature of, and amounts pertaining to, those undischarged conditions are disclosed in the notes.

Gains

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

(e) Property, Plant and Equipment and Infrastructure

Capitalisation/Expensing of assets

Items of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure costing over \$2,000 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 \$2,000 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).

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.

The revaluation of land and buildings is an independent valuation provided on an annual basis by the Department of Land Information (Valuation Services).

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

Two parcels of land which were revalued in 2005/06 were assessed at existing use (\$90K) whereas previously they were held at market value (\$4.87 million). This has led to a decrease in land assets with a corresponding decrease in revaluation reserve.

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

Depreciation

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

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Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Asset category	Life (years)
Buildings	50
Infrastructure	20-50
Furniture and fittings	10
Major vessels	10
Motor vehicles	3
Computer equipment	3-5
Small vessels	3
Plant and equipment	2-10

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. As such, no amount for depreciation has been recognised in respect of them.

(f) Impairment of Assets

Property, plant and equipment are tested for any indication of impairment at each reporting 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 or where the replacement cost is falling. 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 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 reporting date.

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

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

(g) Leases

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

The Department has entered into a number of operating lease arrangements for the rent of the office building. 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

The Department has two categories of financial instrument:

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

Initial recognition and measurement is at fair value. Usually the transaction cost or face value is equivalent to the fair value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

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

(i) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents includes restricted cash and cash equivalents. These are comprised of cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash, and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

(j) Accrued Salaries

The accrued salaries suspense account (see note 23 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents') consists of amounts paid annually into a suspense account over a period of 10 financial years to largely meet the additional cash outflow in each eleventh year when 27 pay periods occur in that year instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

Accrued salaries (refer note 32 'Other liabilities') represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the pay date for the last pay period for that financial year does not coincide with the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the financial year end. The Department considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its net fair value.

As the final pay for 2005/06 ended on 29th June 2006, there was one day's accrual for salaries as at 30 June 2006.

(k) Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)

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

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

(l) Receivables

Receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for uncollectible amounts (impairment). The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written-off. The allowance for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that the Department will not be able to collect the debts. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days. See note 3(h) 'Financial Instruments and note 24 'Receivables'.

(m) Payables

Payables are recognised when the Department becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as they are generally settled within 30 days. See note 3(h) 'Financial Instruments and note 29 'Payables'.

(n) Provisions

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing and amount and are recognised where there is a present legal, equitable or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of economic benefits is probable and can be measured reliably. Provisions are reviewed at each balance sheet reporting date. See note 31 'Provisions'

(i) Provisions - Employee Benefits*Annual Leave and Long Service Leave*

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

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

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

All annual leave and unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as the Department does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date.

The Department uses the shorthand method for long service leave and as such a liability for long service leave is recognised after an employee has completed four years of service. An actuarial assessment of long service leave undertaken by Price Waterhouse Coopers Actuaries in 2004 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 3 years.

Sick Leave

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

Past history indicates that on average, sick leave taken each reporting period is less than the entitlement accrued. This is expected to continue in future periods. Accordingly, it is unlikely that existing accumulated entitlements will be used by employees and no

liability for unused sick leave entitlements is recognised. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the income statement for this leave as it is taken.

Superannuation

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

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

Employees who are not members of either the Pension or the GSS Schemes become non-contributory members of the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS), an accumulation fund. 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 Scheme.

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

(o) Superannuation Expense

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

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

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

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

Defined contribution plans - in order to reflect the true cost of services of the Department, 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 Fund.

The Gold State Superannuation 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 Consideration

Resources received free of charge or for nominal consideration which can be reliably measured are recognised as revenues and as assets or expenses as appropriate at fair value.

(q) Comparative Figures

Comparative figures have been restated on the AIFRS basis except for financial instruments information which has been prepared under the previous AGAAP Accounting Standard AAS 33 'Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Instruments'. The transition date to AIFRS for financial instruments is 1 July 2005 in accordance with the exemption allowed under AASB1, paragraph 36A and Treasurer's Instruction 1101.

(r) Cost Recovery - Major Commercial Fisheries

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

4 JUDGEMENTS MADE BY MANAGEMENT IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

Finance Lease Commitment:

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

5 KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The key estimates and assumptions made concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting 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
- Long service leave – retention rates and discount rates
- Estimating depreciated replacement cost

6 DISCLOSURE OF CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICY AND ESTIMATES

Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard:

There were no Australian Accounting Standards initially applied in the current period.

Voluntary changes in Accounting Policy:

There were no voluntary changes in accounting policy which would have an effect on the current period or any prior period.

Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

The Department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or UIG Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. The following Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published and are not mandatory for 30 June 2006 reporting periods.

The Department's assessment of the impact of these new standards and interpretations is set out below.

1. AASB 7 'Financial Instruments Disclosures' (including consequential amendments in AASB 2005-10 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]').

The Standard is applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2007. The Department has not adopted the standards early. Application of the standards will not affect any of the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

2. UIG Interpretation 4 'Determining whether an Arrangement Contains a Lease'.

This Interpretation is required to be applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2006. At reporting date, the Department has not entered into any arrangements as specified in the Interpretation. The implementation of UIG 4 is not expected to change the accounting for any of the Department's current arrangement.

The following amendments are not applicable to the Department as they will have no impact:

AASB Amendment	Affected Standards
2005-1	AASB 139 (Cash flow hedge accounting of forecast intragroup transactions)
5-5	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 1 & AASB 139]
2005-9	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 4, AASB 1023, AASB 139 & AASB 132] (Financial guarantee contracts)
1-1	AASB 121 (Net Investment in foreign operations).
UIG 5	'Rights to Interests arising from Decommissioning, Restoration and Environmental Rehabilitation Funds'.
UIG 6	'Liabilities arising from Participating in a Specific Market – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment'.
UIG 7	'Applying the Restatement Approach under AASB 129 Financial Reporting in Hyperinflationary Economies'.

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, are set out in the Schedule of Expenses and Revenue by Service.

The services of Fisheries Department are:

Service 1: Management of the State's Commercial Fisheries

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

Service 2: Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries

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

Service 3: Development and promotion of the State's Aquaculture industry

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

Service 4: Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat

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

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
8 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE		
Wages and salaries (a)	24,461	24,242
Superannuation - defined contribution plans (b)	1,795	1,798
Superannuation - defined benefit plans (c)(d)	860	808
Long service leave (e)	271	573
Annual leave (e)	511	505
Other related expenses	636	3
	<u>28,534</u>	<u>27,929</u>
<p>(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component. (b) Defined contribution plans include West State and Gold State (contributions paid) (c) Defined benefit plans include Pension scheme and Gold State (pre-transfer benefit) (d) An equivalent notional income is also recognised (see note 21 'Income from State Government') (e) Includes a superannuation contribution component</p> <p>Employment on-costs such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 16 'Other expenses'. The employment on costs liability is included at note 31 'Provisions'.</p>		
9 SUPPLIES AND SERVICES		
Communications	974	868
Consultants and contractors	2,614	2,435
Consumables	1,397	1,544
Materials	445	338
Repairs and maintenance	2,811	2,422
Travel	1,742	1,796
Administration	3,850	3,708
Operating lease expenses	760	748
Electricity and water	252	235
Advertising	128	127
Other	85	34
	<u>15,058</u>	<u>14,255</u>
10 DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION EXPENSE		
Depreciation		
Furniture	227	215
Plant and equipment	369	335
Small vessels	14	37
Computer equipment	423	351
Buildings	405	52
Major vessels	447	403
Motor vehicles	63	47
Other Construction	182	126
Other	57	87
Total Depreciation	<u>2,187</u>	<u>1,653</u>
Amortisation		
Leased patrol vessel	185	185
Total Amortisation	<u>185</u>	<u>185</u>
Total Depreciation and Amortisation	<u>2,372</u>	<u>1,838</u>
11 FINANCE COSTS		
Finance lease finance charges	102	114
	<u>102</u>	<u>114</u>

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12 ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES		
Lease rentals	1,787	1,564
	<u>1,787</u>	<u>1,564</u>
13 GRANTS & SUBSIDIES		
Recurrent		
Grants to educational institutions (Schools etc)	10	9
Grants to key stakeholder groups	1,960	2,070
Contributions to Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	1,507	1,484
Research grants	294	308
Other	279	279
	<u>4,050</u>	<u>4,150</u>
14 CAPITAL USER CHARGE		
Capital User Charge	4,088	3,781
	<u>4,088</u>	<u>3,781</u>
A capital user charge rate of 8% has been set by the Government and represents the opportunity cost of capital invested in the net assets of the Department used in the provision of services. The charge is calculated on the net assets adjusted to take account of exempt assets. Payments are made to the Department of Treasury and Finance on a quarterly basis.		
15 FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEME BUYBACKS		
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	<u>852</u>	<u>320</u>
16 OTHER EXPENSES		
Employment on-costs (see note 8 'Employee benefits expense')	<u>707</u>	<u>666</u>
(a) Includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability is included at note 31 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.		
17 NET GAIN/(LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Costs of Disposal of Non-current Assets		
Carrying amount of property, plant and equipment disposed of during the year	552	430
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets		
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment	426	325
Net loss	<u>(126)</u>	<u>(105)</u>
Gain on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		
Property plant & equipment	105	24
Loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		
Property plant & equipment	<u>(231)</u>	<u>(129)</u>
Net loss	<u>(126)</u>	<u>(105)</u>
18 USER CHARGES AND FEES		
Access fees	14,237	14,199
Development of Better Interests Fees	3,500	3,500
Application fees	936	983
Licence fees	2,381	2,366
Fees for service	1,061	1,489
Other	1,613	1,215
	<u>23,728</u>	<u>23,752</u>
19 GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS		
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	2,504	3,153
Other	752	572
	<u>3,256</u>	<u>3,725</u>

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
20 INTEREST REVENUE		
Fisheries Research and Development Fund	507	845
AFMA Fund	21	0
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Fund	59	46
	<u>587</u>	<u>891</u>
21 INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT		
Appropriation received during the year :		
Service appropriations (i)	25,907	23,869
	<u>25,907</u>	<u>23,869</u>
The following liabilities have been assumed by the Treasurer during the financial year (ii):		
Superannuation	268	427
Total liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	<u>268</u>	<u>427</u>
	<u>26,175</u>	<u>24,296</u>
(i) 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.		
(ii) 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)		
22 RESOURCES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE		
Administration expenses	420	408
	<u>420</u>	<u>408</u>
Resources received free of charge has been determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
Department of Justice	348	340
Department of Land Information	1	1
Department of Planning and Infrastructure	5	
Department of Treasury and Finance	66	67
	<u>420</u>	<u>408</u>
23 RESTRICTED CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Current		
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Fund (i)	379	573
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account (ii)	249	1,058
Salaries suspense account (iii)	102	0
	<u>730</u>	<u>1,631</u>
(i) Monies held in the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Fund are not available for operations of the Department as they are relate to specific research projects.		
(ii) Monies held in the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account are only available for use as prescribed by the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987.		
(iii) 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 was drawn in 2004/05.		

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	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
24 RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Receivables	927	359
GST Receivable	<u>369</u>	<u>361</u>
	1,296	720
Less: provision for doubtful debts	<u>(8)</u>	<u>(7)</u>
	<u>1,288</u>	<u>713</u>

See also Note 3(l) "Receivables" and Note 41 "Financial Instruments"

25 AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR SERVICES

Current	2,841	1,328
Non Current	<u>3,925</u>	<u>3,870</u>
	<u>6,766</u>	<u>5,198</u>

This asset 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.

26 OTHER ASSETS

Licences and rentals	35	30
Software support/licence	44	17
Lease Patrol Vessel	22	25
Industry Advances	<u>148</u>	<u>183</u>
	<u>249</u>	<u>255</u>

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
27 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
LAND		
Land at fair value (i)	3,320	7,541
	<u>3,320</u>	<u>7,541</u>
BUILDINGS		
At fair value (i)	20,827	2,643
Accumulated depreciation	(367)	(53)
	<u>20,460</u>	<u>2,590</u>
INFRASTRUCTURE		
At cost	2,288	2,182
Accumulated depreciation	(840)	(670)
	<u>1,448</u>	<u>1,512</u>
MAJOR VESSELS		
At fair value (ii)	8,939	8,302
Accumulated depreciation	(1,041)	(593)
	<u>7,898</u>	<u>7,709</u>
SMALL VESSELS		
At fair value (ii)	230	280
Accumulated depreciation	(73)	(82)
	<u>157</u>	<u>198</u>
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
At cost	4,402	4,074
Accumulated depreciation	(2,195)	(1,863)
	<u>2,207</u>	<u>2,211</u>
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS		
At cost	2,592	2,086
Accumulated depreciation	(1,570)	(1,351)
	<u>1,022</u>	<u>735</u>
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		
At cost	3,788	3,881
Accumulated depreciation	(2,917)	(3,128)
	<u>871</u>	<u>753</u>
LEASED OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
At capitalised cost	0	85
Accumulated amortisation	0	(85)
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
LEASED PATROL VESSEL		
At capitalised cost	1,849	1,849
Accumulated amortisation	(786)	(601)
	<u>1,063</u>	<u>1,248</u>
MOTOR VEHICLES		
At cost	947	862
Accumulated depreciation	(177)	(199)
	<u>770</u>	<u>663</u>
CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS		
At construction cost	3,045	18,370
	<u>3,045</u>	<u>18,370</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>42,261</u>	<u>43,530</u>

- (i) Freehold land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2005 by the Department of Land Information (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2006 and recognised at 30 June 2006. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$3,190,500 and buildings: \$442,000. 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) A revaluation of large and small vessels was performed in July 2003 in accordance with an independent valuation undertaken by Keith Haslam Pty Ltd

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Reconciliation

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

	Carrying amount at start of year	Additions	Disposal	Transfers from WIP	Revaluation	Deprecn. For the year	Carrying amount at end of year.
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	7,541	0	95	0	-4,126	0	3,320
Major vessels	7,709	251	172	614	0	504	7,898
Small vessels	198	5	32	0	0	14	157
Plant and Equipment	2,211	418	53	0	0	369	2,207
Furniture and Fittings	735	514	0	0	0	227	1,022
Computer Equipment	753	542	1	0	0	423	871
Leased Office Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leased Patrol Vessel	1,248	0	0	0	0	185	1,063
Buildings	2,590	0	10	18,225	60	405	20,460
Infrastructure	1,512	0	30	148	0	182	1,448
Motor Vehicles	663	329	159	0	0	63	770
Work in progress	18,370	3,662	0	-18,987	0	0	3,045
	<u>43,530</u>	<u>5,721</u>	<u>552</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(4,066)</u>	<u>2,372</u>	<u>42,261</u>
						2006	2005
						\$'000	\$'000

28 IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

There were no indications of impairment of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure at 30 June 2006. 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. All surplus assets at 30 June 2006 have been classified as assets held for sale or written off.

29 PAYABLES

Current

Amounts payable for goods and services received - General	1,952	1,023
Amounts payable for goods and services received - Capital	56	214
	<u>2,008</u>	<u>1,237</u>

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

30 BORROWINGS

Current

Finance Lease Liability	180	167
	<u>180</u>	<u>167</u>

Non Current

Finance Lease Liability	1,006	1,186
	<u>1,006</u>	<u>1,186</u>

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

Assets pledged as security:

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

Finance Leases

Leased Patrol Vessel	1,063	1,248
	<u>1,063</u>	<u>1,248</u>

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
31 PROVISIONS		
Current		
Employee benefits provision		
Annual leave (a)	2,132	2,020
Long service leave (b)	2,406	2,068
	<u>4,538</u>	<u>4,088</u>
Other provisions		
Employment oncosts (c)	504	404
	<u>5,042</u>	<u>4,492</u>
Non Current		
Employee benefits provision		
Long service leave (b)	1,839	1,886
	<u>1,839</u>	<u>1,886</u>
Other provisions		
Employment oncosts (c)	204	262
	<u>2,043</u>	<u>2,148</u>
	<u>7,085</u>	<u>6,640</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 within 12 months of reporting date.		
(b) Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after reporting date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:		
Within 12 months of reporting date	2,406	2,068
More than 12 months after reporting date	1,839	1,886
	<u>4,245</u>	<u>3,954</u>
(c) The settlement of annual and long service leave gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments. The associated expense, apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost), is included in Note 16 'Other Expenses'.		
32 OTHER LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accrued salaries	469	0
Income in Advance	16	0
FBT Accrued	48	45
Infringement Notice collections payable	55	(1)
	<u>588</u>	<u>44</u>
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.		
33 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Balance at the start of the year	18,707	20,357
Change in net assets from ordinary activities	(3,510)	(1,650)
Balance at the end of the year	<u>15,197</u>	<u>18,707</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
34 CONTRIBUTED EQUITY		
Balance at the start of the year	23,145	14,195
Contributions by owners		
Capital contribution	262	8,950
Total contributions by owners	<u>23,407</u>	<u>23,145</u>
(i) 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.		
35 RESERVES		
Asset Revaluation Reserve		
Balance at the start of the year	11,092	10,003
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	(4,126)	851
Buildings	60	92
Vessels and Plant	0	146
Balance at the end of the year (i)	<u>7,026</u>	<u>11,092</u>
Total equity	<u>45,630</u>	<u>52,944</u>
(i) 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)		
36 NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT		
(a) <u>Reconciliation of cash</u>		
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	5,178	10,872
Cash advances	25	19
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (refer note 23)	730	1,631
	<u>5,933</u>	<u>12,522</u>
(b) Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows used in operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	(25,728)	(23,022)
<u>Non Cash Items</u>		
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	(268)	(427)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(2,372)	(1,838)
Resources received free of charge	(420)	(408)
Profit/(Loss) on disposal of assets	(126)	(105)
<u>Increase/(Decrease) in Assets</u>		
Accounts receivable - General	575	(167)
Prepayments	(6)	27
<u>(Increase)/Decrease in Liabilities</u>		
Accrued salaries	(469)	782
FBT Accrued	(3)	0
Income in advance	(16)	0
Liability for employee entitlements	(445)	(1,018)
Income in advance - Infringement notice		
Collections payable	(56)	1
Accounts payable - General	(771)	(179)
<u>Increase/(Decrease) in GST</u>		
Net GST (receipts) / payments	8	187
Change in GST in receivables	(8)	(187)
Net cost of services	<u>(30,105)</u>	<u>(26,354)</u>

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
37 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:		
Within 1 year	357	5,341
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	0	0
Later than 5 years	0	0
	<u>357</u>	<u>5,341</u>
The capital commitments include amounts for:		
Buildings	<u>357</u>	<u>849</u>
(b) Operating Lease commitments		
Commitments in relation to non-cancellable leases for accommodation and motor vehicles contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements are payable as follows:		
Within 1 year	1,859	1,916
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	4,110	4,705
Later than 5 years	10,523	11,064
	<u>16,492</u>	<u>17,685</u>
Representing:		
Cancellable operating leases	0	0
Non-cancellable operating leases	16,492	17,685
	<u>16,492</u>	<u>17,685</u>
(c) Finance Lease Commitments		
Commitments in relation to finance leases are payable as follows:		
Within 1 year	266	266
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,066	1,066
Later than 5 years	133	399
Minimum lease payments	1,465	1,731
Less Future finance charges	(279)	(378)
Present value of finance lease liabilities	<u>1,186</u>	<u>1,353</u>
The present value of finance leases payables is as follows:		
Within 1 year	180	167
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	877	813
Later than 5 years	129	373
Present value of finance lease liabilities	<u>1,186</u>	<u>1,353</u>
Included in the financial statements as:		
Current (note 30)	180	167
Non-current (note 30)	1,006	1,186
	<u>1,186</u>	<u>1,353</u>

The Department has the option to purchase leased office equipment at an agreed fair value on expiry of the lease. These leasing arrangements do not have escalation clauses, other than in the event of payment default. There are no restrictions imposed by these leasing arrangements on other financing transactions.

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38 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

As at reporting date, the Department had no contingent liabilities or contingent assets

39 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

No known event or events occurred after year end which materially affect the results reflected in this financial report.

40 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Significant variations between estimates and actual results for income and expense as presented in the financial statement titled 'Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations and Income Estimates' are shown below.

Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10%.

(a) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2006 - Total appropriation to deliver services

	Actual \$'000	Estimate \$'000	Variance \$'000
Services			
Development and promotion of the State's Aquaculture Industry	8,053	6,948	1 105
A different method of allocating patrol vessel costs was used in calculating targets. This resulted in the costs being underestimated.			
Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat	5,105	4,466	639
The increased costs relate to the significant increased activity associated with compliance and education in marine parks.			

(b) Significant variances between actuals for 2005 and 2006 - Total appropriation to deliver services

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000	Variance \$'000
Services			
Management of the State's Commercial Fisheries	31,661	26,923	4,738
The increase has been caused by direct expenditure on the Integrated Fisheries Management initiative and fisheries adjustment buybacks. Also as the largest program it reflects the bulk of the increases relating to distributed costs such as depreciation and capital user charge.			
Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries	12,962	15,031	(2,069)
The decrease in 2005-06 has resulted from a reduction in the activity level delivered in this service area, the cessation of funding for one off fishing clinics and also a significant reduction in the capital user charge allocated to this output.			
Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat	5,105	3,935	1,170
The increase in costs relate to the significant increase in activity associated with compliance and education in marine parks.			

(c) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2006 - Capital Contribution

	Actual \$'000	Estimate \$'000	Variance \$'000
No variance between estimate and actual for Capital Contribution for 2006			

(d) Significant variances between actuals for 2005 and 2006 - Capital Contribution

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000	Variance \$'000
Capital Contribution	262	5,000	(4,738)
The appropriation each year is consistent with and will vary according to the approved Capital Works programme.			

(e) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2006 - Capital Expenditure

	Actual \$'000	Estimate \$'000	Variance \$'000
	5,721	7,460	1,739

Capital projects uncompleted included the Abrolhos Islands Research Institute, Fremantle operations Centre and Information technology projects.

41 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

Financial instruments held by the Department are cash and cash equivalents, finance leases, Treasurer's advances and receivables and payables. The Department has limited exposure to financial risks. The Department's overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below

Credit Risk

The Department trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. The Department has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the Department's exposure to bad debts is minimal. There are no significant concentrations of credit risk.

Liquidity Risk

The Department has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including drawdowns of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

Cash flow Interest Rate Risk

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) Financial Instrument disclosures

Financial Instrument information for the year ended 2005 has been prepared under the previous AGAAP Australian Accounting Standard AAS33 'Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Instruments'. Financial instrument information from 1 July 2005 has been prepared under AASB 132 'Financial Instruments: Presentation' and AASB 139 'Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement'. See also note 3 (q) 'Comparative Figures'.

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Assets		
Cash Resources	5,933	12,522
Accounts receivable - General	1,288	713
Amounts Receivable for Services	6,766	5,198
Total Financial Assets	13,987	18,433
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	2,008	1,237
Accrued salaries	469	0
Employee entitlements	7,085	6,640
Lease liabilities	1,186	1,353
Total Financial Liabilities	10,748	9,230
Net Financial Assets	3,239	9,203
RECONCILIATION OF NET FINANCIAL ASSETS TO NET ASSETS		
Net financial assets/(liabilities)	3,239	9,203
Non-financial assets and liabilities:		
Land	3,320	7,541
Buildings	20,460	2,590
Plant, equipment and other	18,481	33,399
Other assets - prepayments and deferred expenses	249	255
Other liabilities	(119)	(44)
Net assets per Statement of Financial Position	45,630	52,944

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41 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont)

Interest Rate Risk

The following table details the Department's exposure to interest rate risk as at the reporting date

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Variable interest rate \$000	Fixed Interest Rate to Maturity			Non- Interest Bearing \$000	Total \$000
			Less than 1 year \$000	1-5 years \$000	More than 5 years \$000		
2006							
Financial Assets							
Cash Assets	5.46%	5,203					5,203
Restricted cash assets	5.46%					730	730
Receivables	0.00%					1,288	1,288
Amounts Receivable for Services						6,766	6,766
		<u>5,203</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,784</u>	<u>13,987</u>
Financial Liabilities							
Payables	0.00%					2,008	2,008
Finance lease liabilities	7.66%		180	877	129		1,186
		<u>0</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>877</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>2,008</u>	<u>3,194</u>
2005							
Financial Assets							18,433
Financial Liabilities							<u>2,590</u>

Fair Values

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

42 REMUNERATION OF SENIOR OFFICERS

Remuneration

The number of senior officers, whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation and other benefits received or due and receivable, for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
\$110,001 - 120,000	1	0
\$120,001 - 130,000	0	0
\$130,001 - 140,000	1	2
\$140,001 - 210,000	0	0
\$210,000 - 220,000	1	1
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of senior officers	<u>465</u>	<u>472</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

43 REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR

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

Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	<u>78</u>	<u>72</u>
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44 RELATED BODIES

The Department had no related bodies as defined in the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 and Treasurer's Instruction 951.

45 AFFILIATED BODIES

The Department had no affiliated bodies as defined in Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 and Treasurer's Instruction 951.

46 SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Write-Offs

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

The Accountable Officer	0	1
The Minister	5	0
	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>

During the financial year \$2,000 was written off the Department's asset register under the authority of:

The Accountable Officer	3	55
LESS: Recovered by Insurance	(1)	(8)
	<u>2</u>	<u>47</u>

Act of Grace Payments

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

The Minister	45	131
	<u>45</u>	<u>131</u>

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47 RECONCILIATIONS EXPLAINING THE TRANSITION TO AUSTRALIAN EQUIVALENTS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (AIFRS)

RECONCILIATION OF EQUITY AT THE DATE OF TRANSITION TO AIFRS: 1 JULY 2004

Note		Previous GAAP 1 July 2004 \$000	Reclassification, Depreciation AASB5 43.1a \$000	Write- Down AASB5 43.1a \$000	Adjustments Restoration Costs AASB116 43.2a \$000	AASB138 43.3a \$000	AASB101 43.4a \$000	Total Adjust- ments \$000	AIFRS 1-Jul-2004 \$000
	ASSETS								
	CURRENT ASSETS								
(1)	Cash and cash equivalents	10,891						0	10,891
	Restricted Cash and cash equivalents	1,631						0	1,631
	Receivables	713						0	713
(2)	Amounts Receivable for Services	1,328						0	1,328
	Prepayments	255						0	255
(3)	Non Current Assets classified as held for sale	0	0					0	0
	Total Current Assets	14,818	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,818
	NON CURRENT ASSETS								
	Amounts Receivable for Services	3,870						0	3,870
	Property, plant and equipment and vehicles	43,530						0	43,530
	Total Non Current Assets	47,400	0	0	0	0	0	0	47,400
	TOTAL ASSETS	62,218	0	0	0	0	0	0	62,218
	LIABILITIES								
	CURRENT LIABILITIES								
	Payables	1,237						0	1,237
(4)	Other Borrowings	167						0	167
	Provisions	4,492					543	543	5,035
(5)	Other Liabilities	44						0	44
	Total Non-Current Liabilities	5,940	0	0	0	0	543	543	6,483
	NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES								
(4)	Other Borrowings	1,186						0	1,186
	Provisions	2,148					(543)	(543)	1,605
	Total Non-Current Liabilities	3,334	0	0	0	0	(543)	(543)	2,791
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	9,274	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,274
	Net Assets	52,944	0	0	0	0	0	0	52,944
	EQUITY								
	Contributed equity	23,145							23,145
	Reserves	11,092							11,092
	Accumulated surplus	18,707							18,707
(3)	Amounts recognised directly in equity relating to non current assets classified as held for sale								
	Total Equity	52,944	0	0	0	0	0	0	52,944

(1) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Cash Assets' (AIFRS 'Cash and Cash Equivalents')

(2) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Amounts receivable for outputs' (AIFRS 'Amounts receivable for services')

(3) New AIFRS category

(4) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Interest-bearing liabilities' (AIFRS 'Borrowings')

(5) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Other liabilities' (AIFRS 'Other current liabilities')

RECONCILIATION OF EQUITY AT THE END OF THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD UNDER AGAAP: 30 JUNE 2005

Note	GAAP 30 June 2005 \$000	Reclassification Depreciation AASB5 43.1b \$000	Write- Down AASB5 43.1b \$000	Adjustments Restoration Costs AASB116 43.2b \$000	AASB138 43.3b \$000	AASB101 43.4b \$000	Total Adjust- ments \$000	AIFRS 30-Jun- 2005 \$000
ASSETS								
CURRENT ASSETS								
(1)	Cash and cash equivalents	5,203					0	5,203
	Restricted Cash and cash equivalents	730					0	730
	Receivables	1,288					0	1,288
(2)	Amounts Receivable for Services	2,841					0	2,841
	Prepayments	249					0	249
(3)	Non Current Assets classified as held for sale	0					0	0
	Total Current Assets	10,311	0	0	0	0	0	10,311
NON CURRENT ASSETS								
(2)	Amounts Receivable for Services	3,925						3,925
	Property, plant and equipment and vehicles	42,261						42,261
	Total Non Current Assets	46,186	0	0	0	0	0	46,186
	TOTAL ASSETS	56,497	0	0	0	0	0	56,497
LIABILITIES								
CURRENT LIABILITIES								
	Payables	2,008					0	2,008
(4)	Other Borrowings	180					0	180
	Provisions	5,042				460	460	5,502
(5)	Other Liabilities	588					0	588
	Total Non-Current Liabilities	7,818	0	0	0	460	460	8,278
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES								
(4)	Other Borrowings	1,006					0	1,006
	Provisions	2,043				(460)	(460)	1,583
	Total Non-Current Liabilities	3,049	0	0	0	(460)	(460)	2,589
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	10,867	0	0	0	0	0	10,867
	Net Assets	45,630	0	0	0	0	0	45,630
EQUITY								
	Contributed equity	23,407					0	23,407
	Reserves	7,026					0	7,026
	Accumulated surplus	15,197					0	15,197
(3)	Amounts recognised directly in equity relating to non current assets classified as held for sale	0					460	460
	Total Equity	45,630	0	0	0	0	460	46,090

The transition to AIFRS includes adjustments for the transition AIFRS as at 1 July 2004 plus adjustments for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005.

(1) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Cash Assets' (AIFRS 'Cash and Cash Equivalents')

(2) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Amounts receivable for outputs' (AIFRS 'Amounts receivable for services')

(3) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Other Assets' (AIFRS 'Other non-current assets')

(4) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Interest-bearing liabilities' (AIFRS 'Borrowings')

(5) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Other liabilities' (AIFRS 'Other current liabilities')

(6) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Other liabilities' (AIFRS 'Other non-current liabilities')

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RECONCILIATION OF INCOME STATEMENT (PROFIT OR LOSS) FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

Note	Previous GAAP 30- Jun-06	AASB5 43.1c \$000	Net Gains on Disposal AASB116 43.5 \$000	Restoration Costs		AASB138 43.2b \$000	AASB137 43.3c \$000	AASB119 43.4c \$000	AASB137 \$000	AIFRS 30 Jun 2005 \$000	Total \$000
				AASB116 43.2b \$000	AASB138 43.3c \$000						
COST OF SERVICES											
Expenses											
(1)	Employee benefits expenses	28,595						(666)		(666)	27,929
(2)	Supplies and services	14,255								0	14,255
	Depreciation and amortisation expense	1,838								0	1,838
	Finance costs expense	114								0	114
	Accommodation expenses	1,564								0	1,564
	Grants and subsidies	4,150								0	4,150
	Capital User Charge	3,781								0	3,781
	Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	320								0	320
(4)	Loss on Disposal of non-current assets	430	(325)							(325)	105
(5)	Other Expenses	0						666		666	666
	Total Cost of Services	55,047	0	(325)	0	0	0	0	0	(325)	54,722
Income											
Revenue											
	User charges and fees	23,752								0	23,752
	Grants and contributions	3,725								0	3,725
(6)	Other revenues from ordinary activities	891								0	891
Gains											
(4)	Gain on disposal of non-current assets ©	325	(325)							(325)	0
	Total Income other than income from State Govt	28,693	0	(325)	0	0	0	0	0	0	28,368
	NET COST OF SERVICES	26,354	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26,354
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT											
	Service Appropriations	23,869								0	23,869
	Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	427								0	427
	Resources received free of charge	408								0	408
	Total Income from State Government	24,704	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24,704
(7)	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD	(1,650)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,650)

(1) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Employee expenses' (AIFRS 'Employee benefits expense')

(2) Supplies and services (AGAAP \$14,255 at 30 June 2005) now includes Administration expenses (AGAAP \$3,708 at 30 June 2005)

(3) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Borrowing costs expense' (AIFRS 'Finance costs')

(4) Disposals are treated on the net basis under AIFRS

(5) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Other expenses from ordinary activities' (AIFRS 'Other expenses')

(6) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Other revenues from ordinary activities' (AIFRS 'Other revenue')

(7) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Change in net assets' (AIFRS 'Surplus/(deficit)')

48 RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	GAAP 30 June 2005 \$000	Adjustments AASB 119 43.4d \$000	Total \$000	AIFRS 30 June 2005 \$000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT				
Service Appropriation	21,103	0	0	21,103
Capital Contributions	8,950	0	0	8,950
Holding account drawdowns	1,282	0	0	1,282
Net cash provided by State Government	31,335	0	0	31,335
Utilised as follows:				
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Payments				
(1) Employee benefits	(27,932)	666	666	(27,266)
Supplies and Services	(13,693)	0	0	(13,693)
(2) Finance Costs	(114)	0	0	(114)
Accommodation	(1,564)	0	0	(1,564)
Grants and subsidies	(4,150)	0	0	(4,150)
Capital User Charge	(3,781)	0	0	(3,781)
GST Payments on purchases	(3,393)	0	0	(3,393)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	(320)	0	0	(320)
Other Payments	0	(666)	(666)	(666)
Receipts				
User charges and fees	23,752	0	0	23,752
Grants and contributions	3,702	0	0	3,702
Interest Received	891	0	0	891
GST Receipts on sales	598	0	0	598
GST Receipts from taxation authority	2,982	0	0	2,982
Net cash used in operating activities (b)	(23,022)	0	0	(23,022)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchases of non-current physical assets	(14,604)	0	0	(14,604)
Proceeds from the sale of non-current physical assets	325	0	0	325
Net cash used in investing activities	(14,279)	0	0	(14,279)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Repayment of Principal - Leases	(156)	0	0	(156)
Net cash provided used in financing activities	(156)	0	0	(156)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(6,122)	0	0	(6,122)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	18,644	0	0	18,644
Cash Assets at the end of the financial year	12,522	0	0	12,522

(1) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Employee costs' (IFRS 'Employee benefits')

(2) Equivalent AGAAP line item 'Borrowing costs expense' (IFRS 'Finance costs')

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NOTES TO THE RECONCILIATIONS

Note 48.1 Non-Current Assets held for Sale (AASB 5)

AASB 5 requires non-current assets available for sale to be disclosed as a separate class of asset on the balance sheet. Assets classified as non-current assets classified as held for sale are not depreciated and are measured at the lower of carrying amount (prior to reclassification) and fair value less selling costs. The Department has no identified items of plant, equipment and vehicles that are required to be classified as non-current assets classified as held for sale

Note 48.2 Restoration costs (AASB 116)

Where the construction or commissioning of an asset results in an obligation (ie, a provision is recognised under AASB 137) for the entity to dismantle or remove the asset and restore the site the costs are termed restoration or decommissioning costs and AASB116 requires that the initial estimate of such costs are included in the cost of the asset and depreciated over the useful life of that asset.

The Department has no provision for restoration costs at 30 June 2005.

Note 48.3 Intangible assets (AASB 138)

AASB 138 requires that software not integral to the operation of a computer must be disclosed as intangible assets. Intangible assets must be disclosed on the balance sheet. All software has previously been expensed in the year of purchase.

AASB 138 requires that all research costs must be expensed and imposes stricter recognition for the capitalisation of development costs. As a consequence, deferred research and development costs previously capitalised (under other assets) must be derecognised.

Note 48.4 Employee benefits (AASB 119 and AASB 101)

AASB 101 requires that a liability must be classified as current where the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months beyond the reporting date.

Consequently, all annual leave and long service leave entitlements (unconditional long service leave) must now be classified as current. Non-vested long service leave liability will be non-current to the extent that it does not become unconditional within 12 months from reporting date.

Employment on-costs are not included in employee benefits under AGAAP or AIFRS. However, under AGAAP employee benefits and on-costs are disclosed together on the face of the Income Statement as Employee costs. Under AIFRS employee benefits is the equivalent item disclosed on the face. On-costs have been rtransferred to other expenses.

48.4a Adjustments to opening Balance Sheet (1July 2004)

All unconditional long service leave previously reported as non-current liability has been reclassified to current liability (\$543,329).

48.4b Adjustments to 30 June 2005 Balance Sheet

All unconditional long service leave previously reported as non-current liability has been reclassified to current liability (\$460,498)

48.4c Adjustments to the Income Statement for the period ended 30 June 2005

Employment on-costs expense has been reclassified from employee benefits expense to other expense (\$665,828).

48.4d Adjustments to the Cash Flow Statement for the period ended 30 June 2005

Employment on-costs payments have been reclassified from employee benefits payments to other payments (\$665,828).

Note 48.5 Net gain on disposal of non-current assets (AASB 116)

Under AGAAP the disposal of non-current assets is disclosed on the gross basis. That is, the proceeds of disposal are revenue and the carrying amounts of assets disposed of are expenses. The disposal of non-current assets is disclosed on the net basis (gains or losses) under AIFRS.

The carrying amounts of assets disposed of was previously recognised as expense. This has been derecognised (\$430,000).

The proceeds of disposal of non-current assets was previously recognised as income. This has been derecognised (\$325,000).

A loss on the disposal of non-current assets of \$105,000 has been recognised as an expense.

Note 48.6 Unwinding of discounts on provisions (AASB 137)

AASB 137 requires the unwinding of discounting to be disclosed as a finance cost (employee benefit provisions excluded).

Adjustments to the Income Statement for the period ended 30 June 2005

The movement in provisions due to the unwinding of discounting has been reclassified from other expenses to finance costs (\$77,000). Refer to Note 33.

Note 48.7. Extraordinary items (AASB 101)

AASB 101 does not permit the disclosure of extraordinary items.

Adjustments to the Income Statement for the period ended 30 June 2005

There were no extraordinary items to reclassify.

Note 48.8. Error (AASB 108)

Initial recognition of assets not previously recognised were treated as revenue under the previous AGAAP. Under AASB 108 such recognition is treated as an error. Errors are accounted for by adjustment to the opening balance of the earliest prior period presented in the financial statements.

48.8a Adjustments to opening Balance Sheet (1 July 2004)

There are no adjustments against accumulated surplus for assets not previously recognised.

48.8b Adjustments to the Income Statement for the period ended 30 June 2005

There are not adjustments to the Income Statement for assets not previously recognised.

Trust Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

49 FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

2005 \$'000		\$'000	2006 \$'000
16,647	Opening balance - 1 July		10,688
	Receipts		
24,108	Contribution from Consolidated Fund	15,268	
15,297	Fisheries Access Fees	15,416	
3,500	Development and Better Interests	3,500	
967	Application Fees	936	
845	Interest	507	
180	Contributions to Projects	(10)	
0	Insurance Recoups	1	
572	Grants	752	
13	Recoups of Expenditure	1	
160	Recoup for Services Provided	331	
10	Sale of Publications and Retail Goods	0	
2	Sale of Confiscated Fish and Equipment	48	
346	Sale of Assets	550	
3	Recovery of Legal Costs	4	
0	Aquaculture Development Fund	0	
230	Other Sundry Revenue	339	
758	Contribution from Salaries Suspense	0	37,643
63,638			48,331
	Payments		
52,950	Contribution to Fisheries WA operations	43,021	
0	Contribution to Salaries Suspense	102	43,123
52,950			43,123
<u>10,688</u>	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		<u>5,208</u>

The Fisheries Research and Development Fund, which was established under the Fisheries Act 1905 (repealed) was continued under the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA 1994). The purpose of the Fund is to hold funds in accordance with section 238 of the FRMA 1994 which may be used and applied by the Minister in such manner and in such proportion as the Minister thinks fit for all or any of the purposes prescribed by section 238(5) of the FRMA 1994 and sections 37(3), 41 and 55(4) and (5) of the Pearling Act 1990. The bulk of Department of Fisheries revenues and the expenditures relating to the Commercial, Fish and Fish Habitat Protection, Pearling and Aquaculture services are transacted through this Fund.

Trust Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments

50 AFMA FUND

2005		2006
\$'000		\$'000
72	Opening balance - 1 July	172
	Receipts	
1,439	Funds received from AFMA	1,010
0	Interest	21
44	Other	1,031
<u>1,555</u>		<u>1,203</u>
	Payments	
<u>1,383</u>	Expenditure on AFMA related activities	<u>1,173</u>
1,383		1,173
<u>172</u>	Balance 30 June held by Treasury	<u>30</u>

The AFMA Fund is established under the FRMA 1994. The Fund is used for transactions relating to the services provided by Department of Fisheries to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. The purpose of the Fund 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.

51 RECREATIONAL FISHING FUND

2005		2006
\$'000		\$'000
10	Opening balance - 1 July	12
	Receipts	
8,711	Contribution from Consolidated Fund	10,901
2,367	Recreational Fishing Licences	2,380
1	Sale of Confiscated Equipment	0
4	Court Costs Recovered	6
9	Other Revenue	41
<u>11,102</u>		<u>13,328</u>
	Payments	
<u>11,090</u>	Expenditure on recreational fishing related activities	<u>13,329</u>
11,090		13,329
<u>12</u>	Balance 30 June held by Treasury	<u>11</u>

The Recreational Fishing Fund 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 Fund and revenue from recreational fishing licences. The funds are applied toward the Department of Fisheries Recreational Fishing service.

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52 FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FUND

2005		2006
\$'000		\$'000
(74)	Opening balance - 1 July	573
	Receipts	
3,153	Contributions from FRDC	2,504
46	Interest	59
0	Other	76
<u>3,125</u>		<u>2,639</u>
	Payments	
2,552	Expenditure on Fisheries WA research related activities	2,833
<u>2,552</u>		<u>2,833</u>
<u>573</u>	Balance 30 June held by Treasury	<u>379</u>

The purpose of this Fund 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 fund to a limit of \$300K.

53 FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEMES TRUST ACCOUNT

2005		2006
\$'000		\$'000
1,213	Opening balance - 1 July	1,058
	Receipts	
0	Contributions from participants in Prawn fisheries adjustment schemes	0
0	Specific State contributions to fisheries adjustment	0
<u>1,213</u>		<u>1,058</u>
	Payments	
1	Administration	1
154	Unit buy back State Scheme	808
0	Loan repayments	0
<u>155</u>		<u>809</u>
<u>1,058</u>	Balance 30 June held by Treasury	<u>249</u>

The purpose of this account is to hold funds in accordance with section 5 of the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987 which shall be applied by the Minister for the purposes prescribed by section 6 of that Act.

54 FISHERIES PRIVATE MONEYS TRUST ACCOUNT

2005 \$'000		\$'000	2006 \$'000
53	Opening balance - 1 July		59
	Receipts		
6	Proceeds from the sale of seized fish	0	0
59			59
	Payments		
	Monies Repaid	12	12
59	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		47

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.

55 FISH FARM BOND DEPOSITS TRUST ACCOUNT

2005 \$'000		\$'000	2006 \$'000
24	Opening balance - 1 July		24
	Receipts		
0	Deposits received	0	0
24	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		24

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.

56 CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

2005 \$'000		\$'000	2006 \$'000
18	Opening Balance		0
	Receipts		
99	Reimbursements	290	290
117			290
	Payments		
50	Salaries	57	
10	Travel & Accommodation	13	
3	Administration	7	
54	Oncosts	63	140
117			140
0	Balance 30 June		150

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

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Financial Overview for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

Summary

The following is a summary of the financial performance and financial position of the Department for the year ended 30 June 2006:

The Department's net cost of services has increased by 14.2% (\$30.1m:2006, \$26.4m:2005). Operating revenue decreased by 2.8% (\$27.6m:2006, \$28.4m:2005), and operating expenses increased by 5.5% (\$57.8m:2006, \$54.7m:2005). The variance in the net cost of services is due to increased activity associated with marine parks and with the introduction of the Integrated Fisheries Management initiative, as well as an increase in Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buybacks.

Financial information for a number of years through to the current period is presented in the assessment of financial trends. The analysis is based on the information provided in the Department's audited Income Statement and Balance Sheet.

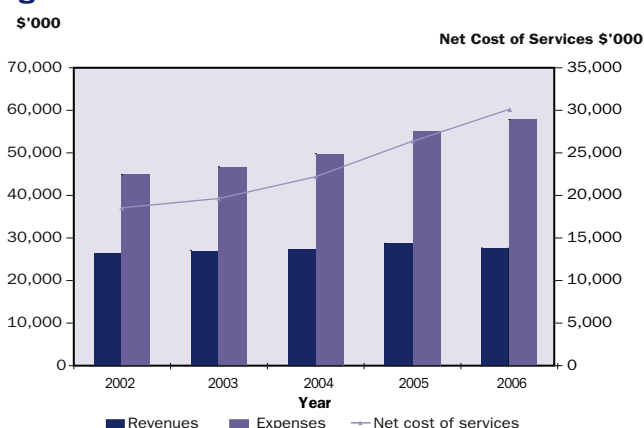
Income Statement

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

The Department's net cost of services has increased by 14.2% (\$30.1m:2006, \$26.4m:2005) due to increased activity associated with marine parks and with the introduction of the Integrated Fisheries Management initiative, as well as an increase in Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buybacks.

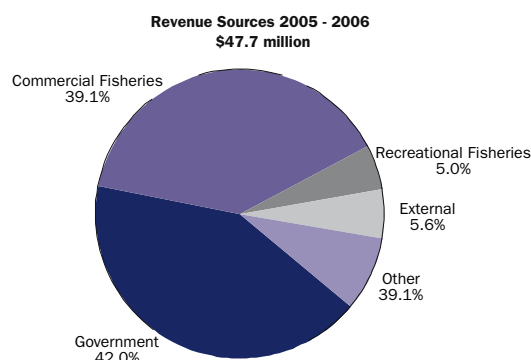
The trend in the Department's net cost of services since 2001-2002 is depicted in Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Net Cost of Services.



The majority of the Department's activity is funded from sources other than the State Government as depicted in Figure 2.

Figure 2 – Revenue Sources.

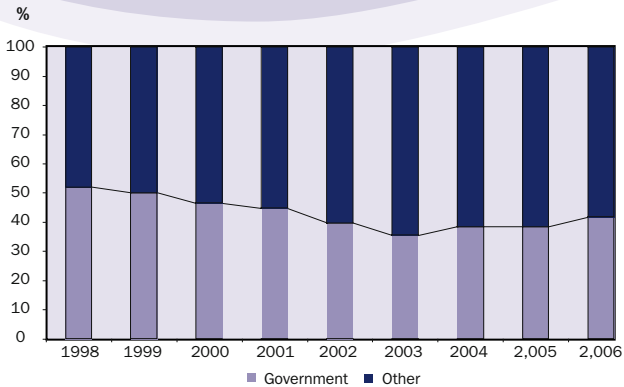


Total revenue has increased by 2.2% between 2005 and the current financial year (\$54.3m:2005, \$53.1m:2005).

The reduction in the reliance on government funding is also demonstrated through the government funding ratio. This indicator shows the extent to which the Department is funded by the State. The government funding ratio has decreased from 60.5% to 41.7% since 1996-1997.

Figure 3 shows this trend with the most recent years reflecting that full cost recovery from part of the commercial sector was achieved in 2001-2002. The increase in 2005-2006 results from increased capital related expenses as the asset base grows.

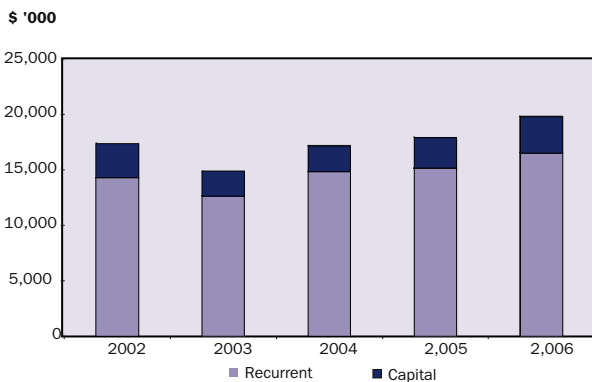
Figure 3 – Proportion of total funding.



The total State Government funding has increased in 2005-2006 as a result of increased activity in Marine Parks and introduction of an Integrated Fisheries Management initiative. Capital funding varies according to the scheduled capital works program.

Figure 4 shows the changes in government funding over the last 5 years. Appropriations for Capital User Charge and Superannuation have been excluded for the purpose of comparison

Figure 4 – Government Funding.



Revenues from other sources are received from the commercial fishing industry through access fees under the cost recovery arrangement and external funding for research and management of the Australian Fishing Zone from the Commonwealth Government. The amount of revenue received from independent sources has decreased by 2.8% (\$27.7m:2006, \$28.7m:2005). The categories of user fees and charges which comprise these non State Government funding sources are displayed in Figure 5.

Figure 5 – User Fees, Charges and Grants.

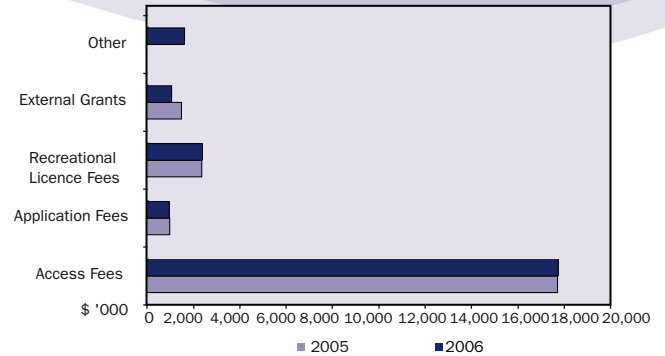
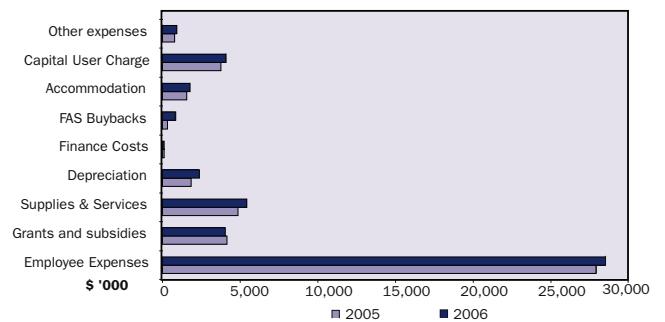


Figure 6 shows the total expenditure by type for the 2005-2006 financial year against comparative figures for the 2004-2005 financial year.

Figure 6 – Total expenses by Type.

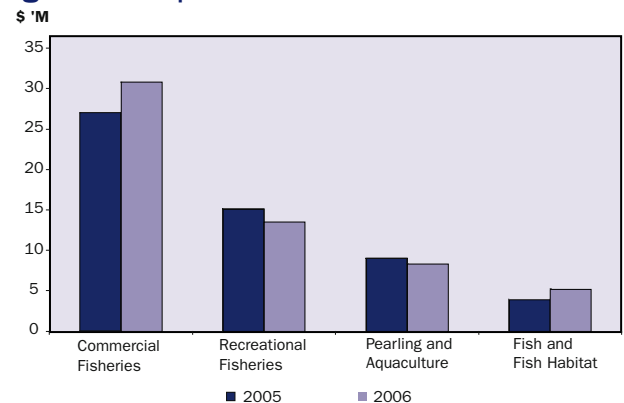


The Department has four outputs:

- Management of the State's Commercial Fisheries;
- Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries;
- Development and promotion of the State's Aquaculture Industry; and
- Management and conservation of fish and fish habitat.

Figure 7 shows the level of expenditure by output, against comparative figures for the 2004-2005 financial year.

Figure 7 – Outputs - Total Cost of Services.



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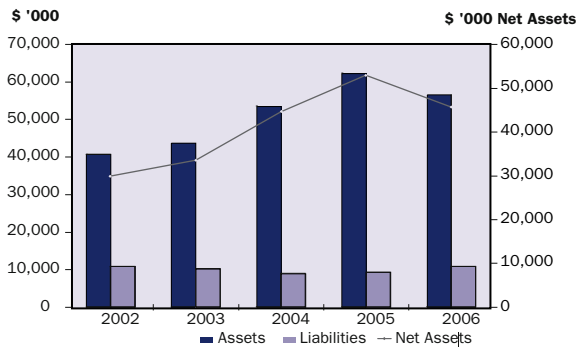
Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet provides information on the Department's assets and liabilities which is useful in assessing and analysing over time, the management of resources.

The net assets of the Department represent the residual interest in the assets after deducting liabilities. This position has eased back during the financial year by 13.8% (\$45.6m:2006, \$52.9m:2005) due to a decrease in reported cash balances, as well as a significant devaluation of two properties after review of their classification as "C" Class Reserves.

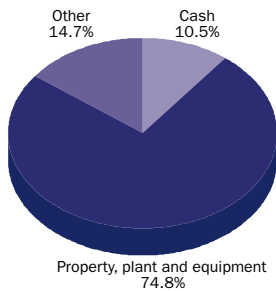
Figure 8 provides an overview of the asset and liability position of the Department for the past 5 years.

Figure 8 – Financial Position.



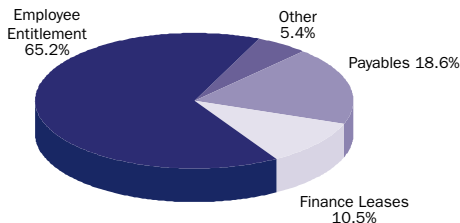
The Department's asset holdings comprise mainly of property, plant and equipment and cash as illustrated in Figure 9.

Figure 9 – Asset Categories.



The liabilities of the Department are comprised mainly of employee entitlements, a finance lease on a patrol vessel and payables. The composition of liabilities is depicted in Figure 10.

Figure 10 – Liability Categories.



Employee entitlements consist of annual and long service leave. The Department has faced increasing staffing levels as well as

increased salary rates since 1999-2000. The liability for employee entitlements has increased by 6.7% during the 2005-2006 financial year, while staffing levels have increased by 1.4%. The Department will continue to pursue strategies to reduce its leave liability.

Figure 11 – Employee Entitlements.

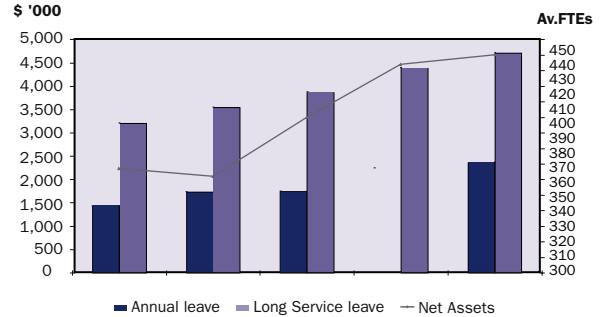
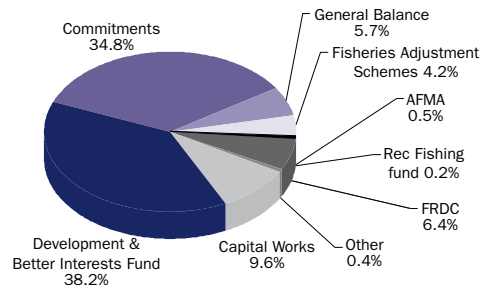


Figure 12 shows the composition of the amounts appearing as cash assets. Commitments mainly for cost recovery adjustments account for 34.8% of this balance, while other commitments (including DBIF) account for a further 38.2%.

Figure 12 – Bank Account Composition.



PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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Performance Indicators

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Certification of Performance Indicators

Treasurer's Instruction 905

Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985

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 2006.



Peter P Rogers

Chief Executive Officer

17 July 2006

Performance Indicators 2005/06 for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

Outcome

The desired 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

1.1 The proportion of fish stocks identified as being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation

Annual stock assessments for significant fisheries subject to management are undertaken by the Department's Fisheries Research Division. These assessments, together with trends in catch and fishing activity, have been used to determine the sustainability status of the State's most significant commercial fisheries (full details of which are in the companion *State of the Fisheries Report*). Performance is measured as the proportion of fisheries (for which data are available) for which the breeding stocks of the major target or indicator species are being maintained at levels sufficient to ensure catches are sustained at maximum yields given normal environmental variations.

For the 2005/06 performance review, 35 fisheries have been utilised. This is the same number as in 2004/05.

For the 35 fisheries reviewed, Appendix 5 records that breeding stock assessments are now available for the major species taken in 33 (94 per cent) of these fisheries. For the remainder, insufficient data were available on the individual target species to make a critical assessment, but the catch histories of these fisheries suggest that most of the stocks being harvested are relatively stable. In situations where these stocks have the potential to become over-fished, they are given priority for new research and management.

Within the group of 33 assessed fisheries, 29 (88 per cent) involve stocks that have adequate breeding stock levels, which is the same level as 2004/05 (Figure 1). The four fisheries with inadequate or uncertain breeding stocks are the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery (oceanic), the Northern Shark Fishery, the Southern and West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Longline Fishery (southern shark), and the South Coast Crustacean Fishery.

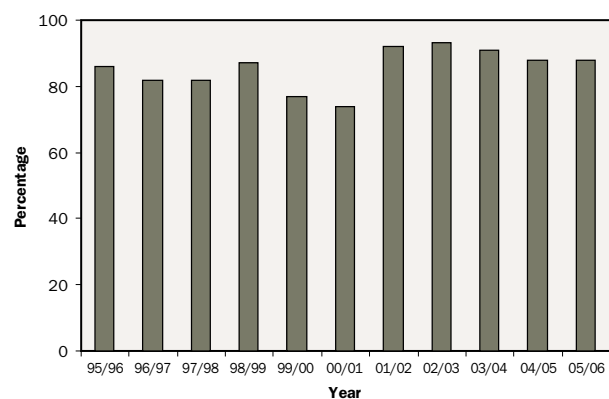
For the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery, a series of low recruitments has resulted in a significant decline in adult biomass during the past few years. Management actions to reduce the catch quota

and restore the spawning biomass to appropriate levels have already been implemented and a further review of management will be undertaken when a revised stock assessment is completed.

For the southern shark fishery, two of the four target species are considered to be over-fished. While the whiskery shark stock has stabilised, the dusky whaler and sandbar stocks are still declining with current levels of fishing, which is being exacerbated by the targeting of larger adult dusky whalers using the longline method. In the Northern Shark Fishery, the substantial increases in effort targeting adult sandbar shark (the key indicator species) will have reduced the breeding stock levels, further compounded by increasing catches of juvenile sandbars in the southern fishery. The management arrangements for all WA shark fisheries, and other fisheries that have an incidental catch of sharks (including one managed by the Commonwealth), have now been reviewed with substantial changes and closures having been implemented, especially in the Northern Shark Fishery.

Finally, the breeding stock status of southern rock lobster fished in the Great Australian Bight, Esperance and Albany areas of the South Coast Crustacean Fishery remains uncertain. The low recruitment to the fishery observed in the last five years may reflect recruitment over-fishing, given that the relationship between the small Western Australian stock and the much larger stocks in South Australia is unclear. Genetic research to attempt to determine the source of recruits for WA southern lobsters has been proposed but is yet to be undertaken.

Figure 1 – The proportion (%) of fisheries where breeding stocks of the major target species are both assessed and adequate to ensure catches are sustained at maximum levels within the range expected under typical environmental conditions.



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

A target catch or effort range has been determined for each of the major commercial fisheries (see Appendix 5) by the Department of Fisheries Research Division. This indicator provides an assessment of the success of the Department's management plans and regulatory activities in keeping fish catches from each of the managed stocks at appropriate levels.

For most of the fisheries in WA, the management plans seek to directly control the amount of fishing effort applied to stocks, with the level of catch taken providing an indication of the effectiveness of the plan. Where the plan is operating effectively, the catch by the fishery should fall within a projected range. The breadth of this range reflects the degree to which normal environmental variations affect the recruitment of juveniles to the stock which cannot be 'controlled' by the management plan.

In the specific case of quota-managed fisheries, the measure of success for the management arrangements is firstly that all (or most) of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is achieved, but additionally, that it has been possible to take this catch using an acceptable amount of fishing effort. If an unusually large expenditure of effort is needed to take the TAC, or the industry fails to achieve the TAC by a significant margin, this may indicate that the abundance of the stock is significantly lower than anticipated when the TAC was set. 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 of the actual catches or effort levels with the target ranges have been provided for 30 of the 35 fisheries referred to in Appendix 5. The fisheries for which there are target ranges account for most of the commercial value of WA's fish catch. Those where ranges are unavailable include the four pilchard fisheries which are still rebuilding following an exotic virus attack and the effort levels to take the current quotas have not yet stabilised.

Of the 30 fisheries where 'target ranges' were available in 2005/06, four were catch-quota managed (through a TAC allocated through individually transferable quotas or ITQs) and 26 were subject to effort control management (including individually transferable effort in more advanced management plans).

For the four TAC/ITQ-managed fisheries, three operated within their target effort ranges or were acceptably below the effort range (Roe's abalone). The Shark Bay Snapper Fishery exceeded the effort range despite the reduced overall quota for the 2005 season. The relatively high level of effort used is consistent with the depleted levels of adult biomass for this stock and a further review of management for this fishery is to be undertaken.

In the 26 effort-controlled fisheries, 21 produced catches that were within or acceptably above (one) or below (three) their target catch ranges.

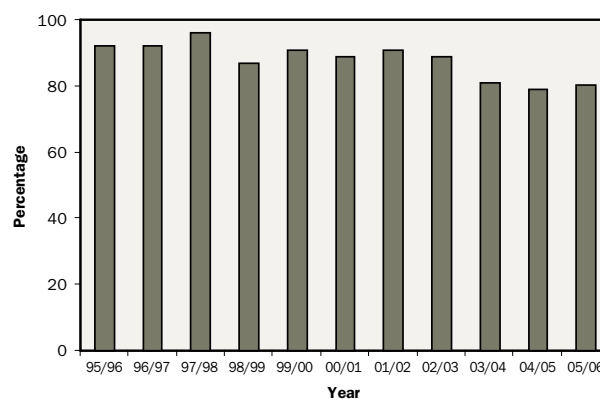
Three fisheries had unacceptably high catches which will require management reviews. One of these was the Northern Shark Fishery (where the Department has recommended a further area of the fishery be closed to reduce effort). The others were Pilbara Trap and Line, where the wetline component is under review, and

the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery, where a management review is also underway.

The two fisheries where the catches were unacceptably low were the South Coast Crustacean and Cockburn Sound Crab Fisheries. Both of these require additional work to determine the causes of these declines.

In summary, 24 (80 per cent) of the 30 fisheries assessed were considered to have met their performance criteria, or were affected by factors outside the purview of the management plan. This is similar to the level seen over the last three years.

Figure 2 - The proportion (%) of fisheries where the catch or effort reported is acceptable relevant to the target management range being applied.



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

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

In the past, fish resources have been 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 adopting an Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) approach where the aggregate effects of all fishing sectors are taken into account. This will see the development of an agreed framework in which decisions on optimum resource use (i.e. allocation and re-allocation of fish resources) can be determined and implemented within a total sustainable catch for each fishery or fished stock. IFM will need to be 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.

Within the above context, this indicator is presented in two parts:

- the percentage of fisheries or fished stocks for which current estimates of catch shares are available; and
- the percentage of those fisheries or fished stocks for which catch sharing allocations are in progress or in place.

In this context, 'fisheries or fished stocks' can either be a managed fishery for a particular species (e.g. western rock lobster) or a spatially managed area of fishing activity encompassing a number of species (e.g. west coast estuaries). A 'current estimate' (of catch) is within the past five years (i.e. since 2000/2001). For recreational fisheries, the accuracy of any catch estimate can be an issue and is often methodology-dependent. For example, a telephone diary survey is more accurate than a mail-recall survey. A 'sharing allocation' is defined as a percentage of a total allowable catch or effort.

For the purposes of this indicator, 22 fisheries or stocks have been identified for which there are both material commercial and recreational catch shares. Over time, the indicator may need to expand to include reference to fisheries or stocks for which there are other sectoral shares (e.g. customary fishing).

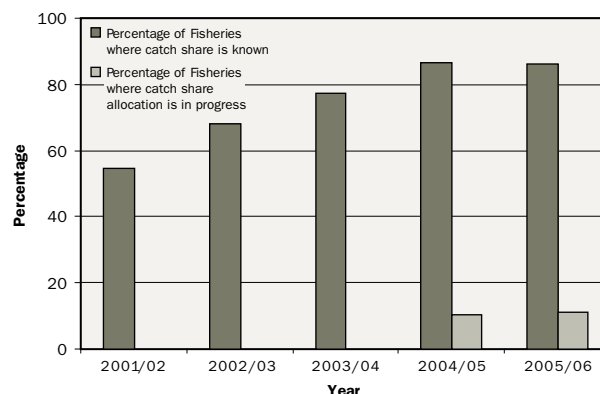
The most recent catch share data used for the first part of the indicator are reported in the Department's *State of the Fisheries Report*. These shares are currently based on commercial catch data and results from recreational surveys undertaken by the Department's Fisheries Research Division. The Department 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 2005/06 has been estimated for 19 of the 22 fisheries (86 per cent). This is the same as 2004/05.

In relation to the second part of the indicator, while there are a small number of fisheries or fished stocks (including Kimberley barramundi and Cockburn Sound crab) where an informal mediated catch share process and/or outcome has been achieved, there are no explicit allocations in place. For fisheries with ongoing and significant commercial and recreational sectors, the IFM initiative will result in explicit allocations and/or re-allocations to specific sectors following a formal and structured allocation process. This formal allocation process is nearing completion for western rock lobster and metropolitan abalone with the determination of the final allocations from this process expected to occur in 2006/07. The IFM process for the West Coast Demersal Finfish Fishery is programmed to begin in 2006/07 and other fisheries will follow, with the proportion of fisheries or fished stocks with formal share allocations expected to increase over time.

This indicator will need to be further developed and refined as allocations and re-allocations progress under the IFM initiative and as the new framework is developed.

Figure 3 – The proportion (%) of fisheries or fished stocks where estimates of catch shares are known and the proportion (%) of fisheries or fished stocks where catch sharing allocations are in progress or in place.



Objective 2

Maximise the Economic Benefit to the State

2.1 The contribution to the State's gross value of output

The sustainable management of WA's fishing industry increases the benefits to the State as a result of significant local sales and export earnings from fish and fish products. The value of production from commercial and pearling/aquaculture sectors at first point of sale in WA is published by ABARE annually, based on data supplied by industry to the Department's Fisheries Research Division. Information for the years 2002/03 to 2004/05 in broad groupings is provided in Table 1.

The value of commercially caught crustaceans in 2004/05 was similar to 2003/04 despite a decline in the tonnage landed. The decline in tonnage was mostly a result of the rock lobster catch during 2004/05 which was forecast based on the juvenile settlement observed three to four years earlier. The catches from the prawn fisheries also declined slightly in 2004/05, as did the landed value of this catch.

There was a significant increase in the production and value of molluscan fisheries in 2004/05. The majority of this was due to the increased catch of scallops which were back to the levels obtained in 2002/03. Such variations in scallop abundance are mainly due to the environmental effects on recruitment (abundance).

The finfish sector continues to be supported by a large number of stocks. Whilst the yearly production in 2004/05 declined to be just under 16,000 tonnes, the value of production remained similar to previous years because the reduced production was of the less valuable species.

The value of pearl production in 2004/05 continued at similar levels to the previous years. Western Australia continues to be the dominant supplier of premium South Sea pearls in the international markets. Aquaculture production in 2004/05 was lower compared to the 2003/04, with reduced levels of mussel and barramundi production.

In summary, WA fisheries production value increased marginally in 2004/05 due primarily to increased returns from the molluscan fisheries. The WA fisheries sector continues to perform reasonably well despite significant external influences on market values, and WA remains the dominant State nationally at approximately 25 per cent of the value of all Australian fish produced.

Table 1 – Western Australian fisheries production – years 2002/03 to 2004/05

	2002/03		2003/04 (e)		2004/05 (f)	
	t	\$ m	t	\$ m	t	\$ m
Crustaceans	16,566	344	18,766	315	17,142	315
Molluscs (a)	7,650	50	4,167	40	7,629	51
Fish	16,226	42	17,301	46	15,640	45
Pearling (b, c)	n/a	124	n/a	122	n/a	122
Aquaculture (d)	1,020	6	1,243	7	975	6
Total Production	41,462	556	41,447	530	41,386	539

Footnotes:

- 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.

Tonnage values are calculated from the Catch and Effort Statistics (CAES) data supplied by fishers on a monthly basis, or quota returns supplied on a daily basis. The market values (except pearls) are obtained from surveys of the main seafood purchasers/processors.

Sources: ABARE; Department of Fisheries, Western Australia

Objective 3

Maximise the social benefit to the State

Information for performance indicators 3.1 to 3.3 was derived from a community survey conducted by the Research Division 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 behaviour.

The survey was conducted by telephone during May 2006. The telephone numbers were randomly selected from the DTMS white pages on CD-ROM. Respondents were males and females older than 17 years residing in Western Australia. The total sample of 701 interviews comprised:

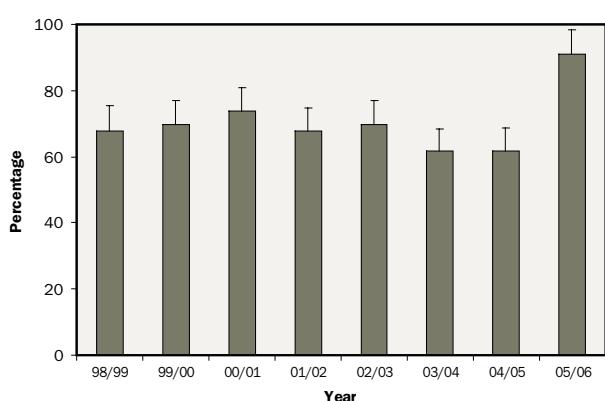
- 422 metropolitan interviews; and
- 279 from regional interviews.

3.1 The participation rate in recreational fisheries

Research conducted by the Recreational Fishing Surveys and Statistics section of the Western Australian Marine Research Laboratories and Asset Research gives the number of people in Western Australia who went recreational fishing at least once in the previous 12 month period as 788 000 individuals or 45.6 percent of the WA population (using ABS population estimates from the 2001 census). The participation rate for recreational fishing in Western Australia was 31.1 percent in 2004/05, 30.8 percent in 2003/2004, 34.6 percent in 2002/2003, 33.8 percent in 2001/2002, 37.1 percent in 2000/2001, 35.4 percent

in 1999/2000, and 34.0 percent in 1998/1999 (Figure 1). The low response rate for this year's survey may have resulted in biased estimates for participation and satisfaction. The survey response rate for 2005/06 was 28 percent, significantly lower than for previous years surveys (41 percent completed interviews 2004/05). Non-response bias occurs where people that respond to the survey have different opinions and activities to those that do not respond. Consequently the opinions of the 72% of people that refused to participate in this year's survey are not determined. The trend in recreational fishing participation will become apparent in future years.

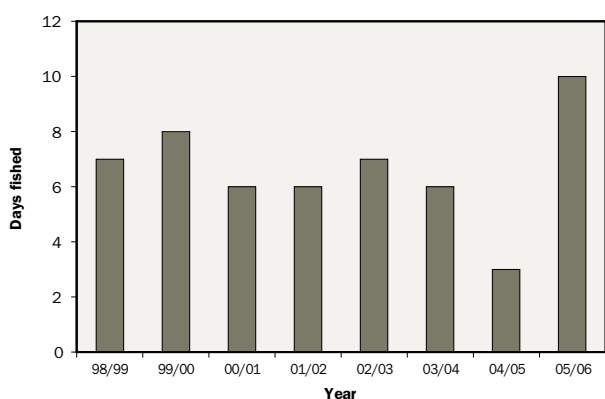
FIGURE 1 – Participation rate in recreational fisheries 1998/1999 – 2005/2006



Days Fished

The median number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last twelve months was 10 days (Figure 2). The median number of days fished in 2005/06 is higher than in previous years and possibly reflects bias due to the low response rate in the survey. The trend in number of days fished will become apparent in future years.

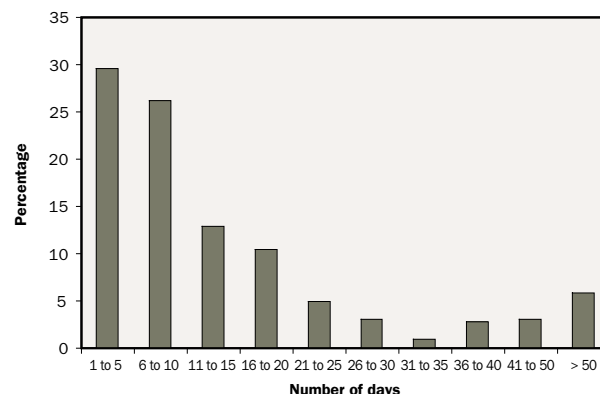
FIGURE 2 – Median number of days fished 1998/1999 – 2005/2006



The number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last twelve months ranges from one to 365 days. The majority of people in Western Australia fished between one and ten days. However, some fished for considerably more than 10 days, giving a skewed frequency distribution (Figure 3). The results are often

biased due to the inability of respondents to accurately recall past fishing trips over a 12-month period.

FIGURE 3 – Distribution for numbers of days fished



The most popular region for recreational fishers was the Perth Metropolitan area from Yanchep to Mandurah (42 percent). Other areas that people fished were the West Coast other than the Perth Metropolitan area (24 percent), South Coast – Marine (15 percent), Gascoyne (11 percent), Pilbara/Kimberley – Marine (7 percent), South Coast – Freshwater (2 percent), and Pilbara/Kimberley – Freshwater (1 percent). The total exceeds 100 percent due to multiple responses.

3.2 The satisfaction rate of those engaged 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, Management and Confidence.

Knowledge = the level of the person's awareness of biology and behaviour of fish and the best way to catch fish.

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

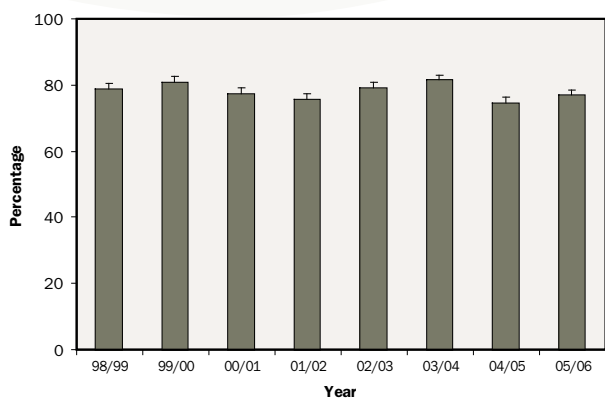
Confidence = the level of the person's satisfaction with the number, size and variety of fish caught on their last trip and satisfaction with the overall fishing trip.

The above three criteria were rated by each respondent on a scale of one to four, and then amalgamated to provide the satisfaction index.

The satisfaction index for recreational fishing was 77.0 percent with a 95 percent confidence interval between 75.6 percent and 78.5 percent. The satisfaction index is not significantly different to the value of 74.6 percent reported by the 2005 Community Survey (Baharthah, 2005).

The satisfaction index was 74.6 percent in 2004/2005, 81.4 percent in 2003/2004, 79.2 percent in 2002/2003, 75.6 percent in 2001/2002, 77.5 percent in 2000/2001, 81.0 percent in 1999/2000 and 78.7 percent in 1998/1999 (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4 – Satisfaction rating of those involved in recreational fishing 1998/1999 – 2005/2006



3.3 The 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 66.1 percent 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 percent confidence interval for the satisfaction rate of the broader community is between 63.0 percent and 69.1 percent. These results are from the 49 percent of respondents from the broader community who knew the Department of Fisheries was responsible for one or more of the four programs.

The satisfaction rate is significantly lower than the value of 83.7 percent for 2004/2005 (Baharthah, 2005) mainly due to a significant increase in “poor” responses in all sectors. This is also lower than the 2005/2006 estimated target figure of 95.5 percent. The low response rate for this year’s survey may have resulted in biased estimates for participation and satisfaction. The survey response rate for 2005/06 was 28 percent, significantly lower than for previous years surveys (41 percent completed interviews 2004/05). Non-response bias occurs where people that respond to the survey have different opinions and activities to those that do not respond. Consequently the opinions of the 72% of people that refused to participate in this year’s survey are not determined. The trend in satisfaction will become apparent in future years. The relevance of this indicator for external reporting purposes is currently being reviewed.

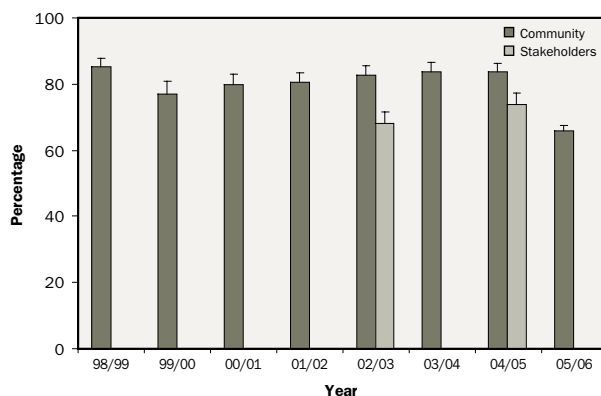
The satisfaction rate of the broader community was 83.7 percent in 2004/05, 83.9 percent in 2003/2004, 82.8 percent in 2002/2003, 80.6 percent in 2001/2002, 80.1 percent in 2000/2001, 77.0 percent in 1999/2000 and 85.3 percent in 1998/1999 (Figure 5).

During 2002 and 2004 an additional survey was conducted to measure the satisfaction of Department of Fisheries’ stakeholders. The 2004 survey comprised 145 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 74.0 percent by Department of Fisheries stakeholders (Baharthah, 2004).

The 95 percent confidence interval for the stakeholder satisfaction rate was between 70.6 percent and 77.3 percent. The satisfaction rate is significantly higher than the value of 68.3 percent from the 2002 stakeholder survey (Baharthah & Sumner, 2003). This was due to an increase in the satisfaction with fish habitat protection.

The satisfaction rating of stakeholders was significantly different to the satisfaction rating of the broader community. The satisfaction rating was 74.0 percent for stakeholders and 66.1 percent for the broader community as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving sustainable fisheries management.

FIGURE 5 – Satisfaction rating of the broader community and department stakeholders 1998/1999 – 2005/2006



4.0 Efficiency indicators

These indicators are calculated by taking the total service cost by functional area and dividing by the hours delivered in each functional area. The measures enable analysis of variance in costs from year to year and provide a benchmark for comparison against like service delivery.

Year to year hourly costs have been impacted by variations in expenditures including those not linked to direct hourly service delivery eg. payment of grants, Fisheries Adjustment Scheme payments. Similarly, in those projects with less hours delivered a variation in non-salary related costs can have a significant impact on the hourly cost of service delivery. The reported hourly cost also includes a component to cover fixed indirect costs. This component will fluctuate in line with activity levels (hours delivered).

Explanations for those variances greater than ten percent have been included within each service.

Outcome:

Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.

Service 1:

Management of the State's Commercial Fisheries

Service Description

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

Efficiency in Service 1 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered within each of the three functional areas as outlined in the following table.

Service 1 Commercial	Actual 2004-05	Target 2005-06	Actual 2005-06	Variance Actual	Variance Target
Cost					
Average Cost per hour for Community Education and Compliance	\$138	\$115	\$155	12%	35%
Average Cost per hour for Management	\$134	\$116	\$144	8%	24%
Average Cost per hour for Research	\$128	\$119	\$128	0%	8%

Explanation of Significant Variances

Community Education and Compliance

Actual 2004-05 against Actual 2005-06

The increase in 2005-06 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered in that year resulting in fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

Target 2005-06 against Actual 2005-06

Target hours are based on all positions being occupied for a full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2005-06 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered in 2005-06 and as a consequence fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours. In addition a different method of allocating patrol vessel costs was used in calculating the targets. This resulted in the costs being understated.

Management

Target 2005-06 against Actual 2005-06

Target hours are set based on all positions being occupied for a full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2005-06 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered in 2005-06 and also a significant increase in payments for fisheries adjustments.

Performance Indicators

Outcome:

Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.

Service 2:

Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries

Service Description:

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

Efficiency in Service 2 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered within each of the three functional areas as outlined in the following table.

Service 2 Recreational Fishing	Actual 2004-05	Target 2005-06	Actual 2005-06	Variance Actual	Variance Target
Cost					
Average Cost per hour for Community Education and Compliance	\$143	\$112	\$123	-14%	10%
Average Cost per hour for Management	\$163	\$130	\$136	-17%	5%
Average Cost per hour for Research	\$125	\$103	\$127	2%	23%

Explanation of Significant Variances

Community Education and Compliance

Actual 2004-05 against Actual 2005-06

The decrease in 2005-06 has resulted in the main from a reduction in the capital user charge allocated to this service.

Management

Actual 2004-05 against Actual 2005-06

The decrease in 2005-06 has resulted in the main from a reduction in the capital user charge allocated to this service.

Research

Target 2005-06 against Actual 2005-06

Target hours are set based on all positions being occupied for a full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2005-06 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered in 2005-06 compared to target and as a consequence fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

Outcome:

Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.

Service 3:

Development and promotion of the State's aquaculture industry

Service Description:

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

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

Service 3 Aquaculture and Pearling	Actual 2004-05	Target 2005-06	Actual 2005-06	Variance Actual	Variance Target
Cost					
Average Cost per hour for Pearling Community Education and Compliance	\$172	\$121	\$188	9%	55%
Average Cost per hour for Aquaculture Community Education and Compliance	\$200	\$129	\$185	-8%	43%
Average Cost per hour for Pearling Management	\$116	\$132	\$132	14%	0%
Average Cost per hour for Aquaculture Management	\$139	\$119	\$119	-14%	0%
Average Cost per hour for Pearling Research	\$130	\$116	\$130	0%	12%
Average Cost per hour for Aquaculture Research	\$127	\$113	\$125	-2%	11%

Pearling

Explanation of Significant Variances
<p>Community Education and Compliance <i>Target 2005-06 against Actual 2005-06</i> A different method of allocating patrol vessel costs was used in calculating the targets. This resulted in the costs being understated.</p>
<p>Management <i>Actual 2004-05 against Actual 2005-06</i> The increase in 2005-06 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered in 2005-06 and as a consequence fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.</p>
<p>Research <i>Target 2005-06 against Actual 2005-06</i> The variation results primarily from a variation in salary level of the staff assigned to this activity.</p>

Aquaculture

Explanation of Significant Variances
<p>Community Education and Compliance <i>Target 2005-06 against Actual 2005-06</i> A different method of allocating patrol vessel costs was used in calculating the targets. This resulted in the costs being understated.</p>
<p>Management <i>Actual 2004-05 against Actual 2005-06</i> The decrease in 2005-06 has resulted from an increase in the hours delivered in 2005-06 and as a consequence fixed non-salary related costs being spread over a greater number of hours.</p>
<p>Research <i>Target 2005-06 against Actual 2005-06</i> Target hours are set based on all positions being occupied for a full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2005-06 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered in 2005-06 compared to target and as a consequence fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.</p>

Who we are and what we do
 Report on operations - Outputs
 Report on operations - Department services
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 Performance Indicators
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Performance Indicators

Outcome:

Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.

Service 4:

Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat

Service Description:

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

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

Service 4 Fish and Fish Habitat Protection	Actual 2004-05	Target 2005-06	Actual 2005-06	Variance Actual	Variance Target
Cost					
Average Cost per hour for Community Education and Compliance	\$134	\$119	\$145	8%	22%
Average Cost per hour for Management	\$146	\$120	\$138	-5%	15%
Average Cost per hour for Research	\$144	\$128	\$148	3%	16%

Explanation of Significant Variances

Community Education and Compliance

Target 2005-06 against Actual 2005-06

The increased costs relate to the significant increased activity associated with compliance and education in marine parks.

Management

Target 2005-06 against Actual 2005-06

The increased costs relate to the significant increased activity associated with the management of marine parks.

Research

Target 2005-06 against Actual 2005-06

Target hours are set based on all positions being occupied for a full year. Staff vacancies or variations in deployment result in variations against targets. The increase in 2005-06 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered in 2005-06 compared to target and as a consequence fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

OBLIGATORY REPORTING

Strategic Planning
Framework

Required
Reporting



Strategic Planning Framework

People and Communities

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's Strategic Planning Framework goal of enhancing the quality of life and wellbeing of all people throughout Western Australia.

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

Ecologically sustainable management of fish resources is essential to ensure they are conserved for their role in the function of ecosystems and for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations. The users of the State's fish resources, whether for commercial, recreational, customary or conservation purposes, need to participate responsibly in their sustainable management.

Examples of work by the Department in 2005/06 that contributed to the Strategic Planning Framework goal of helping people and communities are:

- The Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) initiative to manage Western Australia's fisheries in a sustainable manner and share the overall catch between commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers has made significant progress. Milestones have been reached in the first three fisheries to which the Department of Fisheries is applying its IFM strategy – for western rock lobster, Roe's abalone in the Perth metropolitan area and demersal scalefish on the State's west coast.

The Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC) is finalising recommendations in its allocation report on western rock lobster and has released its draft allocation report on the Perth metropolitan Roe's abalone fishery for public comment. In addition, the end of 2005/06 marks the completion of a 12-month survey of the west coast demersal scalefish fishery, which will be used to provide information to help with the recommendation of catch allocations.

- New regional recreational fishing rules, aimed at protecting coastal fish stocks, were introduced into the southern region and Pilbara/Kimberley region on 1 January 2006. This follows new rules for the west coast and Gascoyne introduced the previous year. Differences in fishing pressure and the variations of abundance of popular fish species from region-to-region have created a clear need to have specific sets of rules for each region. As some fishers were not clear on the

differences between the juveniles of some species and the adults of others, Species Identification Guides, in brochure form and internet web form, were also introduced in each region, with illustrations by world-famous fish illustrator Roger Swainston.

- Hundreds more Western Australian youngsters have learnt how to 'Fish for the Future' at free fishing clinics run by the Department's Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer (VFLO) program, increasing their awareness of WA's fragile marine environment and helping to protect precious fish stocks under an expanded state-wide education program.
- The Department supported the Fishers with Disabilities Association Inc. (FWDAI) in its launch of a specially-designed water craft to help recreational fishers in wheel chairs to fish more easily in the Swan-Canning. The six-metre covered pontoon was designed by VFLO Neville Thomas OAM who has pioneered the development of equipment for fishers with disabilities, built by Challenger TAFE students and will be operated by specially-trained VFLOs on behalf of the FWDAI.
- VFLOs participated in a variety of research activities including abalone research and tailor research at Point Walter and Floreat Drain. The volunteers also carried out a number of patrols and fishing clinics throughout the State.
- The State Government continued aerial shark patrols between Two Rocks and Mandurah over summer to help allay community concerns about swimmer safety.
- Preliminary work and discussions commenced on customary fishing arrangements for the indigenous sector in the Kimberley region.

The Economy

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's Strategic Planning Framework goal of developing a strong economy that delivers more jobs, more opportunities and great wealth to Western Australian by creating the conditions required for investment and growth.

All Western Australians share in the economic benefits of a healthy and sustainable fishery. The fishing industry generates hundreds of millions of dollars into the State economy and provides tens of thousands of jobs, many in regional areas.

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

Western Australia's commercial fisheries, including pearling, were valued at approximately \$533 million in 2004/05. Nearly 540,000 Western Australians participate in recreational fishing every year, spending about \$570 million per year and creating about 7,000 full-time jobs.

The Department 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 2005/06 that contributed to the Strategic Planning Framework goal of developing the State's economy are:

- The Department's on-line international seafood marketing website has proved highly successful, particularly with buyers from the United States, China and Singapore, and experienced over 30,000 hits since its launch 18 months ago. SeafoodWesternAustralia.net enables seafood buyers worldwide to access an easy-to-use database of local suppliers and seafood companies, which can be searched by species and updated by the WA companies listed.
- Investing in our research - the Department of Fisheries' \$16 million 'leading edge' fisheries and marine research laboratory at Hillarys opened in August 2005. This facility also contains a significant public education interface - the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre (NMDC) - which includes an exhibition hall, training and activity areas for school groups and volunteers, along with viewing access to working laboratories and research aquarium areas. The new complex is the first in Australia to combine research laboratories and education facilities to provide direct community access to the scientific basis for the conservation and management of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.
- A \$200,000 funding boost was given to the NMDC to enhance its role as the public face of fisheries research and education in Western Australia. The centre will offer significant education opportunities for WA school students and other visitors through world-class multi-media and interactive experiences when it fully opens in the second half of 2006. The NMDC will become part of a national network of marine discovery centres, which can allow the exchange of ideas, education programs and resources across Australia's states.
- Researchers from the Department have advanced the potential for a multi-million dollar export at Port Gregory based on the humble 'sea monkey' - a tiny brine shrimp with the potential to fetch around \$250 per kilogram as an aquaculture feed. Ironically, the brine shrimp lives in the pink lakes at Hutt Lagoon which produce the natural food colouring beta-carotene and were previously considered a pest by beta-carotene growers. Sea monkeys, or artemia, are a specialty feed used by prawn and fish farmers and the aquarium trade, with most of the world's supply currently coming from the Great Salt Lake in Utah, USA.
- Four review papers were released for public comment that will play a vital part in the future decisions about the management of the State's western rock lobster fishery - the most valuable single species fishery in Australia which

usually represents about 20 per cent of the total annual value of the nation's catch. The papers, two prepared by independent researchers, provided comprehensive assessments of options to keep the western rock lobster fishery both successful and sustainable. The aim of the papers was to help WA's commercial rock lobster fishers assess the relative costs and benefits of three different potential contemporary management scenarios for the fishery.

- A total of 35 individual fisheries (in 28 ESD assessments) have now been assessed for export approval by the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) against Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles. As of 30 June 2006, 27 assessments had been accredited by the DEH. The approvals give the 'green light' for continuing exports from the State's major commercial fisheries.

Environment

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's Strategic Planning Framework goal of ensuring Western Australia has an environment in which resources are managed, developed and used sustainably, biological diversity is preserved and habitats protected.

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 fisheries and aquatic environment into the future, an increasingly sophisticated management framework is needed. The Department has responded to this challenge by adopting ecosystem-based management of Western Australia's fisheries.

Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) is a holistic approach that moves away from the traditional fisheries management focus of simply sustaining fish stocks, towards a more comprehensive method that incorporates the interactions of all resource users in the sustainable management of fish stocks.

Western Australia's pristine aquatic environment is not something that is taken for granted. The Department plays a role in protecting the environment and the fish stocks through sustainable management and the creation of a series of Fish Habitat Protection Areas. It also works with other agencies in the development of marine parks and reserves.

The Department also actively encourages environmental awareness within the office environment. See also the Sustainability, Waste Management and Energy Smart Program reports in the Obligatory Reporting section of this document for examples of its work in this area.

Examples of work by the Department in 2005/06 that contributed to the Strategic Planning Framework goal of ensuring the State's environment is used in a sustainable manner are:

- A major review commenced of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA) - the principal piece of legislation that governs fisheries and aquaculture management in Western Australia. A Ministerial Review Committee will review how well the FRMA currently meets its goals of conserving, developing and sharing the State's fish resources, and protecting fish habitats and aquatic diversity. A series of amendments to the legislation are proposed.

Strategic Planning Framework

- Fishing rules were finalised for sanctuary zones in the Ningaloo Marine Park, home of one of the world's greatest fringing coral reef ecosystems. The new fishing rules complemented the sanctuary zones that fully protect representative examples of the entire 300km of the Ningaloo Reef system, whilst keeping more than 60 per cent of the park open to recreational anglers. Department of Fisheries and Department of Conservation and Land Management (now Department of Environment and Conservation) officers are conducting compliance and education activities in the area to ensure visitors understand and comply with the new arrangements.
- The new Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories which opened in August 2005 at Hillarys incorporates a number of energy saving innovations, such as energy efficient orientation, wide roof eaves for solar control, thermal insulation, a dual-purpose heating system which warms sea water for aquariums as well as the air in the building, "smart lights", energy-efficient air conditioning, use of bore water and the use of drought-resistant, salt-tolerant coastal plant species in its landscaping.
- 28 ESD assessments, encompassing 35 individual fisheries, have now been completed by the Department of Fisheries, with 27 assessments accredited by the Commonwealth's Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH).
- The Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC), formed to investigate fisheries resource allocation issues and make recommendations on optimal resource use to the Minister, is finalising recommendations in its allocation report on western rock lobster and has released its draft allocation report on the Perth metropolitan fishery for Roe's abalone.
- Trials are now underway of the Waste Management Strategy for the Houtman Abrolhos Islands, with new toilet systems and waste disposal methods being implemented during the 2005/06 western rock lobster fishing season. The Department of Fisheries seconded an officer from the Department of Environment to help find a practical solution to the disposal of the domestic waste that is generated on the islands throughout the four-month rock lobster season.

The Regions

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

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

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

Consultation is important within the Department and each of its program areas have established mechanisms for carrying out consultation with regional communities when there are changes proposed to fisheries management in their areas.

Community advice to the Recreational Fisheries Program on policy planning and priorities is provided principally through the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC) and a network of 12 Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees (RRFAC), along with the peak recreational fishing body Recfishwest.

Similarly, with regard to the Department's Commercial Fisheries program, there are numerous fishery Management Advisory Committees (MACs) that provide a local industry contribution into the development and maintenance of fisheries management plans for the major fisheries around the State and strong liaison with the industry peak group, the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.

Regional policy officers and staff are represented on a number of community consultation groups throughout the State, to ensure that any community projects being developed to consider the effect on fisheries management and that community use of fish and marine resources continues responsibly.

Examples of work by the Department in 2005/06 that contributed to the Strategic Planning Framework goal of ensuring that regional Western Australia is strong and vibrant are:

- The new \$2 million Abrolhos Islands Research Institute has been completed and is expected to be officially opened in August 2006. The institute is an integral part of the Government's Separation Point Marine Precinct, designed to create a regional facility for marine research and development excellence.
- New regional recreational fishing rules, aimed at protecting coastal fish stocks, were introduced into the south coast region and Pilbara/Kimberley region on 1 January 2006.
- Work commenced on development of a Kimberley Towards 2005 Plan to provide a framework for decision-making and fisheries and aquatic resource use in the Kimberley over the next 10 years. Development of the plan will include extensive consultation with the local Kimberley community and relevant interest groups.
- Wherever they live, Western Australians interested in fishing recreationally for western rock lobster, abalone or marron or in freshwater angling or net fishing can now apply for a new licence using the Internet. Since mid-December 2005, the Department's on-line recreational licence renewal system has been expanded to include first-time applicants or people whose licences had lapsed. Recreational fishing is a major social activity throughout WA, involving over a third of the population and generating more than \$570 million for the State's economy.
- Four Fishers with Disabilities program activities were carried out in Bunbury, supported by Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLOs). These program activities continue to be very popular in the Perth Metropolitan Region, where they are also supported by VFLOs.
- The Rockingham District Office opened last year now houses two permanent Fisheries and Marine Officers.
- The results of the 2003 review of aquaculture development and legislation in Western Australia are continuing to be implemented.

Required Reporting

Disability Services Plan

As required under Part 5, Section 28 of the *Disability Services Act 1993*, the Department of Fisheries has developed and implemented a Disability Services Plan that furthers the principles of the Act.

Following amendments to the *Disability Services Act 1993*, the Department of Fisheries will be required to develop and implement a Disability Access Inclusion Plan, which replaces the Department's existing Disability Services Plan. Recently, the Disability Services Commission provided the Department of Fisheries with a resource manual to assist in the development of the new Disability Access Inclusion Plan that needs to be registered with the Commission by 31 July 2007.

Section 29 of the *Disability Services Act 1993* requires all public authorities to report on the implementation of their Disability Services Plan and include this information in their annual report.

To provide a consistent focus on access issues and solutions in relation to mainstream services, the Disability Services Plan initiatives are reported on five key outcome areas.

Outcome 1:

Existing services are adapted to ensure they meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Tailored recreational fishing workshops, co-ordinated by Department of Fisheries staff, are provided by Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLOs) throughout the State specifically for people with a disability.

The Department of Fisheries is represented on the Fishers with Disabilities Association Inc. (FWDAI). The staff members who are involved volunteer their services to the group, which has the prime focus of increasing recreational fishing access for people with disabilities.

A specially-designed watercraft was launched by FWDAI in April 2006 to help recreational fishers in wheel chairs to fish more easily in the Swan-Canning rivers. The six-metre covered pontoon was designed by VFLO, Neville Thomas OAM, who has pioneered the development of equipment for fishers with disabilities, and built by Challenger TAFE students. It will be operated by specially-trained VFLOs on behalf of the FWDAI. Neville continues to develop equipment to enable disabled persons to not only reel in their catch themselves, but to also cast the line independently. This program has now been picked up by fisheries agencies across Australia.

The "Marine Machine", a specially equipped Ford Transit bus, continues to be used on Rottnest Island by VFLOs and Department of Fisheries staff, providing transportation and access to fishing for recreational fishers with a disability. Groups of up to 10 people can be driven in comfort to the top fishing spots on the island. When the bus is not being used for fishing workshops, the Rottnest Island Authority has access to it for transporting other island visitors with disabilities.

Through its VFLO program, the Department of Fisheries continues to liaise with a number of local government authorities to improve access to recreational fishing sites and associated facilities, such as along the Canning River.

Outcome 2:

Access to buildings and facilities is improved.

The Department of Fisheries has maintained access to its offices and facilities around the State for people with disabilities. The opening of the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys Boat Harbour on 5 August 2005 has resulted in tremendously improved access to research and education resources, including the State's leading marine reference library.

The Department's new Marine Operations Centre in Fremantle, which also opened in 2005/06, includes major enhancements over its predecessor in terms of access, particularly for those people with a disability either visiting or working at the new centre.

In the Recreational Fisheries Program, Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees have continued to negotiate with local and State authorities to establish fishing platforms and facilities for use by people with disabilities.

Outcome 3:

Information about services is provided in formats which meet the communications requirements of people with disabilities.

The Department of Fisheries is committed to continual improvement in its information dissemination processes. For example, the Department's website is World Wide Web Consortium compliant to at least AA level – with some sections meeting the stringent AAA accessibility rating. This maximises the conversion of the material to audio information. The Department's monthly internal newsletter "Bottom Line" continues to meet the needs of staff with visual impairments.

Required Reporting

Outcome 4:

Advice and services are delivered by staff that are aware of and understand the needs of people with disabilities.

Department of Fisheries staff and volunteers undergo training in working with people with disabilities and participate in the Fishers with Disabilities program and the initiatives it promotes.

Outcome 5:

Opportunities are provided for people with disabilities to participate in public consultations, grievance mechanisms and decision-making processes.

Throughout the year, the Department of Fisheries has continued to ensure that full community consultative processes and procedures are maintained. These processes extend to community members with disabilities. Through initiatives such as the Fishers with Disabilities program, the Department is active in canvassing suggestions on how to best tailor its services to adequately meet the needs of those people with a disability.

Cultural and Language Services Outcomes

As part of their normal duties, Fisheries and Marine Officers may be required to interview either suspects or witnesses who speak imperfect English. This includes Aboriginal people who may regard English as their second language. Interpreters are available to the Department through the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, 24-hours a day, seven-days a week.

The table below summarises the use of translator services by the Department of Fisheries during 2005/06 for compliance/law enforcement purposes.

Region Office/Section	Number of times during 2005/06 that interpreters/translators were engaged	Details
Southern Region	0	N/A
Perth Metropolitan	14	9 Vietnamese, 1 Chinese, 1 Chinese Mandarin, 1 Korean, 1 Portuguese, 1 Spanish
Mid West	1	Required for an aquaculture compliance breach.
Gascoyne Region	2	1 Chinese Mandarin, 1 Vietnamese.
International; Operations (Perth)	33	1 French, 3 Spanish, 30 Indonesian. Most of these engagements were related to offences against Commonwealth fisheries legislation
International Operations (Broome, Northern Region)	See Details section of table	The International Operations (Broome) section of the Department of Fisheries regularly required interpreters for the crew of apprehended Indonesian fishing vessels. The most offences related to Commonwealth fisheries legislation and covered approximately 60 vessels and 300 fishermen in total.

A number of brochures are available in other languages to assist people with rules and regulations in fisheries that have been identified as having a high number of participants for whom English is a second language.

Youth Outcomes

Through the Department of Fisheries' community education program, a number of initiatives have been developed to target Western Australian youth, including:

- The 'Get Hooked on Fishing' program is a series of free fishing workshops for families throughout the metropolitan area. Several workshops are held each year at a variety of river and ocean locations.
- The Rottneet Island School Holiday program involves eight workshops over four days being conducted at the Army Jetty in Thomson Bay.
- Working in conjunction with community organisations such as Joondalup City Council, the Police and Citizens Youth Club in Fremantle and the Hillarys Yacht Club the Department provides fishing workshops and education programs in a safe and friendly environment.
- The Fishers with Disabilities program also caters for youth with disabilities, giving them the opportunity to enjoy the pleasure of fishing.
- The *Seaweed* Educators Expo held on 10 March 2006 provided an opportunity for student teachers and youth interested in marine environmental education to have a taste of the educational opportunities available.
- A number of students carried out work experience in community education and communications with the Department of Fisheries, involving the Communications and Education Branch, the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre, MarineDiscoveryWest and the Busselton District Office.

Work was also undertaken by the Department's community education team with secondary schools to provide class presentations in fisheries management, recreational fishing and *Fish for the Future*. Community education staff carried out planning for a careers expo for young people who are interested in working in the aquatic environment. This event will be being held at the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories in August 2006.

The Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer program has a number of under-25 year-olds as registered volunteers.

Waste Paper Recycling

About 251kg per month of waste paper was collected for recycling in the 2005/06 financial year.

A co-mingled recycling scheme introduced last year was continued, enabling the collection of other types of recyclable waste including plastic bottles, aluminium cans, milk cartons, cardboard and glass.

Energy Smart Program

In accordance with the Government's Energy Smart Policy, the Department is fully committed to endeavours that will achieve the target reductions in energy consumption in non-transport related energy use across the entire agency.

The Department has successfully achieved an energy-saving reduction on its benchmark (baseline) over the past three years. However, due to the commissioning of the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratory at Hillarys in May 2005, and the commencement of new research projects, the Department did not reach the Government's target for 2005/06.

However, the Department did significantly reduce its energy consumption in terms of usage per square metre, as outlined in the performance indicator part of the table below.

Energy Smart Government program	Baseline Data	2004/05 Actuals	Variation %
Energy Consumption (MJ)	5,447,726	6,800,532	24.83
Energy Cost (\$)	245,279	192,823	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (tonnes of CO ₂)	1,287	1,337	
Performance indicators			
MJ/sqm – office buildings	354	229	
MJ/FTE – office buildings	10,494	8,533	
MJ/sqm – laboratories.	804	716	

The following energy saving initiative was undertaken during 2005/06:

- The WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys, which officially opened in August 2005, incorporated a number of energy-saving innovations such as: energy-efficient orientation; wide roof eaves for solar control; thermal insulation; dual-purpose heating systems that warm sea water for aquariums as well as the air in the building; "smart lights"; and energy-efficient air conditioning.

Regional Development Policy

The Department of Fisheries supports the Government's Regional Development Policy, 'Regional Western Australia – A better place to live', by linking activities to the Outcomes of the policy and partnering the State's regional areas.

Understanding, Partnering and Delivering Better Outcomes for Regions.

- Outcome 1 Government decision-making is based on a thorough understanding of regional issues.*
- Outcome 2 Planning in partnership for a sustainable future.*
- Outcome 3 Effective government service delivery to regions.*

The Regional Services Branch supports regional WA through:

- delivering of compliance, education, policy and management services through a regionalised management structure. Five

regional and 13 district offices are maintained across the State;

- providing advice through community consultative groups and other government agencies;
- providing advice on compliance and management issues to the regional Ministerial Advisory Committees for commercial fisheries and Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees;
- continuing the deployment of mobile patrols into regional "hot-spots" to focus on recreational fishing and as a visible deterrent for prevention of regulatory breaches;
- ongoing risk assessment and compliance planning workshops for better management and deployment of resources;
- assisting in the delivery of at-sea compliance services for other government agencies; and
- developing Memoranda of Understanding with other agencies to clarify regional roles, responsibilities and joint servicing arrangements.

Growing a Diversified Economy.

- Outcome 4 Skilled communities.*
- Outcome 5 Improved regional infrastructure.*
- Outcome 6 Diversified regional economies.*
- Outcome 7 Enhanced regional investment.*
- Outcome 8 Fair pricing for regional residents and businesses.*

Regional Services Branch activities support regional economies through:

- providing compliance services to ensure that sustainable management objectives for commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, pearling and aquaculture are met, in order to secure the viable use of aquatic resources;
- supplying of management and compliance services to assist with maintaining equity between users of the aquatic resource and maximising the value of commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, pearling and aquaculture;
- providing policy advice to other government agencies and community groups on the sustainable management of marine, coastal, estuarine and inland environments;
- supplying of vessels and assistance to research bodies and other government agencies in the management of the marine environment and the associated collection of data;
- providing officers for monitoring and investigating large-scale fish 'kills' and marine pest incursions and
- frequently using regional suppliers to provide operational equipment, vessels, trailers, dive equipment, outboard motors and maintenance activities.

Required Reporting

Educated, healthy, safe and supportive communities.

Outcome 11 Safe regional communities.

Outcome 13 Cohesive communities.

Outcome 14 Improved environmental management.

Outcome 15 Sustainable natural resource management.

The Regional Services Branch actively supports regional communities through:

- supporting and training of Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLOs) to promote voluntary compliance with fishing laws, fisheries educational activities and clinics for people with disabilities;
- promoting the VFLO program in order to recruit more volunteers in regional areas;
- providing education programs in schools and communities, as well as providing expert fisheries advice at boating shows and fishing competitions;
- completing and distributing new initiatives, including a training video, 'Kimberley Indigenous Aquaculture' information package and support for the establishment of two model aquaculture farms, in conjunction with the Indigenous Aquaculture Development Group;
- participating in natural resource management group planning in the regions;
- establishing additional officers in regional areas to monitor at-sea compliance in marine parks;
- supplying staff and resources to assist in hazard management responsibilities, specifically in regard to oil pollution and "sea search and rescue". These responsibilities include the preparation, planning and responses to hazards and the carrying-out of recovery actions; and
- providing Fisheries and Marine Officers to support marine safety at-sea compliance, as part of the Department of Fisheries' recreational fishing compliance activities.

Aboriginal Fishing Strategy

The Aboriginal Fishing Strategy was developed following extensive consultation with Aboriginal people and other key stakeholders. Key recommendations include the establishment of an Aboriginal Fishing Fund for the acquisition, through the market, of commercial fishing licences, the recognition of customary fishing and an Indigenous Fisheries Ranger program.

These programs, if supported, will contribute directly to the social and economic well-being of regional Aboriginal communities.

Aquatic Tour (Charter) Industry

The Department of Fisheries licenses and manages the WA aquatic tour (charter) industry. The industry operates across the four bioregions of the Pilbara/Kimberley, Gascoyne, West Coast and South Coast.

Since regulation of this industry, business viability has increased by improving predictability and stability in terms of long-term access to the aquatic resource-based tourism market.

Bioregional Marine Planning

The Department of Fisheries is working to ensure that regional fisheries planning and Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) are fully incorporated in regional and natural resource management planning processes undertaken by the State and adjacent Commonwealth processes.

The Department has completed Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) fishery assessments for commercial export fisheries and has commenced assessments for minor fisheries and aquaculture. These assessments will feed into the development of proposed 'Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Plans' for all regions. These plans will cover the catch by all sectors in a region and initiate an ecosystem-based management approach to fisheries management, addressing issues of cumulative impacts.

Work continues in relation to the establishment of Fish Habitat Protection Areas and other legislative restrictions under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* to achieve regional fisheries objectives. These mechanisms will complement the marine parks and reserves system.

In addition to the above, the Department's continued work in commercial and recreational fisheries management within an ESD framework contributes directly to regional development, given the regional focus of many fishing activities.

Pearling and aquaculture activities also contribute significantly to regional communities. The pearling industry, for example, operates predominantly in the Kimberley region with an estimated value of \$121 million in 2004/2005.

Information Statement

Freedom of Information Act 1992

The Department of Fisheries' information statement has been prepared in accordance with Section 94 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*, in order to convey the maximum possible detail about the Department of Fisheries' operations and make accessible to the public documents not previously available.

The Department has appointed a Freedom of Information (FOI) coordinator to facilitate the handling of all requests for access to information. FOI requests may be lodged at any office of the Department of Fisheries throughout the State.

If assistance is required in completing a request or inquiring into its progress, the FOI coordinator can be contacted at The Atrium, Level 3, 168 St Georges Terrace, Perth 6000 or by phone on (08) 9482 7333, or by facsimile on (08) 9482 7389 or by e-mail to: headoffice@fish.wa.gov.au.

For the year ending 30 June 2006, the Department received three applications for access to information in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. One application was withdrawn, one application was refused and one application is not yet finalised.

The application that was finalised took 31 days to process, against the Government standard of 45 days.

Reporting On Record Keeping Plans

(*State Records Act 2000*, section 61, & 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. The Record Keeping Plan is to provide an accurate reflection of the record keeping program within the Department of Fisheries and must be complied with by departmental staff.

In December 2003 the Department's Record Keeping Plan was fully endorsed by the State Records Commission. Under Part 3, Division 4, the Department is to review its Record Keeping Plan periodically or when there is any significant change to the Department's functions.

The Department's record keeping function was audited in December 2004. Findings from the report indicated that overall "quality of management control" associated with record keeping within the Department was rated as satisfactory and that record keeping practices represented a low "overall risk exposure" to the Department. The Department is continually improving its overall quality of management control.

The Department implemented an online record keeping training and awareness program in December 2004. All staff throughout the State have been enrolled in the course and as at 30 June 2006, 97 per cent of staff have completed the course. The effectiveness of this training program will be reviewed in 2006.

The Department also holds a formal induction seminar for new employees. This includes a segment on the record keeping program within the Department and addresses employees' roles and responsibilities in regard to their compliance with the agency's Record Keeping Plan.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

The Department of Fisheries' Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Committee has set an objective to promote EEO and diversity through internal publications and posters that have been distributed throughout the agency. The EEO Committee is currently reviewing the Department's Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Policy and setting performance objectives for the Diversity Management Plan 2006-2009. The Department of Fisheries is committed to achieving "a culture that celebrates diversity".

State Sustainability Strategy

In response to the Government's *State Sustainability Strategy*, the Department is committed to six specific marine fisheries and aquaculture actions related to:

- an expansion of the Department's environmental assessments of fisheries and aquaculture sectors to include social and economic components;
- development of a long-term aquatic ecosystem strategy to rehabilitate freshwater ecosystems and establishment of a freshwater native fish sub-program within the Department of Fisheries;
- establishment of fish habitat protection areas to complement the marine park and reserve system;

- a continuation and expansion of targeted education and training programs to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture throughout Western Australia;
- development of an Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) strategy and supporting processes, taking into account the needs of all stakeholders on a bio-regional basis; and
- preparation of an introduced marine pest response strategy for Western Australia.

Implementation of these actions is continuing.

The Sustainability Code of Practice for Government Agencies requires the Department to also address 13 corporate level commitments and 40 actions in the areas of governance, agency operations and employee empowerment. In fulfilment of this commitment, the Department has developed a Sustainability Action Plan for the period 2005-2007. The plan was prepared in consultation with the Department's Agency Executive Group and peak external stakeholders, and has been endorsed by the Minister for Fisheries.

Several notable initiatives have been undertaken under the Action Plan including:

- The Department's Strategic Plan 2004-2008 recognises key fisheries actions as per the State Sustainability Strategy. It is also aligned with the Government's State Strategic Planning Framework.
- The Department is developing a consultation guide to assist in enhancing its consultation processes and practices with stakeholders and lists agency community consultations on the Citizenship Consultation Catalogue.
- The Department has processes to ensure that internal procurement complies with the 'Buying Wisely and Environmental Procurement' guidelines.
- The Department has provided training to staff members in sustainable procurement.
- Compliance with fleet management guidelines has been achieved by maintaining the available vehicle fleet at 25 per cent LPG powered.
- An effective operational Service Level Agreement has been implemented with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) for the delivery of integrated at-sea marine safety services.
- The Department's Regional Services Branch and the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services have an agreement for the delivery of fisheries compliance services in the Australian Fishing Zone and the delivery of fisheries management services at Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- New lighting tubes to reduce energy use are being installed.
- A printer and toner recycling program is being used in departmental offices across the Perth metropolitan area.
- The WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys, which opened in August 2005, incorporates a number of energy-saving innovations such as energy-efficient orientation, wide roof eaves for solar control, thermal insulation, dual-purpose heating systems which warm sea

Required Reporting

water for aquariums as well as the air in the building, “smart lights”, energy-efficient air conditioning, use of bore water and drought-resistant, salt-tolerant coastal plant species in landscaping.

- The Saville Kent research facility at the Abrolhos Islands, incorporating research laboratories and accommodation for 20 people, utilises solar technology to produce its main energy requirements. Lighting, power and desalination from seawater to freshwater use solar power while gas is used to heat water.
- A co-mingled recycling program has continued.
- “People-mover”-style vehicles are used as part of the Department’s vehicle fleet.
- A reduction in fuel consumption of up to 35 litres of diesel per hour in running time through a minor reduction in the cruising speed of patrol vessels continues to be implemented.
- The Department has a robust management system of occupational health and safety measures in the workplace in order to improve environmental, economic and social outcomes.

Substantive Equality

“Substantive equality involves achieving equitable outcomes as well as equal opportunity. It takes into account the effects of past discrimination. It recognises that rights, entitlements, opportunities and access are not equally distributed throughout society. Substantive equality recognises that equal or the same application of rules to unequal groups can have unequal results.

“Where service delivery agencies cater to the dominant, majority group, then people who are different may miss out on essential services. Hence it is necessary to treat people differently because people have different needs”

...Excerpt from the Government’s Policy Framework for Substantive Equality (published by the Substantive Equality Unit of the Equal Opportunity Commission).

The Department of Fisheries is committed to the implementation of the Government’s *Policy Framework for Substantive Equality*.

During 2005/06, the Department developed a policy on substantive equality, with a copy made available to the Substantive Equality Unit of the Equal Opportunity Commission and to all departmental staff. The policy statement outlines the Department’s commitment to substantive equality and the associated implementation process within the organisation.

The Department’s first area for practical implementation of substantive equality is the Perth metropolitan recreational abalone fishery, which is overseen by the Fisheries Management Services Division. A workshop was held in 2005/06 in which the Department’s communication strategies for the abalone fishery were assessed against the *Policy Framework*. Further work on the abalone fishery will be undertaken during 2006/07, with a view to making appropriate adjustments to the Department’s communication processes.

In addition to specific work on abalone, the Department also developed an indicative plan for implementation of substantive equality across the organisation. This will be implemented

over time, on a phased basis, in accordance with the *Policy Framework*. The Department is also committed to staff training in the area of substantive equality and a number of staff members attended awareness-raising sessions during 2005/06.

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, the public sector and departmental codes of conduct and with relevant legislation.

The Department undertook the following initiatives during 2005/06:

- 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*;
- provided each employee with a copy of the Department’s Code of Conduct;
- provided information about the Department’s corruption and fraud prevention measures in staff induction packages; and
- conducted a Department-wide review to identify and capture risks in the Risk Register related to corruption, fraud and misconduct.

The Department is in the process of finalising a policy on the Prevention of Corruption and Fraud in the workplace. This policy and its associated procedures are expected to be approved and communicated to all staff during 2006/07.

Compliance with Public Sector Standards and Ethical Codes

(Public Sector Management Act 1994 S31 (1))

Human Resource Management Standards and Ethical Codes

The Department of Fisheries’ human resource management policies are written to support the achievement of our human resource strategy and to comply with the Human Resource Management Standards. The standards compliance process includes a quality control audit of all recruitment, selection and appointment processes for appointments exceeding six-months undertaken independently by the Human Resources Branch. Monitoring of compliance with other standards occurs on an ongoing basis, with review audits where necessary.

All human resource policies and the ethical codes are available to departmental staff via the intranet. During 2005/06, the Department had no claims alleging non-compliance with the standards, code of ethics or the code of conduct.

The annual staffing level for the year was the equivalent of 372 employees (excluding casual staff and board members).

Table 5 – Department of fisheries permanent and fixed term employees (by classification, level and gender) as at 30 June 2006

Level	Female	Male	Total Employees
1	28 (32)	11 (11)	39 (43)
2	40 (42)	38 (46)	78 (88)
2/4	4 (4)	2 (4)	6 (8)
3	24 (35)	67 (70)	91 (105)
4	12 (15)	37 (48)	49 (63)
5	10 (11)	25 (29)	35 (40)
6	4 (5)	24 (27)	28 (32)
7	7 (7)	21 (22)	28 (29)
8	4 (3)	11 (19)	15 (22)
9	0 (0)	1 (1)	1 (1)
Class 1 & above	0 (0)	2 (3)	2 (3)
TOTAL	133 (154)	239 (280)	372 (434)

NOTE: Figures in brackets denote comparative figures at 30 June 2005.

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. No public interest disclosures were received during 2005/06.

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 report entitled 'Profile of the Department of Fisheries').

The Department also administers compliance for the majority of fishing adjacent to Western Australia in the Commonwealth 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

Conservation and Land Management Act 1984

Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003

Disability Services Act 1993

Electronic Transactions Act 2003

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Equal Opportunity Act 1984

Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985

Firearms Act 1973

Freedom of Information Act 1992

Government Employees' Housing Act 1964

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

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 (Protection from Liability) Act 2002

Western Australian Marine Act 1982

Wildlife Conservation Act 1950

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 Administration and Audit Act 1985* 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.

Required Reporting

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



P P Rogers D.Sc. BSc (Agric) MBA FAICD

Accountable Officer



Bruno Mezzatesta BBus FCPA GAICD

Principal Accounting Officer

30 June 2006

APPENDICES

Appendix 1
**Ministerial and Management
Advisory Committees (MACs)**

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**Major Publications Produced by the
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Exemptions



Fisheries researcher Jeff Norriss examines an otolith (fish ear) at the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Ministerial and Management Advisory Committees (MACs)

- Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (*Section 29 FRMA 1994*)
Chair: Dr Ron Edwards
- Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (*Section 33 FRMA 1994*)
Chair: Doug Bathgate
- Aquaculture Development Council (*Section 37 FRMA 1994*)
Chair: Dexter Davies
- Pearling Industry Advisory Committee (*Pearling Act 1990*)
Chair: Michael Smith

Non-Statutory Management Advisory Committees (*Section 41 and 42 Fish Resources Management Act 1994*)

- Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee
- WA Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery Management Advisory Committee
- Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee
- Purse Seine Management Advisory Committee
- Joint Trawl Management Advisory Committee
- Abalone Management Advisory Committee
- Northern Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery Management Advisory Committee

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

(*Section 11 of the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987*):

- South West Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management
- West Coast Estuarine and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management
- South Coast Herring and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management
- South Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes

(*Section 10 of the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987*)

- South West Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme
- West Coast Estuarine and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme

Full membership of these committees can be found at the Department's website, www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/macs.

Appendix 2

Major Publications Produced by the Department of Fisheries

Fisheries Occasional Publications

- No. 22 Proceedings of the first workshop for: 'Seeding a Future for Grains in Aquaculture Feeds', 28 May 2003; *edited by Glencross, B.D.*
- No. 23 Proceedings of the second workshop for 'Seeding a Future for Grains in Aquaculture Feeds', 26 May 2004; *edited by Glencross, B.D.*
- No. 24 Proceedings of the third workshop for 'Seeding a Future for Grains in Aquaculture Feeds', 14 April 2005; *edited by Glencross, B.D.*
- No. 25 Western Rock Lobster Fishery. Draft ecological risk assessment 2005 report. *Internet publication.*
- No. 26 Recommendation report to the Minister for Fisheries on resource sustainability management packages for the northern (Zones A and B) and southern (Zone C) regions of the West Coast Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery. *Internet publication.*
- No. 27 Review of pearl oyster hatchery policy. Phase II – policy direction. Prepared by the Pearling Industry Advisory Committee. *Internet publication.*
- No. 28 Western Rock Lobster Fishery/Sea Lion Interaction Scientific Reference Group report (from meeting of 24 August 2005).
- No. 29 Western Rock Lobster Fishery Effects of Fishing on the Ecosystem Scientific Reference Group (Chairman's report No. 3, February 2005).
- No. 30 Proceedings of the second hatchery feeds and technology workshop. 30 September – 1 October 2004.

- No. 31 Feeding lupins to fish: a review of the nutritional and biological value of lupins in aquaculture feeds.
- No. 32 Allocation of the Western Australian abalone resource between user groups. Submission to the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC) by the Department of Fisheries.
- No. 33 Department of Fisheries Community Survey 2005.
- No. 34 Proceedings of the Western Australian Dhufish Workshop 2004.
- No. 35 Rock lobster processor licensing arrangements – a discussion paper. *Internet publication.*
- No. 36 Submission to IFAAC on the draft allocation report of the western rock lobster resource. Submission to the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee by the Department of Fisheries. *Internet publication.*
- Fisheries Management Papers**
- No. 198 A quality future for the recreational marron fishery – proposals for community discussion. A draft five-year strategy to ensure the long term sustainability of the marron fishery. Produced by the RFAC Recreational Freshwater Fisheries Stakeholder Sub-Committee.
- No. 199 Management of the proposed South Coast Trawl Fishery.
- No. 200 Integrated Fisheries Management draft allocation report for the western rock lobster resource.
- No. 201 The Minister for Fisheries’ decisions in response to the final report of the Pilbara/Kimberley Recreational Fishing Working Group (Fisheries Management Paper No. 193).
- No. 202 The Minister for Fisheries’ decisions in response to the final report of the South Coast Recreational Fishing Working Group (Fisheries Management Paper No. 194).
- No. 203 Western rock lobster fishery. Ecological risk assessment 2005 report. *Internet publication.*
- No. 204 Integrated Fisheries Management Report. Abalone resource.
- No. 205 Management arrangements for the Gascoyne commercial ‘wetline’ fishery. Prepared by the West Coast and Gascoyne Wetline Review Management Planning Panel.
- No. 206 Management arrangements for the West Coast commercial ‘wetline’ fishery. Prepared by the West Coast and Gascoyne Management Planning Panel.
- No. 207 Access and allocation arrangements for the commercial ‘wetline’ fisheries. A report to the Minister For Fisheries prepared by the Commercial Access Panel.
- No. 208 Review of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*. A discussion paper.
- No. 209 Assessment of western rock lobster strategic management options. An overview of bio-economic, sociological and comparative analyses (Volume 1 of 4).
- No. 210 Assessment of western rock lobster strategic management options. A bio-economic evaluation of management options for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery (volume 2 of 4).
- No. 211 Assessment of western rock lobster strategic management options. A social assessment of coastal communities hosting the western rock lobster fishing fleet (volume 3 of 4).
- No. 212 Assessment of western rock lobster strategic management options. How do quota management systems work in rock lobster fisheries? (volume 4 of 4).
- No. 213 A draft five-year strategy to ensure the long term sustainability of the marron fishery. Produced by the RFAC Recreational Freshwater Fisheries Stakeholder Sub-Committee (*in press*).
- No. 214 Integrated Fisheries Management draft allocation report for Roe’s abalone – Perth metropolitan area (*in press*).
- No. 215 The granting, renewal and regulation of aquaculture leases in Western Australia. A discussion paper.
- No. 216 Proposed fees and charges for Section 97 aquaculture leases. A discussion paper.
- No. 217 The Minister for Fisheries’ decisions in response to the final report of the RFAC Recreational Freshwater Fisheries Stakeholder Sub-Committee on the recreational marron fishery (Fisheries Management Paper No. 213) (*in press*).
- Research reports**
- Enhancing Tasmanian Clam Resources. Principal Investigator: FRDC Project No. 93/232 August 2005; *Maguire, G.B.*
 - Evaluation of Yellowtail Kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*) grow-out in land-based systems and broodstock management (Final Report - Aquaculture Development Council); *Kolkovski, S.*
 - Aquatic Animal Health Subprogram: Technical guidelines for the translocation of live aquatic animals – with reference to *Barramundi nodavirus* (FRDC Project No. 2005/640 - December 2005); *Jones, B.*
 - ESD Reporting and Assessment Subprogram: Strategic Planning, Project Management and Adoption. (FRDC Project No. 2001/082); Principal Investigator *Fletcher, W.J.*
 - Comparing conventional ‘social-based’ and alternative output-based management models for recreational finfish fisheries using Shark Bay pink snapper as a case study (FRDC 2003/066 – February 2006). *Jackson, G.*
 - Proceedings of the first workshop for ‘Seeding a Future for Grains in Aquaculture Feeds’ - 28 May 2003 (Fisheries Occasional Publications No. 22, Department of Fisheries, Western Australia, 79p); Edited by *Glencross, B.D.*
 - Proceedings of the second workshop for ‘Seeding a Future for Grains in Aquaculture Feeds’ - 26 May 2004 (Fisheries Occasional Publications No. 23, Department of Fisheries, Western Australia, 51p); Edited by *Glencross, B.D.*
 - Proceedings of the third workshop for ‘Seeding a Future for Grains in Aquaculture Feeds’ - 14 April 2005 (Fisheries Occasional Publications No. 24, Department of Fisheries, Western Australia, 54p); Edited by *Glencross, B.D.*
 - Development of marine fish larval diets to replace *Artemia* (FRDC 2001/220 Part 1); *Kolkovski S.*

Appendices

- Biology and stock assessment of the thickskin (sandbar) shark, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, in Western Australia and further refinement of the dusky shark, *Carcharhinus obscurus*, stock assessment (Fisheries Research Report No. 151, Final FRDC Report – Project 2000/134); *McAuley, R., Lenanton, R. Chidlow, J., Allison, R. and Heist, E.*
- Development of a DNA Database for compliance and management of Western Australian sharks (Fisheries Research Report No. 152, Final FRDC Report – Project 2003/067); *McAuley, R., Ho, K. and Thomas, R.*
- A 12-month survey of recreational fishing in the Pilbara region of Western Australia during 1999-2000 (Fisheries Research Report No. 153); *Williamson, P.C., Sumner, N.R. and Malseed B.E.*
- The development of a rigorous sampling program for a long-term annual index of recruitment for finfish species from south-western Australia (Fisheries Research Report No. 154, Final FRDC Report – Project 1999/153); *Gaughan, D., Ayvazian, S. Nowara, G, Craine, M. and Brown, J.*
- Identification of WA grey nurse shark aggregation sites (Fisheries Research Report No. 155); *Chidlow, J., Gaughan D. and McAuley R.*
- Review of fishery resources and status of key fishery stocks in the Swan-Canning Estuary (Fisheries Research Report No. 156); *Smith, K. A.*
- The western rock lobster fishery 2003/2004 to 2004/2005 (Fisheries Research Report No. 157); *de Lestang, S. and Barker, E.H. (in press)*
- Assessment of the Blue Swimmer crab fishery in Geographe Bay (Fisheries Research Report No. 158); *Bellchambers, L. (in press)*

Appendix 3

State Register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases

The State Register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases is available to the public on application to the Registrar and payment of appropriate fees – see section 125 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA).

No aquaculture leases have been granted to date.

At 30 June 2006, there were 56,829 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 2006, there were 459 aquaculture licences recorded on the State Register.

At 30 June 2006, there were 7,317 commercial authorisations recorded on the State Register. The commercial authorisations on the State Register were made up of the following:

Interim Managed Fishery Permits	138
Mackerel Fishery	69
Pilbara Fish Trawl	7
Shark Bay Crab	5
West Coast Deep Sea Crab	7
West Coast Demersal Gillnet & Demersal Long Line	24
West Coast Estuarine	26

Managed Fishery Licences	1,338
Abalone	59
Abrolhos Mid trawl	16
Broome Prawn	5
Cockburn Crab	12
Cockburn Fish Net	1
Cockburn Line & Pot	13
Cockburn Mussel	2
Esperance Rock Lobster	7
Exmouth Prawn	16
Kimberley Gill Net & Barramundi	7
Kimberley Prawn	137
Marine Aquarium Fish Corporate	1
Marine Aquarium Fish Individual	11
Nicol Bay Prawn	14
Northern Demersal	15
Onslow Prawn	31
Pilbara Trap	6
Shark Bay Beach Seine	31
Shark Bay Prawn	27
Shark Bay Scallop	41
Shark Bay Snapper	55
South Coast Estuarine	58
South Coast Purse Seine	32
South Coast Salmon	67
South West Salmon	37
South West Trawl	14
Specimen Shell	33
Warnbro Crab	0
West Coast Beach Bait Fish	3
West Coast Purse Seine	12
Windy Harbour /Augusta Rock Lobster	21
West Coast Rock Lobster	604

Other	5,791
Commercial Fishing Licence	3,260
Fish Processing (land)	124
Fish Processing (sea)	140
Fishing Boat Licence	1,531
Aquatic Eco Tour	4
Fishing Tour Operators Licence	376
Oyster Fishing Licence	9
Permit to Construct a Fish Processing Establishment	319
Rock Lobster Pot Licence	28

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	
Extracts	456
Searches	42
Notation of security interest	208
Removal of security interest	177
Variation of security interest	27
West Coast Estuarine	26

The Registrar recorded fourteen convictions against 36 authorisations in the relevant period, pursuant to the statutory obligation under section 224 (1) of the FRMA. No authorisations were 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 six occasions.

State Administrative Tribunal Review of Decisions

Eleven matters were dismissed and one application for review granted (by consent) over the 12-month period ending 30 June 2006. Three new applications for review were lodged with the State Administrative Tribunal over the same period.

Appendix 4

Legislative Amendments and New Legislation

1. Summary

1.1 Fish Resources Management Act 1994

A Bill (*Fish Resources Management Bill 2006*) making amendments to this Act was introduced into Parliament on 21 June 2006. The amendments made by the Bill (if passed) relate to foreign fishing offences.

If passed, the Bill will increase penalties for foreign fishing including introducing mandatory imprisonment for the maximum period of imprisonment (four years) and the maximum fine (\$150,000) for individuals convicted of a third or subsequent offence. Fines for bodies corporate will increase to \$300,000.

Boats and other things will become subject to compulsory forfeiture upon conviction of a foreign fishing offence. The seizure powers of Fisheries Officers will be expanded in respect of reasonable suspicion of foreign fishing offences.

The *Machinery of Government (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2006* was passed during the period of this report. The *Machinery of Government (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2006* commences operation on 1 July 2006 and makes nomenclature changes to this Act by replacing “Executive Director” with “CEO” and deleting several references to the Treasury.

1.1.1 Regulations

There were nine amendments made to the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*. See item 2.1(a) below.

1.1.2 Management Plans

There was one new management plan and eight amendments to existing management plans (see item 2.1(b) below).

1.1.3 Orders

There were nine new orders and two amendments to existing orders (see item 2.1(c) below).

1.1.4 Notices

There were 16 notices published in the Gazette. See 2.1(d) below.

1.2 Pearling Act 1990

The *Machinery of Government (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2006* was passed during the period of this report. The *Machinery of Government (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2006* commences operation on 1 July 2006 and makes nomenclature changes to this Act by replacing “Executive Director” with “CEO”. Other amendments include the inclusion of a power of delegation for the CEO, insertion of a definition of “Department”, changing the definition of Fish Resources Development Fund and a provision making all fisheries officers (under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*) pearling inspectors.

1.2.1 Regulations

There was one amendment made to the *Pearling (General) Regulations 1991* (see item 2.2(a) below).

1.2.2 Notices

There were two notices published in the Gazette (see item 2.2(b) below).

1.3 Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987

The *Machinery of Government (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2006* was passed during the period of this report. The *Machinery of Government (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2006* commences operation on 1 July 2006 and makes nomenclature changes to this Act by replacing “Executive Director” with “CEO” and deleting a reference to the Treasury.

1.3.1 Regulations

There were no amendments to the Regulations.

Appendices

1.3.2 Notices

There were three notices published in the Gazette.

South West Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Amendment Notice 2005: The amendment extended the time for offers to surrender licences and the operation of the scheme.

West Coast Estuarine and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Amendment Notice 2006: The amendment extended the time for offers to surrender licences and the operation of the scheme.

South West Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Amendment Notice 2006: The amendment extended the time for offers to surrender licences and the operation of the scheme.

1.4 Fishing Industry Promotion Training and Management Levy Act 1994

There were no amendments to this Act.

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

The *Machinery of Government (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2006* was passed during the period of this report. The *Machinery of Government (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2006* commences operation on 1 July 2006 and makes nomenclature changes to this Act by replacing “Executive Director” with “CEO”.

1.5.1 Regulations

There was no amendment to the Regulations.

2. Subsidiary legislation

2.1 Fish Resources Management Act 1994

2.1.1 Regulations

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2005: Amended various fees in Schedule 1. Commenced 1 September 2005.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 6) 2005: Amended Schedule 2 “Protected Fish”. Commenced 15 September 2005.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 5) 2005: Amended various fees in Schedule 1. Commenced 4 October 2005.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 3) 2005: Various amendments to regulate the bringing onto land of finfish in whole, trunked or filleted form and to clarify the state-wide possession limit. Commenced 4 November 2005.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 8) 2005: Various amendments including amending Regulation 16E “Possession limits - on a boat”. Gazetted 11 November 2005.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 7) 2005: The amendment implemented regional recreational bag, size and possession limits for the South Coast Region and Pilbara and Kimberley Region. Also amended certain regional netting restrictions, implemented a state-wide prohibition on the recreational use of haul nets and amended the regulations relating to marron fishing. Commenced 1 January 2006.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 3) 2006: Amended various fees in Schedule 1. Gazetted 7 February 2006.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2006: Various amendments to regulations 16I and 64OB and to Schedule 2. Gazetted 7 March 2006.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations 2006: Amended regulations dealing with automatic location communicators. Commenced 1 July 2006.

Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995: Correction to reprint No. 5 of the regulations. Published in the gazette of 9 June 2006.

2.1.2 Management Plans

(a) New Plans

Shark Bay Crab Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2005: Commenced 1 December 2005. Introduced management arrangements for commercial fishing of crab in Shark Bay.

(b) Amendments to existing Plans

West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2005: Implemented various closure times in respect of fishing in the fishery in zones A, B and C. Also implemented a prohibition on the use of a fishing boat in the relevant waters during those closure times and also provided for specified exceptions to the prohibitions on the use of boats.

Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2005: Various amendments including the insertion of a “Capacity of the Fishery” clause.

Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2005: Introduced a scheme of entitlement.

West Coast Deep Sea Crab Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2005: Amended the date of cessation of the plan.

West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2006: Various amendments to the closure times in respect of fishing in the fishery in zones A, B and C and to the prohibition on the use of a fishing boat in the relevant waters during those closure times and the specified exceptions to the prohibitions on the use of boats.

West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2006: Amended clause 9I “Exception to restrictions on the use of boats”.

West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2006: Amended the cessation date of the Management Plan.

South Coast Estuarine Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2006: Amended the licensing period and access fee in the Fishery.

West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2006: Introduced protection of dusky shark over 70 centimetres interdorsal fin length, a closure to fishing during August, September and October in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and specifications for demersal longlines.

2.1.3 Orders

(a) New Orders

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing by Net (Exmouth Gulf) Order 2005 (Order No. 19 of 2005) : Prohibits commercial fishing by fishing net in the Exmouth Gulf. Order 19 of 2005 commenced 19 July 2005.

Prohibition on Fishing ("South Tomi" Wreck Site) Order 2005 (Order No. 22 of 2005): Prohibits fishing in the waters described in the Schedule. Order 22 of 2005 commenced 30 August 2005.

Prohibition on Fishing ("Saxon Ranger" Wreck Site) Order 2005 (Order No. 23 of 2005): Prohibits fishing in the waters described in the Schedule. Order 23 of 2005 commenced 6 September 2005.

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Ningaloo Marine Park) Order 2005 (Order No. 13 of 2005): Introduced commercial fishing restrictions in Ningaloo Marine Park. Order 13 of 2005 commenced 9 September 2005.

Prohibition on Recreational Fishing (Ningaloo Marine Park) Order 2005 (Order No. 12 of 2005): Introduced recreational fishing restrictions in Ningaloo Marine Park. Order 12 of 2005 commenced 9 September 2005.

Prohibition on Fishing (Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound) Order 2005 (Order No. 24 of 2005): Prohibits fishing for pink snapper at certain times in the year in the waters of Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound. Order 24 of 2005 commenced 7 October 2005.

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Jurien Bay Marine Park) Order 2005 (Order No. 17 of 2005): Introduced commercial fishing restrictions in Jurien Bay Marine Park. Order 17 of 2005 commenced 23 December 2005.

Prohibition on Recreational Fishing (Jurien Bay Marine Park) Order 2005 (Order No. 18 of 2005): Introduced recreational fishing restrictions in Jurien Bay Marine Park. Order 18 of 2005 commenced 23 December 2005.

Prohibition on Fishing (Point Samson) Order 2006 (Order No. 3 of 2006): Prohibits all commercial and certain recreational fishing in the water of Point Samson. Order 3 of 2006 commenced 13 June 2006.

2.1.4 Amendments to existing Orders

Prohibition on Fishing for Shark (North Coast) Amendment Order 2005 (Order No. 21 of 2005): The amendment replaced clause 3 and deleted Schedule 1. Order 21 of 2005 commenced 29 July 2005.

Prohibition on Fishing for Rock Lobster (Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin) Amendment Order 2005 (Order No. 25 of 2005): The amendment replaced clause 3 and amended various items in the Schedule. Order 25 of 2005 commenced 29 November 2005.

2.1.5 Notices

Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993. Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns. Notice No. 2 of 2005: Revoked the previous notice and gave notice of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Gazetted 22 July 2005.

PRINTERS CORRECTION. Prohibition on Fishing ("Saxon Ranger" Wreck Site) Order 2005: Corrected a spelling error. Gazetted 9 September 2005.

Abalone Management Plan 1992. Statement of Determination: Statement of determination in regards to the maximum quantity of abalone that may be taken in an area of the fishery during a certain licensing period. Gazetted 16 September 2005.

PRINTERS CORRECTION. Prohibition on Fishing (Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound) Order 2005: Corrected an error in the date and a spelling error. Gazetted 14 October 2005.

PRINTERS CORRECTION. Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Ningaloo Marine Park) Order 2005: Corrected an error in a set of coordinates. Gazetted 21 October 2005.

Broome Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1999. Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns. Notice No. 2 of 2005: Cancelled Notice No. 1 of 2005 and gave notice of the areas, time and date that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Gazetted 1 November 2005.

Full Moon and Easter Closure Times in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery: Notice of the closure times and dates in the fishery. Gazetted 27 January 2006.

Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery. Clause 9 – Closures of Areas Within the Fishery : Notice that a new determination (Determination No. 1 of 2006) has been made of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Gazetted 24 February 2006.

Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2004. Clause 10(2): Notice of areas, times and dates that fishing will be permitted in the fishery. Gazetted 24 February 2006.

Abalone Management Plan 1992. Statement of Determination: Statement of determination in regards to the maximum quantity of abalone that may be taken in an area of the fishery during a certain licensing period. Gazetted 28 February 2006.

Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993. Clause 10 – Closures of Areas Within the Fishery: Notice that a new determination (Determination 1 of 2006) has been made of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Gazetted 3 March 2006.

Pilbara Trap Limited Entry Fishery Notice 1992. Notice of Determination: Notice of Determination of the capacity of the Fishery for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006. Gazetted 28 March 2006

Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993. Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns. Notice No. 1 of 2006: Revoked the previous notice and gave notice of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Gazetted 4 April 2006.

Abalone Management Plan 1992. Clause 18 – Notice of Approved Fish Processors. Lists approved fish processors in respect of abalone: Gazetted 12 May 2006.

Broome Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1999. Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns. Notice No. 1 of 2006: Cancelled Notice No. 2 of 2005 and gave notice of the areas, time and date that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Gazetted 12 May 2006.

Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993. Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns. Notice No. 2 of 2006: Revoked the previous notice and gave notice of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Gazetted 26 May 2006.

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2.2 Pearling Act 1990

2.2.1 Regulations

Pearling (General) Amendment Regulations 2005: Amended various fees in regulations 6, 8 and 9. Gazetted 15 November 2005.

2.2.2 Notices

Pearling (Annual Fees) Notice 2005: Established the fees payable for various pearling licences and permits for the year commencing 1 January 2005. Gazetted of 23 December 2005.

Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Lease Gourdon Bay "E": Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd, Roebuck Pearl Producers Pty Ltd and Pearls Pty Ltd. Gazetted 13 June 2006.

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 which are either fully managed fisheries or they are in the process of having dedicated management plans developed.

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	12,138	2004/05	Yes	The above-average catch was due to good puerulus settlement 3-4 years previously. A 15% reduction in effort will be undertaken in the northern zone next season to ensure the breeding stock remains at adequate levels.
Roe's abalone	Yes	Adequate	112.7 (Q) (679-914 days)	96.5 (665 days)	2005	Yes	Poor weather restricted access to remote regions, hence full quota not taken. The improved abundance in the metropolitan area has resulted in a further review of the quota for this area next season.
Abrolhos Islands and Mid West trawl	Yes	Adequate	95-1,830	6,470	2005	Yes	The annual recruitment (and therefore catch) of scallops is highly variable depending upon environmental conditions. The high catch in 2005 was anticipated due to strong recruitment. Although the reported catch is significantly higher than the target catch, given the nature of scallop stocks and variable recruitment, there are no resultant sustainability concerns.
South West trawl	NA	NA	Not available	Prawns 14 Scallops 3	2005	NA	
Cockburn Sound crab	Preliminary	Adequate	200-350	84	2004/05	No	Several years of reduced catch have led to concerns about stock, particularly factors affecting recruitment. Breeding stock and recruitment levels will be reviewed to assess possible causes and future target catch ranges.
Deep sea crab	Yes ²	Adequate	100-300 (crystal crabs)	207 (crystal crabs)	2005	Yes	

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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 fisheries (west coast)	NA	NA	75-220 (Peel/Harvey only)	197 (Peel/Harvey only)	2005	Yes	Includes fish and crustaceans. Recent annual catches have been stable, but lower than in previous years due to reductions in the number of commercial fishers operating in estuaries. An assessment of the various stocks has been planned.
West coast beach bait	Yes ²	Adequate	60-275 (whitebait only)	158	2005	Yes	Yearly fluctuations in whitebait stocks due to environmental conditions.
West coast purse seine	Yes	Adequate	3,000 (Q)	379	2005	NA	Low catch is due to a combination of irregular availability of fish and low activity levels by fleet. Acceptable effort level not available.
GASCOYNE COAST BIOREGION							
Shark Bay prawn	Yes	Adequate	1,501-2,330	1,628	2005	Yes	Tiger and endeavour prawns were within target catch limits and king prawns just below the target range due to targeting of larger sized prawns.
Exmouth Gulf prawn	Yes	Adequate	771-1,276	1,068	2005	Yes	All three major prawn species were within target catch limits.
Shark Bay scallop	Yes	Adequate	1,250-3,000	1,925	2005	Yes	
Shark Bay beach seine & mesh net	Yes ²	Adequate	235-335	263	2005	Yes	The total catch and the catches for two of the four indicator species were within target ranges. Yellowfin bream catch was higher (due to strong recruitment in 1999) but tailor was lower than expected, which requires additional investigation.
Shark Bay snapper	Yes	Inadequate	338.3 (Q) (425-558 days)	304.2 (620 days*) *June-July	2005	No	The recovery of this stock does not appear to be progressing at the expected rate. A further review of management arrangements will be completed when the age-based stock assessment has been updated.

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
NORTH COAST BIOREGION							
Onslow prawn	Yes	Adequate	60-180	85	2005	Yes	All major prawn species were within target catch limits.
Nickol Bay prawn	Yes	Adequate	90-300	84	2005	Yes	A low catch of banana prawns was expected due to poor rainfall levels, which also resulted in a reduced catch of king prawns from the low levels of effort used.
Broome prawn	Yes	Adequate	55-260	47	2005	Yes	Both species (king and coral prawns) were below target catch ranges, with fishing effort down considerably due to small prawn sizes and low catch rates. The exploitation rate was still <40% and catches are expected to return to normal levels.
Kimberley prawn	Yes	Adequate	240-500	265	2005	Yes	Banana prawn catches within expected range for observed rainfall. Other species also within target catch ranges.
Kimberley gillnet & barramundi	Yes ²	Adequate	25-40 (barramundi)	36 (barramundi)	2005	Yes	Reduced catch of barramundi in 2005 was related to the lower effort used in the fishery. Catch is within target range.
Northern demersal scalefish	Yes	Adequate	Total 600-1,000 (goldband <261) (red emperor <138)	Total 922 (goldband 429) (red emperor 192)	2005	No	Catches of goldband snapper and red emperor both remain above the target range and a reduction in effort is required. An initial review of the fishery has also indicated the need to remove latent effort.
Pilbara fish trawl	Yes	Adequate	2,000-2,800	2,371	2005	Yes	Catches of lower-value species decreased.
Pilbara demersal trap & line	Yes	Adequate	160-360 (trap) 50-115 (line)	408 (trap) 226 (line)	2005	No	Trap catches were again above upper limit. Line catch, especially of goldband snapper, is considered unsustainable and revised management is needed.

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Mackerel	Yes ² (Spanish mackerel)	Adequate (Spanish mackerel)	246-410 (all except grey mackerel)	334 (all except grey mackerel)	2005	Yes	Catches declined in all areas of the fishery due to the seasonal closures which are part of the new management arrangements.
Northern shark	Yes ²	Declining	< 117 (sandbar only)	762 (sandbar only)	2004/05	No	The catch of sandbar sharks is used as an indicator species to monitor the fishery. The target catch range will be lowered to < 20 t to reflect new management arrangements aimed at arresting sandbar depletion.
Pearl oyster	Yes	Adequate	557,000 oysters (Q) (14,071-20,551 dive hours)	513,875 oysters (15,891 dive hours)	2005	Yes	Substitution of hatchery stock for wild catch in Zone 1, and to a lesser extent in Zone 2, resulted in total quota not being taken.
SOUTH COAST BIOREGION							
South Coast crustacean	Yes ²	Uncertain	50-80 (southern rock lobster)	39 (southern rock lobster)	2004/05	No	Includes Esperance, GAB and Albany management zones. Downturn in lobster fishery may be a result of recruitment overfishing in both SA and WA. Management of this fishery is under review.
Abalone (greenlip/brownlip)	Yes	Adequate	210.5 (Q) (907-1,339 days)	208 (1,252 days)	2005	Yes	Mid-year review resulted in quota reduction from 225.5 to 210.5 t.
Estuarine fisheries (south coast)	Preliminary	Adequate	200-500	227	2005	Yes	Catch includes finfish and invertebrates. Catch is back within target range due to small increases in black bream catches.
WA salmon	Yes	Adequate	1,200-2,800	1,474	2005	Yes	Low catches in recent years are due to limited market demand. Catch levels can also be influenced by environmental factors (e.g. Leeuwin Current) that affect recruitment. The target catch range has been adjusted downward as a result of the EPBC assessment process.

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
Australian herring	Yes	Adequate	475-1,200 (south coast)	144 (south coast)	2005	Yes	South coast catch again below target due to limited market demand. More detailed assessment particularly of the lower west coast will be conducted this year
Albany/King George Sound purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (Q)	1,028	2004/05	NA	Quotas are adjusted annually. Target effort levels not yet available.
Bremer Bay purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (Q)	478	2004/05	NA	Quotas are adjusted annually. Target effort levels not yet available. The low catches this season are due to a scarcity of market-size fish in the traditional fishing grounds.
Esperance purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (Q)	136	2004/05	NA	Quotas are adjusted annually. Target effort levels not yet available. The low catches this season are due to a scarcity of market-size fish in the traditional fishing grounds.
Southern & west coast demersal gillnet & longline	Yes ²	Declining	725-1,175 ²	1,062 ²	2004/05	Yes	Breeding stocks of two of the four indicator species (dusky whalers and sandbar sharks) have declined and are of concern. Target catch range will be lowered (to 725-1,095 t) following updated stock assessments for these species.
NORTHERN INLAND BIOREGION							
Lake Argyle catfish	Yes	Adequate	95-155	131	2005	Yes	Catch levels are within the target range.

¹ Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available. ² For key species only. NA Not assessed. Q Quota management.

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Exemptions

Exemption No:	1529
Applicant:	Peter Godfrey
Period of Exemption:	11/07/2005 – 30/06/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To effect the removal and disposal of <i>Cherax cainii</i> from the property of Paul and Amanda Downes (RMC 249b Margaret River WA 6285, Location 2299), being the central point of landowners involved in the destocking trial conducted in the upper Margaret River.

Exemption No:	1530
Applicant:	M. Fitzpatrick, P. and L. Green, P. and A. Downes, G. S. and K. Cain, T. and M. Fountain, E. and L. Musgrave, and C. Johnson
Period of Exemption:	11/07/2005 – 30/06/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To effect the removal of <i>Cherax cainii</i> from the waters of the upper Margaret River and study how this destocking of <i>C. cainii</i> will affect the recovery of the endangered <i>Cherax tenuimanus</i> in the river.

Exemption No:	1532
Applicant:	Comel Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	15/08/2005 – 12/09/2005
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To process abalone without authority under Fish Processor's Licence No. 1173, pending the outcome of a formal application.

Exemption No:	1533
Applicant:	Murdoch University – Science and Engineering Division
Period of Exemption:	01/07/2004 – 30/06/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To enable Murdoch University's academic researchers, their technical support staff and students to undertake aquatic science research projects, which provide both scientific training and increased knowledge of the State's living aquatic resources.

Exemption No:	1534
Applicant:	Department of Fisheries – Research Division
Period of Exemption:	01/07/2004 – 30/06/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To enable the research personnel of the Department of Fisheries to undertake aquatic science research projects to provide scientific knowledge for the sustainable management and development of the State's fish resources and the protection of fish habitats.

Exemption No:	1535
Applicant:	Western Australian Museum
Period of Exemption:	01/07/2004 – 30/06/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To enable officers of the Western Australian Museum to undertake research projects to provide scientific knowledge for the understanding and sustainable use of Australia's marine living resources and their environments.

Exemption No:	1536
Applicant:	CSIRO – Marine Research Division
Period of Exemption:	01/07/2004 – 30/06/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To enable officers of the CSIRO Division of Marine Research to undertake research projects to provide scientific knowledge for the understanding and sustainable use of Australia's marine living resources and their environments.

Exemption No:	1537
Applicant:	Southern Trading Co., Mulataga Aquaculture, Harlequin Pty Ltd and West Coast Crab Interim Managed Fishery licensees
Period of Exemption:	01/08/2005 – 31/07/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department of Fisheries' Research Division in recapturing tagged snow crabs/crystal crabs by allowing those persons or holding depots to have in their possession tagged snow crabs/crystal crabs (<i>Chaceon bicolor</i>) that are spawning/berried females and/or are below the minimum legal size.

Exemption No:	1538
Applicant:	Geoffrey Myers
Period of Exemption:	01/08/2005 – 31/07/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department of Fisheries' Research Division in collecting biological information (length/reproductive/age data) on dhufish (<i>Glaucosoma hebraicum</i>) and pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) for research purposes.

Exemption No:	1539
Applicant:	Craig McTaggart
Period of Exemption:	05/09/2005 – 06/09/2005
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To collect up to a maximum of 200 western rock lobsters (<i>Panulirus cygnus</i>), both legal-sized and undersized, for scientific purposes. To conduct preliminary trials of an experimental pot design to assist the Department of Fisheries' Research Division in the further development of an effective Sea Lion Exclusion Device (SLED), and to supply live rock lobsters to the Research Division for video recording of the interaction between sea lions and lobster pots fitted with SLEDs.

Exemption No:	1540
Applicant:	Andrew Cruickshank
Period of Exemption:	01/09/2005 – 31/12/2005
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department of Fisheries' Research Division in collecting samples of 'black snapper' (grass emperor) (<i>Lethrinus laticaudis</i>) of any size from Shark Bay to study the age structure of this species in Shark Bay.

Exemption No:	1541
Applicant:	Craig McTaggart
Period of Exemption:	10/09/2005 – 20/09/2005
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To collect up to a maximum of 200 western rock lobsters (<i>Panulirus cygnus</i>), both legal-sized and undersized, for scientific purposes. To conduct preliminary trials of an experimental pot design to assist the Department of Fisheries' Research Division in the further development of an effective Sea Lion Exclusion Device (SLED) and to supply live rock lobsters to the Research Division for video recording of the interaction between sea lions and lobster pots fitted with SLEDs.

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Exemption No:	1542
Applicant:	Craig McTaggart
Period of Exemption:	21/09/2005 – 30/09/2005
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To enable the exemption holder to retrieve rock lobster pots previously set to collect samples for the Department of Fisheries' Research Division.

Exemption No:	1543
Applicant:	Onslow Prawn Class 'A' Managed Fishery Licensees
Period of Exemption:	11/01/2006 – 31/12/2006
Provisions:	<i>Onslow Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1991</i>
Purpose:	To enable licensees to fish for prawns in the Class 'A' Onslow prawn managed fishery with the use of a vessel larger than 216 boat units, with an underdeck tonnage greater than 30 units and with installed engine power greater than 186 kilowatts and by means of not more than four standard trawl nets, with a combined headrope length of not more than 29.27 metres (16 fathoms).

Exemption No:	1544
Applicant:	Abrolhos Island and Midwest Trawl Managed Fishery Licensees
Period of Exemption:	11/01/2006 – 31/12/2006
Provisions:	<i>Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Management Plan 1993</i>
Purpose:	To permit commercial fishing in accordance with the Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Management Plan 1993 using a vessel greater than the prescribed 375 boat units.

Exemption No:	1545
Applicant:	Shark Bay Scallop Class 'A' Managed Fishery Licensees
Period of Exemption:	11/01/2006 – 31/12/2006
Provisions:	<i>Shark Bay Scallop Management Plan 1994</i>
Purpose:	To permit commercial fishing for scallops in accordance with the Shark Bay Scallop Management Plan 1994 using a vessel greater than the prescribed 375 boat units.

Exemption No:	1546
Applicant:	Antonio LaMacchia
Period of Exemption:	15/11/2005 – 30/06/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993</i>
Purpose:	To allow continued fishing in accordance with the <i>West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993</i> without a Managed Fishery Licence.

Exemption No:	1547
Applicant:	West Coast Electro Fishing Company Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	04/01/2006 – 03/01/2008
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995.</i>
Purpose:	To permit the applicant to take and sell fish by means of electro-fishing.

Exemption No:	1548
Applicant:	Steven Da Silva
Period of Exemption:	17/01/2006 – 31/01/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and Warnbro Sound Crab Limited Entry Fishery Notice 1995</i>
Purpose:	To permit the applicant to undertake crab potting in the Warnbro Sound Crab Managed Fishery without a Managed Fishery Licence.

Exemption No:	1549
Applicant:	Dr Glen Davidson
Period of Exemption:	07/10/2005 – 01/11/2005
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To take 30 legal-sized western rock lobsters (larger than 77 mm), out of season, by the use of conventional commercial rock lobster fishing gear (pots) from a nominated vessel(s), for display at the Geraldton Blessing of the Fleet Festival held on 30 October 2005.

Exemption No:	1550
Applicant:	Kimberly Prawn Company Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	21/12/2005 – 31/12/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To aquaculture white banana prawns (<i>Penaeus merguensis</i>) at Lot 312 and 333, Bungarra Road, East Doctors Creek, Derby WA.

Exemption No:	1551
Applicant:	Department of Conservation and Land Management
Period of Exemption:	20/01/2006 – 31/01/2009
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To permit the taking of rock lobster, abalone, coral, anemones, and sponges for scientific classification for educational and community awareness programs.

Exemption No:	1552
Applicant:	North Coast Shark Operators
Period of Exemption:	28/10/2005 – 28/10/2010
Provisions:	<i>North Coast Shark Fishing (Professional) Fishing Notice 1993 (Notice 602)</i> , <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> and <i>Mackerel Fish (Interim) Management Plan 2004</i> to the extent required to conduct the activities under “purpose”.
Purpose:	To allow licensees to commercially fish for shark in the otherwise closed North Coast Shark Fishery, in accordance with restricted spatial, gear and period specifications.

Exemption No:	1553
Applicant:	Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery and Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licensees
Period of Exemption:	16/03/2006 – 31/12/2006
Provisions:	<i>Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993</i> and <i>Shark Bay Scallop Management Plan 1994</i>
Purpose:	To commercially fish for prawns in the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery and scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery with a vessel greater than the prescribed 375 boat units, using non-standard net configurations, mesh in trawl nets greater than 60mm and to operate bison boards.

Exemption No:	1554
Applicant:	Bayside Abalone Farms Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	04/11/2003 – 03/11/2006
Provisions:	<i>Abalone Management Plan 1992</i> , <i>Prohibition on Fishing (Diving) Order 1999</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To permit the taking of Roe’s abalone (<i>Haliotis roei</i>), greenlip abalone (<i>Haliotis laevisgata</i>), staircase abalone (<i>Haliotis scalaris</i>) and brownlip abalone (<i>Haliotis conicopora</i>) as broodstock for aquaculture purposes.

Exemption No:	1555
Applicant:	Bouverie Nominees Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	29/12/2005 – 29/12/2007
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To sell yabbies harvested from fish and marron aquaculture ponds and water storage dams at Hay Loc. 2156, Lot 2 Harvey Rd, Denbarker WA.

Exemption No:	1556
Applicant:	A Class of West Coast Rock Lobster Fishing Boats
Period of Exemption:	15/11/2005 – 30/06/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department of Fisheries’ Research Division in developing effective Sea Lion Exclusion Devices and assessing their impact on commercial rock lobster catches.

Exemption No:	1557
Applicant:	West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licensees
Period of Exemption:	15/11/2005 – 30/06/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To enable members of the commercial fishing industry to assist the Department of Fisheries’ Research Division in recapturing tagged lobsters by allowing those persons to have in their possession, for return to their usual processing factory or depot, tagged lobsters that are below the legal minimum size and/or are setose or berried.

Exemption No:	1558
Applicant:	All Licensed Rock Lobster Processors
Period of Exemption:	15/11/2005 – 30/06/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To enable licensed rock lobster processors and holding depots to assist the Department of Fisheries’ Research Division 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.

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Exemption No:	1559
Applicant:	Neil Dorrington
Period of Exemption:	06/12/2005 – 08/12/2005
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To collect up to a maximum of 25 undersize western rock lobsters (<i>Panulirus cygnus</i>) for scientific purposes to be supplied to the Department of Fisheries' Research Division to assist in research on rock lobster aquaculture.

Exemption No:	1560
Applicant:	Terry Lissiman
Period of Exemption:	06/02/2006 – 09/02/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To set 120 rock lobster pots and fish for western rock lobsters (<i>Panulirus cygnus</i>) in the waters off Dongara during the summer fishing closure (15 January - 9 February) for scientific purposes.

Exemption No:	1561
Applicant:	Terry Lissiman and Greg Cole
Period of Exemption:	01/03/2006 – 30/06/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department of Fisheries' Research Division to collect biological data and tissue samples in order to further the scientific knowledge of the biology and reproductive behaviour of the western rock lobster.

Exemption No:	1562
Applicant:	Jimmy Butcher
Period of Exemption:	19/03/2006 – 19/03/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department of Fisheries' Research Division in collecting visual survey data in order to further the scientific knowledge of the biology and behaviour of the western rock lobster in deep water.

Exemption No:	1563
Applicant:	Adrian Templeman of Largo Holdings Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	01/07/2005 to 31/12/2007
Provisions:	Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994
Purpose:	For the purpose of exploring the viability of commercial crab fishing in Area 1 of the Mandurah to Bunbury Inshore Crab Fishery.

Exemption No:	1564
Applicant:	Nils Stokke
Period of Exemption:	14/03/2006 – 14/03/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department of Fisheries' Research Division in collecting visual survey data in order to further the scientific knowledge of the biology and behaviour of the western rock lobster in deep water.

Exemption No:	1565
Applicant:	Stuart Dobney
Period of Exemption:	20/03/2006 – 25/03/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To supply live rock lobsters to the Department of Fisheries' Research Division for video recording of the interaction between sea lions and lobster pots fitted with Sea Lion Exclusion Devices.

Exemption No:	1566
Applicant:	Marmion Angling & Aquatic Club
Period of Exemption:	11/03/2006 – 12/03/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department of Fisheries' Research Division in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis.

Exemption No:	1567
Applicant:	Rod Shipway
Period of Exemption:	21/03/2006 – 29/03/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To supply live rock lobsters to the Department of Fisheries' Research Division for video recording of the interaction between sea lions and lobster pots fitted with Sea Lion Exclusion Devices.

Exemption No:	1568
Applicant:	Luke Nelson
Period of Exemption:	28/03/2006 – 13/04/2006
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department of Fisheries' Research Division in collecting biological data and tissue samples required to further the scientific knowledge of the biology, behavioral movements and dietary composition of the western rock lobster in deep water, and of the dietary composition of fish species which may predate on the western rock lobster.

Exemption No:	1569
Applicant:	South West Regional College of TAFE
Period of Exemption:	01/02/2006 – 30/06/2008
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To allow South West Regional College of TAFE to collect undersize black bream (<i>Acanthopagrus butcheri</i>) from the Capel River and Collie River for aquaculture education purposes.

Exemption No:	1570
Applicant:	Persons who are of Aboriginal descent
Period of Exemption:	31/03/2006 – 31/03/2008
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	Taking and/or possessing bluenose salmon (<i>Eleutheronema tetradactylum</i>) in excess of the existing bag limit and possession limits as set out in the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> .

Exemption No:	1571
Applicant:	North Coast Shark Operators
Period of Exemption:	30/03/2006 – 29/03/2007
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> , <i>North Coast Shark Fishing (Professional) Fishing Notice 1993</i> and the <i>Mackerel Fish (Interim) Management Plan 2004</i>
Purpose:	To allow licensees to commercially fish for shark in the otherwise closed North Coast Shark Fishery in accordance with restricted spatial, gear and period specifications.

Exemption No:	1573
Applicant:	Fremantle Octopus Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	15/05/2006 – 31/12/2007
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology of that activity. To gather baseline data about octopus stocks within WA waters under a controlled management regime.

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