



Department of
Fisheries

Annual Report to the Parliament 2006/07



Fish for the future



To the Hon. Jon Ford JP MLC Minister for Fisheries

Sir

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and Section 263 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA), I submit for your information the Annual Report to Parliament of the Department of Fisheries, Western Australia for the financial year ending 30 June 2007.

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

Peter J Millington

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Cover photos:

Top, sunset at the Abrolhos Islands. Photo: Steve Rogers.
Bottom, research divers investigating a lagoonal coral bomble at Scott Reef.
Photo: WA Museum/Clay Bryce.

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From the Chief Executive Officer



For the second year in succession, the Department of Fisheries has had cause for celebration with the opening of several significant facilities to underpin its work in the sustainable management of Western Australia's fisheries.

A world-class public marine education and interpretive centre has been opened at the Department of Fisheries' Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys Boat Harbour, near Perth. The Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre is one of the few facilities in Australia where a public education attraction exists side-by-side with a major scientific research facility. Using multimedia and interactive displays, the Discovery Centre offers a stimulating and informative public 'window' into the State's aquatic environment and will serve to promote messages of community stewardship and sustainability.

Regional areas have also directly benefited from the completion of capital works projects. The new \$2 million Abrolhos Islands Research Institute (AIRI) opened in Geraldton in July 2006. AIRI is one component of the Separation Point Marine Precinct, sharing its site with the Central West College of TAFE's Batavia Coast Maritime Institute. It will provide a resource for the wider mid-west community and a hub for scientific and educational endeavour.

Major renovations costing \$400,000 have been carried out to the Department of Fisheries' Bunbury office. These will provide better services and facilities for the fast-growing south-west community. The office is the hub for fisheries monitoring, compliance operations and education in the region. It offers a spacious shopfront for handling enquiries and providing licensing and education services to the public.

Managing the recovery of a fishery is a difficult and painstaking task. It requires comprehensive scientific research backed up by stringent operational work and close operation between scientists, fisheries managers, departmental field officers and fishers, over a long period of time. I am particularly proud that the successful project which helped pink snapper stocks to recover in the inner gulfs of Shark Bay has been recognised by being awarded the overall 2006 Premier's Award for public sector management.

This is the second time the Department of Fisheries has won the overall Premier's Award for public sector management during the last decade. In this period, the Department has also been a

category winner six times and received high commendations on three occasions.

The Department of Fisheries was awarded a Silver W.S. Lonnie Award for its Annual Report 2005/06 – the Lonnie awards serve to promote excellence in annual reporting across the State's public sector and to improve standards of accountability. This success is a tribute to all staff who operate and report against Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) outcomes and those who prepare the Annual Report.

Staff from the Department of Fisheries have had their achievements recognised in a national context during 2006/07. The Department's intelligence unit won recognition for its role in protecting fish stocks along WA's coastline by winning the 2006 Australian Institute of Professional Intelligence Officers award for the organisation making the most significant progress in intelligence-related management during the year. The Fisheries Intelligence Unit was established in 2004 to give the Department greater capacity to protect WA's natural marine resources.

A major milestone for fishing in Western Australia was passed when formal management arrangements were announced for the State's commercial 'wetline fishery' for demersal scalefish. This followed extensive study, review and public consultation. Wetline fishing has been directly managed in the Kimberley since 1998 and the south coast will come under direct management shortly. While the vast majority of WA's commercial fishers mainly fish in the State's existing 29 managed fisheries, wetline fishers operate outside of them and have been allowed to fish with a line for scalefish species – including the popular West Australian dhufish – that are not in a specific managed fishery.

New protection for the State's vulnerable stocks of sharks and rays were introduced this year. Only authorised commercial fishers in WA's four recognised shark fisheries and a small number of exempted fisheries can now take sharks, rays and skates. This follows specific concerns about the over-exploitation of whiskery, sandbar and dusky sharks ('bronze whalers'). Many years of research into the biology of WA's shark stocks has shown the slow growth and low reproductive potential of a large number of species makes them highly susceptible to overfishing. For example, dusky sharks take around 30 years to reach maturity and produce as few as six pups every second or third year. In the past, sharks, rays and skates have been caught in a wide variety of fisheries that target other fish species.

The West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery – worth around \$300 million annually in earnings to the WA economy – has again proved itself a winner in meeting world-class sustainability standards. The fishery has received new approval from the prestigious London-based Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). As a result, western rock lobster exported around the globe can carry the hard-earned MSC eco-label, whose suppliers are recognised by consumers as providing the best environmental choice in seafood. MSC certification and the associated eco-label are used to reward sustainable and responsibly managed fisheries.

Fisheries compliance and research work in the Houtman Abrolhos archipelago has been boosted with a new \$950,000 jet boat built in Geraldton. This has been named after popular Department of Fisheries' Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Manager, the late Colin Chalmers, who died from cancer in 2005. The name of the boat honours the work of Colin, a tenacious and dedicated fisheries manager, who developed a management plan for the Abrolhos that has provided protection for the low-lying group of 122 islands, with their distinctive and fragile tropical reef environment.

This year has seen major changes in the senior management at the Department of Fisheries, with the retirement of Dr Peter Rogers as Chief Executive Officer and the appointment of Dr Rick Fletcher as Director of Fisheries Research Services.

As CEO of the Department of Fisheries since 1991, Peter Rogers oversaw a major transformation of the agency – from one with a principal focus on commercial fishing to one with an equally important role in sustainable recreational fisheries, the development of aquaculture and the protection of fish habitats.

Peter worked for the Department of Fisheries for all but two of the last 33 years, commencing as a trainee graduate in 1973. His broad experience and specialist knowledge of all facets of fisheries resource management will be missed by all. I would like to thank Peter personally, on behalf of the Department of Fisheries, for his huge contribution to fisheries management in WA and wish him and his family well for the future.

The international search for a new director to lead Western Australia's world-class fisheries research concluded with the appointment of Dr Rick Fletcher. Dr Fletcher was previously a supervising scientist with the Department of Fisheries and has also worked in fisheries research in New South Wales, Queensland and Vanuatu. In addition, Rick is currently the leader of the national sub-program on Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) reporting and assessment. He replaced Dr Jim Penn, who retired in May 2006 after leading the Department's research efforts for 19 years.

For the last two years, the Department of Fisheries has been working with other agencies as the pilot to a new 'whole of government' service arrangement for financial and human resource management. The Department 'rolled' its financial services into the Office of Shared Services in October last year and is now bedding down the system. I wish to thank all staff concerned for their considerable commitment to this initiative.

Management demands for fisheries continue to outstrip the resources available to meet community and stakeholder expectations. The Department is helping this situation by careful priority setting and by finding new innovative ways to undertake department service delivery.

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

I would also like to acknowledge the work of departmental staff; the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee; our stakeholder groups of commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers, charter operators, pearlers and aquaculturists, and conservation representatives; and the many volunteers from the WA community for their invaluable contributions to our collective goal of ensuring 'Fish for the future' by means of the sustainable management of our fisheries, aquaculture and the aquatic environment.

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



Peter J Millington
Chief Executive Officer

Highlights for 2006/07

These include:

Communities and Community Education

- The Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) initiative to manage Western Australia's fisheries in a manner which shares the overall catch between commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers in a sustainable manner continues to make major strides. The Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC) allocation report on western rock lobster has been released for a final round of public comment, along with the Fisheries Minister Jon Ford's position on the committee's report. The IFAAC has also released its draft allocation report on the Perth metropolitan Roe's abalone fishery for public comment and convened a series of public meetings to outline the draft proposals.
- Work will soon commence on an allocation for the demersal scalefish resource on the West Coast. In preparation for the development of processes to equitably and transparently enable the re-allocation of fish 'shares'

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between sectors, the IFAAC also released a draft discussion paper suggesting key criteria for consideration in the re-allocation model. Work will shortly start on the development of this model, using feedback to the discussion paper.

- For the first time, the Department of Fisheries' annual Seaweed Educators Expo has taken place in regional areas of WA. Expo events were held in Bunbury and Albany in addition to Hillarys, near Perth. The expo provided teachers with information on how they can develop interesting marine studies for their classes, so as to teach future generations of Western Australians about the need to manage fish and marine resources in a sustainable way, to protect and preserve them for the future.

Science for Sustainability

- A \$600,000 research program has been started for blue swimmer crab on the West Coast region of WA. A range of environmental factors – including water temperature, the strengths of winds and currents and the timing of rainfall – can affect the survival of crabs, fish larvae and juveniles, leading to large fluctuations in the numbers available to harvest. Recent events in Cockburn Sound have highlighted how a combination of factors from poor recruitment (number of juveniles joining the main stock) to fishing pressure can impact on crab stocks.
- A scoping paper has been put out for public comment about developing a rock lobster aquaculture industry in WA. This is the first of three phases in the process towards establishing a management framework for the grow-out of rock lobster puerulus. The paper identifies the issues that have to be overcome in setting up an industry of this kind. Puerulus is the very early stage in a rock lobster's life cycle, when it settles in inshore areas following its offshore larval life. Pueruli are colourless, about 20 millimetres long, and research shows that hundreds of millions of them die because of the lack of a suitable habitat.
- Researchers from the Department of Fisheries and Murdoch University have completed a survey to assess the abundance of river (western school) prawns in the Swan/Canning Estuary. The research has focussed on 12 sites in the estuary, in order to mirror historical research and provide useful, relevant comparisons. This is an important first step in understanding why the abundance of river prawns in the estuary has apparently diminished,

The Aquatic Environment

- A major 12-month review has been completed of the key legislation that governs fisheries and aquaculture management in Western Australia. A Ministerial Review Committee, chaired by South-West MLC Matt Benson-Lidholm, held a series of public meetings around the State during October/December 2006 and January/February 2007 seeking feedback and suggestions on its proposed changes to the *Fish Resources*

Management Act 1994. A series of proposed amendments to the legislation is planned, to address contemporary issues such as the increased interest of organised crime in the fishing sector, and to provide a framework for ecologically-based fisheries management and IFM.

- The Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee (AIMAC) has released for public comment new proposals to underpin decision-making about the Abrolhos for the next ten years. AIMAC has carried out a review of the management plan for Abrolhos, which builds upon the established principles of sustainability and managed community use for the islands. Pressure on the islands' environment and endemic fish stocks has increased in recent years, owing to increased visitation. This review is part of AIMAC's ongoing role to advise the Minister for Fisheries on management of the Abrolhos and the surrounding State waters.

Regional Areas

- New measures were introduced to stop vulnerable sea lion pups off WA's coast from being accidentally trapped in commercial and recreational rock lobster pots. From the start of the 2006/07 rock lobster fishing season, Seal Lion Exclusion Devices (SLEDs) have become mandatory for all pots used between Freshwater Point (near Dongara) and Wedge Island (north of Lancelin) in waters less than 20 metres deep. Some sea lion pups try to forage in lobster pots in shallow waters and eat any trapped lobsters. A SLED is simply a bolt that stops the pups from entering the neck of rock lobster pots and becoming trapped and possibly drowning. The Australian sea lion is listed as 'vulnerable' under the Commonwealth's *Environmental and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- Efforts to combat illegal fishing off the north-west coast of WA have been strengthened by an innovative patrol program involving the indigenous Bardi Jawi community, the Department of Fisheries and federal agencies. For the last seven months, joint patrols have been carried out by sea rangers from the Bardi Jawi people, supported by officers from the Department of Fisheries and from Customs, in an area 200 kilometres north of Broome. The patrol program is cooperatively funded and is the first of three such initiatives being undertaken in WA, the Northern Territory and Queensland.
- Recreational fishing safety has been boosted at six popular locations along the rugged Quobba coast, near Carnarvon, following a successful submission by the regional Carnarvon Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee to the Australian Government's Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program. The program has awarded \$5,264 to install life-saving rings at potentially treacherous rock fishing locations. The six locations are regularly visited by land-based game fishers who come from around WA and across Australia to target species such as Spanish mackerel, tuna, cobia and billfish.

Who We Are and What We Do

Bevan Davey (left) and Department of Fisheries research scientist Justin Bellanger survey trochus near One Arm Point. Photo: Eloise Dortch



Profile of the Department of Fisheries

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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 of the Department of Fisheries. In broad terms, the Minister establishes the statutory and policy framework for fisheries management, and the office of the Chief Executive Officer carries out the day-to-day aspects of administration.

As part of its responsibilities for assisting the Minister with the administration of the Acts, the Department of Fisheries also undertakes research, management, surveillance, enforcement and education in the marine parks and reserves established under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, and provides at-sea marine safety compliance services on behalf of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure under the *Western Australian Marine Act 1982*.

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

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

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

Fisheries under Western Australia Joint Authority Jurisdiction

The following fisheries are controlled jointly by the 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 Deepwater 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.

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 resource management (NRM) programs:

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

Major Stakeholder Groups

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

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

- the community of Western Australia;
- Management Advisory Committees;
- commercial fishers;

- pearlers;
- aquaculturalists;
- the conservation sector;
- fish processors and others involved in the commercial utilisation of Western Australia's aquatic resources;
- recreational fishers;
- 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.

Government Goal, Department Outcome and Services

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

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

It supports achievement of this goal through 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 under these key services is reported in the 'Report on Fisheries' section of this report.

The Department also supports the State Government's 'Better Planning: Better Future' goals – see the 'Strategic Planning Framework' section of this report.

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Our Philosophy and our Context

The Department of Fisheries is responsible for the conservation of most marine and freshwater fauna in Western Australia, the protection of their habitats and food chains, and ensuring the use of these resources is undertaken in a sustainable manner.

The Department is 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, bycatch species and habitats, plus any potential indirect impacts of fishing and aquaculture activities on the broader ecosystem.

The Department's 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 present-day context of limited fish and environmental resources, a growing human 'footprint' on the marine and freshwater environment, an increasing population, developing coastal infrastructure and rapidly advancing 'fish finding' 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 over 40 years. Today, around 80 per cent of Western Australia's marine waters are protected by closures or controls on fishing methods that can impact directly on marine habitats (for example, trawling) and are totally closed to highly destructive fishing methods (for example, dredging and explosives).

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 2006/07 financial year to Parliament and to the community, based around the Government's '*Better Planning: Better Futures*' strategic planning framework and three key performance indicators that reflect the components of ESD and its 'triple bottom line' of economic, environmental and social accountability.

Operating Environment – Significant Issues and Trends

Conservation and Sustainability – the Key to the Future

Conservation and the sustainable development of the State's fish resources and protection of fish habitats are statutory obligations of the Department of Fisheries. The Department is addressing a number of significant issues and trends over the short-to-medium term (one to five years) to meet these obligations. These issues and trends 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 and other relevant government agencies and environmental interest groups on fish habitat and marine conservation issues;
- participating in the Department of Environment and Conservation/Department of Fisheries Inter-Departmental Committee – which has been expanded to include the Department of Industry and Resources, Department of Planning and Infrastructure and Tourism Western Australia – to assist in streamlining the marine park planning process and enhancing a 'whole of government' approach to relevant issues;
- participating in planning for the marine conservation reserves system in Western Australia, including the Dampier Archipelago/Regnard Marine Management Area, Geographe Bay/Leeuwin-Naturaliste/Hardy Inlet Marine Park, Shoalwater Islands Marine Park and Walpole-Nornalup Inlets Marine Park;
- continuing to 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 Fish Plan to provide a framework for future aquatic resource management and protection of fish habitats in the region;
- participating on the governing board of the Western Australian Marine Science Institution; and
- working with the Western Australian Marine Science Institution and other participating organisations to develop a regional 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:

- commencing the development of a new Service Level Agreement with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for the ongoing delivery of at-sea safety services in the Perth metropolitan region;
- continuing to work in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Conservation for cross-authorisation of Fisheries and Marine Officers and Wildlife Officers and the preparation of joint work plans for management of marine parks;
- initiating the proclamation of Fish Habitat Protection Areas in places where local communities have demonstrated the need for greater protection of near-shore habitats for the appreciation and/or conservation of fish habitat;
- developing and refining community education and volunteer programs to support sustainable community behaviour;
- recovering the costs of management for the State's major commercial fisheries from the commercial fishing sector; and

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- 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 and changing management structures within the Department from being sectorally-based to bioregionally-based to better support the IFM approach. In this regard, the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee has provided final advice to the Minister on allocations for the western rock lobster resource and released its draft allocation report for abalone in the Perth metropolitan region;
- facilitating fisheries adjustment schemes and voluntary resource-sharing in partnership with the commercial and recreational fishing sectors; and
- has published the draft Ministerial position on access, allocation and management arrangements for the State's 'wetline' (finfish) component of commercial fishing for final comment prior to implementation.

There is growing community interest in the concept of high-quality recreational fisheries (based on Ecologically Sustainable Development principles) and low-impact ecotourism experiences in some regions. In response, the Department has:

- implemented management measures (including commercial and recreational fishing closures) in Cockburn Sound to promote the rebuilding of blue swimmer crab stocks; and
- introduced a five year plan for managing the recreational marron fishery to protect the stock and maximise recreational fishing values.

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 Environment Protection and Biodiversity legislation. In response, the Department has:

- completed the initial Ecologically Sustainable Development assessment approvals for the State's export fisheries under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and commenced the next cycle of reassessment reports to ensure ongoing approvals to export; and
- continued to work with the National Oceans Office and other State agencies with respect to integrated coastal zone management and bioregional marine planning initiatives

in Commonwealth waters along the southern coast and the north-west of Western Australia.

In 1970, aquaculture accounted for only 5.3 per cent of the world's seafood production; in 2004 it accounted for 59.4 million tonnes, or 37.5 per cent of total production. Based on data from the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation, 2006 marked the point when the production of wild-caught fish and farmed fish was equal. The growth trend of farmed fish is continuing and it will not be long before aquaculture product dominates the world seafood market. In this context, the Department has:

- secured new funding over the next three years for aquaculture development;
- worked with the Aquaculture Development Council to undertake aquaculture development initiatives in WA to secure sites and develop up-to-date production technology; and
- implemented the policy and planning processes and reviews needed to underpin the expected growth of the industry and ensure its sustainability.

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;
- responded in conjunction with industry to specific trade and market issues, such as declines in traditional markets and changes in international market trends; and
- continued to develop and take a lead role in biosecurity inspections of foreign vessels visiting the north of the State, to reduce the risk of introduced marine pests.

Consumer demand for quality seafood continues to grow, with 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;
- continued to administer, in conjunction 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; and

- started work with the aquaculture sector to identify preferred sites for sustainable aquaculture and strategies to maximise opportunities in the sector to meet the growing demand.

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

- developed an Aboriginal Fishing Strategy focused on recognition of customary fishing, economic development opportunities and improving the opportunities for Aboriginal involvement in management of the State's fisheries;
- commenced work on proposed amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* that define and provide for management and protection of customary fishing access rights;
- recognised and included priority allocations for customary fishing in the Integrated Fisheries Management framework that has been developed for Western Australia;
- assisted in the completion of major infrastructure and earthworks for a model indigenous aquaculture venture at Mud Springs; and
- established a pilot Marine Ranger Program between the Bardi Jawi community at One Arm Point in conjunction with the Australian Customs Service. The program is aimed at involving community members in protecting trochus stocks, while increasing their capacity to undertake natural resource management monitoring through formal training and on-the-job experience.

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

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

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Operating Structure

Functional Organisational Structure

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

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

Process Structure

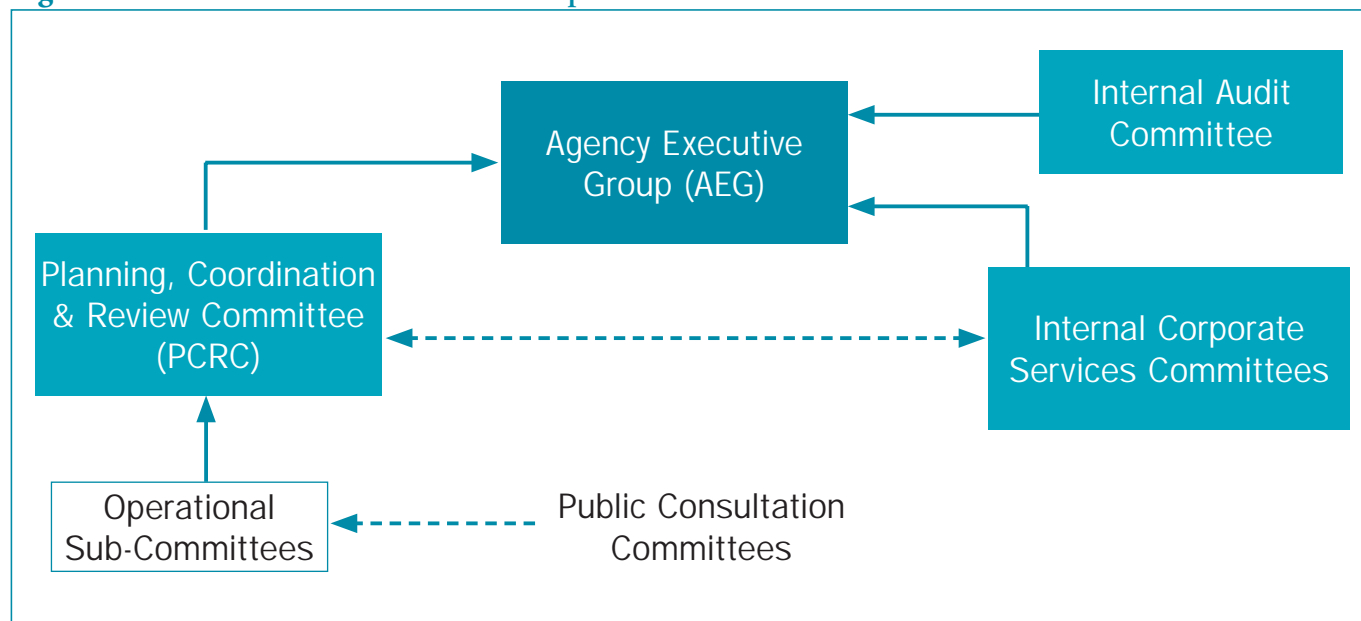
The Department addresses a variety of complex issues impacting on the sustainable management of the State's aquatic resources. To deal with these issues effectively, the Department supports integrated processes designed to facilitate planning and promote coordinated and efficient service delivery across all divisions to the Department's four program output areas.

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

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

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

Figure 1 – Process Structure within the Department



Agency Executive Group

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

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

Planning Coordination and Review Committee

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

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

Corporate Services Committees

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

Operational Sub-Committees

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

Internal Audit Committee

The Internal Audit Committee (IAC) maintains and manages the Department's internal audit function on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer. The committee assists the Chief Executive Officer to manage the process of identifying and quantifying risks that potentially will stop the Department achieving its goals, and to guide the development and implementation of risk mitigating strategies..

Public Consultation/Advisory Committees

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

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

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

The Department administers a number of advisory committees with representatives from government 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 the Department's website at 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 and release of draft management papers and documents for public comment, seminars, public workshops and regular stakeholder surveys. In addition, the Department's many volunteers and regional staff provide direct conduits through which the public and stakeholders can be heard.

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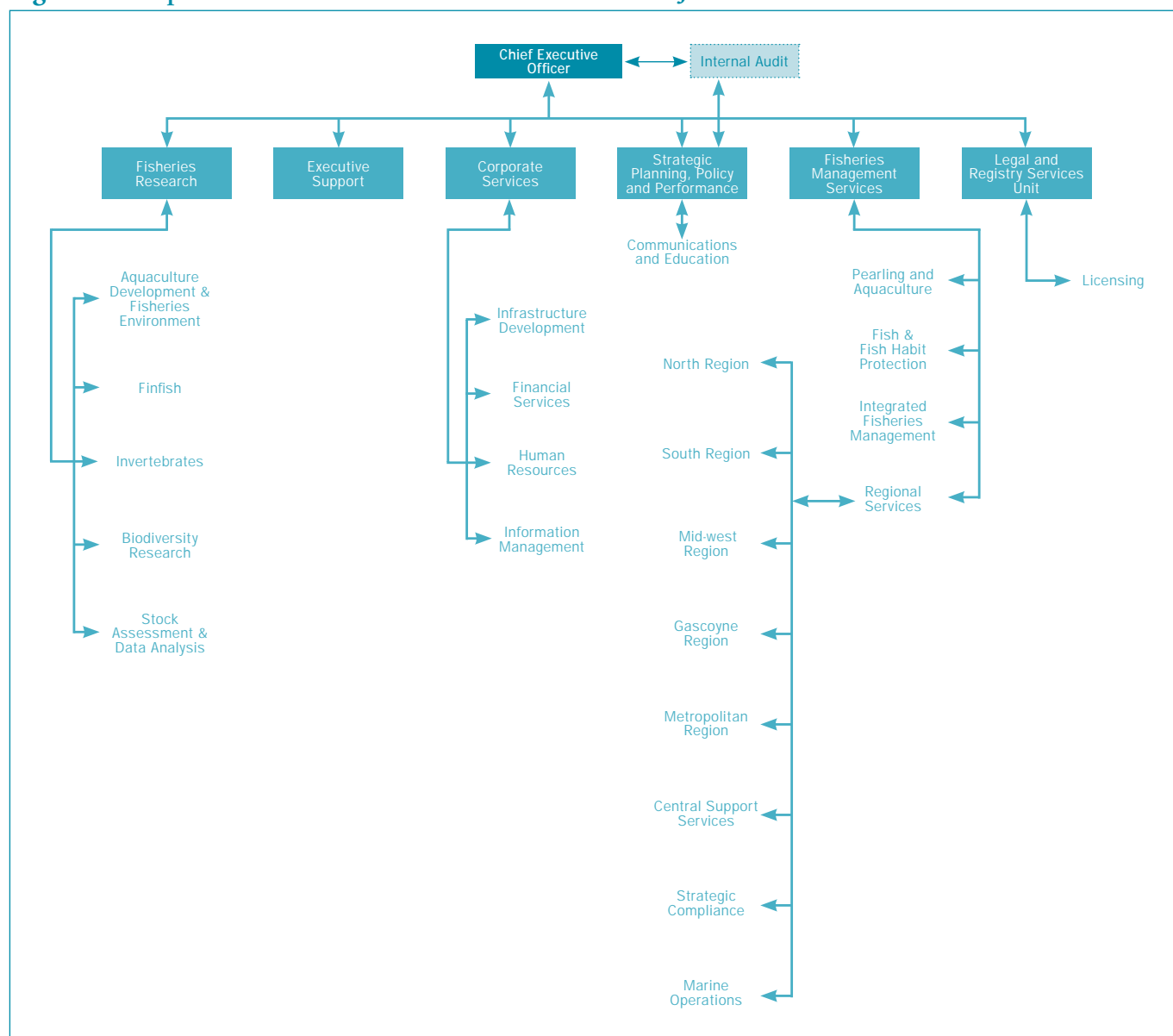
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The Department of Fisheries' Operations

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

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

Figure 2 – Department Functional Structure Chart as at 30 June 2007



Executive Team

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

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

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

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

** Terms of Appointment: The Chief Executive Officer is appointed under Part 3 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994. The current incumbent is acting in the position until 31 December 2007.*

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

Dr Rick Fletcher was appointed as Director of Fisheries Research Services in 2005/06. This position is responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the Department's research group, which provides the information to underpin the Department's successful natural resource management programs.

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

Greg Paust, B. Ag. Sc., MBA

Acting Director, Fisheries Management Services

Greg Paust is responsible for the program, policy and service delivery elements for the Department. Greg has carried out several senior management roles within the Department over the past 11 years, including Deputy Director of Integrated Fisheries Management and Pearling and Aquaculture Program Manager.

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

Dr Lindsay Joll, BSc (Hons) MSc PhD

Acting Deputy Director, **Integrated Fisheries Management**

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

Lindsay is responsible for the operations of the Northern and Southern Integrated Fisheries Management Bioregions, Strategic Fisheries Policy and Integrated Fisheries Management teams. He has over 30 years experience with fisheries issues, which includes both research and management.

Bruno Mezzatesta, BBus MBA FCPA

Director, Corporate Services

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

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

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

Rae Burrows, BA (Hons) Adv. Dip. Leadership & Management; GAICD MGMA
Acting Manager, Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance

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

Current areas of focus for Rae include a review of fisheries legislation, indigenous fisheries policy, corporate governance, international trade and development, internal audit, risk identification, management and mitigation, communications and education, and seafood quality management.

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

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

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

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

Andrew Cribb, BA
Manager, Communications and Education

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

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

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

Phil Bruce
Manager, Infrastructure Development

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

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

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

Declaration of Interests

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

Strategic Planning Framework

Better Services

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

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

The Department of Fisheries has a single clear outcome that is required of it by Government: *Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish and aquatic resources*. This outcome is achieved through four key services – 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 habitats.

Ecologically sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems is essential to ensure their conservation, and to enable the use and enjoyment of current and future generations of Western Australians. The users of the State's aquatic resources, whether they value them for commercial, recreational, customary or conservation purposes, need to participate responsibly in their sustainable management.

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.

Public and stakeholder involvement in decision-making is an important aspect of the Department's management, and each of its program areas has established mechanisms for carrying out consultation with regional communities when there are changes proposed to fisheries management.

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

Similarly, with regard to commercial fisheries, 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 (WAFIC).

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

Examples of work by the Department in 2006/07 that contributed to the 'Better Planning: Better Futures' goal of enhancing the quality of life and wellbeing of all people throughout Western Australia by providing high quality, accessible services are:

- Commencement of the development of a structural framework for the future implementation of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) principles.
- The assessment of all export fisheries against Australian Government Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- The Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) initiative to manage Western Australia's fisheries in a manner which shares the overall catch between commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers in a sustainable manner is being implemented. Management structures within the Department were changed from being sectorally-based to bioregionally-based to better support the IFM approach and provide better services to stakeholders.
- A world-class public marine education and interpretive centre, the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre, was opened. This is one of the few facilities in Australia where a public education attraction exists side-by-side with a major scientific research facility. The public can explore WA's marine life from the Kimberley to the south coast, using interactive touch screen technology and numerous wide-screen audio-visual displays.

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Jobs and Economic Development

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

All Western Australians share in the economic benefits of 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 of Fisheries 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 \$542 million in 2005/06. It is estimated that in 2006/07, 445,000 Western Australians (or 25.8 per cent of the population) participated in recreational fishing, spending about \$570 million per year and creating about 7,000 full-time jobs.

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

Examples of work by the Department in 2006/07 that contributed to the State Government's 'Better Planning: Better Futures' goal of creating conditions that foster a strong economy delivering more jobs, opportunities and greater wealth to Western Australians are:

- The Department and the west coast rock lobster industry have worked together over the past year to increase the effectiveness of the industry and increase the economic return. The initiatives include:
 - the identification of ways to reduce fishing times, particularly during periods of low catch rates such as full moon periods without impacting on catch rates;
 - a comprehensive strategic review of management systems to examine the relative economic and environmental benefits of moving the fishery from an input-based management regime to catch quotas. This culminated in a decision to retain input controls, based on overwhelming industry support for a continuation of the current system; and
 - initiation of discussions on how to address ongoing 'effort creep' and profitability issues in the commercial West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery, following on from a three-year effort reduction package implemented in 2005/06.
- The prawn fleet in Exmouth Gulf and Shark Bay was restructured to move from twin gear (i.e. two nets) per boat to quad gear (four nets per boat), which reduced the number of boats fishing and the costs of catching the prawns.

- Changes have been made to the timing of fishing for prawns and scallops to ensure that fishers are targeting the catch at an optimum size to receive the best price possible for the product landed.
- A system of predicting pearl oyster catch rates has been developed and will be used in setting an appropriate catch quota for the fishery, which should assist in improving its sustainability and economic performance.
- Funding has been secured for aquaculture development over the next three years.
- A scoping paper has been released for public comment about developing a rock lobster aquaculture industry in WA. This is the first of three phases in the process towards establishing a management framework for the grow-out of rock lobster puerulus. The paper identifies the issues that have to be overcome in setting up an industry of this kind – research shows that hundreds of millions of puerulus die each year because of the lack of a suitable habitat.

Lifestyle and the Environment

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

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

If we are to ensure the preservation of our healthy fisheries and aquatic environments that are key features of the Western Australian lifestyle, an increasingly sophisticated management framework is needed. The Department of Fisheries has responded to this challenge by adopting 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 aquatic resources.

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 State and Commonwealth agencies in the development of marine parks and reserves.

The Department also actively encourages environmental awareness within the office environment. Please also see the Sustainability report in the 'Required Reporting' section of this document for examples of its work in this area.

Examples of work by the Department in 2006/07 that contributed to the State Government's 'Better Planning: Better Futures' goal of protecting and enhancing the unique Western Australian lifestyle and ensuring sustainable management of the environment are:

- The Department of Fisheries has completed the initial ecologically sustainability assessments accredited by the Commonwealth's Department of Environment and Water under the *Environmental and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The re-assessment process commenced for those fisheries whose assessment period expired in 2006/07.
- The West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery – worth around \$300 million in earnings to the WA economy – has again received accreditation from the prestigious London-based Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). MSC certification and the associated eco-label are used to reward, and identify seafood in the marketplace that has been produced from sustainable and responsibly managed fisheries.
- The establishment of a Biosecurity Unit to finalise and implement new legislation (Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Bill) and take responsibility for the management of introduced marine pests. This unit has been involved in:
 - the assessment and management of all translocation proposals of exotic fish species into WA waters;
 - the provision of operational responses to feral fish incursions within the marine and freshwater environment;
 - the development of operational guidelines, policies and capacity to enable the implementation of new ballast water and biofouling management arrangements throughout WA; and
 - the development and management of a national system for the prevention of marine pest incursions.
- Proactive contributions to State water planning initiatives and natural resource management programs.
- The Department of Fisheries has worked with the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Water Resources in the development of marine bioregional plans in Commonwealth waters for the south coast and the north-west coast.
- The Department of Fisheries has worked with the WA Department of Environment and Conservation in the development of management plans for proposed marine conservation reserves at Dampier Archipelago/Regnard, Geographe Bay/Leeuwin-Naturaliste/Hardy Inlet and for Walpole/Nornalup Inlets Marine Park; and on the development of a regional marine plan for the south coast of Western Australia.

- Ongoing establishment and management of Fish Habitat Protection Areas.
- Provision of expert advice to other State natural resource management agencies and the Environmental Protection Authority on methods to mitigate impacts on fish populations as a result of development.
- New protection for the State's vulnerable stocks of sharks and rays has been introduced, given concerns about the over-exploitation of whiskery, sandbar and dusky sharks ('bronze whalers'). Only authorised commercial fishers in WA's four recognised shark fisheries and a small number of exempted fisheries can now take sharks, rays and skates.
- Researchers from the Department of Fisheries and Murdoch University have completed a survey of river (western school) prawns in the Swan-Canning in order to understand better why the abundance of river prawns in the estuary has apparently diminished.
- A significant research program has been started for blue swimmer crab on the West Coast region of WA in order to improve understanding and sustainability of crab stocks. Recent events in Cockburn Sound have highlighted how a combination of factors from poor recruitment (number of juveniles joining the main stock) to fishing pressure can impact on crab stocks.
- Formal management arrangements for the State's 'wetline fishery' have been announced to help ensure the sustainability of scalefish species, such as West Australian dhufish, that are not in a specific managed fishery. This follows extensive study, review and public consultation. Wetline fishing has been specifically managed in the Kimberley since 1998 and the south coast will come under direct management shortly.
- The Department of Fisheries has served on the Governing Board of the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) and developed a number of research projects related to Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) to be undertaken under the WAMSI banner.
- The Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee (AIMAC) has reviewed the management plan for the Abrolhos Islands and released for public comment new proposals that will underpin decision making about the Abrolhos for the next ten years.
- Sea Lion Exclusion Devices (SLEDs) have been introduced to stop vulnerable sea lion pups from being accidentally trapped in commercial and recreational rock lobster pots off WA's coast. The Australian sea lion is listed as 'vulnerable' under the Commonwealth's *Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

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Regional Development

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

The Department of Fisheries has five regional offices, located in Broome, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Fremantle and Albany. These are supported by 13 district offices, which assist in providing an equitable, consistent and friendly service to all Western Australians.

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

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 on recreational fisheries on a regional basis is provided principally through a network of 12 Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees (RRFACs). Similarly, in regard to commercial fisheries, there are numerous fishery Management Advisory Committees (MACs) that provide a local industry contribution to the development and maintenance of fisheries management plans for the major fisheries around the State.

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 consider the effect on fisheries management and that community use of fish and marine resources continues responsibly.

Examples of work by the Department in 2006/07 that contributed to the State Government's 'Better Planning: Better Futures' goal of ensuring that regional Western Australia is strong and vibrant include:

- The \$2 million Abrolhos Islands Research Institute (AIRI), a component of the Separation Point Marine Precinct, was opened in Geraldton. It will provide a hub for scientific and educational endeavours and a resource for the wider mid-west community.
- Major renovations costing \$400,000 have been carried out to the Department of Fisheries' Bunbury office to provide better services and facilities for the fast-growing south-west community. The office is the hub for fisheries monitoring, enforcement operations and education in the region and offers a shopfront for handling enquiries and providing licensing and education services to the public.
- For the first time, the Department of Fisheries' annual Seaweed Educators Expo has taken place in regional areas of WA. Expo events were held in Bunbury and Albany in addition to Hillarys, near Perth. The expo provided teachers with information on how they can develop interesting marine

studies for their classes, so as to teach future generations of Western Australians about the need to manage fish and marine resources in a sustainable way, to protect and preserve them for the future.

- Recreational fishing safety has been boosted at six popular locations along the rugged Quobba coast, near Carnarvon, following a successful submission by the regional Carnarvon RRFAC to the Australian Government's Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program. The Program has awarded \$5,264 to install life-saving rings at potentially treacherous rock fishing locations. The six locations are regularly visited by land-based game fishers who come from around WA and across Australia to target species such as Spanish mackerel, tuna, cobia and billfish.
- Work continued on the development of a Kimberley Fish 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 has included extensive consultation with the local Kimberley community and relevant interest groups.

Governance and Public Sector Improvement

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

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

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

The Department is fully committed to openness and to involving our clients in decision-making and in setting priorities in funding. This openness and involvement is crucial to our whole corporate ethos and structure.

The management of fisheries is based on the premise that government is the ultimate custodian of what is essentially a community-based resource. The Department of Fisheries recognises that the sustainable use of WA's aquatic resources is only likely to happen if stakeholders – conservationists, customary fishers, commercial and recreational fishers and aquaculturists in particular – have a strong sense of stewardship and involvement in the management of fisheries. The Department acknowledges that its stakeholders are many and varied and have different values and expectations.

It is vital for good corporate governance that the Department of Fisheries is able to strike a balance between the often competing demands of its stakeholders – particularly between commercial and recreational fishers and other special interest groups – and the need to ensure that fish stocks and their habitats are protected, now and for the future of all Western Australians.

The Department of Fisheries is committed to continuing to consult with its stakeholders, thus ensuring that these participatory decision-making processes are maintained. An important part of this process is the Ministerial Advisory Committees (MACs) – ranging from the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee to state and regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees. Also important are the more informal consultation processes with the public directly through our valued Fisheries volunteers and regional Fisheries and Marine Officers.

The Department of Fisheries is similarly committed to consulting with other agencies involved in the management of Western Australia's aquatic environment – such as the Department of the Environment and Conservation and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure – and there are mechanisms in place to ensure this consultation is carried out.

Examples of work by the Department in 2006/07 that contributed to the State Government's *'Better Planning: Better Futures'* goal of developing and maintaining a skilled, diverse and ethical public sector serving the Government with consideration of the public interest are:

- Introduction of a workplace plan to address the WA public sector-wide difficulty of attracting and retaining staff.
- A major 12-month review was completed of the key legislation that governs fisheries and aquaculture management in Western Australia. A Ministerial Review Committee, chaired by South-West MLC, the Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm, held a series of public and stakeholder meetings around the State during October-December 2006 and January-February 2007, seeking feedback on its draft report of proposed changes to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*. It is planned that the outcome of the review will inform the drafting of a new Amendments Bill.
- Working with the Department of Environment and Conservation through an Inter-Departmental Committee to manage the State's marine protected areas in a cooperative and integrated manner; and with the Department of Industry and Development, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and Tourism Western Australia to develop a regional marine plan for the south coast of Western Australia.
- A successful project which helped pink snapper stocks to recover in the inner gulfs of Shark Bay has won the overall 2006 Premier's Award for public sector management.

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Financial Targets

Table 1 – Actual Performance Compared to Budget Targets (Financial)

	2006/07 Target \$'000	2006/07 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Total cost of services (expense limit) (sourced from Income Statement)	55,378	57,865	2,487 ⁽¹⁾
Net cost of services (sourced from Income Statement)	27,026	32,402	5,376 ⁽²⁾
Total equity (sourced from Balance Sheet)	55,307	45,431	9,876 ⁽³⁾
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held (sourced from Cash Flow Statement)	(291)	(539)	248
	No.	No.	No.
Approved full time equivalent (FTE) staff	428	413	15 ⁽⁴⁾

- (1) The variation results from increased activity or funding approved after the budget was finalised. Increases in liabilities assumed by the Treasurer for superannuation and the accounting treatment of expenditure on projects funded for the Departmental Capital Works allocation. The new approvals included Shark Tagging Trial (\$314,000), Montebello Island/Barrow Island Marine Conservation area (\$175,000), Office of Shared Services delayed payroll functionality (\$260,000) and salary increases (\$589,000). The liability assumed by the Treasurer was \$839,000, compared to a budget of \$402,000 and increase of \$437,000. An amount of \$845,000 which was budgeted as Capital Works expenditure was included in the Cost of Services in accordance with revised capitalisation thresholds.
- (2) The increased net cost of services result from a combination of increased activity funded by appropriation as outlined in note (1) and reduced revenue that resulted from the delayed timing of recovery for some externally funded projects, and fee adjustments required under the cost recovery arrangement with the six major commercial fisheries that fund the full costs of services delivered.
- (3) The target is set as part of the budget development process. This process is complete prior to the actual results for the 2005/06 financial year being finalised. Being a Balance Sheet item, the 2005/06 estimated actual result is the base upon which 2006/07 targets are set, any variations between the 2005/06 estimated and actual result will result in the impact in this area. The 2005/06 estimated out-turn was impacted by variations in the estimated surplus/deficit (\$3.7M) and revaluation reserves of \$4.2M. The equity balance was also impacted by a change in accounting policy where the asset capitalisation threshold was increased to \$5,000 resulting in a once-off adjustment of \$1.8M). Further detail is provided at Notes 33 – 35 (see the notes to the Financial Statements).
- (4) The variation in full time equivalent employees is the result of vacancies occurring during the course of the year.

Full financial statements for the performance of the Department of Fisheries during the 2006/07 financial year can be found in the 'Financials' section of this Annual Report.

Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Table 2 – Actual Performance Compared to Budget Targets (KPIs)

	2006/07 Target \$'000	2006/07 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000 ⁽¹⁾
Outcome: Conservation and Sustainable Development of the State's Fish Resources.			
<i>Key Effectiveness Indicators</i>			
The satisfaction rating of the broader community with the Department's management of commercial fishing.	95%	84%	
The satisfaction rating of the broader community with the Department's management of recreational fishing.	95%	84%	
The satisfaction rating of the broader community with the Department's management and development of pearling and aquaculture activities.	95%	84%	
The satisfaction rating of the broader community with the Department's conservation of fish habitat.	95%	84%	
Service 1 - Management of the State's Commercial Fisheries			
<i>Key efficiency indicators</i>			
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$108	\$144	\$36
Average cost per hour for management	\$127	\$155	\$28
Average cost per hour for research	\$115	\$135	\$20
Service 2 - Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries			
<i>Key efficiency indicators</i>			
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$141	\$134	(\$7)
Average cost per hour for management	\$131	\$141	\$10
Average cost per hour for research	\$121	\$132	\$11
Service 3 - Development and Promotion of the State's Aquaculture Industry			
<i>Key efficiency indicators</i>			
Average cost per hour for pearling community education and compliance	\$138	\$304	\$166
Average cost per hour for pearling management	\$82	\$149	\$67
Average cost per hour for pearling research	\$104	\$139	\$35
Average cost per hour for aquaculture community education and compliance	\$108	\$200	\$92
Average cost per hour for aquaculture management	\$131	\$123	(\$8)
Average cost per hour for aquaculture research	\$116	\$141	\$25
Service 4 - Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat			
<i>Key efficiency indicators</i>			
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$116	\$165	\$49
Average cost per hour for management	\$116	\$139	\$23
Average cost per hour for research	\$121	\$158	\$37

(1) The target cost per hour is calculated using the full cost of service delivery and assuming a full complement of staff in each functional area delivering services as budgeted. The cost of services includes a mix of fixed and variable costs. In the course of the year, if the mix of costs varies or vacancies occur the number of hours is reduced and consequently the hourly cost of service delivery is increased as fixed costs are spread over fewer hours delivered. Information on the variances is included in the Performance Indicators.

Full details of the Performance Indicators of the Department of Fisheries for the 2006/07 financial year can be found in the 'Performance Indicators' section of this Annual Report.

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Spangled emperor (*Lethrinus nebulosis*) are eagerly sought by recreational and commercial fishers and have been selected as an 'indicator species' in the Gascoyne Coast Bioregion. Photo: Dr Ross Marriot

Integrated Fisheries Management
Pearling and Aquaculture
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection

Integrated Fisheries Management

Overview

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

As the result of the Department of Fisheries' move towards IFM and a more holistic approach to fisheries management, in 2006/07 the Department's Commercial Fisheries and Recreational Fisheries programs were amalgamated and then restructured into two bioregionally-based groups of staff, dealing comprehensively in an integrated manner with all recreational and commercial fishing activity that occurs within them. A third team was also created from the two program areas – the Strategic Fisheries Policy group – to deal with strategic fisheries management issues which applied to all bioregions.

The three teams are known collectively as the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch. The two bioregionally-based teams are the Northern Bioregions group (which deals with fishing on the Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley coasts and inland waters) and the South-West Bioregions group (covering the State's lower west and south coasts and inland waters).

This restructure means material is reported differently in this Annual Report to those in previous years. Instead of separate reports on commercial and recreational fisheries, this year's Annual Report deals with the key commercial and recreational fishing matters in the two bioregional groupings.

The activities of the Strategic Fisheries Policy group have not been reported on separately in this year's Annual Report, but this will be done in future. Since its formation in late 2006, the Strategic Fisheries Policy group has been focussing on ways to modify the current recreational and commercial fishing consultation processes to better support IFM and ESD, streamlining the process for ESD reporting to the Commonwealth's Department of Environment and Water Resources and developing the processes for claims under the *Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997*.

Other significant events concerning Integrated Fisheries Management relate to the operations of the Integrated Fisheries

Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC). A draft '*Ten Year Strategic Plan for Integrated Fisheries Management*' was developed and submitted to Minister for his consideration in October 2006. The draft allocation report for the Roe's abalone resource in the Perth metropolitan region was released in August 2006 and an abalone stakeholder workshop was held in March 2007 to explore matters raised in submissions.

The need to hold a workshop and further explore issues interrupted the IFAAC's planned schedule for dealing with the Perth metropolitan Roe's abalone resource and the final allocation report for it will not be finalised until 2007/08.

The IFAAC's final report on the western rock lobster resource was released in February 2007, along with the Minister for Fisheries' proposed position, for a two-month comment period, during which 48 submissions were received.

The IFAAC was due to commence considering the allocation issues surrounding the west coast demersal finfish resource in June 2007. However, because of sustainability issues with demersal scalefish, the resource report has not been finalised. The delay of a resource report and the need for prompt management action by Government on the sustainability issues has thus affected the progress of the IFAAC process for this resource.

A draft paper on re-allocation mechanisms (*An Assessment Framework for Fisheries Inter-Sectoral Allocation Models*) was circulated to key stakeholders for comment. An application to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) for funding to further develop re-allocation frameworks and mechanisms was not supported in its original form, but a modified proposal is likely to be funded in 2007/08.

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

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Department of Fisheries has achieved the following in relation to Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM):

- The IFAAC's final advice on the western rock lobster resource was provided to the Minister.
- The IFAAC's draft allocation report for the Perth metropolitan region Roe's abalone resource was released.

- Management structures within the Department were changed from being sectorally-based to bioregionally-based, so as to better support the IFM approach.
- A draft *Ten Year Strategic Plan for Integrated Fisheries Management* was developed and is currently being considered by the Minister.
- A funding proposal for a project to develop re-allocation frameworks and mechanisms was submitted to FRDC.
- A draft paper dealing with re-allocation processes was developed.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Department of Fisheries is intending to achieve the following in relation to Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM):

- The IFAAC's final advice on allocations to the sectors of the Perth metropolitan region Roe's abalone resource to be provided to the Minister.
- Commencement of a project on re-allocation frameworks and mechanisms.
- Commencement of the west coast demersal scalefish resource sharing process.
- Finalisation and implementation of the strategic plan for IFM in Western Australia.

Integrated Fisheries Management – Bioregions

As part of the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch, the Northern and South-West Bioregions teams' core function is to deliver sustainable fisheries management across the commercial and recreational sectors for fisheries in each bioregional grouping.

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

Comprehensive details on each of the fisheries within the bioregions can be found in the *State of the Fisheries Report 2006/07*, which is a companion to this document but published separately.

Northern Bioregions

The Northern Bioregions covers the area north of Kalbarri to the Western Australia/Northern Territory border and includes inland waters. It incorporates two distinct bioregions.



In the Pilbara/Kimberley bioregion, ocean temperatures range between 22°C and 33°C, but temperatures in coastal waters are appreciably higher, due to the arid nature of the surrounding countryside. Fish stocks are entirely tropical, with most having an Indo-Pacific distribution.

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

The principal commercial fisheries in this region focus on tropical finfish, particularly the high-value emperors, snappers and cods which are taken by the Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery and the Pilbara and Northern Demersal Trap fisheries. The region is increasingly coming under threat from international poaching, particularly for sharks.



The Gascoyne coast bioregion represents a transition between the fully tropical waters of the North-West Shelf and the temperate waters of the west coast. Offshore ocean temperatures range from about 22°C to 28°C, while the inner areas of Shark Bay regularly fall to 15°C in

winter. The major fish stocks are generally tropical in nature, with the exceptions of pink snapper and tailor which are at the northern end of their range off Shark Bay.

The Gascoyne coastline is characterised by high cliffs in the southern half, changing to fringing coral reefs in the north. The waters off it are strongly influenced by the southward-flowing Leeuwin Current. Commercial fishing is very significant in the Gascoyne, with three of the State's more valuable managed fisheries – the Shark Bay Prawn, Exmouth Gulf Prawn and Shark Bay Scallop fisheries – landing combined catches worth \$40 to \$50 million annually.

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

Invertebrates/Trawl Fisheries

Eight invertebrate trawl fisheries operate in the Mid-West, Pilbara and Kimberley regions, primarily targeting king prawns, tiger prawns, banana prawns and scallops. Commercial catches in these fisheries were all within acceptable catch ranges and there is no recreational component for the fisheries, which are listed below:

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- Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl Managed Fishery;
- Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery;
- Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery;
- Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery;
- Onslow Prawn Managed Fishery;
- Nickol Bay Prawn Managed Fishery;
- Broome Prawn Managed Fishery; and
- Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery.

A general trend being experienced across the State's trawl fisheries is a decrease in profitability due to significant increases in operating costs (driven by fuel prices and labour costs) without any real increases in the value of landed product in recent years.

The general decrease in profitability has been the catalyst for trawl gear amalgamation and fleet size reductions in the Shark Bay, Exmouth Gulf and Onslow prawn trawl fisheries. Gear amalgamation has taken the form of trialling quad trawl gear that reduces drag and increases fuel efficiency.

Stock sustainability in these trawl fisheries is maintained through a suite of 'input' measures including boat and gear size, closed seasons and designated areas to protect spawning stocks. All invertebrate trawl vessels are monitored by the Department's satellite-based Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), which provides accurate and valuable compliance, research and management information.

Blue swimmer crabs are fished both recreationally and commercially in the Gascoyne and Pilbara. In recent years, Shark Bay and Nickol Bay have been developed into the State's two largest blue swimmer crab commercial fisheries. Commercial fishers take crabs at a larger size than recreational fishers, so as to guard against directly affecting the catches of recreational fishers. Closures are also in place to ensure commercial fishing takes place in areas away from the main recreational fishing areas.

Marine Finfish

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

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

The managed commercial scalefish fisheries in the Northern Bioregions include:

- Marine Aquarium Fish Managed Fishery;
- Shark Bay Snapper Managed Fishery;

- Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Managed Fishery;
- Mackerel Interim Managed Fishery;
- Pilbara Trap Managed Fishery;
- Pilbara Trawl Managed Fishery;
- Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery; and
- Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Managed Fishery.

Commercial catch levels of oceanic Shark Bay pink snapper continue to be closely managed at reduced levels, so to ensure the success of the current breeding stock recovery program.

The Minister has recently announced his decisions in regard to formal scalefish management for the West Coast and the creation of a new demersal scalefish fishery in the Gascoyne, which will include the current Shark Bay pink snapper fishery.

During 2006/07, the 'Barramundi Accord', an integrated cross-sectoral agreement to underpin effective management and access to the State's iconic barramundi fishery, was reviewed in Broome by recreational and commercial signatories and then endorsed by the Minister for Fisheries.

Indian Ocean Territories

The Department of Fisheries is currently undertaking a range of fisheries management and research projects at the Cocos-Keeling Islands and Christmas Island as part of a Service Level Agreement with the Commonwealth's Department of Transport and Regional Services.

Developing New Fisheries

Octopus and blue swimmer crabs are the two species to have become established as part of the Developing New Fisheries (DNF) process during 2006/07. It is likely that fisheries for these two species will be considered for a move to more formal management arrangements in the near future.

The ongoing DNF process is also under review by the DNF committee, which provides advice to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries.

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch has achieved the following in the Northern Bioregions:

- Release of the review of the Shark Bay Prawn and Scallop fisheries.
- Ongoing ESD accreditation for the Pilbara Fish Trawl Interim Managed Fishery for 2007.
- Commenced a major review of management arrangements for the Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch is intending to achieve the following in the Northern Bioregions:

- Conclude the review of the Shark Bay Trawl fisheries and implement its outcomes.
- Conclude a major review of Kimberley Prawn fishery management arrangements.
- Develop a management plan for the implementation of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery.
- Develop management arrangements for Gascoyne inshore commercial netting.
- Implement management arrangements for the Gascoyne commercial 'wetline' (demersal scalefish) fisheries to ensure future stock and economic sustainability.

South-West Bioregions

The South-West Bioregions incorporates two distinct bioregions.



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

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



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

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

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

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

Overview

During 2006/07, fisheries management activities in the South-West Bioregions were largely driven by the need to address sustainability concerns about demersal scalefish species, such as dhufish and pink snapper, and blue swimmer crabs. This focus will continue in 2007/08.

The IFM process continues to focus on fisheries within the South-West Bioregions (rock lobster, abalone and, latterly, west coast demersal scalefish). The expected completion of the rock lobster and abalone processes will have a direct influence on the activities in the South-West Bioregions in 2007/08, as the task of managing fisheries to 'agreed' catch shares begins.

Assessment and re-assessment of fisheries against sustainability criteria set by the Commonwealth's Department of Environment and Water Resources under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999* is an ongoing process. It influences both research requirements and management action in the South-West Bioregions. Successful compliance with these *EPBC Act 1999* requirements prevents disruption to the operations of the State's valuable export fisheries and provides independent verification of the ecological sustainability of commercial fishing in WA.

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Integrated Fisheries Management Branch has achieved the following in the South-West Bioregions:

- A comprehensive strategic review of management systems for the commercial West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery was completed, examining the relative benefits of moving the fishery from an input-based management regime to catch quotas. This culminated in a decision to retain input controls, based on overwhelming industry support for a continuation of the current system.
- The Minister for Fisheries announced his final decisions on access, allocation and management arrangements for the commercial 'wetline' (demersal scalefish) fishery, following an extensive consultation process.
- Management measures (including commercial and recreational fishing closures) were implemented in Cockburn Sound to promote the rebuilding of blue swimmer crab stocks.

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- Major research projects on blue swimmer crab sustainability commenced on the west coast.
- A five-year plan for managing the recreational marron fishery to protect the stock and maximise recreational fishing values was introduced.
- All outstanding initial ESD assessments under the Commonwealth *EPBC Act 1999* were completed. The re-assessment process commenced for those fisheries whose initial assessment period expired in 2006/07.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the IFM Branch is intending to achieve the following in the South-West Bioregions:

- Initiate discussions on how to address ongoing 'effort creep' and profitability issues in the commercial West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery, following on from a three-year effort reduction package implemented in 2005/06.
- Commence discussions with stakeholders to implement outcomes of the IFM process for the western rock lobster and the abalone resource.

- Implement management arrangements for the Gascoyne commercial 'wetline' (demersal scalefish) fisheries to ensure future stock and economic sustainability.
- Review management arrangements for the recreational take of key demersal scalefish species in the West Coast region.
- Review and, where necessary, revise management arrangements to protect the sustainability of blue swimmer crab stocks in the West Coast region as indicated by research advice.
- Implement a management plan for the South Coast Trawl Fishery to provide stakeholders with greater certainty of access while constraining potential effort increases.
- Implement management strategies to address resource-sharing concerns in Geographe Bay.
- Implement quota-based management arrangements for the West Coast Deep Sea Crab Interim Managed Fishery to ensure stock sustainability.
- Implement a new management plan for the West Coast Purse Seine Managed Fishery.
- Develop a five-year management strategy for the recreational freshwater fishery.

Pearling and Aquaculture

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

Pearling

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

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

The work of the Pearling sub-program encompasses:

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

The Pearling sub-program is also responsible for ensuring the ongoing environmental management of the Western Australian

pearling industry. The wild capture pearl oyster fishery has achieved Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage accreditation as being environmentally sustainable under the *EPBC Act 1999*.

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

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

Production in the Western Australian South Sea pearl industry was valued at \$120 million in 2006. There are 17 pearling licensees, collectively holding 572 units in the wild stock fishery and 350 hatchery units. The value of the wild stock units, in terms of the number of shells that may be taken per unit, is reviewed annually, based on recruitment and stock assessment data collected through a research program.

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

The total allowable catch from Zone 1 for the 2006 season was kept at 55,000 shells to assist in the recovery of the fishery within this area. Zone 1 licensees may substitute hatchery-produced oysters for wild-captured oysters in order to maintain their annual pearl production.

As recruitment increased within the fishery, the value of wild stock units within Zones 2 and 3 was increased to a value of 1,200 oysters per unit. However, the seeding entitlement for Zone 2 and 3 units remained at 1,100 oysters per unit.

The Pearling sub-program provides executive support to the Pearling Industry Advisory Committee (PIAC), a statutory Management Advisory Committee established under the *Pearling Act 1990*, and its sub-committees. During 2006/07, a new chair was appointed to PIAC and the Minister has confirmed the appointment of the members of the committee.

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

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Pearling sub-program has achieved the following:

- Implemented a Memorandum of Understanding between the Western Australia and the Northern Territory Governments for the management of the Australian pearling industry.

- Provided assistance to the independent public interest Ministerial review of the pearling industry.
- Continued to manage a 'disease incident' in pearl oyster hatchery shell in WA.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Pearling sub-program is intending to achieve the following:

- Provide assistance, where required, to the independent public interest Ministerial review of the pearling industry.
- Complete an independent review of compliance with pearling legislation.
- Work towards identifying the cause of a disease outbreak that occurred in hatchery-bred pearl oysters on ocean leases in the Kimberley and Pilbara in late 2006 and early 2007. The Department of Fisheries is adopting a precautionary approach in its management of this incident. An epidemiological study into the disease incident will be completed before the end of 2007.

Aquaculture

The Aquaculture sub-program is responsible for the management and regulation of 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
- assessment and administration of licences and exemptions.

Major species currently being produced commercially by aquaculture in WA include mussels, barramundi, abalone, western rock oysters, silver perch, trout, pearl oysters (producing black pearls), marron and yabbies. Algae species are also grown for the production of beta carotene.

Management arrangements ensure the aquaculture industry in WA is developing in an environmentally sustainable manner. It is already a requirement for the granting of a licence that the proposed operations are unlikely to adversely affect other fish and aquatic environments, but the Department of Fisheries has 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 ESD process is under way for aquacultured marine prawns and finfish.

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

Regional aquaculture development will also provide substantial employment opportunities, both directly – through on-farm jobs – and indirectly – through jobs associated with support industries and services. Examples of industry sector development include abalone aquaculture along the State's south coast and the development of black pearl culture at the Abrolhos Islands, with some additional activity around these species also occurring at Shark Bay.

The need for appropriate infrastructure to support these industries during their infancy stages will be a challenge for Government. New, large-scale aquaculture projects are also being investigated.

Following the recommendations of the aquaculture review in 2004, a number of restructures have now occurred. Aquaculture Development Council (ADC) membership has been reviewed to enable it to focus on critical industry development factors namely project development, investment attraction, business facilitation and infrastructure support. The ADC is committed to the implementation of numerous other recommendations resulting from the review, whose recommendations are available on the Department of Fisheries' website.

The ADC is undertaking several initiatives it believes will form the foundations for future aquaculture industry development in the State. One of these involves identifying the best sites in WA for future large-scale aquaculture development. Following their identification, steps will be taken to reserve these sites for aquaculture. These include comprehensive assessments of environmental, social and economic issues. The site identification project is likely to be completed within 2007/08.

Another ADC initiative involves an international collaboration to establish open-ocean aquaculture production systems. This new technology will allow large-scale aquaculture production in pristine waters that are well away from sensitive coastal areas.

The ADC is also positioning itself as a leading innovator in the support of aquaculture development on a scale that will be competitive in global markets.

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Aquaculture sub-program has achieved the following:

- Secured new funding for aquaculture development for the next three financial years.
- Commenced the development of ESD reports for the prawn and finfish aquaculture sectors.
- Started the development by a working group established for the purpose of a framework for the allocation of western

rock lobster juveniles (pueruli) for aquaculture purposes.

- Nearly completed the lease arrangements for Cockburn Sound.
- Nearly completed the lease arrangements for aquaculture in general. Proponents will be able to submit applications early in the 2007/08 financial year.
- Completed a major aquaculture industry review in regard to deregulation and made recommendations to streamline the legislative and regulatory environment in WA.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Aquaculture sub-program is intending to achieve the following:

- Review the conditions on aquaculture licences on a species-by-species basis.
- Complete all policies relating to aquaculture leases by early 2008.
- Finish a policy for the allocation and grow-out of juvenile western rock lobsters (pueruli).
- Complete a policy paper on the aquaculture of coral and live rock.
- Review the freshwater crustacean aquaculture licensing and management framework.
- Complete ESD Risk Assessment Reports for prawn and finfish and significantly progress the ESD Management Reports.
- Finalise as much as possible the codes of practice and environmental monitoring programs for prawn and finfish aquaculture.

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection

The Department of Fisheries' Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program provides environmental guidance and support to the management of marine, estuarine and riverine ecosystems. The program plays a vital role in inter-governmental liaison and meeting the Department's Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) requirements, as well as developing positions, policies and management frameworks for protection of Western Australia's aquatic environment. Within the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program, there are four sections – Biosecurity, Environment and Aquatic Protection, Marine Planning and Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity can be defined as the protection of people, animals and ecological systems against disease and other biological threats and is an emerging area for the Department of Fisheries and its Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program. During 2006/07, there was significant effort towards the development of new legislation, policy, guidelines and management arrangements for biosecurity.

Legislation, policy and management arrangements were prepared by the Biosecurity unit of the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program to underpin the implementation of the new *Biosecurity Agriculture Management Bill (BAM Bill)*. This section also conducted the ongoing regulation of fish movement into and within the State (i.e. what is termed 'translocation') and the management of introduced marine and freshwater pests.

There was extensive involvement in several national committees and working groups on the development of new legislation, policy, guidelines and management arrangements for aquatic biosecurity, including for ballast water, vessel and equipment biofouling and ornamental (aquarium) fish. The Department represented Western Australia on the:

- National System (for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions) Implementation Group;
- National Introduced Marine Pests Coordinating Group (and a number of its working groups);

- Consultative Committee for Introduced Marine Pest Emergencies; and
- Ornamental Fish Policy Implementation Working Group.

The Biosecurity section of the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program also responded to a number of feral marine and freshwater pest incursions during 2006/07, and undertook priority vessel inspections on an 'as needs' basis.

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program has achieved the following in biosecurity:

- Established a biosecurity section to implement new legislation and management arrangements for the management of aquatic biosecurity within Western Australia.
- Continued an operational response to a feral fish incursion (pearl cichlids) in Bennett Brook in the Perth metropolitan area.
- Worked collaboratively with the WA Department of Agriculture and Food and other major stakeholders (such as the shipping industry) on the development of the *BAM Bill* and the associated Regulations.
- Provided input to the Department of Agriculture and Food about the WA biosecurity review process.
- Participated in a range of national committees and working groups towards the development and implementation of the National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions and a strategic approach to the management of ornamental fish, etc.
- Enabled the Department of Fisheries to continue to fulfil the role of 'lead agency' within WA in developing policies, legislation and responses to introduced marine pests that will reflect the national system to be introduced in 2008.
- Commenced a monitoring project for introduced marine pests funded by the Natural Heritage Trust.

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Fish and Fish Habitat Protection

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program is intending to achieve the following in biosecurity:

- Continue to work with the WA Department of Agriculture and Food on the finalisation and implementation of the *BAM* Bill and the development of regulations to support the new legislation.
- Review the Department of Fisheries' translocation policy and the associated Memorandum of Understanding with the Environmental Protection Authority.
- Develop operational guidelines, policies and capacity to implement new ballast water and biofouling management arrangements, including regular inspections of vessels in major WA ports from mid-2008/09.
- Continue to work with State and Commonwealth agencies to implement national biosecurity plans.
- Address 'priority' introduced marine and freshwater pest incursions.

Environment and Aquatic Protection

The Department of Fisheries has legislative responsibilities to protect fish and their habitats, as well as to consider the activities supported by fish resources. The Environment and Aquatic Protection section of the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program undertakes a range of activities focused on the protection of these resources.

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

- Cockburn Sound Management Council;
- State Water Planning Implementation Committee; and
- two statutory committees for the State Planning Commission (the Environment & Natural Resources Management Committee and the Coastal Planning and Coordination Council)

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

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program is also the major participant, on behalf of the Department of Fisheries, in Commonwealth natural resource management (NRM) activities and participates in the NRM Senior Officers Group and the WA Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory Committee.

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program provides advice on behalf of the Department to industry, government, and statutory authorities, such as the Environmental Protection Authority, on the potential effects of proposed developments on fisheries, aquaculture and the marine environment generally.

Significant developments that were considered in the 2006/07 year included the Gorgon gas development, Straits Resources Exmouth Gulf solar salt proposal, the Yarragadee ground water extraction proposal, and the Kimberley Browse Basin petroleum proposals. The program also regularly provides advice to the Department of Industry and Resources in regard to the environmental management of coastal and offshore petroleum activity.

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program staff participate in, and provide advice to, three community reference groups convened by the major petroleum companies. As well as the major projects mentioned above, advice was provided in 2006/07 in respect to petroleum development offshore at the North-West Cape, on the North-West shelf, and waters offshore from Dongara, Geraldton, and north of Rottnest Island.

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program has achieved the following in environment and aquatic protection:

- Coordinated the WA government arrangements for shark hazards.
- Provided support and advice regarding the potential future arrangements for the Commonwealth's NRM program post-June 2008, including the development of WA's position for a State-Commonwealth bilateral agreement.
- Provided departmental input into State water planning initiatives.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program is intending to achieve the following in environment and aquatic protection:

- Continue proactive participation in NRM programs.
- Continue to provide advice on the impact of coastal developments and activities on fisheries, aquaculture, pearling and the marine environment.
- Lead projects to identify the conservation status of native freshwater fish in WA and to represent, across government and the community, the need for actions to protect these endemic species.

Marine Planning

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

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program has achieved the following in marine planning:

- Engaged with other government agencies and stakeholders in progressing State regional marine planning by the Department of Environment and Conservation for the South Coast Regional Marine Plan.
- Worked with other government agencies and stakeholders in progressing the Commonwealth's South-West and North-West Marine Bioregional Planning initiatives.
- Assisted in the development of the draft Kimberley Plan for the management of fish and fish habitats in the Kimberley region, including the identification of potential FHPAs.
- Released the *Management of the Houtman Abrolhos System – A Draft Review 2007-2017* for public comment.
- Undertook the final legislative steps to enable the Kalbarri Blue Holes FHPA to be established early in 2007/08.
- Held regular inter-departmental committee meetings between the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Fisheries, to identify issues to address improved collaborative planning and management of marine protected areas.
- Continued liaison with stakeholders and other government agencies about fisheries issues relating to the proposed Dampier Archipelago/Regnard, 'Capes' (Naturaliste and Leeuwin) and Walpole/Nornalup marine conservation reserves, and the finalisation of a management plan for the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.
- Made significant progress in the drafting of legislation to implement fisheries restrictions for the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area, Montebello/Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserves and the Rowley Shoals Marine Park.
- Completed a field survey of abalone stocks to assist in the Government consideration of compensation implications of the proposed Capes Marine Park.
- Implemented legislation for new fishing closure and restrictions in the Rottne Island Reserve.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program is intending to achieve the following in marine planning:

- Coordinate fisheries data and policy contributions to the Commonwealth's Department of Environment and Water Resources, and maintain liaison with fisheries stakeholders concerning the Commonwealth's Marine Bioregional Plans

for the State's south-west and north-west.

- Coordinate fisheries data and policy contributions to the Department of Environment and Conservation, and maintain liaison with fisheries stakeholders concerning the State's Regional Marine Planning initiative.
- Provide policy assistance in the development of the Kimberley Plan.
- Establish the Kalbarri Blue Holes FHPA and develop legislation to implement the management plan for the Point Quobba FHPA.
- Develop a draft management plan for the Houtman Abrolhos System.
- Organise the proclamation of legislation under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* to give effect to fishing restrictions within the plans of management for the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area, Montebello/Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserves, Rowley Shoals Marine Park and Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.
- Participate in final Government consideration of the Dampier Archipelago/Regnard and Capes marine park management plans, including the estimation of compensation implications and options for Government.
- Participate in the planning of proposed new marine conservation reserves in the Pilbara and south Kimberley
- Publish notices under the *Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997* (FRICMRA) to address potential compensation claims for the Ningaloo Marine Park.

Ecologically Sustainable Development and Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management

The Department of Fisheries took a significant step forward in 2006/07 towards a new approach to fisheries management in Western Australia. Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) is a holistic approach to fisheries management and a key strategic change in the Department's management framework.

A major node of the WA Marine Science Institute (WAMSI) is focussed on the new area of EBFM. A project within this WAMSI node, aimed at developing a structural framework for EBFM, began in 2006/07 and will be completed in the coming year. This framework will provide the basis for the development of regional EBFM plans to guide fisheries management in the future.

At a specific fishery level, during 2006/07 the Department of Fisheries continued to work with the Commonwealth Government over ESD requirements for the Commonwealth's *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

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The approach for the next round of ESD reassessments under the *EPBC Act 1999* for commercial export fisheries is being revised. The Department of Fisheries drafted a reassessment application for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery for consideration by the Commonwealth under this new approach late in 2006/07. If accepted, it will be the model for other reassessments.

Other commercial fisheries will be assessed in 2007/08 and beyond, as required by this new approach. These fisheries include the Joint Authority Northern Shark, the North Coast Shark, the Joint Authority Southern Shark, the West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Longline, the West Coast Deep Sea Crab (March), the West Coast Rock Lobster, the South Coast Crustacean, the Pilbara Trap, the Shark Bay Crab, the Pilbara Trawl (December), and the Beche-de-Mer.

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program has achieved the following in Ecologically Sustainable Development and Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management:

- Began the development of a structural framework for the future implementation of EBFM.
- Assessed all WA export fisheries against the Australian Government Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries under the *EPBC Act 1999*.
- Worked with the Commonwealth Government to determine the requirements for the reassessment of fisheries under the *EPBC Act 1999*.
- Facilitated reporting on the ESD requirements of the export fisheries through the *State of the Fisheries Report* tabled in Parliament.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program is intending to achieve the following in Ecologically Sustainable Development and Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management:

- Completion of a structural framework for the implementation of EBFM in Western Australia.
- Finalisation of EBFM plans for the West Coast and Gascoyne regions.
- Reassessment of a range of commercial fisheries against the Australian Government Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries.

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Regional Services

Fisheries Research Division

Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Division

Communications and Education Branch

Legal and Registry Services Unit

Licensing Branch

Regional Services

The Department of Fisheries' Regional Services Branch is widely dispersed around the coastal areas of the State, with more than 150 staff in five regional and 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 Habitat Protection Areas. It also provides some education services, and marine safety services on behalf of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

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

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

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

- compliance risk assessments for fisheries;
- the development of occupational health and safety standards for issues such as the use of Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (OCS) by Fisheries and Marine Officers (FMOs), use of off-road motorbikes, night vision equipment and roadside checkpoint policy;
- the review and implementation of fisheries management and compliance legislation;
- the recruitment and training of new and existing FMOs;
- the collection and analysis of compliance data; and
- compliance research projects.

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

International Operations (AFMA Domestic Fisheries Compliance)

For over 30 years, the Department of Fisheries was responsible for delivering fisheries compliance operations in six Commonwealth fisheries programs, within the 200 nautical mile Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ). These operations were undertaken through service delivery arrangements with the Commonwealth's Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

However in 2005/06 the Commonwealth Government withdrew from the service delivery arrangements for the foreign fishing compliance program that it had with Western Australia and other state governments around Australia. Officers employed by the Department of Fisheries in this area no longer have a primary role in relation to illegal foreign fishing inside the AFZ, but are available if required to assist state officers deal with foreign fishing incursions. Officers directly employed by AFMA and based in Darwin now undertake this primary role.

A new service level agreement was reached between the Department of Fisheries and AFMA for the 2006/07 period, which focused on five Commonwealth domestic fisheries programs. These programs are:

- Heard and McDonald Islands Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and Exploratory Fisheries;
- Macquarie Island Fishery;
- Northern Prawn Fishery;
- Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery; and
- Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery.

One full-time Department of Fisheries officer working on these programs was based in Perth and a part-time officer assisted where required. Duties were carried out between Esperance and Carnarvon within the state of Western Australia.

Field activities were focused on in-port inspections of vessels during the unloading of quota and non-quota fish. Vessels were checked in the ports of Esperance, Bremer Bay, Albany, Bunbury, Fremantle, Geraldton and Carnarvon. Commonwealth Fish Receiver Permit holders were monitored.

Table 3 – Department of Fisheries Regional Staffing 2006/2007

Area	Offices	Regional Services Staff	Number of Fisheries Managed	Regionally-Based Policy Officers	Regionally-Based Research Staff	Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers	Management Advisory Committees
Southern Region	4	21.5***	11	1	0	51	3
Perth Metropolitan Region	5	37*•	8	1†	0	58	2
Gascoyne Region	3	17	7	1	1	2	1
Mid-West Region	3	22	5	2	3**	18	1
Northern Region	2	16.6	6	1	0	12	1

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

** Includes one Northern Agriculture Catchment Council officer hosted by the Department of Fisheries.

*** Includes one South-West Catchment Council officer hosted by the Department of Fisheries.

† Position not currently funded.

• Volunteer and Education Activity Coordinator position not currently funded.

Abrolhos Islands

The Houtman Abrolhos Islands are a complex of islands, reefs and lagoons located at the edge of the continental shelf, approximately 60 kilometres off Geraldton. The area is recognised worldwide for its conservation significance, in terms of its natural, historical and cultural environment.

The Mid-West region of the Regional Services Branch provides a wide range of compliance, research and management services to the Houtman Abrolhos Islands, which contains the State's largest Fish Habitat Protection Area. Services are also provided to support archaeological and environmental activities undertaken by the WA Museum and the Department of Environment and Conservation in this area, together with a wide range of logistical support services to external research organisations.

The Abrolhos Islands Management Unit used the newly commissioned 14-metre patrol vessel, the *PV Chalmers*, to carry out 120 'sea days' of work at the Abrolhos Islands this year. A number of compliance activities was carried out involving the operations of commercial western rock lobster fishers, recreational fishers and charter vessels within the area. A significant amount of resources was also committed to maintaining the three airstrips and infrastructure at the islands.

Foreign Fishing Compliance

Following a Ministerial direction, the Department of Fisheries has deployed sea patrols with a view to reducing the level of foreign fishing vessel incursions in State waters. 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 and 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 One Arm Point community were employed as part-time marine rangers to support the unit and provide expertise about local waters and trochus beds. This outcome could only be achieved by dedicated staff being prepared to work additional hours, in difficult circumstances.

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Regional Services Branch achieved the following:

Perth Metropolitan

- The inaugural Life Aquatic career's expo was held at the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre during National Science Week in August 2006.
- The tender for the construction of the new Mandurah District and Perth Metropolitan South regional office in the Mandurah Ocean Marina was completed.
- A new multi-function 'rigid inflatable boat' was delivered for at-sea compliance services in the Mandurah district.
- A tender was completed for a new multi-function vessel for the Hillarys district, to enhance at-sea compliance functions in the northern areas of the Perth Metropolitan Region.
- In conjunction with Department of Planning and Infrastructure, a review of the compliance resources necessary to provide an adequate marine safety program in the southern corridor between Rockingham and Mandurah was completed.
- Development of a new service level agreement with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for the delivery of at-sea safety services in the Perth Metropolitan Region began.

- The 7th annual Seaweed Educators Expo was held at the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre in March 2007, as part of the national Seaweed campaign themed 'Marine Bycatch Matters'.

Northern

- A 7.3 metre patrol vessel *Naiad* was delivered to Karratha District FMOs, providing improved at-sea servicing and response capability.
- Stakeholder consensus was achieved on changes to the Northern Demersal Scalefish, the Kimberley Gillnet and the Barramundi fishery management plans.
- A fish tagging research program began for barramundi, threadfin salmon, mangrove jack and estuary cod, through funding provided by the Pilbara Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee.
- Major infrastructure and earthworks were completed for a model indigenous aquaculture venture at Mud Springs.
- A field survey of trochus stocks in the Kimberley was completed to estimate the capacity of the fishery and losses to stock associated with illegal foreign fishing.
- The pilot Bardi Jawi Marine Ranger Program patrols and training were implemented and a joint service level agreement between the Commonwealth, the State and the Bardi Jawi community was developed.
- Biosecurity inspections of foreign vessels visiting the Pilbara commenced to reduce the risk of introduced marine pests.
- Recreational, commercial and charter representatives in Broome agreed to the 'Accord for the Future Management of Barramundi and Threadfin Salmon' after two years of consultative negotiation.
- Joint servicing arrangements and processes were implemented with the Department of Environment and Conservation to maximise service delivery. Marine park compliance and education patrols were initiated in the Montebello Islands, Barrow Island and Rowley Shoals, including the Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve.
- A Section 43 Order was gazetted in July 2006 to protect the marine habitat around Port Samson from increased visitor pressure.
- Staff responded to reports of pearling mortalities, caused by an unidentified pathogen.

Mid-West

- The draft *Management Plan for the Houtman Abrolhos System 2007 – 2016* was finalised, ready for release for public comment.
- Four new 'body corporate' land lease arrangements were implemented for commercial rock lobster fishers and aquaculture licensees operating in the Houtman Abrolhos Islands.

- An eco-tourism lease arrangement was developed for the Long Islands tourism development proposal.
- A new 14-metre patrol vessel, the *PV Chalmers*, was commissioned for the Abrolhos Islands Management Unit.
- Numerous successful operations in the region were conducted targeting illegal commercial western rock lobster fishing activity, such as fishing in closed areas, illegal fishing gear and excess pots.
- An audit was completed of all licensed aquaculture areas located within the Abrolhos estate so as to monitor compliance to licence conditions and performance on-site.
- A Supervising Fisheries and Marine Officer and a Waste Management Coordinator were appointed for the Abrolhos Islands.
- Services were provided to the WA Museum for the continuation of archaeological surveys of the Batavia sites and identification of further significant historical sites.
- Joint servicing arrangements and processes were implemented with the Department of Environment and Conservation to maximise service delivery under operational compliance plans for the Jurien Marine Park.

Southern

- Renovations to the Bunbury office complex were completed and the Minister opened the new office in February. The improvements provide better access and facilities for the public and work stations for up to five staff.
- Funding of \$192,000 was secured from the South-West Catchment Council to employ a Marine Education Officer based at the Bunbury Office.
- A closure for commercial salmon fishing was introduced in Geographe Bay over the Easter holiday to address resource user conflict during this peak tourism period.
- A new set of rules for the 2007 marron season was introduced, following the completion of a review of the fishery. The Minister launched the new management arrangements for the fishery. Awareness of the new rules was promoted through signage, posters, educational displays, patrols and compliance activities.
- A community interpretive program was conducted during the summer and Easter school holidays throughout the Southern Region.
- A Section 43 order was gazetted to prohibit fishing around the Lena dive wreck in Bunbury.

Gascoyne

- Development began of a vessel monitoring system for the Shark Bay Snapper Managed Fishery and for vessels wetlining adjacent to the fishery.
- The Minister approved amendments to the management plan

for the Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Managed Fishery, following a comprehensive review process in consultation with industry. The amendments will allow for more effective management control and improved flexibility and economic viability for licensees within a sustainable management framework.

- Joint servicing arrangements and processes were implemented with the Department of Environment and Conservation under operational compliance plans for the Ningaloo and Shark Bay marine parks.
- Operational compliance plans were implemented for trawl fisheries and aquaculture and pearling activity in the Gascoyne, in addition to the fishing-related management arrangements for the Ningaloo and the Shark Bay marine parks.
- An operational compliance plan was developed to underpin the annual business agreement between the Department of Fisheries and the Commonwealth's Department of Environment and Water Resources.
- A transportable accommodation unit was secured and established at Coral Bay to facilitate the Department's operations in the adjacent Ningaloo Marine Park.
- Life rings were established at popular rock fishing locations along the Quobba coastline where recreational fishers have lost their lives in the past.
- The contribution by Gascoyne regional services staff to the recovery of the Shark Bay inner gulf fishery for pink snapper was acknowledged in the Department of Fisheries winning the overall 2006 Premier's Award for Excellence in Public Sector Management.

Major Initiatives 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Regional Services Branch is intending to achieve the following:

Perth Metropolitan

- Commence the construction of the new Mandurah District and Perth Metropolitan South regional office in the Mandurah Ocean Marina.
- Start construction of a new multi-function vessel for the Hillarys District, to enhance at-sea compliance functions in the northern areas of the Perth Metropolitan Region.
- Complete and implement a new service level agreement for the delivery of at-sea marine safety services in the Perth Metropolitan Region, in conjunction with Department of Planning and Infrastructure.
- Increase the Rockingham District Office's Fisheries and Marine Officers from two to four to enable year-round compliance services to be delivered.

Northern

- Analyse trochus research outcomes, ranger patrol surveillance information and historical detection information in relation to illegal foreign fishing, so as to determine management, research and compliance priorities.
- Improve water quality and reduce ongoing maintenance costs to Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park tenants by installing new filtration systems.
- Develop and implement a priority pearling quota management and compliance activity database.
- Undertake a service level agreement with the Commonwealth's Department of Environment and Water Resources to provide high-quality compliance and monitoring services at Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve, utilising the Department's patrol vessels in this remote offshore environment.
- Complete fisheries-related legislation to enable effective compliance and habitat protection in proposed marine parks in the Pilbara and Kimberley.
- Continue to develop and take a lead role in biosecurity inspections of foreign vessels visiting the Northern Region to reduce risk of introduced marine pests that pose a threat to fishing, pearling and marine habitat.
- Complete final consultation and development of the 'Kimberley Plan Towards 2015'.

Mid-West

- Implement an eco-tourism lease for the Long Islands tourist development proposal at the Abrolhos.
- Develop a strategic business centre budget for the Abrolhos Islands project.
- Manage the construction of the new eco-tourism development at Long Island at the Abrolhos.
- Implement the *Management Plan for the Houtman Abrolhos Systems 2007 – 2017*, including a review and implementation of regulations for the management of the Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area and reserve.
- Upgrade the Abrolhos Islands airstrips located on North, East Wallabi and Big Rat islands.
- Deliver compliance services to the inshore component of the Abrolhos Islands commercial western rock lobster fishery (A Zone).
- Undertake a trial program of more suitable private vessel public moorings for specific areas of the Abrolhos and an upgrading of the public vessel moorings located within the Abrolhos estate.
- Remove the Department of Fisheries camp located on Beacon Island at the Abrolhos.

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Southern

- Commence planning for cooperative and joint servicing arrangements with the Department of Environment and Conservation within the proposed Geographe Bay, 'Capes' (Leeuwin and Naturaliste), Hardy Inlet and Walpole/Nornalup marine parks.
- Develop a Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre outreach educational program and travelling roadshow to communities.
- Develop a blue swimmer crab education kit and a communication strategy for the implementation of new bag and boat limits.
- Implement the interim management plan for the South Coast Trawl Fishery.
- Conduct consultation with the aim of developing draft management proposals for the South Coast Crustacean Fishery.
- Finalise the inclusion of the Hardy Inlet Fishery into the South Coast Estuarine Fishery Management Plan.
- Review the South Coast Salmon Management Plan to consider changes flowing on from an industry management meeting.

Gascoyne

- Conduct a feasibility study in consultation with industry to assess the potential advantages of combining all beach seine and mesh net fisheries in the Gascoyne bioregion under one management plan, using the proposed Gascoyne Inshore Net Fishery as the catalyst.
- Install comprehensive signage at the Miaboolya and Point Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Areas to inform the public about the management and importance of the areas.
- Review and further develop cooperative and joint servicing arrangements within the Ningaloo and Shark Bay marine parks with the Department of Environment and Conservation in light of the first year's experiences.
- Deliver a new patrol vessel to provide better levels of compliance, research and environmental monitoring capacity in the Shark Bay Marine Park and World Heritage property area.
- Develop operational compliance plans for the proposed Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery, the Gascoyne Inshore Net Fishery and the Shark Bay Crab Interim Managed Fishery to complement the management plans for these new fisheries.
- Gazette legislation to give effect to the management arrangements for the Point Quobba and Miaboolya Fish Habitat Protection Areas and the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area.

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 Fisheries Environment; 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 (EPBC) Act 1999*. This Act requires the Commonwealth Government's Department of Environment and Water Resources 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 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 the associated environment.

A more detailed description of the functions of the Fisheries Research Division is available in the annual *State of the Fisheries Report*, which is compiled and edited by the division as part of the Department of Fisheries' reporting process. This publication provides a detailed summary of the scientific and other information supporting key management and aquaculture development activities of the Department to Parliament and the Western Australian community. The document's fishery status reports also incorporate the Ecologically Sustainable Development (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 Invertebrate Fisheries Branch carries out biological research and stock monitoring projects for recreational fisheries involving rock lobsters, abalone, marron and crabs. It also undertakes research on broader ecosystem-related issues such as bycatch, as well as a number of collaborative projects with universities, the WA Museum and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

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

Finfish Fisheries

The Finfish Fisheries Branch undertakes research to underpin management of the State's diverse finfish resources. Finfish

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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 445,000 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 and Biosecurity

The Aquaculture and Biosecurity 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, marine finfish and brine shrimp.

The Aquaculture and Biosecurity Branch is involved in the development of aquaculture systems including software and fish feed formulation, in environmental monitoring of aquaculture facilities and in fish disease identification and testing. Staff also maintain a database of aquaculture production statistics and manage the Department's marine aquarium facilities.

The Aquaculture and Biosecurity 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) and the Department's major freshwater research centre at Pemberton.

Joint research facilities are also maintained 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, data management, monitoring of fishery catch and effort, library services, and research information systems and information technology. This branch maintains the Department's extensive

commercial fisheries and charter boat databases and undertakes leading-edge research into the development of fisheries stock assessment models and sustainability reporting techniques.

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

This group, 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 has State-wide responsibilities for the provision of biodiversity information relevant to the sustainable management of fisheries and their environments. It facilitates fisheries chemistry projects to support this research and environmental management.

The work of the Biodiversity Research Branch is carried out in close collaboration with the other branches of the Research Division and the Department's Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program. Close linkages are being developed – and maintained – with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Natural Heritage Trust.

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Research Division has achieved the following:

- The Abrolhos Islands Research Institute, encompassing the fisheries research laboratory at Separation Point, Geraldton, and the Saville Kent Centre on Rat Island, was officially launched in July 2006.
- The Research Division has made a considerable contribution to developing and implementing research projects funded by the Western Australia Marine Science Institution (WAMSI). The division is leading one of the WAMSI research programs (Node 4) on Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) and collaborating with a range of government and research agencies to ensure that the development of EBFM for the State is underpinned by appropriate science.
- The surveys (creel and phone/diary) of recreational boat fishing in the West Coast Bioregion provided the catch and effort data for this sector required as part of the Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) process for the management of all the west coast demersal scalefish resource. A creel survey for the Gascoyne Bioregion is now underway.
- Assessment of the biology and status of the key west coast demersal scalefish species (West Australian dhufish and temperate snapper stocks) in support of the wetline and

IFM initiatives to sustainably manage and share these important resources.

- The following research studies were completed and are now being utilised in the Department of Fisheries' management and development processes:

- biodiversity study on the effects of prawn and scallop trawling in Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf;
- understanding the effect of water temperature and spawning stock on the recruitment of blue swimmer crabs in Cockburn Sound;
- understanding the effects of the Leeuwin Current on the spatial distribution of western rock lobster puerulus settlement;
- development of a stock and catch prediction model for the pearl oyster fishery based on one- and two-year recruitment abundance measured by 'piggyback spat' settlement;
- investigation into the cost effectiveness of growing-out western rock lobster pueruli under aquaculture conditions;
- facilitation of a catch share agreement for scallops in Shark Bay between the prawn and scallop fleet that will allow targeting of scallops at optimal times;
- creel survey of recreational fishing for south coast estuaries and inshore marine waters;
- phone/diary surveys of recreational fishing for rock lobster and abalone;
- surveys of the community and stakeholders views on the performance of the Department of Fisheries;
- stock assessment and determination of growth rates of pilchards;
- a pilot study on mitigation of interactions between purse seine fisheries and protected species;
- mitigation of dolphin bycatch in the Pilbara trawl fishery;
- development of a more detailed spatial-temporal stock assessment model for western rock lobster;
- a new stock assessment model for Shark Bay oceanic snapper;
- an investigation into fish spawning aggregations within the West Coast Bioregion;
- established broodstock populations of critically endangered native fish species for the Captive Breeding Program to prevent extinction and enable future restocking;

- established a Galaxiid broodstock population for the Captive Breeding Program;
- completed a study on the improved performance of marron using genetic and pond management strategies, producing over 25,000 elite progeny for sale to farmers;
- produced 700,000 trout fry, stocked 540,000 in the licensed recreational trout fishery and sold 145,000 for aquaculture and the recreational stocking of private dams;
- undertook a project on national training needs in aquatic animal health;
- completed a project on translocation protocols for abalone and prawns plus diseases associated with ornamental fish in quarantine;
- assessed the implementation of a sea lion exclusion device (SLED), developed to prevent sea lion pups from entering rock lobster pots and running the risk of drowning;
- engaged in aid projects to assist aquaculture industries in South-East Asia (Vietnam and Thailand);
- completed a project on barramundi industry development at Lake Argyle; and
- an automatic fish feeding system developed by the Research Division was registered with a patent.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Research Division is intending to achieve the following:

- A number of WAMSI Node 4 projects being undertaken by the Research Division will start operation in 2007/08. These include:
 - developing the Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management framework for the West Coast and Gascoyne regions (Project 4.1);
 - establishment of long-term monitoring sites for climate change (Project 4.2);
 - establishment of fishery-dependent indicators of climate change (Project 4.2);
 - a study to investigate trophic interactions, particularly those associated with western rock lobster, on the west coast of Western Australia, funded by WAMSI as part of Node 4 (Project 4.3);
 - a study on spatial dynamics of the key west coast demersal scalefish, mainly dhufish and snapper (Project 4.4);

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- a study on cost effective methods to collect recreational fishing data (Project 4.4); and
- a pilot study to determine how best to monitor bycatch interactions in the State's fisheries (Project 4.4).
- 2007/08 will also see the commencement of the following new research projects:
 - a study on the status of blue swimmer crab stocks in the Peel-Harvey Estuary;
 - a recreational survey of blue swimmer crab fishing in the Peel-Harvey Estuary;
 - assessment of factors affecting scallop recruitment in Shark Bay including an assessment of larval advection with the University of Western Australia (Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Project);
 - development of robust and ongoing indicators of the health of the Swan Region's marine and coastal environments (with Swan Catchment Council funding);
 - workshop on stock assessment and modelling of the western rock lobster fishery;
 - de-stocking and re-stocking of marron and native fish, feral species control and pre-post drainage fauna surveys in Drakesbrook Dam (with funding from Water Corporation);
 - building of large-scale artificial reefs in Drakesbrook Dam to enhance the recreational marron fishery (funding in cooperation with Water Corporation and Recfishwest from the Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program);
 - a survey of recreational fishing in the Gascoyne Bioregion;
 - experiments on raw material assessment for barramundi feeds, so as to increase the range of raw materials available for use in them;
 - experiments examining nutrient and energy requirements for the production of large (weighing more than one kilogram) barramundi;
 - experiments refining nutrient specifications for abalone feeds; and
 - the first stage of a research and development project on live rock aquaculture.

Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Division

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

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

Policy

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

Planning

The planning section of the division is responsible for the development and coordination of marketing and business planning, including seafood quality and product marketing, and international development. The section is also responsible for the preparation and periodic review of the Department of Fisheries' Strategic Plan and the supporting business and operational plans in consultation with relevant departmental divisions and branches.

Organisational Performance

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

Communications and Education

The Communications and Education Branch is responsible for the planning, development and delivery of a range of communications and education services. Its operations, achievements and initiatives are reported on separately, elsewhere in the Annual Report 2006/07.

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Division has achieved the following:

- Completed a review of the Shark Bay Prawn and Shark Bay Scallop fisheries.
- Included provisions on customary fishing in the proposed amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, following consultation with indigenous stakeholders.
- Conducted two periods of consultation on draft amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.
- Finalised drafting instructions for a proposed new Pearlling Management Bill.
- Prepared two options for the development of a unit register of commercial rock lobster entitlements, following industry consultation.
- Released a discussion paper including draft criteria to inform the development of any market-based model used to enable the re-allocation of fisheries resources between sectors.
- Assisted in the development of a national Seafood Cooperative Research Centre to support research into, and development of, Australian seafood.
- Completed a substantive equality analysis and implemented related actions for the Perth metropolitan abalone fishery.

- Completed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Mauritius on fisheries management.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance Division is intending to achieve the following:

- Finalise and pilot a business continuity plan for the Department of Fisheries relating to the potential effects of avian influenza.
- Implement a Memorandum of Understanding with Murdoch University regarding fish health and aquaculture research.
- Implement the Memorandum of Understanding regarding fisheries management with the Government of Mauritius.
- Develop and implement projects for the Seafood Cooperative Research Centre as joint core partner with the WA Chemistry Centre.
- Commence a process of assessing the social impacts of fishing management regimes on regional communities.
- Develop adaptation strategies for the potential effects of climate change.

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Communications and Education Branch

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

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

Activities during 2006/07 included communications planning, media liaison, advertising, coordination of launches for various initiatives, coordination of the Department's volunteer program, community education strategies and the delivery of a significant popular and technical publishing program through print and e-media.

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

- the opening and operation of a world-class public marine education and science communication facility – the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre – at Hillarys Boat Harbour;
- management of the recreational sector's share of the State's fisheries, including the licensed marron, rock lobster, abalone, southern freshwater finfish, charter and recreational net fisheries;
- management of the commercial sector's share of the State's fisheries including western rock lobster, abalone, pearl, shark, and finfish;
- the Department's shark safety program;
- compliance activities, court results and the FISHWATCH initiative;
- completion of the western rock lobster phase, progression of the abalone phase and commencement of the demersal scalefish phase of the Integrated Fisheries Management initiative;
- State-wide coordination of the Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer (VFLO) program; and

- the planning and delivery of numerous community and schools education activities to encourage sustainable behaviour in the aquatic environment including workshops, fishing clinics and public events throughout Western Australia.

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the CEB has achieved the following:

- In November 2006 the Department of Fisheries and its community and industry partners won the overall Premier's Award for Excellence in Public Sector Management, as well as the Lifestyle and Environment category. These awards recognised the successful recovery of Shark Bay's Inner Gulf pink snapper populations between 1995 and 2006, and the strength of the integrated approach taken by the Department to community engagement, research, education, compliance and fisheries policy. These latest awards build on the Department's history of success in the Premier's Awards for Excellence in Public Sector Management, adding to a suite of one overall award, six category awards and two high commendations since the inception of the awards in 1996.
- The Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre was formally opened by the Minister for Fisheries, Jon Ford MLA, on 4 April 2007. The discovery centre includes over 30 static displays, 13 networked LCD screens and touch-screens with over 10 hours of multimedia content, four interactive exhibits, a 'touch pool' room, ticketing counter and gift shop, laboratory-classroom, science viewing corridor and aquaria. It is already proving popular with school groups and visitors to Hillarys Boat Harbour.
- Education programs and activities based on aquatic sustainability were conducted at the Discovery Centre – and through regional education officers based in Busselton and Bunbury – for years K-12. These programs and activities included teacher 'professional development', an aquatic careers expo, interpretive tours, fish dissections, otolith ageing, microscopy, beach walks, species classification and art for primary and secondary school groups from both private and Government schools, with particular support from the Padbury Senior High School marine studies program.

- The strategic plan and operational programs for the VFLO ('Fisheries Volunteer') program were reviewed.
- The sixth annual fisheries volunteer conference was organised and carried out, attracting more than 50 participants from regions across the State to the WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys.
- The VFLO program continued to provide a valuable service in educating the State's recreational fishers and the broader community about the sustainability of WA's aquatic natural resources. In 2006/07, 140 active volunteers in five regional centres spoke to more than 18,000 people and contributed more than 6,000 hours to over 400 different activities. These activities were as diverse as communicating the Cockburn Sound crab fishing closure to recreational fishers, carrying out tailor research, conducting a crab catch-rate survey in the Peel-Harvey estuary, joining a new partnership with Rio Tinto Iron Ore in the Pilbara to take the 'fish for the future' message to mining communities in the State's north-west, and taking part in fishing clinics and regional shows.
- The Department of Fisheries' Annual Report, compiled and produced by the CEB, won a Silver Award in the 2007 W.S. Lonnie Awards for Annual Reporting.
- More than 80 separate media and communications strategies were developed and conducted incorporating publications, media statements, interviews, public launches and announcements, signage, poster campaigns, and advertising on subjects across the Department's entire range of activities from major changes in fisheries management to successful convictions under the *Fish Resources Management Act (1994)*.
- A range of over 100 technical, educational and promotional print and e-media titles were published, including the Department's website, the quarterly *Western Fisheries* magazine, scientific and management reports, recreational fishing guides, posters, bookmarks, stickers, display banners, and other material to support the Department's strategic goals and operations. In addition, educational merchandise was produced for the gift shop within the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the CEB is intending to achieve the following:

- Strategic and corporate communication strategies, including the Department's media communications, website, *Western Fisheries* magazine, *Annual Report* and *State of the Fisheries Report*, will be reviewed, with a continued emphasis on improving the communication of science and the principles of sustainability and sustainable community behaviour.
- Specific communication, education and media strategies will be reviewed and developed to support the management of the State's recreational and commercial fisheries, the Houtman Abrolhos Islands and other Fish Habitat Protection Areas, protected species conservation and biodiversity protection, biosecurity, aquaculture and pearling.
- The MarineDiscoveryWest education section will continue to develop and implement school and community education programs and resource materials on fisheries and aquatic sustainability with links to the State's school curriculum framework.
- A series of enhancements to the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre will be planned and implemented including a new website, an interpretive walk-trail at Hillarys Boat Harbour in conjunction with the Aquarium of Western Australia (AQWA) and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, National Science Week activities, new multi-media content on aspects of fisheries ecology and science, and a revised business and marketing plan.
- The Department of Fisheries' intranet will be redeveloped to improve internal communications, and access to essential information by staff.
- Sustainability education programs for the Indian Ocean Territories (Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands) will be developed, in consultation with the Commonwealth Government.

Table 4 – Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer (VFLO) activity data 2006/07

Region/District	Number of VFLOs	Number of Activities	Number of Contacts	Number of Hours
Broome	2	12	250+	40
Karratha	10	8	470+	270+
Carnarvon	2	4	240	20
Geraldton	12	60	2,380	854
Dongara	6	17	120+	18
Metropolitan (Perth and Mandurah)	73 (58)*	224	7,328+	3,880+
Bunbury/ Busselton	26	70	4,506	528
Albany/ Esperance	25	46	2,773	740
Total	156 (141)	441	18,067	6,350

* During 2006/07, 15 VFLOs retired/resigned in the Perth metropolitan region (which includes Mandurah).

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Legal and Registry Services Unit

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

The manager of the unit reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer. A primary function of the Department of Fisheries' Registrar is to keep a register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases, pursuant to Part 12 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA). Day-to-day registry operations are performed by officers of the Licensing Branch under the authority of the Registrar. Licensing Branch operations, achievements and initiatives are reported on separately in the Annual Report 2006/07.

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

Registry Work

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Legal and Registry Services Unit has achieved the following in the registry area:

- Assisted with the finalisation of a report on a proposed 'unit register'.
- Reviewed information available on the public register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases.
- Completed an audit of names on the register.
- Continued consideration of license administration upon the death of an authorisation holder.
- Commenced management of issues flowing from the audit of the register, including encouraging timely transfer of authorisations following the death of licence holders and standardising names recorded on the register as licence holders.
- Rationalised the number of public physical locations of the register.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Legal and Registry Services Unit is intending to achieve the following in the registry area:

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

Legal and Litigation Services

The Legal and Registry Services Unit provides the following services:

- legal advice to the Minister, the Chief Executive Officer 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 and Minister for Fisheries in State Administrative Tribunal matters (statistics reported in Appendix 3).

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Legal and Registry Services Unit has achieved the following in the legal and litigation area:

- Appeared in the State Administrative Tribunal representing the Minister and Chief Executive Officer in respect of the one application for review received in the financial year.
- Instructed the State Solicitor's Office in respect of the

conduct of a single matter that remained on foot on 1 July 2006 (the matter was dismissed in March 2007).

- Actively fostered and improved administrative decision-making processes within the Department through the provision of legal expertise and strategic policy advice. Four areas in which significant contributions were made were:

1. Providing timely advice in respect of proposed exercise of administrative powers.
2. Facilitating the consideration of issues potentially leading to reviewable decisions.
3. Identifying policy issues that may have insufficient underlying justifications or that warrant legislative intervention.
4. Providing advice on State Administrative Tribunal decisions (including in respect of other Acts and portfolios) that relate to principles that are relevant to and applicable in the Department's operations.

- Conducted administrative law training of staff involved in exercising delegated licensing powers of the Chief Executive Officer, including using examples of recent State Administrative Tribunal matters involving the Department of Fisheries.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Legal and Registry Services Unit is intending to achieve the following in the legal and litigation area:

- Continue to improve the information management and legal advice process that facilitates the internal review of potentially reviewable decisions.
- Present further administrative law seminars for 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 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Legal and Registry Services Unit has achieved the following in the legislation and drafting services area:

- Created formal procedures for uploading and consolidation of online fisheries legislation.
- Briefed members of Parliament and attended Parliament during Parliamentary passage of 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.
- Provided submissions to the Parliamentary Committee for its consideration of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Bill 2006*.
- Drafted the South Coast Trawl Interim Management Plan (not yet gazetted).
- Drafted and gazetted various orders, including ones prohibiting fishing for crabs in Cockburn Sound, prohibiting fishing in specified waters around Rottnest Island, prohibiting fishing for pink snapper in Cockburn Sound for a specified period, prohibiting fishing around the 'Lena' wreck site, and an order revoking existing trawl fishing prohibitions made obsolete by the anticipated gazettal of the South Coast Trawl Interim Management Plan.
- Amended the *West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan* so as to alter the capacity of the fishery and to allow for the implementation of daylight saving time.
- Amended the *West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan* so as to alter the cessation date.
- Amended the *Pilbara Fish Trawl Interim Management Plan* so as to alter the cessation date.

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- Amended the *Shark Bay Snapper Management Plan* so as to alter the capacity of the fishery.
- Amended regulations to provide for the retention in certain circumstances of parts of sharks and rays, the installation of Sea Lion Exclusion Devices to rock lobster pots, to correct abalone fishing zones, to specify the abalone fishing season in specified waters, and to correct an infringement notice format.
- Developed regulations for nominated operators to conduct aquatic eco-tourism operations, and for persons fishing recreationally for rock lobster to retain catch for personal consumption.
- Continued to play a lead role in access to legislation issues and assisted the improvement of public and internal access to current and unofficially consolidated subsidiary fisheries legislation.
- Assisted with the review and repeal of obsolete legislation.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Legal and Registry Services Unit is intending to achieve the following in the legislation and drafting services area:

- Prepare advice to the Minister, and potentially also 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 (including the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area fishing prohibition).
- Prepare and develop a range of legislation for the protection of sharks.
- Provide further seminars for departmental staff involved in the development of legislation, so to assist them in understanding the legislation process and the role and purpose of the State Administrative Tribunal in reviewing decisions of a delegate.
- Continue to review access to legislation issues with a view to improving public and internal access to up-to-date unofficially consolidated fisheries legislation, as well as continuing to assist in the review and repeal of obsolete legislation.

Licensing Branch

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; and
- management of the renewal notice process for fish processing, aquaculture, pearling, commercial and recreational fishing licences.

Recreational Fishing

During the 2006/07 reporting period, 56,952 varying combinations of recreational fishing licences were granted and renewed. This total is slightly higher than the total in 2005/06 of 56,289 licences.

The renewal of recreational fishing licences went 'live' online on the Department of Fisheries website in 2001. Internet usage for the renewal of licences continues to increase steadily. In 2006/07, 10,887 licences were granted and renewed on the Internet, compared to a total of 8,851 in 2005/06.

Commercial Fishing

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

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

Aquaculture Licensing

In 2006/07, 347 freehold licences and 115 non-freehold licences were issued. This included 287 marron licences and 60 others (including ones for yabby, silver perch, trout and ornamental fish). This represents an increase of two aquaculture licences from 2005/06.

Major Achievements for 2006/07

In the 2006/07 financial year, the Licensing Branch has achieved the following:

- 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 upgrade was successful and has led to improved application processing times and the elimination of licensing transaction time-outs.
- Changes to the recreational licensing systems involving FLAMS, the Department of Fisheries' website and Australia Post licensing interfaces were amended to provide for the collection of email address data to aid better communications with stakeholder groups.
- The FLAMS continues to be modified and enhanced to incorporate changes brought about through the advancement of fisheries and aquaculture management.
- Licensing service contracts were finalised for plastic card production, over-the-counter payment services and maintenance of the online recreational licensing facility.

- The online recreational fishing licence renewal system was successfully moved from the WAFASTPAY payment gateway to the Service Net/Comm web payment gateway.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

In the 2007/08 financial year, the Licensing Branch intends to achieve the following:

- The development of an online Commercial Fishing Licence grant and renewal facility will be considered.
- New licensing arrangements are to be implemented as a result of outcomes of the Wetline Review. Four new Interim Managed Fishery Plans will be established with associated changes that will affect recreational and commercial fishing licensing arrangements.
- A service agreement for FLAMS modifications and enhancements will be tendered.

Report on Corporate Services

Coastal limestone platforms off Trigg Beach form part of a new study by the Department of Fisheries, CSIRO and the Swan Catchment Council. Photo: Dr Fred Wells



Customer Service Council
Human Resources Branch
Capital Works Program

Customer Service Council

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

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

Our Policy

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

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

Consisting of senior departmental staff and representatives from peak industry and recreational fishing groups, the Customer Service Council was instrumental in the development of a Customer Service Charter. The charter established procedures for the effective management and resolution of feedback and complaints by members of the public. The charter, which outlines the Department's Feedback Management Policy, meets the criteria for effective complaints handling laid down by the Australian Standard (AS 4269-1995).

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

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

The Feedback Management System

This specialised software package was developed to enable staff to record and assign a response time to feedback from customers, whether it is a complaint, a compliment or suggestion provided to the Department of Fisheries by clients in person or by telephone, letter, facsimile and email.

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

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

Overview 2006/07

No feedback relating to services provided by the Department was received through the Feedback Management System during 2006/07.

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

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

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

Human Resources Branch

The Human Resources Branch has undergone structural change in 2006/07, in preparation for the transition to the Office of Shared Services (OSS) model of service delivery and to move away from its traditional compliance-focused role and into a strategic coaching and consultancy function. A number of permanent staff appointments have been made in order to achieve this. As a result, staff from the Human Resources Branch have been involved in the following consultancy-focused activities:

- workforce planning, research and strategy development, particularly around the issues of staff attraction and retention, and workforce ageing and phased retirement;
- facilitation of a workshop to identify staff attraction and retention issues and strategies;
- presentation of a workshop to Research Assistants, providing information and guidance on human resources matters and their roles;
- development of an information package to assist Department of Fisheries' supervisors and employees in managing pregnancy in the workplace;
- provision of panel and process support and expert advice to the trainee Fisheries and Marine Officers recruitment team;
- provision of training support to OSS finance 'go-live' process; and
- revision and update of policies on job classification, community partnerships and volunteers, study leave and workplace exchange, and records of attendance.

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)

The Department's OSH Committee is comprised of elected representatives from each of the Department of Fisheries' five regional areas, as well as management representatives. Terms of appointment for these offices are two years and during 2006/07 elections were held for most representative positions on the committee. New representatives have attended a five-day training course to ensure they have the skills to meet the Department's OSH responsibilities, as well as their duties under the OSH legislation.

The new committee convened for the first time in November 2006. Following its regular meeting, guest speakers joined the committee and discussed 'return-to-work' programs for injured staff, wellness programs, and the impact that rolling-in to the OSS is likely to have on the role of OSH representatives. Many of the outcomes of this discussion are expected to be implemented during the next financial year.

In 2006/07, the OSH Committee has continued its program of ongoing policy review. In 2007/08, the committee will look at further changes that need to be made following the opening of the new Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre public education facility. This year has also seen the return of the OSH Bulletin, a staff newsletter that summarises the outcomes of the committee's OSH meetings, identifies OSH-related trends, and provides articles of interest relating to health and safety in the workplace. This bulletin is distributed to all staff in the department and provides a tangible link to the progress of the committee.

Workers' Compensation

The Department of Fisheries submitted 19 claims for workers' compensation to its insurers for injuries sustained by staff in the financial year to 30 June 2007. Of these, nine claims represented lost time injuries. Although there were three knee injuries in 2006/07 resulting in surgery, there has been no discernible pattern as to the cause of these or other injuries. The Human Resources Branch continues to monitor claims for patterns and regularly reports its findings and recommendations to the Department's Agency Executive Group for its consideration.

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Table 5 – Department of Fisheries Workers' Compensation Claim History 2002 – 2007

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Total claims	12	17	11	19	19
Lost time injuries	4	9	3	5	9
Lost time hours per million hours worked	1,618.90	6,023.30	3,317.70	2,240.60	1,390.40
Workers Compensation premium \$ 000	568	357	15	0	182

Annual Staffing Level

The annual staffing level for the year was the equivalent of 393 employees (excluding casual staff and board members).

**Table 6 – Department of Fisheries Permanent and Fixed-Term Employees
(by Classification Level and Gender) as at 30 June 2007.**

Level	Female	Male	Total Employees
1	33 (28)	9 (11)	42 (39)
2	40 (40)	38 (38)	78 (78)
2/4	4 (4)	5 (2)	9 (6)
3	24 (24)	63 (67)	87 (91)
4	15 (12)	40 (37)	55 (49)
5	11 (10)	26 (25)	37 (35)
6	7 (4)	25 (24)	32 (28)
7	8 (7)	26 (21)	34 (28)
8	3 (4)	11 (11)	14 (15)
9	0 (0)	3 (1)	3 (1)
Class 1 & above	0 (0)	2 (2)	2 (2)
TOTAL	145 (133)	248 (239)	393 (372)

Figures in brackets denote comparative figures at 30 June 2006.

Table 7 – Long Serving Fisheries Staff

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

20 years +			
Russell Adams	Mike Cranley	Peter Hurst	Phil Readhead
Theo Berden	Selina Cranley	Kevin Johnson	Mark Rossbach
Chris Bird	Peter Dawson	Lindsay Joll	Neil Sarti
Stuart Blight	Kevin Donohue	Ivan Lightbody	Gerry Segers
Heather Brayford	Laurie Edwards	Eric Loughton	Errol Sporer
Laurie Caporn	Peter Godfrey	Michael McMullan	Richard Steckis
Tony Cappelluti	Graeme Hall	Peter Millington	Robert Tregonning
Mark Cliff	Kimberley Hillier	Michael O'Dea	Alexander Van Houwelingen
Kerrie Colwell	Paul Hillier	Shane O'Donohue	Tony Lemmon
30 years +			
John Breeden	Tony Church	Phil Kelly	Phil Shaw
Gary Brown	Greg Finlay	Bob Kirk	Bruce Stevenson
Nick Caputi	Tony Goadby	Kerry Knapp	
Kevin Carhart	Peter Johnsen	John Looby	
Alex Cechner	Barry Jones	John Mutter	
40 years +			
Rod Lenanton			
50 years +			
Eric Barker			

Capital Works Program

The 2006/07 Capital Program budget totalled \$5.479 million with actual expenditure of \$4.086 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.

In addition to the usual routine asset replacement program, the Department of Fisheries is acting as the lead agency in the construction of a Marine Operations Centre in Mandurah. This facility, once complete, will house staff from the Department of Fisheries, the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Department of Water and the Water Police.

Table 8 – Capital Works Program 2006/07

Project Description	Planned Expenditure \$'000	Actual Expenditure \$'000
Information Systems	\$400	\$238
Plant and Equipment	\$890	\$990
Physical Infrastructure	\$2,544	\$2,223
Vessels	\$1,645	\$635
Total Capital Works Program	\$5,479	\$4,086

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AUDITOR GENERAL

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

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

The financial statements comprise the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2007, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service, and Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory Notes.

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

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

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

Summary of my Role

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

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

Department of Fisheries Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators for the year ended 30 June 2007

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

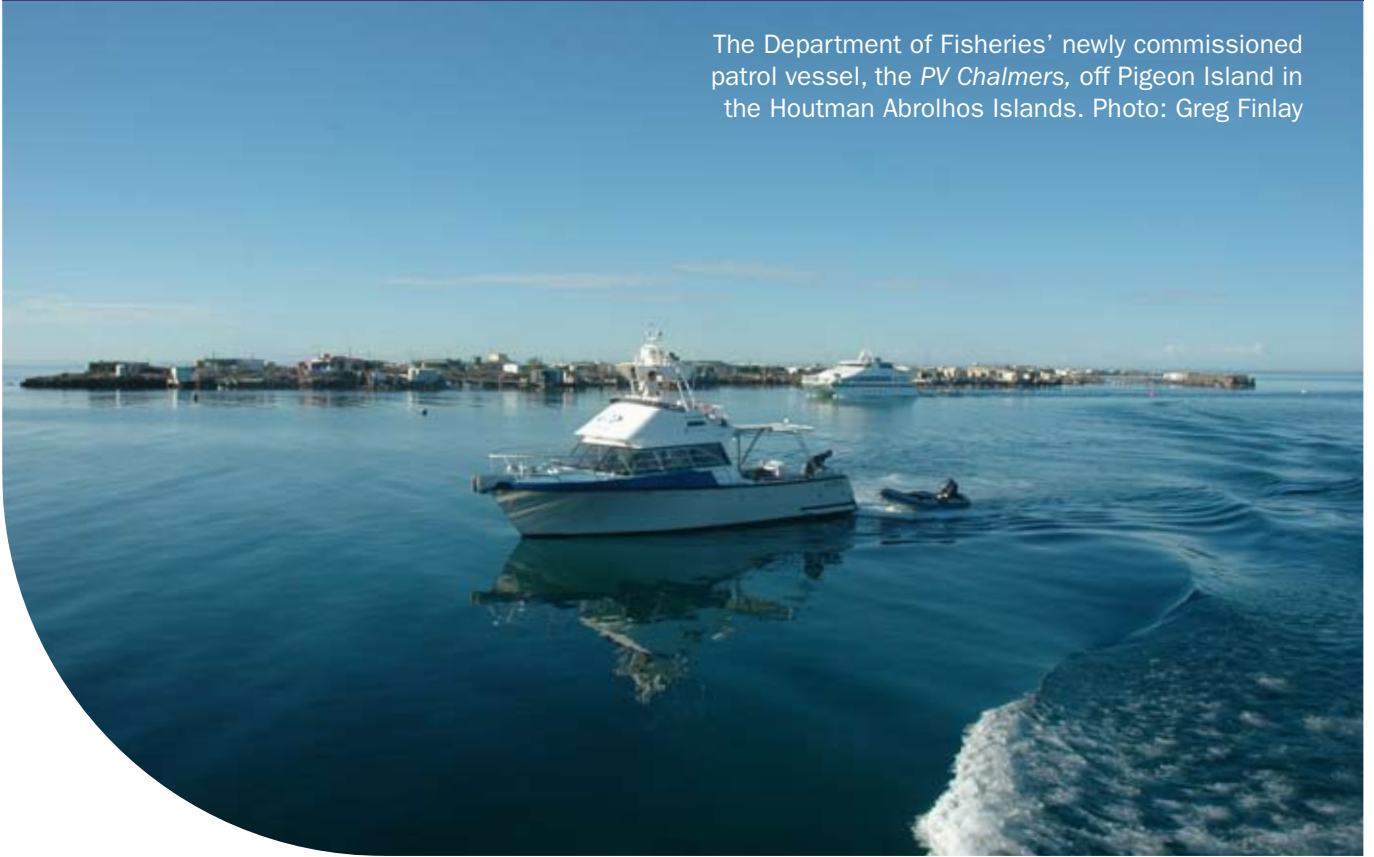
- (i) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial position of the Department of Fisheries at 30 June 2007 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions;
- (ii) the controls exercised by the Department provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (iii) the key performance indicators of the Department are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Department's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2007.



COLIN MURPHY
AUDITOR GENERAL
18 September 2007

Financials

The Department of Fisheries' newly commissioned patrol vessel, the *PV Chalmers*, off Pigeon Island in the Houtman Abrolhos Islands. Photo: Greg Finlay



Certification of Financial Statements

Financial Statements

Financial Overview

Certification of Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

The accompanying financial statements of the Department of Fisheries have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ending 30 June 2007 and the financial position as at 30 June 2007.

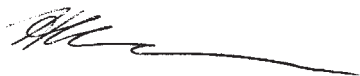
At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Bruno Mezzatesta BBus MBA FCPA
Chief Finance Officer
24 August 2007



Peter Millington BSc (Hons) M Env St. MSc FAICD
Accountable Authority
24 August 2007



Helen Alexander BComm MBA CPA
Manager Financial Services
24 August 2007

Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

COST OF SERVICES	Note	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	8	29,686	29,073
Supplies and services	9	15,271	14,346
Depreciation and amortisation expense	10	2,018	2,372
Finance costs	11	89	102
Accommodation expenses	12	1,273	1,787
Grants and subsidies	13	3,992	4,050
Capital user charge	14	4,066	4,088
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs	15	345	852
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	17	77	231
Other expenses	16	1,048	880
Total cost of services		<u>57,865</u>	<u>57,781</u>
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	18	22,837	23,728
Grants and contributions	19	2,355	3,256
Interest revenue	20	260	587
Total revenue		<u>25,452</u>	<u>27,571</u>
<i>Gains</i>			
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	17	11	105
Total gains		<u>11</u>	<u>105</u>
Total income other than income from State Government		<u>25,463</u>	<u>27,676</u>
NET COST OF SERVICES		32,402	30,105
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriations	21	29,876	25,907
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	21	839	268
Resources received free of charge	22	520	420
Total income from State Government		<u>31,235</u>	<u>26,595</u>
DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD		<u>(1,167)</u>	<u>(3,510)</u>

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

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Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2007

	Note	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	36	4,425	5,203
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	23	751	628
Receivables	24	1,560	1,288
Amounts receivable for services	25	2,542	2,841
Other current assets	26	185	249
Total current assets		<u>9,463</u>	<u>10,209</u>
Non-current assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	23	218	102
Amounts receivable for services	25	4,605	3,925
Property, plant and equipment	27	41,994	40,405
Total non-current assets		<u>46,817</u>	<u>44,432</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>56,280</u>	<u>54,641</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	29	1,886	1,997
Borrowings	30	195	180
Provisions	31	5,255	5,042
Other current liabilities	32	567	599
Total current liabilities		<u>7,903</u>	<u>7,818</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	30	811	1,006
Provisions	31	2,135	2,043
Total non-current liabilities		2,946	3,049
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>10,849</u>	<u>10,867</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>45,431</u>	<u>43,774</u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	34	25,236	23,407
Reserves	35	8,021	7,026
Accumulated surplus	33	12,174	13,341
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>45,431</u>	<u>43,774</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		<u>56,280</u>	<u>54,641</u>

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

Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2007

	Note	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
Balance of equity at start of period		43,774	52,944
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY			
Balance at start of period	34	23,407	23,145
Capital contribution		1,829	262
Balance at end of period	34	<u>25,236</u>	<u>23,407</u>
RESERVES			
Asset Revaluation Reserve			
Balance at start of period	35	7,026	11,092
Gains/(losses) from asset revaluation		995	(4,066)
Balance at end of period	35	<u>8,021</u>	<u>7,026</u>
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (RETAINED EARNINGS)			
Balance at start of period	33	13,341	18,707
Correction of prior period error		0	(14)
Change in accounting policies – capitalisation threshold		0	(1,842)
Restated balance at start of period		<u>13,341</u>	<u>16,851</u>
Deficit for the period		(1,167)	(3,510)
Balance at end of period	33	<u>12,174</u>	<u>13,341</u>
Balance of equity at end of period		<u>45,431</u>	<u>43,774</u>
Total income and expense for the period		<u>(172)</u>	<u>(7,576)</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 2007

	Note	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		26,654	23,011
Capital contributions		1,829	262
Holding account drawdowns		2,841	1,328
Net cash provided by State Government		<u>31,324</u>	<u>24,601</u>
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(28,774)	(27,349)
Supplies and services		(14,798)	(13,861)
Finance costs		(89)	(102)
Capital user charge		(4,066)	(4,088)
Accommodation		(1,273)	(1,787)
Grants and subsidies		(3,992)	(4,050)
GST payments on purchases		(2,231)	(2,515)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs		(345)	(852)
Other payments		(1,048)	(707)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		23,037	23,800
Grants and contributions		1,903	2,689
Interest received		260	587
GST receipts on sales		531	569
GST receipts from taxation authority		1,880	1,938
Net cash used in operating activities	36	<u>(29,005)</u>	<u>(25,728)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from the sale of non-current physical assets	17	563	426
Purchases of non-current physical assets		(3,241)	(5,721)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(2,678)</u>	<u>(5,295)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of borrowings		(180)	(167)
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(180)</u>	<u>(167)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(539)	(6,589)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period		5,933	12,522
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of period	36	<u>5,394</u>	<u>5,933</u>

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

Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

Item	2007			2006		
	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
DELIVERY OF SERVICES						
47 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	26,071	29,692	3,621	29,692	25,752	3,940
Amount authorised by other statutes						
– <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	165	184	19	184	155	29
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	<u>26,236</u>	<u>29,876</u>	<u>3,640</u>	<u>29,876</u>	<u>25,907</u>	<u>3,969</u>
CAPITAL						
131 Capital contribution	1,829	1,829	0	1,829	262	1,567
GRAND TOTAL	<u>28,065</u>	<u>31,705</u>	<u>3,640</u>	<u>31,705</u>	<u>26,169</u>	<u>5,536</u>
Details of expenses by service						
Management of the State's commercial fisheries	29,839	29,977	138	29,977	31,661	(1,684)
Management of the State's recreational fisheries	14,195	13,265	(930)	13,265	12,962	303
Development and promotion of the State's aquaculture industry	6,893	8,260	1,367	8,260	8,053	207
Management and conservation of fish and fish habitat	4,451	6,363	1,912	6,363	5,105	1,258
Total Cost of Services	<u>55,378</u>	<u>57,865</u>	<u>2,487</u>	<u>57,865</u>	<u>57,781</u>	<u>84</u>
Less total income	(28,352)	(25,463)	2,889	(25,463)	(27,676)	2,213
Net cost of services	27,026	32,402	5,376	32,402	30,105	2,297
Adjustments	(790)	(2,526)	(1,736)	(2,526)	(4,198)	1,672
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	<u>26,236</u>	<u>29,876</u>	<u>3,640</u>	<u>29,876</u>	<u>25,907</u>	<u>3,969</u>
Capital expenditure						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	5,479	3,241	2,238	3,241	5,721	(2,480)
Adjustments for other funding sources	(3,650)	(1,412)	(2,238)	(1,412)	(5,459)	4,047
Capital contribution (appropriation)	<u>1,829</u>	<u>1,829</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,829</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>1,567</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 2007 and between the actual results for 2006 and 2007.

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Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

COST OF SERVICES	COMMERCIAL		RECREATIONAL	
	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
Expenses				
Employee benefits expense	15,283	15,576	6,845	6,760
Supplies and services	7,862	7,223	3,521	3,567
Depreciation and amortisation	1,039	1,250	465	562
Finance costs	45	54	21	24
Accommodation expenses	655	942	294	423
Grants and subsidies	2,055	2,943	921	435
FAS buy-backs	345	852	0	0
Capital user charge	2,093	2,154	938	969
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	40	121	18	55
Other expenses	560	546	242	167
Total cost of services	29,977	31,661	13,265	12,962
Income				
User charges and fees	16,474	17,682	2,226	1,944
Grants and contributions	1,578	2,093	276	229
Interest revenue	173	394	31	75
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	8	54	1	26
Total income other than income from State Government	18,233	20,223	2,534	2,274
NET COST OF SERVICES	11,744	11,438	10,731	10,688
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT				
Service appropriation	10,828	10,213	9,895	8,909
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	561	142	99	63
Resources received free of charge	348	222	61	99
Total income from State Government	11,737	10,577	10,055	9,071
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(7)	(861)	(676)	(1,617)

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	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	4,263	4,035	3,295	2,702	29,686	29,073
	2,193	2,130	1,695	1,426	15,271	14,346
	290	335	224	225	2,018	2,372
	13	14	10	10	89	102
	183	253	141	169	1,273	1,787
	573	575	443	97	3,992	4,050
	0	0	0	0	345	852
	584	578	451	387	4,066	4,088
	11	33	8	22	77	231
	150	100	96	67	1,048	880
	8,260	8,053	6,363	5,105	57,865	57,781
	3,908	3,957	229	145	22,837	23,728
	402	800	99	134	2,355	3,256
	45	109	11	9	260	587
	2	15	0	10	11	105
	4,357	4,881	339	298	25,463	27,676
	3,903	3,172	6,024	4,807	32,402	30,105
	3,599	2,528	5,554	4,257	29,876	25,907
	144	38	35	25	839	268
	89	59	22	40	520	420
	3,832	2,625	5,611	4,322	31,235	26,595
	(71)	(547)	(413)	(485)	(1,167)	(3,510)

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This index does not form part of the financial statements

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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 Accounts administered by the Department.

2 Australian Equivalents To International Financial Reporting Standards

The Department's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007 have been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS), which comprise a Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements (the Framework) and Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

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

Early adoption of standards

The Department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by Treasurer's Instruction 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. No Standards and Interpretations that have been issued or amended but are not yet effective have been early adopted by the Department for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2007.

3 Summary Of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) General Statement

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

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

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'.

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(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 Treasurer's Instruction 955 'Contribution by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

(d) Income

Revenue recognition

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

Sale of goods

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

Rendering of services

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

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 2006-07 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$2.23 million in 2007 (\$2.51 million in 2006) from the following: GST receipts on sales and input credits.

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions

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

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

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

Gains

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

(e) Property, Plant and Equipment and Infrastructure

Capitalisation/expensing of assets

Items of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure costing over \$5,000 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 \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Income Statement (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total). The Department changed its capitalisation threshold effective 1 July 2006 from the previous threshold of \$2,000. This resulted

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

in an adjustment to equity of \$1,842K in the year 2006/07. Under AASB 108 voluntary changes in accounting policy and correction of prior period errors are adjusted against the opening balances of each affected component of equity in the comparatives.

Initial recognition and measurement

All items of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure are initially recognised at cost.

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

Subsequent measurement

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

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

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

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

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

When major boating assets are revalued, the accumulated depreciation is restated proportionately with the change in gross carrying amount of the asset so that the carrying amount of the asset after revaluation equals its revalued amount.

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

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

Depreciation

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

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

Asset category	Life (years)
Buildings	40
Vessels	5 – 6
Communication equipment	5
Computer equipment	3
Furniture and fittings	10
Infrastructure	30
Motor vehicles	5

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

Office equipment	5
Other equipment	5 – 10
Plant and equipment	5 – 20

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

(f) Impairment of Assets

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

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

The recoverable amount of assets identified as surplus assets is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and the present value of future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Surplus assets carried at fair value have no risk of material impairment where fair value is determined by reference to market-based evidence. Where fair value is determined by reference to depreciated replacement cost, surplus assets are at risk of impairment and the recoverable amount is measured. Surplus assets at cost are tested for indications of impairment at each balance sheet date.

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

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

(g) Leases

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

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

(h) Financial Instruments

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 of financial instruments is at fair value, which normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

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

(i) Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

(j) Accrued Salaries

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

Accrued salaries (refer note 32 'Other liabilities') represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the pay date for the last pay period for that financial year does not coincide with the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are 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 2006/07 ended on 28 June 2007, there was two days' accrual for salaries as at 30 June 2007.

(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 resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at each balance sheet date. See note 31 'Provisions'.

(i) Provisions – Employee Benefits

Annual Leave and Long Service Leave

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

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

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

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

A liability for long service leave is recognised after an employee has completed four years of service. An actuarial assessment of long service leave undertaken by PriceWaterhouseCoopers Actuaries at 30 June 2004 determined that the liability measured using

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

the short hand method was not materially different from the liability measured using the present value of expected future payments. An assessment will be undertaken every three years.

Sick Leave

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

Past history indicates that on average, sick leave taken each reporting period is less than the entitlement accrued. This is expected to continue in future periods. Accordingly, it is unlikely that existing accumulated entitlements will be used by employees and no liability for unused sick leave entitlements is recognised. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the income statement for this leave as it is taken.

Superannuation

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) Provisions – Other

Employment on-costs

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

(o) Superannuation Expense

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

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

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

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

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

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contributions in respect of the GSS Scheme to the Consolidated Account.

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

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

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

(q) Comparative Figures

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

(r) Cost Recovery - Major Commercial Fisheries

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

(s) Financial Management Act 2006

The *Financial Management Act 2006* became operative during the financial year. The consequential amendment renamed a number of the Department's operating trust accounts.

4 Judgements Made by Management in Applying Accounting Policies

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

Finance lease commitment

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

5 Key Sources Of Estimation Uncertainty

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

- Estimating useful life and residual values of key assets.
- Estimating depreciated replacement cost.
- Long Service Leave – retention rates and discount rates.

6 Disclosure Of Changes In Accounting Policy And Estimates

Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard

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

AASB Standards and Interpretations:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 2005-1 | 'Amendments to Australia Accounting Standard (AASB 139 – Cash flow hedge accounting of forecast intragroup transactions)' |
| 5-5 | 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB1 & AASB139]' |
| 9-9 | 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASV 4, AASB 1023, AASB 139 and AASB 132]' (Financial guarantee contracts) |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

- 1-1 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 121]'
- 2006-3 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 1045]'
- 4-4 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 134]'
- 2-2 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 12 [AASB 1, AASB 117, AASB 118, AASB 120, AASB 121, AASB 127, AASB 131 & AASB 139]' – paragraph 9
- UIG 4 'Determining whether an Arrangement Contains a Lease'
- 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'
- UIG 8 'Scope of AASB 2'
- UIG 9 'Reassessment of Embedded Derivatives'

Voluntary changes in accounting policy

Effective 1 July 2006, the Department made a change in Capitalisation Threshold of Assets from \$2,000 to \$5,000. In accordance with the AASB 108.29, this had a retrospective impact on accumulated surplus of \$1,842K and will have a longer term effect of less than budgeted depreciation expense in future years.

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 Treasurer's Instruction 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. Consequently, the Department has not applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations that have been issued but are not yet effective. These will be applied from their application date:

1. AASB 7 'Financial Instruments Disclosures' (including consequential amendments in AASB 2005-10 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'). This Standard requires new disclosures in relation to financial instruments. The Standard is considered to result in increased disclosure, both quantitative and qualitative, of the Department's exposure to risks, enhances disclosure regarding components of the Department's financial position and performance, and possible changes to the way of presenting certain items in the financial statements. The Department does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied. The Standard is required to be applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2007.
2. AASB 2005-10 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (AASB 132, AASB101, AASB 114, AASB117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038)'. The amendments are as a result of the issue of AASB 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures', which amends the financial instrument disclosure requirements in these standards. The Department does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied. The Standard is required to be applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2007.
3. AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements'. This Standard was revised and issued in October 2006 so that AASB 101 has the same requirements as IAS 1 'Presentation of Financial Statements' (as issued by the IASB) in respect of for-profit entities. The Department is a not-for-profit entity and consequently does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied. The Standard is required to be applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2007.
4. AASB 2007-4 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from ED 151 and Other Amendments (AASB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 102, 107, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 1023 & 1038)'. This Standard introduces policy options and modifies disclosures. These amendments arise as a result of the AASB decision that, in principle, all options that currently exist under IFRSs should be included in the Australian equivalents to IFRSs and additional Australian disclosures should be eliminated, other than those now considered particularly relevant to the Australian reporting environment. The Department of Treasury and Finance has indicated that it will mandate to remove the policy options added by this amending Standard. This will result in no impact as a consequent of application of the Standard. The Standard is required to be applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2007.
5. AASB 2007-5 'Amendment to Australian Accounting Standard – Inventories Held for Distribution by Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 102)'. This amendment changes AASB 102 'Inventories' so that inventories held for distribution by not-for-profit entities are measured at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. The Department does not have any inventories held for

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distribution so does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied. The Standard is required to be applied annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2007.

6. AASB Interpretation 4 'Determining whether an Arrangement Contains a Lease [revised]'. This Interpretation was revised and issued in February 2007 to specify that if a public-to-private service concession arrangement meets the scope requirements of AASB Interpretation 12 'Service Concession Arrangements' as issued in February 2007, it would not be within the scope of Interpretation 4. At balance sheet date, the Department has not entered into any arrangements as specified in the Interpretation or within the scope of Interpretation 12, resulting in no impact when the Interpretation is first applied. The Interpretation is required to be applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2008.

7. AASB Interpretation 12 'Service Concession Arrangements'. This Interpretation was issued in February 2007 and gives guidance on the accounting by operators (usually a private sector entity) for public-to-private service concession arrangements. It does not address the accounting by grantors (usually a public sector entity). It is currently unclear as to the application of the Interpretation to the Department if and when public-to-private service concession arrangements are entered into in the future. At balance sheet date, the Department has not entered into any public-to-private service concession arrangements resulting in no impact when the Interpretation is first applied. The Interpretation is required to be applied to annual reporting period beginning on or after 1 January 2008.

8. AASB Interpretation 129 'Service Concession Arrangements'. Disclosures [revised]'. This Interpretation was revised and issued in February 2007 to be consistent with the requirements in AASB Interpretation 12 'Service Concession Arrangement' as issued in February 2007. Specific disclosures about service concession arrangements entered into are required in the notes accompanying the financial statements, whether as a grantor or an operator. At balance sheet date, the Department has not entered into any public-to-private service concession arrangements resulting in no impact when the Interpretation is first applied. The Interpretation is required to be applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2008.

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

AASB	Standards and Interpretations
AASB 8	'Operating Segments'
AASB 1049	'Financial Reporting of General Government Sectors by Governments'
AASB 2007-1	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 11 [AASB 2]'
AASB 2007-2	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 12 [AASB 1, AASB 117, AASB118, AASB 120, AASB 121, AASB 127, AASB 131 & AASB 139]' – paragraphs 1 to 8
AASB 2007-3	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 8 [AASB 5, AASB 6, AASB 102, AASB 107, AASB 119, AASB 127, AASB 134, AASB 136, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'
Interpretation 10	'Interim Financial Reporting and Impairment'
Interpretation 11	'AASB 2 – Group and Treasury Share Transactions'

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 the Department of Fisheries are:

Service 1: Management of the State's commercial fisheries

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

Service 2: Management of the State's recreational fisheries

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

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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.

2007 **2006**
\$'000 **\$'000**

8 Employee Benefits Expense

Wages and salaries (a)	22,668	21,869
Superannuation - defined contribution plans (b)	2,443	1,795
Superannuation - defined benefit plans (c)(d)	801	860
Long Service Leave (e)	249	873
Annual Leave (e)	2,404	2,467
Other related expenses	1,121	1,209
	<u>29,686</u>	<u>29,073</u>

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

(b) Defined contribution plans include West State 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

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'.

In line with Government policy in the Shared Services environment, comparative figures have been reclassified to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year in accordance with AASB 101 (27). Refer also Notes 9 and 16. These are quantified as follows:

	As per 2006		Adjusted
	Annual Report	Adjustments	Prior Year
Wages and salaries	24,461	(2,592)	21,869
Superannuation – defined contribution plans	1,795	0	1,795
Superannuation – defined benefit plans	860	0	860
Long Service Leave	271	602	873
Annual Leave	511	1,956	2,467
Other related expenses	636	573	1,209
	<u>28,534</u>	<u>539</u>	<u>29,073</u>

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9 Supplies and Services

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
Communications	932	974
Freight & mail	271	231
Property	560	662
Contractors & consultants	3,486	3,463
Consumables	1,879	2,346
Minor equipment acquisitions	696	485
Repairs and maintenance	1,644	1,587
Travel	1,762	1,699
Electricity and water	328	272
Advertising	414	186
Other	3,299	2,441
	<u>15,271</u>	<u>14,346</u>

In line with Government policy in the Shared Services environment, comparative figures have been reclassified to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year in accordance with AASB 101 (27). Refer also Notes 8 and 16. These are quantified as follows:

	As per 2006 Annual Report	Adjustments	Adjusted Prior Year
Communications	974	0	974
Consultants and contractors	2,614	849	3,463
Consumables	1,397	949	2,346
Materials	445	(445)	0
Repairs and maintenance	2,811	(1,224)	1,587
Travel	1,742	(43)	1,699
Administration	3,850	(3,850)	0
Operating lease expenses	760	(760)	0
Electricity and water	252	20	272
Advertising	128	58	186
Other	85	2,356	2,441
Freight and mail	0	231	231
Property	0	662	662
Minor equipment acquisitions	0	485	485
	<u>15,058</u>	<u>(712)</u>	<u>14,346</u>

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	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
10 Depreciation and Amortisation Expense		
Depreciation		
Buildings	496	405
Marine vessels	541	448
Communications	72	14
Computing hardware	152	423
Furniture fixtures & fittings	111	227
Office equipment	77	45
Plant & machinery	203	369
Motor vehicles	78	62
Other equipment	1	12
Infrastructure – maritime	102	182
Total depreciation	<u>1,833</u>	<u>2,187</u>
Amortisation		
Leased patrol vessel	<u>185</u>	<u>185</u>
Total amortisation	<u>185</u>	<u>185</u>
Total depreciation and amortisation	<u>2,018</u>	<u>2,372</u>
11 Finance Costs		
Finance lease finance charges	<u>89</u>	<u>102</u>
	<u>89</u>	<u>102</u>
12 Accommodation Expenses		
Lease rentals	<u>1,273</u>	<u>1,787</u>
	<u>1,273</u>	<u>1,787</u>
13 Grants & Subsidies		
Recurrent		
Grants to educational institutions (schools, etc.)	2	10
Grants to key stakeholder groups	2,394	1,960
Contributions to Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	1,230	1,507
Research grants	211	294
Other	155	279
	<u>3,992</u>	<u>4,050</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000
14 Capital User Charge		
Capital User Charge	4,066	4,088
	<u>4,066</u>	<u>4,088</u>

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

15 Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buy-backs

Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs	345	852
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16 Other Expenses

Employment on-costs (see note 8 'Employee benefits expense') (a)	733	707
Other expenses	315	173
	<u>1,048</u>	<u>880</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.

In line with Government policy in the Shared Services environment, comparative figures have been reclassified to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year in accordance with AASB 101 (27). Refer also Notes 8 and 9. These are quantified as follows:

	As per 2006 Annual Report	Adjustments	Adjusted Prior Year
Employment on costs	707	0	707
Other expenses	0	173	173
	<u>707</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>880</u>

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	629	552
Selling costs of property, plant and equipment disposed of during the year	22	

Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets

Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment	585	426
Net loss	<u>(66)</u>	<u>(126)</u>

Gain on disposal of non-current assets

Property plant & equipment	11	105
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Loss on disposal of non-current assets

Property plant & equipment	(77)	(231)
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Net loss	<u>(66)</u>	<u>(126)</u>
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	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
18 User Charges and Fees		
Access fees	13,865	14,237
Development of Better Interests fees	3,500	3,500
Application fees	900	936
Licence fees	2,379	2,381
Fees for service	957	1,061
Other	1,236	1,613
	<u>22,837</u>	<u>23,728</u>
19 Grants and Contributions		
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	1,242	2,504
Other	1,113	752
	<u>2,355</u>	<u>3,256</u>
20 Interest Revenue		
Fisheries Research and Development Account	149	507
AFMA Account	28	21
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account	83	59
	<u>260</u>	<u>587</u>
21 Income from State Government		
Appropriation received during the year:		
Service appropriations (a)	29,876	25,907
	<u>29,876</u>	<u>25,907</u>
The following liabilities have been assumed by the Treasurer during the financial year (b):		
Superannuation	839	268
Total liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	<u>839</u>	<u>268</u>
	<u>30,715</u>	<u>26,175</u>
(a) Service appropriations are accrual amounts, reflecting the full cost of services delivered. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.		
(b) The assumption of the superannuation liability by the Treasurer is only a notional revenue to offset the notional superannuation expense reported in respect of current employees who are members of the pension scheme and current employees who have a transfer benefit entitlement under the Gold State Scheme. (The notional superannuation expense is disclosed at note 8 'Employee Benefits Expense')		

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
22 Resources Received Free of Charge		
Administration expenses	520	420
	<u>520</u>	<u>420</u>

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

Department of Justice	413	348
Department of Land Information	33	1
Department of Planning and Infrastructure	7	5
Department of Treasury and Finance	67	66
	<u>520</u>	<u>420</u>

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

23 Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents

Current

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account (a)	329	379
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account (b)	422	249
	<u>751</u>	<u>628</u>

Non-current

Salaries suspense account (c)	218	102
	<u>969</u>	<u>730</u>

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

24 Receivables

Current

Receivables	1,384	927
GST Receivable	189	369
	<u>1,573</u>	<u>1,296</u>
Less: provision for doubtful debts	(13)	(8)
	<u>1,560</u>	<u>1,288</u>

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

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	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000
25 Amounts Receivable for Services		
Current	2,542	2,841
Non-current	4,605	3,925
	<u>7,147</u>	<u>6,766</u>

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

26 Other Assets

Prepayments		
Licences and rentals	28	35
Software support/licence	0	44
Lease patrol vessel	19	22
Accrued income		
Industry advances	138	148
	<u>185</u>	<u>249</u>

27 Property, Plant and Equipment

LAND		
Land at fair value (i)	4,060	3,320
	<u>4,060</u>	<u>3,320</u>
BUILDINGS		
At fair value (i)	21,104	20,827
Accumulated depreciation	(800)	(367)
	<u>20,304</u>	<u>20,460</u>
MARINE VESSELS		
At fair value (ii)	8,006	8,690
Accumulated depreciation	(1,338)	(975)
	<u>6,668</u>	<u>7,715</u>
COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT		
At cost (ii)	534	517
Accumulated depreciation	(273)	(202)
	<u>261</u>	<u>315</u>
COMPUTER HARDWARE		
At cost (ii)	1,090	1,030
Accumulated depreciation	(920)	(768)
	<u>170</u>	<u>262</u>
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS		
At cost (ii)	1,091	919
Accumulated depreciation	(701)	(590)
	<u>390</u>	<u>329</u>

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	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
27 Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)		
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
At cost (ii)	385	282
Accumulated depreciation	(190)	(113)
	<u>195</u>	<u>169</u>
PLANT & MACHINERY		
At cost (ii)	2,282	2,107
Accumulated depreciation	(1,087)	(908)
	<u>1,195</u>	<u>1,199</u>
MOTOR VEHICLES		
At cost (ii)	1,162	1,097
Accumulated depreciation	(336)	(287)
	<u>826</u>	<u>810</u>
WORKS OF ART		
At cost (ii)	97	97
	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>
OTHER EQUIPMENT		
At cost (ii)	142	94
Accumulated depreciation	(95)	(94)
	<u>47</u>	<u>0</u>
INFRASTRUCTURE – MARITIME		
At cost (ii)	2,528	2,506
Accumulated depreciation	(973)	(871)
	<u>1,555</u>	<u>1,635</u>
LEASED PATROL VESSEL		
At capitalised cost	1,849	1,849
Accumulated amortisation	(971)	(786)
	<u>878</u>	<u>1,063</u>
CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS		
Buildings (ii) (iii)	2,956	1,343
Maritime (ii)	1,561	988
Computer software (ii)	831	700
	<u>5,348</u>	<u>3,031</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>41,994</u>	<u>40,405</u>

- (i) Freehold land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2006 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2007 and recognised at 30 June 2007. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$3,898,600 and buildings: \$629,400. 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'.

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27 Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

To ensure the valuations provided by Valuation Services were compliant at 30 June 2007 with the fair value requirements under AASB 116, Valuation Services provided the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) with information that tracked the general movement in the market value of land and in building construction costs from the 1 July 2006 (the date of valuation) to 31 March 2007. DTF reviewed the information and determined that the valuations provided by Valuation Services (as at 1 July 2006) were compliant with fair value requirements for 30 June 2007 reporting without further adjustment.

- (ii) In line with Government policy in the Shared Services environment, the Department changed its capitalisation threshold to \$5,000 effective 1 July 2006 from the previous threshold of \$2,000. As a result the prior comparatives have been adjusted as per AASB 108 (29). Refer Note 3(e)

Also, as a result of the change of financial management information system upon transfer to the Shared Services environment, there were changes in Asset categories. Prior year comparatives were changed to accurately reflect the change of asset categories. Refer Note 3 (q).

- (iii) A prior period error was identified in relation to classification of a purchase which was incorrectly applied to buildings work in progress. This has been corrected in prior comparatives as per AASB 108 (49). Refer Note 33.

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 on the following page:

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27 Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

2007	Carrying amount as per 2006 Annual Report \$'000	Adjustments for change in asset categories \$'000	Adjustments taken to equity \$'000	Restated carrying amount at start of year \$'000	Additions \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Transfers from WIP \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Deprecn. for the year \$'000	Carrying amount at end of year \$'000
Land	3,320	0	0	3,320	0	0	0	740	0	4,060
Major vessels	7,898	(7,898)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small vessels	157	(157)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buildings	20,460	0	0	20,460	85	0	0	255	496	20,304
Marine vessels	0	7,848	(133)	7,715	26	532	0	0	541	6,668
Communication equipment	0	315	0	315	18	0	0	0	72	261
Computer hardware	871	41	(650)	262	60	0	0	0	152	170
Furniture, fixtures & fittings	1,022	(131)	(562)	329	6	0	166	0	111	390
Office equipment	0	169	0	169	103	0	0	0	77	195
Plant & machinery	2,207	(573)	(435)	1,199	101	20	118	0	203	1,195
Vehicles	770	62	(22)	810	171	77	0	0	78	826
Works of art	0	129	(32)	97	0	0	0	0	0	97
Other equipment	0	8	(8)	0	48	0	0	0	1	47
Infrastructure – maritime	1,448	187	0	1,635	22	0	0	0	102	1,555
Leased patrol vessel	1,063	0	0	1,063	0	0	0	0	185	878
Work in progress										
Buildings	3,045	(1,688)	(14)	1,343	1,897	0	(284)	0	0	2,956
Maritime	0	988	0	988	573	0	0	0	0	1,561
Computer software	0	700	0	700	131	0	0	0	0	831
	<u>42,261</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,856)</u>	<u>40,405</u>	<u>3,241</u>	<u>629</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>995</u>	<u>2,018</u>	<u>41,994</u>
2006		Carrying amount at start of year \$'000	Additions \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Transfers from WIP \$'000	Re- valuation \$'000	Deprecn. for the year \$'000	Carrying amount at end of year \$'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	3662	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>		

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

2007	2006
\$'000	\$'000

28 Impairment of Assets

There were no indications of impairment of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure at 30 June 2007.

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 2007 have been classified as assets held for sale or written off.

29 Payables

Current

Amounts payable for goods and services received – General	1,403	1,941
Amounts payable for goods and services received – Capital	483	56
	<u>1,886</u>	<u>1,997</u>

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

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

30 Borrowings

Current

Finance lease liability	195	180
	<u>195</u>	<u>180</u>

Non-current

Finance lease liability	811	1,006
	<u>811</u>	<u>1,006</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	878	1,063
	<u>878</u>	<u>1,063</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

2007
\$'000

2006
\$'000

31 Provisions

Current

Employee benefits provision

Annual Leave (a)

Long Service Leave (b)

2,189
2,544
4,733

2,132
2,406
4,538

Other provisions

Employment oncosts (c)

522
5,255

504
5,042

Non-current

Employee benefits provision

Long Service Leave (b)

1,923
1,923

1,839
1,839

Other provisions

Employment oncosts (c)

212
2,135

204
2,043

TOTAL PROVISIONS

7,390
7,085

(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

More than 12 months after reporting date

2,544
1,923
4,467

2,406
1,839
4,245

(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'.

2007
\$'000

2006
\$'000

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2007 **2006**
\$'000 **\$'000**

32 Other Liabilities

Current

Accrued salaries	212	469
Income in advance	256	16
Superannuation accrued	26	11
FBT accrued	58	48
Other	11	0
Infringement Notice collections payable	4	55
	<u>567</u>	<u>599</u>

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

EQUITY

Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Department. The Government holds the equity interest in the Department on behalf of the community. The asset revaluation reserve represents that portion of equity resulting from the revaluation of non-current assets. Refer Note 27

33 Accumulated Surplus

Balance at the start of the year	13,341	18,707
Correction of prior period error	0	(14)
Change in accounting policies – capitalisation rate	0	(1,842)
Change in net assets from ordinary activities	(1,167)	(3,510)
Balance at the end of the year	<u>12,174</u>	<u>13,341</u>

34 Contributed Equity

Balance at the start of the year	23,407	23,145
Contributions by owners		
Capital contribution (a)	1,829	262
Total contributions by owners	<u>25,236</u>	<u>23,407</u>

- (a) Capital contributions (appropriations) and non-discretionary (non-reciprocal) transfers of net assets from other State government agencies have been designated as contributions by owners in Treasurer's Instruction TI 955 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' and are credited directly to equity.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
35 Reserves		
Asset revaluation reserve		
Balance at the start of the year	7,026	11,092
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	740	(4,126)
Buildings	255	60
Vessels and plant	0	0
Balance at the end of the year (a)	8,021	7,026
Total equity	45,431	43,774

- (a) The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets, as described in accounting policy note 3(e)

36 Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

(a) Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents	4,403	5,178
Cash advances	22	25
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (refer note 23)	969	730
	5,394	5,933

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

Net cash used in operating activities	(29,005)	(25,728)
Non-cash items		
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	(839)	(268)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(2,018)	(2,372)
Resources received free of charge	(520)	(420)
Profit/(loss) on disposal of assets	(66)	(126)
Increase/(decrease) in assets		
Accounts receivable – general	272	575
Prepayments	(64)	(6)
(Increase)/decrease in liabilities		
Accrued salaries	257	(469)
Superannuation accrued	(15)	(11)
FBT accrued	(10)	(3)
Other liabilities	(11)	0
Income in advance	(240)	(16)
Liability for employee entitlements	(305)	(445)
Income in advance – infringement notice collections payable	51	(56)
Accounts payable – general	111	(760)
Increase/(decrease) in GST		
Net GST (receipts)/payments	(180)	8
Change in GST in receivables	180	(8)
Net cost of services	(32,402)	(30,105)

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2007 **2006**
\$'000 **\$'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	12,260	357
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	2,100	0
Later than 5 years	0	0
	<u>14,360</u>	<u>357</u>

The capital commitments include amounts for:

Buildings	11,360	357
Marine vessels	3,000	0
	<u>14,360</u>	<u>357</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	2,148	1,859
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	4,146	4,110
Later than 5 years	15,184	10,523
	<u>21,478</u>	<u>16,492</u>

Representing:

Cancellable operating leases	0	0
Non-cancellable operating leases	21,478	16,492
	<u>21,478</u>	<u>16,492</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	933	1,066
Later than 5 years	0	133
Minimum lease payments	1,199	1,465
Less future finance charges	(193)	(279)
Present value of finance lease liabilities	<u>1,006</u>	<u>1,186</u>

The present value of finance leases payables is as follows:

Within 1 year	195	180
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	811	877
Later than 5 years	0	129
Present value of finance lease liabilities	<u>1,006</u>	<u>1,186</u>

Included in the financial statements as:

Current (note 30)	195	180
Non-current (note 30)	811	1,006
	<u>1,006</u>	<u>1,186</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.

38 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

In addition to the liabilities included in the financial statements, the Department has the following contingent liabilities

Contaminated Sites

Under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* (the Act), the Department is required to report known and suspected contaminated sites to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). In accordance with the Act, DEC classifies these sites on the basis of the risk to human health, the environment and environmental values. Where sites are classified as possibly contaminated – investigation required, the Department may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses.

During the year the Department reported a suspected contaminated site at the Albany Aquaculture Park to DEC. This has been classified by DEC as requiring further investigation. The Department is unable to assess the likely outcome of the classification process, and accordingly, it is not practicable to estimate the potential financial effect or to identify the uncertainties relating to the amount or timing of any outflows. Whilst there is no possibility of reimbursement of any future expenses that may be incurred in the remediation of these sites, the Department may apply for funding from the Contaminated Sites Management Account to undertake further investigative work or to meet remediation costs that may be required.

39 Events Occurring After the Balance Sheet Date

A revaluation of the Department's fleet of vessels was carried out during July and August 2007 by Maritime Engineers Pty. Ltd. Since the aggregate change in valuation of these assets was less than 10 per cent, the revaluation will be recognised in the accounts in the 2007/08 financial year.

40 Explanatory Statement

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

(a) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2007 – total appropriation to deliver services

	Actual \$'000	Estimate \$'000	Variance \$'000
Services			
Development and promotion of the State's aquaculture industry <i>The increased costs relate to substantially greater activities in Indian Ocean Territories and higher than expected costs associated with aquaculture research activities associated principally with marron, abalone and freshwater finfish aquaculture.</i>	8,260	6,893	1 367
Management and conservation of fish and fish habitat <i>The increased costs relate to the significant increased activity associated with compliance and education in new marine parks, unbudgeted works to support the Commonwealth South-West Bioregional Marine Planning process, together with higher than budgeted costs for the management of the Abrolhos Islands.</i>	6,363	4,451	1,912

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

40 Explanatory Statement (continued)

(b) Significant variances between actuals for 2006 and 2007 – total appropriation to deliver services

	2007	2006	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Services			
Management and conservation of fish and fish habitat	6,363	5,105	1,258
<i>The increased costs relate to the significant increased activity associated with compliance and education in new marine parks, unbudgeted works to support the Commonwealth South-West Bioregional Marine Planning process, together with higher than budgeted costs for the management of the Abrolhos Islands.</i>			

(c) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2007 – capital contribution

No variance between estimate and actual for capital contribution for 2006

(d) Significant variances between actuals for 2006 and 2007 – capital contribution

	2007	2006	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital contribution	1,829	262	1,567
<i>The appropriation each year is consistent with and will vary according to the approved Capital Works program.</i>			

(e) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2007 – capital expenditure

	Actual	Estimate	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	3,241	5,479	2,238
<i>Capital projects uncompleted included the Mandurah Operations Centre and the replacement of the PV McLaughlin.</i>			

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

41 Financial Instruments (continued)

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'.

	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000
FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Assets		
Cash resources	5,394	5,933
Receivables	1,560	1,288
Amounts receivable for services	7,147	6,766
Total Financial Assets	<u>14,101</u>	<u>13,987</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	1,886	1,997
Lease liabilities	1,006	1,186
Total Financial Liabilities	<u>2,892</u>	<u>3,183</u>
Net Financial Assets	<u>11,209</u>	<u>10,804</u>
RECONCILIATION OF NET FINANCIAL ASSETS TO NET ASSETS		
Net financial assets/(liabilities)	<u>11,209</u>	<u>10,804</u>
Non-financial assets and liabilities:		
Land	4,060	3,320
Buildings	20,304	20,460
Plant, equipment and other	17,630	16,625
Other assets – prepayments and deferred expenses	185	249
Accrued salaries	(212)	(469)
Employee entitlements	(7,390)	(7,085)
Other liabilities	(355)	(130)
Net assets per Balance Sheet	<u>45,431</u>	<u>43,774</u>

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41 Financial Instruments (continued)

Interest rate risk

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

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.

	Weighted average effective interest rate	Variable interest rate	Fixed Interest Rate to Maturity				Non- interest bearing	Total
			Less than 1 year	1-5 years	More than 5 years			
2007	%	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	
Financial assets								
Cash assets	6.02%	4,425						4,425
Restricted cash assets	0.00%						969	969
Receivables	0.00%						1,560	1,560
Amounts receivable for services							7,147	7,147
		<u>4,425</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,676</u>	<u>14,101</u>
Financial liabilities								
Payables	0.00%						1,886	1,886
Finance lease liabilities	7.66%		195	811	0			1,006
		<u>0</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>811</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,886</u>	<u>2,892</u>

		Fixed Interest Rate to Maturity					
	Weighted average effective interest rate	Variable interest rate	Less than 1 year	1-5 years	More than 5 years	Non- interest bearing	Total
2006	%	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Financial assets							
Cash assets	5.46%	5,203					5,203
Restricted cash assets	0.00%					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%					1,997	1,997
Finance lease liabilities	7.66%		180	877	129		1,186
		<u>0</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>877</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>1,997</u>	<u>3,183</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

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:

	2007	2006
\$110,001 - 120,000	0	1
\$130,001 - 140,000	1	1
\$150,001 - 160,000	1	0
\$190,001 - 200,000	1	0
\$210,001 - 220,000	0	1
\$250,001 - 260,000	1	0
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of senior officers	<u>731</u>	<u>465</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>105</u>	<u>86</u>
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44 Related Bodies

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

45 Affiliated Bodies

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

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2007	2006
\$'000	\$'000

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

During the financial year no assets were written off the Department's asset register

The Accountable Officer	0	3
LESS: Recovered by Insurance	0	(1)
	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>

Act of grace payments

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

The Minister	56	45
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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

Trust Account Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Period 1 July 2006 To 30 June 2007

47 Fisheries Research and Development Account

2006		2007	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
10,688	Opening balance - 1 July		5,208
	Receipts		
15,268	Contribution from consolidated account	21,770	
15,416	Fisheries access fees	16,185	
3,500	Development and Better Interests Fees	3,500	
936	Application fees	900	
507	Interest	149	
752	Grants	483	
1,264	Other sundry revenue	2,974	45,961
48,331			51,169
	Payments		
43,021	Contribution to Fisheries WA operations	46,568	
102	Contribution to salaries suspense	116	46,684
43,123			46,684
5,208	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		4,485

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

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48 AFMA Account

2006		2007	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
172	Opening balance - 1 July		30
	Receipts		
1,010	Funds received from AFMA	80	
21	Interest	28	108
1,203			138
	Payments		
1,173	Expenditure on AFMA-related activities	112	112
1,173			112
30	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		26

The AFMA Account is established under the FRMA 1994. The Fund is used for transactions relating to the services provided by Department of Fisheries to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. The purpose of the account is to hold funds in accordance with section 241 of the FRMA 1994 which may be applied by the Minister for all or any of the purposes prescribed by section 241(4) of the FRMA 1994.

49 Recreational Fishing Account

2006		2007	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
12	Opening balance - 1 July		11
	Receipts		
10,901	Contribution from Consolidated Account	9,054	
2,380	Recreational fishing licences	2,379	
6	Court costs recovered		
41	Other revenue	98	11,531
13,340			11,542
	Payments		
13,329	Expenditure on recreational fishing-related activities	11,532	11,532
13,329			11,532
11	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		10

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

50 Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account

2006		2007	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
573	Opening balance – 1 July		379
	Receipts		
2,504	Contributions from FRDC	1,242	
59	Interest	83	
76	Other	141	1,466
3,212			1,845
	Payments		
2,833	Expenditure on Fisheries WA research-related activities	1,516	1,516
2,833			1,516
379	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		329

The purpose of this account is to hold funds in accordance with section 242 of the FRMA 1994 which may be applied by the Minister for all or any of the purposes prescribed by section 242(4) of the FRMA 1994. Approval has been granted by the Treasurer to overdraw this account to a limit of \$300K.

51 Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account

2006		2007	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
1,058	Opening balance – 1 July		249
	Receipts		
0	Specific State contributions to fisheries adjustment	500	500
1,058			749
	Payments		
1	Administration		
808	Unit buy-back State scheme	327	327
809			327
249	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		422

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

52 Fisheries Private Moneys Trust Account

2006		2007	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
59	Opening balance - 1 July		47
Receipts			
0	Proceeds from the sale of seized fish	66	66
59			113
Payments			
12	Monies repaid	21	21
47	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		92

The purpose of this account is to hold moneys seized and proceeds from the sale of seized fish pursuant to the *Fisheries Act 1905* pending prosecution action. The *Fisheries Act 1905* has been repealed and replaced by the *FRMA 1994*.

53 Fish Farm Bond Deposits Trust Account

2006		2007	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
24	Opening balance - 1 July		24
Receipts			
0	Deposits received	2	2
24	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		26

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

Disclosure of Financial Transactions Indian Ocean Territories for the Period 1 July 2006 To 30 June 2007

54 Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

2006		2007	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
0	Opening Balance		150
	Receipts		
290	Reimbursements	157	157
290			307
	Payments		
57	Salaries	107	
13	Travel and accommodation	37	
7	Administration	12	
63	Oncosts	117	273
140			273
<u>150</u>	Balance 30 June		<u>34</u>

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

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Financial Overview

Summary

The following is a summary of the financial performance and financial position of the Department for the year ended 30 June 2007:

The Department's net cost of services has increased by 7.6 per cent (\$32.4 million: 2007, \$30.1 million: 2006). Operating revenue decreased by 8.0 per cent (\$25.5 million: 2007, \$27.7 million: 2006), and operating expenses increased by 0.1 per cent (\$57.8 million: 2007, \$57.8 million: 2006). The reduction in revenue is due to reduced project funding from external sources.

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.

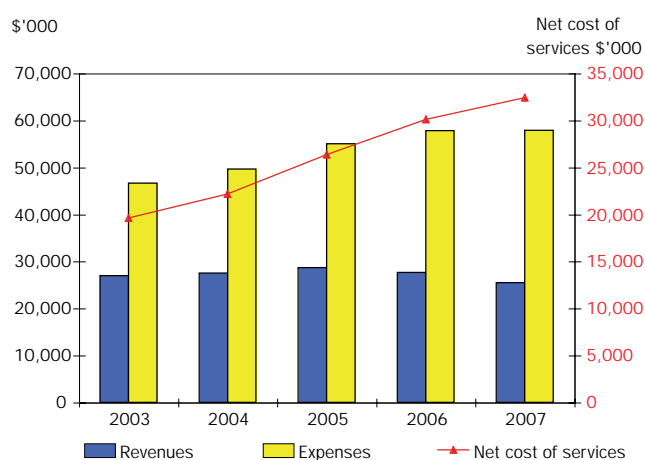
Income Statement

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 7.6 per cent (\$32.4 million: 2007, \$30.1 million: 2006) due to the reduction in revenue for project funding from external sources.

The trend in the Department's net cost of services since 2002/03 is depicted in Figure 3.

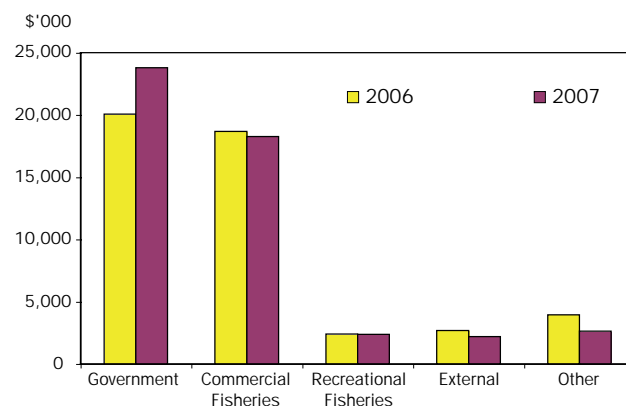
Figure 3 – Net Cost of Services



The majority of the Department's activity is funded from sources other than the State Government as depicted in Figure 4.

Total revenue from all sources has increased by 3.7 per cent between 2006 and the current financial year (\$49.3 million: 2007, \$47.5 million: 2006).

Figure 4 – Revenue Sources

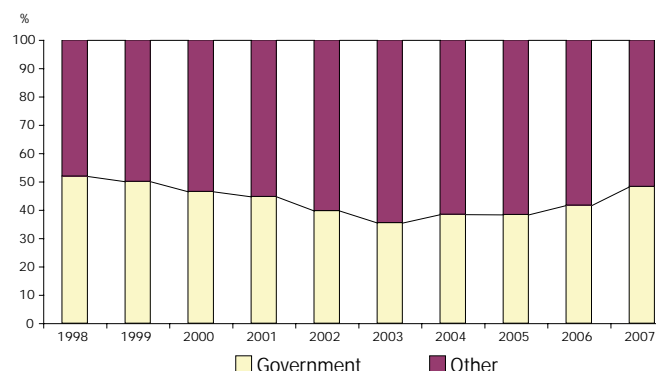


The reliance on government funding is demonstrated through the government funding ratio. This indicator shows the extent to which the Department is funded by the State. The government

funding ratio has decreased from 60.5 per cent to 48.3 per cent since 1996/97.

Figure 5 shows this trend with the most recent years reflecting that full cost recovery from part of the commercial sector was achieved in 2001/02. The increase in 2006/07 results from additional government funding provided to facilitate revised management arrangements in the commercial fishing sector.

Figure 5 – Proportion of Total Funding

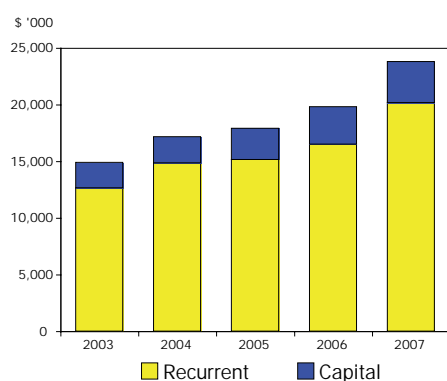


The total State Government funding has increased in 2006/07 as additional government funding has been provided to facilitate revised management arrangements in the commercial fishing sector.

Capital funding varies according to the scheduled capital works program.

Figure 6 shows the changes in government funding over the last five years. Appropriations for Capital User Charge and Superannuation have been excluded for the purpose of comparison.

Figure 6 – 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 8.0 per cent (\$25.5

million: 2007, \$27.7 million: 2006). The categories of user fees and charges which comprise these non-State Government funding sources are displayed in Figure 7.

Figure 7 – User Charges and Fees

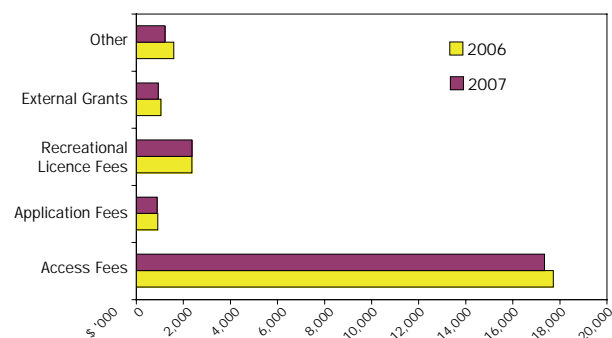
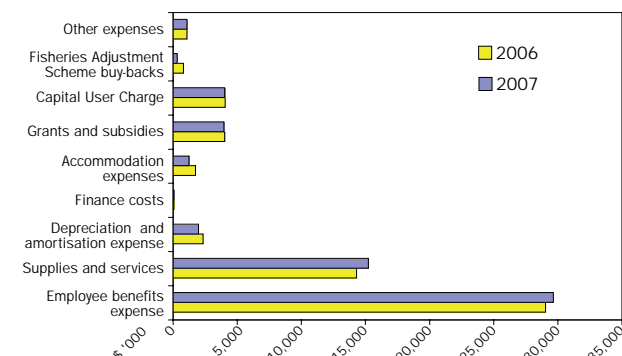


Figure 8 shows the total expenditure by type for the 2006/07 financial year against comparative figures for the 2005/06 financial year.

Figure 8 – Total Expenses by Type

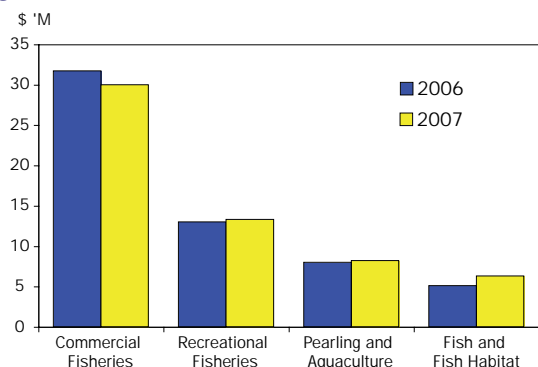


The Department has four services:

- 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 9 shows the level of expenditure by service, against comparative figures for the 2005/06 financial year.

Figure 9 – Total Cost of Services



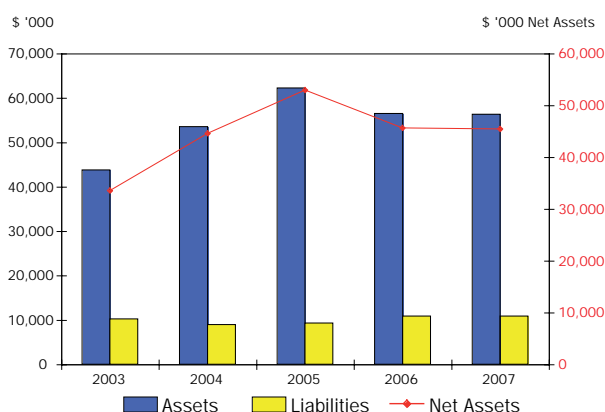
Balance Sheet

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

The net assets of the Department represent the residual interest in the assets after deducting liabilities. This position has remained stable during the financial year (\$45.5 million: 2007, \$45.6 million: 2006).

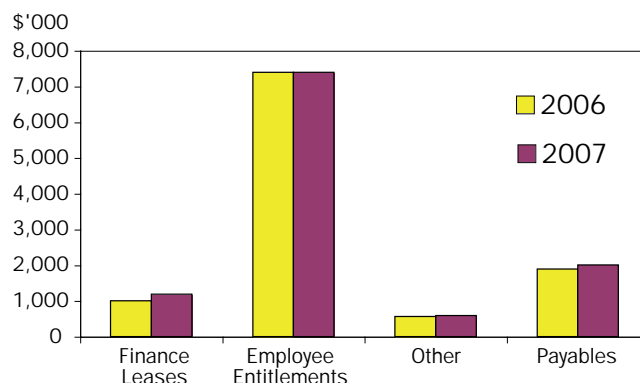
Figure 10 provides an overview of the asset and liability position of the Department for the past five years.

Figure 10 – Financial Position



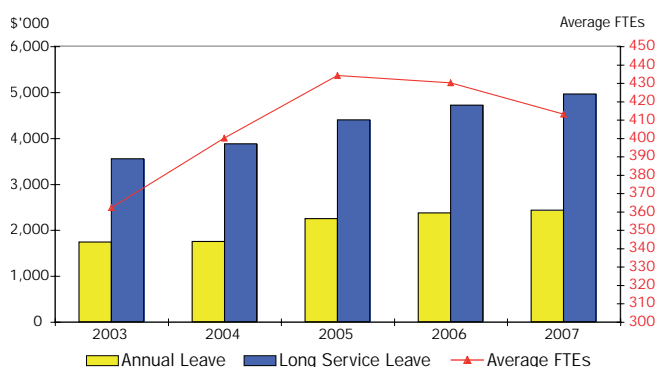
The liabilities of the Department are comprised mainly of employee entitlements, a finance lease on a patrol vessel and payables. The composition of liabilities for 2006/07 is depicted in Figure 11 against comparative figures for the 2005/06 financial year.

Figure 11 – Liability Categories



Employee entitlements consist of annual and long service leave. Although showing a small increase over the previous year, this is mainly due to the impact of salaries increases. The Department continues to pursue strategies to reduce its leave liability.

Figure 12 – Employee Entitlements



Performance Indicators



Sustainability education programs for the Indian Ocean Territories (Cocos (Keeling) and Christmas islands) are being developed by the Department of Fisheries in consultation with the Commonwealth Government. Photo of ghost crab in Cocos (Keeling) by Andrew Cribb.

Certification of Performance Indicators

Performance Indicators

Certification of Performance Indicators

Treasurer's Instruction 905

Financial Management Act 2006

I hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Department of Fisheries performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Department of Fisheries for the financial year ended 30 June 2007.



Peter J Millington
Accountable Authority
21 August 2007

Performance Indicators 2006/07 for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

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

Sustainable Fisheries Management

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 of 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 2006/07 performance review, 36 fisheries have been utilised. This is an increase of one since 2005/06.

For the 36 fisheries reviewed, Appendix 5 records that breeding stock assessments are now available for the major species taken in 34 (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 overfished, they are given priority for new research and management.

Within the group of 34 assessed fisheries, 79 per cent involve stocks that have adequate breeding stock levels, which is a decrease on 2005/06 (Figure 11). The seven 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), the South Coast Crustacean Fishery, the Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery, the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery and South Coast Herring 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. Whilst management actions to reduce the catch quota and restore the spawning biomass to appropriate levels had already been implemented, a further review of management resulted in additional cuts to the quota to increase the speed of recovery to an acceptable level.

For the southern shark fishery, two of the four target species are considered to be overfished. While the whiskery shark stock is now improving, the dusky whaler and sandbar stocks will continue to decline due to the impacts of previous fishing activities, not from current fishing levels. In the Northern Shark Fishery, whilst there has been a significant reduction in effort, the impacts on the breeding stock from previous activities will also continue to affect the recruitment to the breeding stock for many years.

The breeding stock status of southern rock lobster fished in the Great Australian Bight, Esperance and Albany areas of the South Coast Crustacean Fishery still remains uncertain. The low recruitment to the fishery observed in the last five years may reflect recruitment overfishing, given that the relationship between the small Western Australian stock and the much larger stocks in South Australia is unclear. The management arrangements for this fishery, given the uncertainties, will be reviewed.

The catches and breeding stock levels of crabs within Cockburn Sound declined sharply in the last two years. A review indicated that the breeding stock had declined greatly and the fishery was closed for the 2007 season. Additional research activities are already underway to monitor the recovery of the stock.

The recently completed assessments on west coast demersal scalefish indicate that the exploitation rates on the key species of this fishery (dhufish, pink snapper) are too high and that their spawning stocks may therefore be put at risk.

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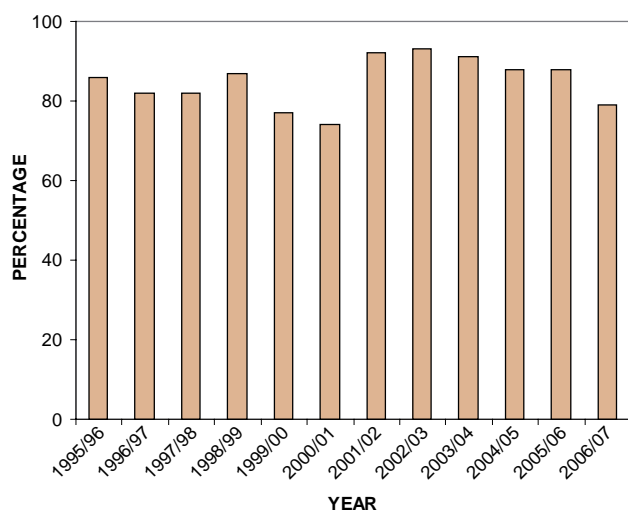
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Performance Indicators 2006/07 for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

The development of a new system of management that covers all sectors (including all forms of commercial fishing plus recreational and charter sectors) for the ongoing exploitation of these species within agreed sustainable limits has already begun, with the outcomes of the wetline review now being implemented.

Finally, the long-term decline in catches of herring on the South Coast in particular suggest that further research is required to determine whether this is associated with a reduction in the breeding stock or from changes to environmental conditions leading to lowered recruitment.

Figure 13 – 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 31 of the 36 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. The fisheries where ranges are unavailable include the four pilchard fisheries, which are still rebuilding following an exotic virus attack, with effort levels to take the new current quotas not having been established.

Of the 31 fisheries where 'target ranges' were available in 2006/07, four were catch-quota managed (through a TAC allocated through individually transferable quotas or ITQs) with 27 subject to effort control management (including individually transferable effort in more advanced management plans).

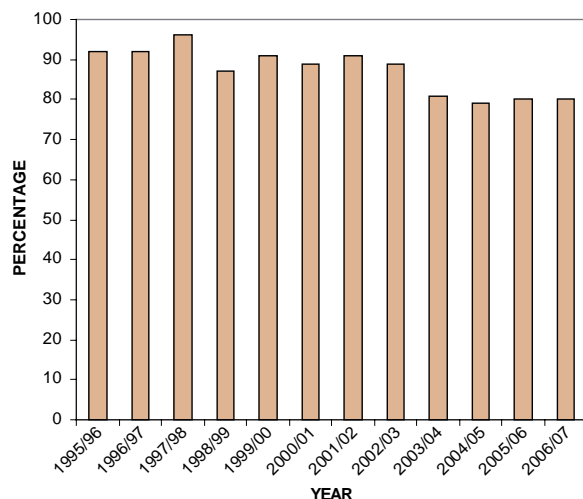
For the four TAC/ITQ-managed fisheries, all four operated within their target effort ranges or were acceptably below the effort range (Roe's abalone, Shark Bay Snapper Fishery). In the 27 effort-controlled fisheries, 21 produced catches that were within or acceptably above (one) or below (eight) their target catch ranges.

Four fisheries had unacceptably high catches, which will require management reviews. These include the trap section of the Pilbara Trap and Line Fishery; the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery, where a management review is still underway; and the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery. The Demersal Gillnet and Longline Fishery will shift its management controls from monthly gear units to daily gear units to more explicitly control effort.

The two fisheries where the catches were unacceptably low were the South Coast Crustacean and Cockburn Sound Crab fisheries. Following a review, the Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery was subsequently closed for the 2007 season.

In summary, 25 (80 per cent) of the 31 fisheries assessed were considered to have met their performance criteria, or were affected by factors outside the purview of the management plan. This is approximately the same level as has been seen over the last four years.

Figure 14 – 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 objective '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 be either 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 2001/02).

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 usually 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, 23 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 of Fisheries' Research Division within the last five years. The Department has made no assessment of whether these current shares are optimal or equitable with regard to community benefit and it acknowledges that this indicator does not include shares allocated implicitly or otherwise to the conservation sector (via 'no-take' areas) or to other sectors (e.g. Indigenous).

On this basis, the share of catch attributable to the commercial sector and the recreational sector for 2006/07 has been estimated for 13 of the 23 fisheries (60 per cent). This is a drop on the number available in 2005/06 because it is more than five years since the national survey was completed which provided the most recent information for many of the recreational fisheries.

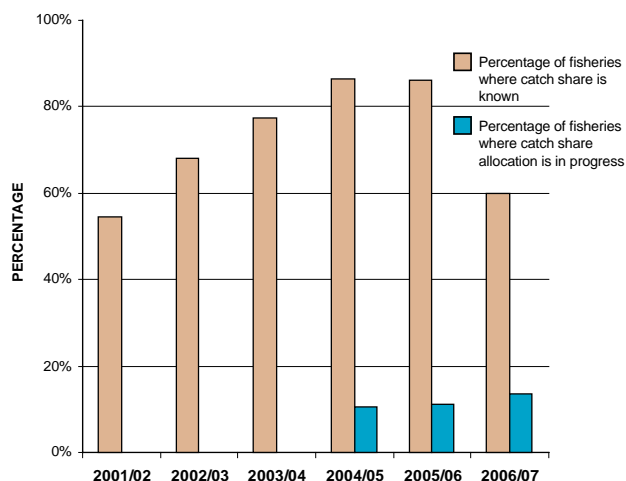
In relation to the second part of the indicator, while there are a small number of fisheries or fished stocks (including Kimberley barramundi and Cockburn Sound crab) where an informal mediated catch share process and/or outcome has been achieved, there are no explicit allocations in place. For fisheries 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 shortly. The IFM process for the West Coast Demersal Finfish Fishery has begun and other fisheries will follow, with the proportion of fisheries or fished stocks with formal share allocations expected to increase over time.

Performance Indicators 2006/07 for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

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 15 – 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 of Fisheries' Research Division. Information for the years 2003/04 to 2005/06 in broad groupings is provided in Table 9.

The value of commercially-caught crustaceans in 2005/06 was slightly higher than the 2004/05 value, despite the drop in tonnage. The decline in tonnage was mostly a result of the rock lobster catch during 2005/06 which was forecast to be lower, based on the juvenile settlement observed three to four years earlier. The catches from the prawn fisheries were also slightly lower in 2005/06.

There was a large decline in the production and value of molluscan fisheries in 2005/06. The majority of this was due to the decreased catch of scallops, which was relatively high in 2004/05. 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 2005/06 declined to be just below 15,000 tonnes, the value of production similarly declined to \$42 million.

The value of pearl production in 2005/06 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. Other aquaculture production and value for 2005/06 were similar to 2004/05 levels.

In summary, WA fisheries value was very similar in 2005/06 to the previous year, despite the decreased production levels from the molluscan and crustacean 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 9 – Western Australian Fisheries Production – Years 2003/04 to 2005/06

	2003/04		2004/05 (e)		2005/06 (f)	
	t	\$ m	t	\$ m	t	\$ m
Crustaceans	18,772	315	17,240	316	14,826	337
Molluscs (a)	4,167	40	7,654	50	3,437	35
Fish	17,474	46	15,882	48	14,899	42
Pearling (b, c)	n/a	122	n/a	122	n/a	122
Aquaculture (d)	1,243	7	975	6	848	6
Total production	41,656	530	41,751	542	34,010	542

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 beta-carotene.
- 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 2007. The telephone numbers were randomly selected from the white pages on CD-ROM. Respondents were males and females older than 17 years residing in Western Australia. The total sample of 749 interviews comprised:

- 444 metropolitan interviews; and
- 305 regional interviews.

The total number of interviews completed is similar to or more than the total number completed in previous years (for example, 701 interviews were completed in 2005/06; 700 in 2004/05; and 701 completed in 2003/04).

The demographics of the survey respondents are compared to ABS population figures which identified some differences – similar to previous years. This has prompted a planned review of the Department's survey methodology to improve coverage.

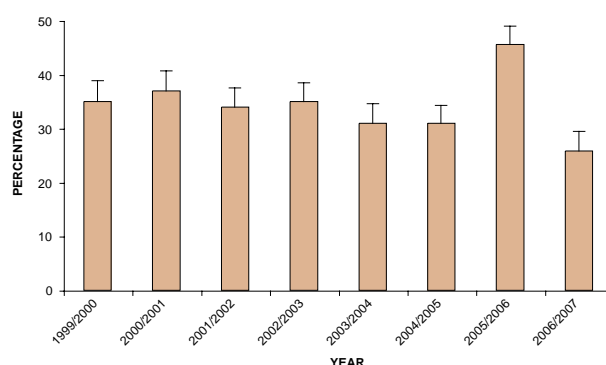
3.1 The participation rate in recreational fisheries

Research conducted by the Recreational Fishing Surveys and Statistics section of the Western Australian Marine Research Laboratories and SurveyTalk gives the number of people in Western Australia who went recreational fishing at least once in the previous 12 month period as 445,000 or 25.8 per cent of the WA population (using ABS population estimates from the 2001 census).

The participation rate for recreational fishing in Western Australia was 45.6 per cent in 2005/06, 31.1 per cent in 2004/05, 30.8 per cent in 2003/04, 34.6 per cent in 2002/03, 33.8 per cent in 2001/02, 37.1 per cent in 2000/01, 35.4 per cent in 1999/00, and 34.0 per cent in 1998/99 (Figure 16).

The trend in recreational fishing participation will become apparent in future years.

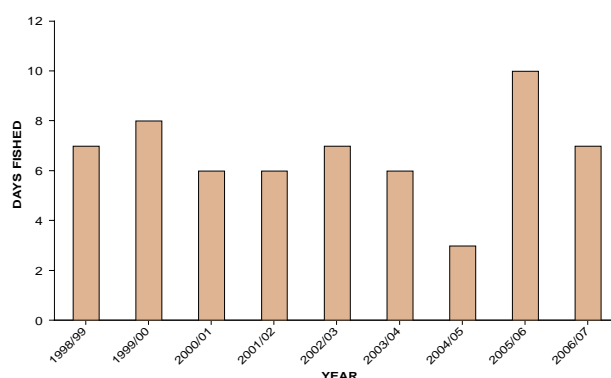
Figure 16 – Participation Rate in Recreational Fisheries 1998/99 – 2006/07



Days Fished

The median number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last twelve months was seven days (Figure 17). The trend in number of days fished will become apparent in future years.

Figure 17 – Median Number of Days Fished 1998/99 – 2006/07



The number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last twelve months ranges from one to 209 days. The mean number of days fishing was 17 days and the median seven days. The majority of people in Western Australia fished between one and ten days. However, some fished for considerably more days giving a skewed frequency distribution (Figure 18). The results are often biased due to the inability of respondents to accurately recall past fishing trips over a 12-month period.

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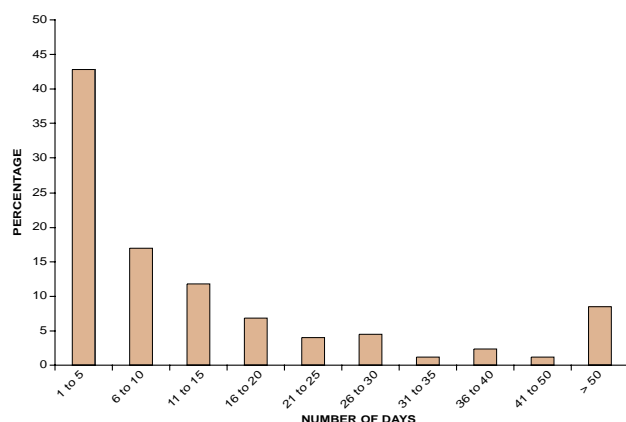
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Figure 18 – Distribution for Numbers of Days Fished



The most popular region for recreational fishers was the Perth Metropolitan area from Yanchep to Mandurah (64 per cent). Other areas that people fished were the West Coast other than the Perth Metropolitan area (31 per cent), South Coast – Marine (12 per cent), Gascoyne (five per cent), Pilbara/Kimberley – Marine (three per cent), South Coast – Freshwater (two per cent), and Pilbara/Kimberley – Freshwater (one per cent). The total exceeds 100 per cent 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.

<i>Knowledge</i>	=	the level of the person's awareness of biology and behaviour of fish and the best way to catch fish.
<i>Management</i>	=	the level of the person's awareness of rules and regulations.
<i>Confidence</i>	=	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.

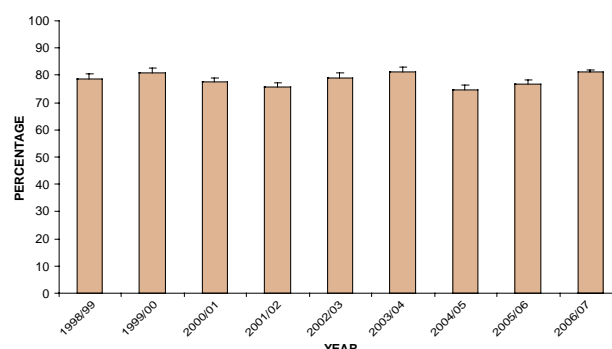
The above three criteria were rated by each respondent on a scale of one to four, and then amalgamated to provide the satisfaction index.

The satisfaction index for recreational fishing was 81.3 per cent with a 95 per cent confidence interval between 79.6 per cent and 83.0 per cent. The satisfaction index is significantly higher than the value of 77.0 per cent in 2005/06.

The satisfaction index was 77.0 per cent in 2005/06, 74.6 per cent in 2004/05, 81.4 per cent in 2003/04, 79.2 per cent in 2002/03, 75.6 per cent in 2001/02, 77.5 per cent in 2000/01,

81.0 per cent in 1999/2000 and 78.7 per cent in 1998/99 (Figure 19).

Figure 19 – Satisfaction Rating of Those Involved in Recreational Fishing 1998/99 – 2006/07



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 81.5 per cent by the Western Australian public across its four service areas of commercial fishing, recreational fishing, fish and fish habitat protection, and aquaculture and pearling. The 95 per cent confidence interval for the satisfaction rate of the broader community is between 79.2 per cent and 83.8 per cent. These results are from the 54 per cent 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 higher than the value of 66.1 per cent for 2005/06 but not significantly different to the value of 83.7 per cent for 2004/05. The trend in satisfaction will become apparent in future years. The relevance of this indicator for external reporting purposes is currently being reviewed.

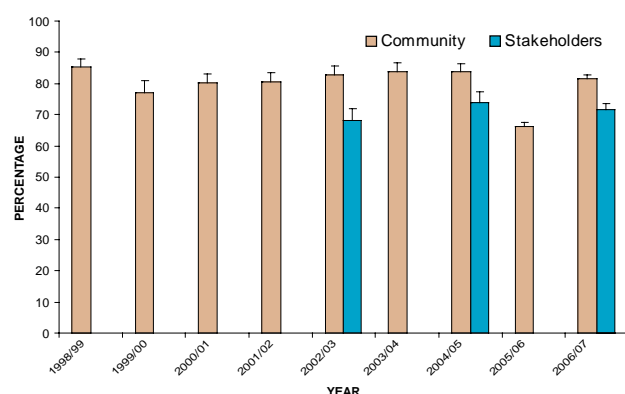
The satisfaction rate of the broader community was 66.1 per cent in 2005/06, 83.7 per cent in 2004/05, 83.9 per cent in 2003/04, 82.8 per cent in 2002/03, 80.6 per cent in 2001/02, 80.1 per cent in 2000/01, 77.0 per cent in 1999/2000 and 85.3 per cent in 1998/99 (Figure 20).

During 2002, 2004 and 2006 an additional survey was conducted to measure the satisfaction of Department of Fisheries' stakeholders. The 2006 survey comprised 137 interviews with representatives from commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, fish and fish habitat protection and aquaculture and pearling. The Department of Fisheries was given a satisfaction rate of 71.8 per cent by Department of Fisheries stakeholders (Figure 20). The 95 per cent confidence interval for the satisfaction rate is between 68.3 per cent and 75.2 per cent. The satisfaction rate is not significantly different to the value of 74.0 per cent from the 2004 stakeholder survey (Baharthah, 2004).

Performance Indicators 2006/07 for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

The satisfaction rating of stakeholders was significantly different to the satisfaction rating of the broader community. The satisfaction rating was 71.8 per cent for stakeholders and 81.5 per cent for the broader community as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving sustainable fisheries management.

Figure 20 – Satisfaction Rating of the Broader Community and Department Stakeholders 1998/99 – 2006/07



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, e.g. 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 table 10.

Table 10 – Service 1

Service 1 Commercial fishing costs	Actual 2005/ 06	Target 2006/ 07	Actual 2006/ 07	Variance Actual	Variance Target
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$155	\$108	\$144	7%	-34%
Average cost per hour for management	\$144	\$127	\$155	-7%	-22%
Average cost per hour for research	\$128	\$115	\$135	-5%	-17%

Explanation of significant variances

Community education and compliance

Target 2006/07 against Actual 2006/07

The increase in 2006/07 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and as a consequence fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

Management and Research

Target 2006/07 against Actual 2006/07

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 2006-07 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budgeted hours.

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Performance Indicators 2006/07 for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

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 table 11.

Table 11 – Service 2

Service 2 Recreational fishing costs	Actual 2005/ 06	Target 2006/ 07	Actual 2006/ 07	Variance Actual	Variance Target
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$123	\$141	\$134	-9%	5%
Average cost per hour for management	\$136	\$131	\$141	-3%	-7%
Average cost per hour for research	\$127	\$121	\$132	-4%	-9%

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 table 12.

Table 12 – Service 3

Service 3 Aquaculture and Pearling Costs	Actual 2005/ 06	Target 2006/ 07	Actual 2006/ 07	Variance Actual	Variance Target
Pearling					
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$188	\$138	\$304	-62%	-120%
Average cost per hour for management	\$132	\$82	\$149	-13%	-82%
Average cost per hour for research	\$130	\$104	\$139	-7%	-34%
Aquaculture					
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$185	\$108	\$200	-8%	-86%
Average cost per hour for management	\$119	\$131	\$123	-4%	6%
Average cost per hour for research	\$125	\$116	\$141	-13%	-22%

Explanation of significant variances – pearling

Community education and compliance, and Management
Target 2006/07 against Actual 2006/07

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 2006/07 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

Research

Target 2006/07 against Actual 2006/07

Research hours exceed target as emerging issues in the fisheries have required additional effort. Increased costs in this area have also resulted from the need to contract specific professional services.

Explanation of significant variances – aquaculture

Community education and compliance, and Research
Target 2006/07 against Actual 2006/07

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 2006/07 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

Research

Target 2006/07 against Actual 2006/07

Actual hours in 2006/07 are considerably less than 2005/06 and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs are spread over fewer hours, resulting in a higher rate per hour.

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

Service 4: Management and conservation of fish and fish habitat

Service Description:

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

Efficiency in Service 4 is described as the average cost per hour for services delivered within each of the three functional areas as outlined in table 13.

Table 13 – Service 4

Service 4 Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Costs	Actual 2005-06	Target 2006-07	Actual 2006-07	Variance Actual	Variance Target
Average cost per hour for community education and compliance	\$145	\$116	\$165	-14%	-42%
Average cost per hour for management	\$138	\$116	\$139	-1%	-20%
Average cost per hour for research	\$148	\$121	\$158	-6%	-30%

Explanation of significant variances

Community education and compliance

Target 2006/07 against Actual 2006/07

Additional costs relating to the management of newly created marine parks and costs to support management of the Abrolhos Islands.

Actual 2005/06 against Actual 2006/07

Additional costs relating to the management of newly created marine parks and costs to support management of the Abrolhos Islands.

Management

Target 2006/07 against Actual 2006/07

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 2006/07 has resulted from a reduction in the hours delivered when compared to budget and, as a consequence, fixed non-salary related costs being spread over fewer hours.

Research

Target 2006/07 against Actual 2006/07

Research hours exceed target as emerging issues in the fisheries have required additional effort. Increased costs in this area have also resulted from the need to contract specific professional services.

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Required Reporting and Compliance

One of the main aims of the Aquaculture Feed Grains Program – a collaboration between the Department of Fisheries' Research Division, the Department of Agriculture and Food, and other commercial and research partners – is to continually improve lupins as an aquaculture feed. Photo: Dr Brett Glencross



Government Policy Requirements

Other Legal Requirements

Government Policy Requirements

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.

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 in similar Commonwealth processes.

The Department took a significant step forward in 2006/07 towards the development of a new approach to fisheries management in Western Australia, which is called Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM). This is a more holistic approach to fisheries management than its predecessors.

A major node of the WA Marine Science Institute (WAMSI) is carrying out a project aimed at developing a structural framework for EBFM. This project began in 2006/07 and should be completed in the coming year. It will provide the foundation for the development of regional EBFM plans, to guide fisheries management in the future. Regional EBFM plans will also contribute towards State and Commonwealth regional marine planning processes.

The Department of Fisheries has completed Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) fishery assessments for the State's major commercial export fisheries and has begun assessments for minor fisheries and aquaculture. These approvals are based on a three- or five-year period and the fisheries will be progressively re-assessed as these terms expire. These assessments will contribute to EBFM plans for all regions.

The Department is closely involved in the planning associated with the creation of marine protected areas, including Fish Habitat Protection Areas (FHPAs) and marine parks in State and

Commonwealth waters, as well as the use of 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.

The Department's continuing work in the management of fisheries, pearling and aquaculture activities within an ESD framework contributes directly to regional development, given the regional focus of many fishing activities.

Major Achievements for 2006/07

- Regular Inter-departmental Committee meetings were held between the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the Department of Fisheries addressing issues that contributed to improved collaborative marine planning and management of Western Australia's marine environment.
- The Department's Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program worked with other government agencies and stakeholders in progressing regional marine planning initiatives. These included engagement with the DEC on State Regional Marine Planning (RMP) initiatives along the south coast, and the Commonwealth's Department of Environment and Water Resources (DEWR) to address the South West and North West Marine Bioregional Planning (MBP) initiatives.
- The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program assisted in the development of the draft Kimberley Plan for the management of fish and fish habitats in the Kimberley region, including the identification of potential FHPAs.

Major Initiatives for 2007/08

- The Department of Fisheries' Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program will coordinate fisheries data and policy input to DEWR, and maintain liaison with fisheries stakeholders, in respect to the Commonwealth MBP initiatives for the South West and North West.
- The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program will coordinate fisheries data and policy input to DEC, and maintain liaison with fisheries stakeholders, in regard to the State RMP initiative on the south coast.

- The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program will provide policy assistance in the development of the Department of Fisheries' draft Kimberley Plan.
- The Department of Fisheries will participate in the planning of proposed new marine conservation reserves in the Pilbara and south Kimberley.

Corruption and Fraud Prevention

The Department of Fisheries recognises that the prevention of corruption and fraud is an integral part of good governance and management. The Department is committed to developing and maintaining appropriate capacity, policies, procedures, and an organisational culture that is supportive of, and consistent with, public sector and departmental codes of conduct and relevant legislation.

In 2006/07, the Department instigated the following:

- made available to all staff, via the internal website, the process that should be followed when carrying out 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;
- required all business plans that were developed to include a section on the assessment of risk of fraud, along with proposals for how the identified risks would be managed;
- completed a policy on the prevention of corruption and fraud in the workplace, which is in the final stages of approval;
- provided information about departmental corruption and fraud prevention measures to all new staff in the induction package; and
- conducted an annual department-wide review to identify and capture risks in the Risk Register related to corruption, fraud and misconduct.

Substantive Equality

The Department of Fisheries reported on its progress to the Equal Opportunity Commission during 2006/07, following the development of a policy statement and the identification of the first area for implementation of the Government's *Policy Framework for Substantive Equality* – the Perth metropolitan recreational abalone fishery.

A workshop focusing on the Department's overall communications strategy for this abalone fishery was held in September 2006. This resulted in a review of the educational material that was to be used for the 2007 fishing season. As a result, illustrated flyers translated into Vietnamese and Mandarin were produced and distributed through Vietnamese and Chinese publications, and their content communicated verbally through Vietnamese radio broadcast stations. Additionally, the consultation process for the Integrated

Fisheries Management draft allocation report for the Perth metropolitan abalone fishery included engagement with ethnic sectors within the WA community who have traditionally been involved with this fishery.

The Department has identified the west coast crab fishery as the next service area for implementation of the substantive policy framework, and continues to identify other opportunities for incorporating substantive equality principles into fisheries management initiatives and processes.

Sustainability

Commitment 1.2 of the *Sustainability Code of Practice for Government Agencies and Resource Guide for Implementation* requires agencies to report on compliance with the code and other sustainability achievements in annual reports.

In the 'Strategic Planning Framework' section of this Annual Report, the Department of Fisheries has reported against the goals of the Government's *Better Planning: Better Futures* strategic management framework, the first three goals of which are directly related to conventional sustainability dimensions, as well as triple bottom line components.

The Department of Fisheries has also reported against the Government's *Better Planning: Better Futures* goal of 'Governance and Public Sector Improvement' in the Strategic Planning Framework, as this provides agencies with an excellent opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability.

In response to the Government's *State Sustainability Strategy*, the Department is committed to specific marine fisheries and aquaculture actions related to:

- an expansion of the Department's environmental assessments of fisheries and aquaculture sectors to include social and economic components;
- a broadening of the marine management framework to an ecosystem-based management approach in partnership with other agencies;
- development of a long-term aquatic ecosystem strategy to rehabilitate freshwater ecosystems and establishment of a freshwater native fish sub-program within the Department of Fisheries;
- establishment of Fish Habitat Protection Areas to complement the marine park and reserve system;
- a continuation and expansion of targeted education and training programs to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre and throughout regional Western Australia;
- implementation of the Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) strategy and development of supporting processes, taking into account the needs of all stakeholders on a bio-regional basis; and

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- implementation of aquatic biosecurity management arrangements and activities within Western Australia.

Implementation of these actions is continuing.

The *Sustainability Code of Practice for Government Agencies* requires the Department of Fisheries to also address 13 corporate level commitments and 40 actions in the areas of governance, agency operations and employee empowerment. 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 of Fisheries' 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 further enhanced over the last 12 months. The Department has increased its number of four-cylinder vehicles in accord with government policy and over 33 per cent of its six-cylinder fleet is now LPG-fuelled. It should be noted that departmental operational requirements in many instances restricts the selection of the vehicle type at the time of replacement, e.g. some vehicles need to have a large vessel towing capacity.
- 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's 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 recycling program also extends to include mobile phone batteries, chargers and handsets for Planet Ark.
- The WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys 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 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. A consultant has recently been commissioned to examine ways to further improve energy consumption at the Hillarys centre, particularly in the heating of sea water for marine experiments. The outcomes of this review will be contained in next year's report.
- 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 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 Safety and Health measures in the workplace in order to improve environmental, economic and social outcomes.

On a broader level, the Department of Fisheries is committed to implementing ESD and reporting against its economic, environmental and social performance – what is sometimes termed 'triple bottom line' reporting.

The ESD principles are contained within the objectives of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* – the Department of Fisheries' primary enabling legislation. It is therefore incumbent upon the Department to demonstrate to the Government and the broader community that these principles are being achieved. As a result, the Department of Fisheries currently reports to Parliament – and to the community – on three performance indicators that reflect the components of the triple bottom line:

- Objective 1 – Sustainable fisheries management.
- Objective 2 – Maximising economic benefit to the State.
- Objective 3 – Maximising social benefit to the State.

The Department's annual *State of the Fisheries Report* is 'required reporting' under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and provides detailed information on the management of fish stocks and their environment based on ESD principles.

Other Legal Requirements

Disability Services Plan

The State Government has introduced amendments to the *Disability Services Act 1993*. This year is the last year the Department will report on its Disability Services Plan, which is to be replaced in the second half of 2007 by a new Disability Access Inclusion Plan (DAIP).

The Disability Services Commission will assist and support all government agencies and authorities with the introduction of the new DAIP and has developed resources for this purpose.

However, for 2006/07 this report again focuses on the five key outcome areas of the Department's current Disability Services Plan.

Outcome 1:

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

The Fishers with Disabilities Association Inc. (FDA), previously administered by the Department of Fisheries, became an incorporated body and took over all administrative functions related to its programs and activities from 2007. The FDA has the prime focus of increasing recreational fishing access for people with disabilities.

The Department of Fisheries continues to support the FDA through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and sponsorship, as well as in-kind support and corporate recognition. Regional Fishers with Disabilities fishing clinics are conducted by the Department of Fisheries as the service provider for the FDA. Department of Fisheries volunteers continue their association with the FDA, but now as volunteers for the FDA in their own right.

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 in 2005/06 and the Naturaliste Discovery Centre in 2006/07 has resulted in tremendously improved access to research and education resources, including the State's leading marine reference library.

The Department's new Marine Operation 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 area of recreational fisheries, 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 W3C 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 is committed to improving the accessibility of the websites it has created. Current websites are evaluated against the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 and staff involved in web development have attended workshops run by the Association for the Blind of Western Australia.

Outcome 4:

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

A number of Department of Fisheries volunteers have been involved in the Fishers with Disabilities Association (FDA) since its inception. Volunteers participate in the initiatives the FDA promotes, through the Department of Fisheries/ FDA Memorandum of Understanding. Staff involved in web development have attended workshops run by the Association for the Blind of Western Australia.

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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 having a formal relationship with the Fishers with Disabilities Association and staff attending workshops on web development held by the Association for the Blind of Western Australia, the Department is able to canvas suggestions on how to best tailor its services to adequately meet the needs of those people with a disability and communicate with them in an effective manner.

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. Within the Department of Fisheries, the Record Keeping Plan provides an accurate reflection of the record-keeping program and must be complied with by departmental staff.

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 February 2007. Findings from the report rated the overall "quality of management control" associated with record keeping within the Department as satisfactory and that record keeping practices presented a low "overall risk exposure" to the Department. The Department is continually improving its overall quality of management control in regard to record keeping.

The Department implemented an online record keeping training and awareness program in December 2004. All staff throughout the State have been enrolled in the course and as at 30 June 2007, 97 per cent of staff have completed the course. The effectiveness of this training was reviewed in 2007 and was found that 72 per cent of staff found the course informative, 18 per cent found the course essential, one per cent found the course stimulating and nine per cent found the course uninteresting.

The Department also holds a formal induction seminar for new employees. This includes a segment on the Department's record keeping program and addresses employees' roles and responsibilities in regard to their compliance with the Department's Record Keeping Plan.

Pricing Policy for Services Provided

The Department of Fisheries operates in an environment where more than half of operating revenue is received from sources other than the Consolidated Account.

The Minister for Fisheries and the commercial fishing sector have reached an agreement whereby the costs incurred by the Department in managing commercial fisheries are recovered from the fisheries concerned.

The operators in the State's six major commercial fisheries - abalone, Exmouth Gulf prawn, pearling, Shark Bay prawn, Shark Bay scallop and western rock lobster - are currently meeting the full costs of services delivered, calculated by reference to the guidelines agreed by the industry and the Minister for Fisheries. These guidelines are full cost of services less the opportunity cost of capital. The operators in the minor commercial fisheries also are required to make a contribution towards the cost of managing those fisheries.

The Department has developed a pricing policy to assist in making decisions on other 'ad hoc' requests for the provision of its services.

Public Interest Disclosures

(*Public Interest Disclosures Act 2003*, S23 (1) (f))

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* came into effect on 1 July 2003, requiring the Department of Fisheries to:

- facilitate the disclosure of public interest information;
- provide protection for those who make disclosures; and
- provide protection for those who are the subject of a disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, the Department has duly appointed a Public Interest Disclosure Officer and has published internal policies and procedures related to its obligations. Nil public interest disclosures were received during 2006/07.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

Table 14 – Data on EEO for 2006/07

	Equity Index	Percentage of Actual Representation (as at 30 June 2007)	2007 Objective Set by Department of Fisheries	Percentage Above or Below Objective
		Women in Management Tiers 2 & 3 combined	Women in Management Tiers 2 & 3 combined	
Women	47	21.7	30	- 8.3
People from culturally diverse backgrounds	333	5.9	4	+ 1.9
Indigenous Australians	*n/a	2.0	1	+ 1.0
People with disabilities	92	4.5	3	+ 1.5
Youth	*n/a	3.6	10	- 6.4

* The Equity Index cannot be calculated for a diversity group with less than 10 individuals

This year the Department of Fisheries has submitted its *Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management Plan 2006-2009* to the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity. This plan contains comprehensive strategies to assist the Department in working towards the goal of becoming a workplace that is free from racial and sexual harassment and celebrates diversity.

Progress towards the achievement of these strategies will be measured and periodically reported to both the Agency Executive Group and the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity.

The Department's Human Resources Branch has undergone a structural change in 2006/07, in preparation for the transition to the Office of Shared Services (OSS) model of service delivery and to move away from its traditional compliance-focused role into a strategic coaching and consultancy function.

Table 15 – EEO Initiatives Implemented in 2006/07

Key EEO Initiatives Implemented in 2006/07	Reference in Department of Fisheries' Current EEO Plan	What was Achieved?	What Difference Has it Made?	How Was the Initiative Evaluated?
The Department of Fisheries' EEO policy and commitment to discrimination-free and harassment-free workplace. This policy includes an assessment component.	Strategy 1.3.4	There are compulsory modules in the new online staff induction system, which includes the Department's EEO policy and commitments.	All staff will be required to complete the online induction system when it is finalised, so new employees will be informed about the EEO policy/commitment and existing employees will be reminded.	Staff feedback will be sought.
Recruitment and selection processes are free from bias and unlawful discrimination.	Strategy 2.2.1	For the new Fisheries and Marine Officer (FMO) intake, testing processes were amended for Aboriginal applicants to account for cultural bias. Additionally, the physical requirements for women were amended in the FMO testing, so as to account for physiological differences between women and men.	A number of indigenous candidates applied to be FMOs. One-third of the 24 suitable applicants were women.	This process was only recently completed.
Newly created staff positions have the corporate EEO values included in them.	Strategy 1.1.3	This is being done as new positions are created.		
Existing job descriptions are being reviewed and modified to include EEO values.	Strategy 1.1.3	The job descriptions are being updated as positions become vacant and are sought to be filled, and/or at any time a position is reviewed (i.e. during a reclassification, progression, etc).		
Partnerships with employment agencies are formed to investigate suitable positions for people with disabilities and ensure that they are placed in applicant pools.	Strategy 3.2.5	A partnership has commenced with one specialist agency for people with disabilities.		Evaluation to be done at reporting time in 2008

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Human Resource Management Standards and Ethical Codes

(Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner (OPSSC) reporting under s31 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*)

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

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

Table 16 – Human resource and ethical compliance issues and actions 2006/07

Compliance issues	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
Public Sector Standards (PSS) Breach claim lodged against the RSA standard. Referred to OPSSC, however claim was withdrawn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information about the standards included on the agency intranet.• Quality assurance audit of all recruitment, selection and appointment processes for appointments exceeding six months undertaken independently by the Human Resources Branch.• Ongoing support provided to selection panels to ensure compliance with relevant standards.
WA Code of Ethics Nil reports of non-compliance with WA Code of Ethics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information about the code of ethics included on the agency intranet.• Commencement of a review and update of the induction process, including information on the code of ethics' key principles.
Agency Code of Conduct Nil reports of non-compliance with Agency Code of Conduct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information about the code of conduct included on the agency intranet.• Commencement of a review and update of the induction process, including detailed information and practical examples on the implementation of the code of conduct.

Advertising and Sponsorship

In compliance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Department of Fisheries is required to report on expenditure incurred during the financial year in relation to advertising agencies, market research organisations, polling organisations, direct mail organisations and media advertising organisations.

The details of the report are as follows:

Expenditure with advertising agencies	
– Marketforce Australia	\$97,571.60
Expenditure with market research agencies	\$0
Expenditure with polling agencies	\$0
Expenditure with direct mail agencies	\$0
Expenditure with media advertising agencies	\$0
Total Expenditure 2006/07	\$97,571.60

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 manages the majority of fishing adjacent to Western Australia in the Australian Fishing Zone under the provisions of Part 5 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* of the Commonwealth and Part 3 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Legislation Affecting Department Outcomes

In the performance of its functions, the Department of Fisheries complies with the following relevant written laws:

Animal Welfare Act 2002

Auditor General Act 2006

Conservation and Land Management Act 1984

Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003

Credit Act 1984

Disability Services Act 1993

Electronic Transactions Act 2003

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Environmental Protection Act 1998

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Equal Opportunity Act 1984

Financial Management Act 2006

Firearms Act 1973

Freedom of Information Act 1992

Government Employees' Housing Act 1964

Government Financial Responsibility Act 2000

Industrial Relations Act 1979

Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993

New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999

Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984

Occupiers Liability Act 1985

Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972

Public Interest Disclosures Act 2003

Public Sector Management Act 1994

Salaries and Allowances Act 1975

Spent Convictions Act 1988

State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004

State Records Act 2000

State Superannuation Act 2000

State Supply Commission Act 1991

State Trading Concerns Act 1916

Trade Practices Act 1974

Volunteers and Food and Other Donors (Protection from Liability) Act 2002

Western Australian Marine Act 1982

Wildlife Conservation Act 1950

Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2006.

Numerous other State and Federal laws also affect the Department's activities. These are listed in Appendix 4.

In the financial administration of the Department of Fisheries, we have complied with the requirements of the *Financial 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.

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

P J Millington BSc (Hons) M Env St. MSc FAICD
Accountable Authority

Bruno Mezzatesta BBus MBA FCPA
Chief Finance Officer

30 June 2007

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Appendix 1

Management Advisory Committees

The full membership of these committees (except for the Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees) can be found at the Department of Fisheries' website at: www.fish.wa.gov.au

Ministerial and Management Advisory Committees (MACs)

Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (*Section 29, Fish Resources Management Act 1994*). Chair: Dr Ron Edwards

Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (*Section 33, Fish Resources Management Act 1994*). Chair: Doug Bathgate

Aquaculture Development Council (*Section 37, Fish Resources Management Act 1994*). Chair: Dexter Davies

Pearling Industry Advisory Committee (*Pearling Act 1990*). Chair: Graham Short

Non-Statutory Management Advisory Committees

(Section 41 and 42, *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*)

Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee

WA Demersal Net and Hook Fishery Management Advisory Committee

Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee

Joint Trawl Management Advisory Committee

Abalone Management Advisory Committee

Purse Seine Management Advisory Committee

Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees (RRFACs)

Carnarvon RRFAC

Denham RRFAC

East Kimberley RRFAC

Esperance/Goldfields RRFAC

Exmouth RRFAC

Great Southern RRFAC

Metropolitan RRFAC

Mid-west RRFAC

Peel RRFAC

Pilbara RRFAC

South-west RRFAC

West Kimberley RRFAC

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

(Section 11 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 Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

West Australian Trawl and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme

(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

Appendix 2

Major Publications Produced by the Department of Fisheries

Fisheries Occasional Publications

- No. 37** Western Rock Lobster Ecological Effects of Fishing Research Plan. Developed by the Ecological Effects of Fishing Scientific Reference Group (October 2006). *Internet publication*.
- No. 38** Proposed Amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*. Draft report of the Ministerial Review Committee. Volume 1 of 2 – Overview and Recommendations (October 2006).
- No. 39** Proposed Amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*. Draft report of the Ministerial Review Committee. Volume 2 of 2 – Matrix of Proposed Amendments (October 2006).
- No. 40** A Summary of Data Collected by the Angler's Daily Log Book and Fishing Tournament Monitoring Programs in 2004 – 2006. By Kim Smith, Mike Hammond and Josh Brown (2007).
- No. 41** Harvesting the Benefits of Grain in Aquaculture Feeds. Proceedings of a workshop, 13 February 2007. Edited by Brett Glencross (2007).
- No. 42** Gascoyne Wetline Fish Identification Field Guide. By Ben Rome, Steve Newman, Corey Wakefield, Jeff Norris and Gary Jackson (*in press*).

Fisheries Management Papers

- No. 214** Integrated Fisheries Management Draft Allocation Report for Roe's Abalone – Perth Metropolitan Area (August 2006).
- 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) (June 2006).
- No. 218** Integrated Fisheries Management Allocation Report for the Western Rock Lobster Resource (July 2006).
- No. 219** Matters Relevant to a Sustainable Western Rock Lobster Pueruli Allocation Model – a Scoping Paper (October 2006).
- No. 220** Management of the Houtman Abrolhos System. A Draft Review 2007 – 2017 (February 2007).
- No. 221** Outcomes of the Wetline Review. The Minister for Fisheries' proposed decisions for the future management of the West Coast and Gascoyne commercial 'wetline' fisheries (December 2006).

- No. 222** Shark Bay Prawn and Scallop Fisheries. Draft Review Report (April 2007).
- No. 223** A Sustainable Future for Fishing on Christmas Island. A draft five-year strategy for managing commercial, recreational and charter fishing (April 2007).
- No. 224** Outcomes of the Wetline Review. The Minister for Fisheries' decisions in relation to the future management of the West Coast and Gascoyne commercial 'wetline' fisheries (May 2007).

Research reports

- No. 159** A 12-month survey of recreational estuarine fishing in the South Coast bioregion of Western Australia during 2002/03. Smallwood, C.B. and Sumner, N.R. (2007).
- No. 160** Development of biodiversity and habitat monitoring systems for key trawl fisheries in Western Australia, Final FRDC Report – Project 2002/038. Kangas, M. I., Morrison, S., Unsworth, P. and Lai, E. (*in press*).
- No. 161** Distribution and abundance of juvenile pink snapper, *Pagrus auratus*, in the gulfs of Shark Bay, Western Australia, from trap surveys. Jackson, G., Burton, C., Moran, M. (2007).
- No. 162** The western rock lobster fishery 2005-06. de Lestang, S., and Barker, E. H. (*in press*).
- No. 163** Spatial scales of exploitation among populations of demersal scalefish: implications for wet line management, Final FRDC Report – Project 2003/052. St John, J., Wise, B., Keay, I., Fisher, S., Marriot, R., Jarvis, N., Gaughan, D. and Lenanton, R. (*in press*).

Fisheries Research Contract Reports

- No. 14** Development of a national translocation policy using abalone and prawns as templates for other aquatic species, Aquatic Animal Health Subprogram: FRDC Project No. 2004/080. Jones, B. and Stephens, F. (2006).
- No. 15** Pilchard herpes virus infection in wild pilchards, Aquatic Animal Health Subprogram: FRDC Project No. 2002/044. Jones, B., Crockford, M., Whittington, R., Crane, M. and Wilcox, G. (2006).
- No. 16** Improvement and evaluation of greenlip abalone hatchery and nursery production, Final FRDC Report – Project 2003/203. Daume, S. (*in press*).
- No. 17** Improved performance of marron using genetic and pond management strategies, Final FRDC Report – Project 2000/215. Lawrence, C. (2007).

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- No. 18** Current and future needs for aquatic animal health training and for systems for merit-based accreditation and competency assessments, Aquatic Animal Health Subprogram: FRDC Project No. 2005/641. Landos, M., Dhand, L., Jones, B., and Whittington, R. (2007).

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) Reports

Biological and Fisheries Data for Managing Deep Sea Crabs in Western Australia. FRDC Project No. 2001/055. Melville-Smith, R., Norton S.M.G., and Thomson A.W. (*in press*).

Assessing the possibilities for the natural settlement of western rock lobster: FRDC Project No. 2002/045. Phillips, B.F. (Principal Investigator), Melville-Smith, R., Thomson, A., and Rossbach, M. (2007).

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 2007, there were 56,952 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 2007, there were 462 aquaculture licences recorded on the State Register.

At 30 June 2007, there were 7,153 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	66
Pilbara Fish Trawl	8
Shark Bay Crab	5
West Coast Deep Sea Crab	7
West Coast Demersal Gillnet & Demersal Long Line	26
West Coast Estuarine	26

Managed Fishery Licences	1,362
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	5
Exmouth Prawn	16
Kimberley Gillnet & Barramundi	7
Kimberley Prawn	136
Marine Aquarium Fish Corporate	1
Marine Aquarium Fish Individual	12
Nickol Bay Prawn	14
Northern Demersal	15
Onslow Prawn	31
Pilbara Trap	6
Shark Bay Beach Seine	31
Shark Bay Prawn	27
Shark Bay Scallop	41
Shark Bay Snapper	53
South Coast Estuarine	57
South Coast Purse Seine	25
South Coast Salmon	69
South-West Salmon	37
South-West Trawl	14
Specimen Shell	32
Warnbro Crab	0
West Coast Beach Bait Fish	3
West Coast Purse Seine	12
Windy Harbour/Augusta Rock Lobster	2
West Coast Rock Lobster	608
Other	5,653
Commercial Fishing Licence	3,139
Fish Processing (land)	123
Fish Processing (sea)	137
Fishing Boat Licence	1,528
Aquatic Eco-Tour	2
Fishing Tour Operators Licence	351
Oyster Fishing Licence	6
Permit to Construct a Fish Processing Establishment	339
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	831
Extracts	464
Searches	39
Notation of security interest	148
Removal of security interest	167
Variation of security interest	13

The Registrar recorded 16 convictions against 36 authorisations in the relevant period, pursuant to the statutory obligation under section 224 (1) of the FRMA. Four 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 ten occasions.

State Administrative Tribunal Review of Decisions

One application for review was on foot on 1 July 2006. It was dismissed in March 2007.

One new application for review was lodged with the State Administrative Tribunal during the 2006/07 financial year. A hearing was held in this matter, however, the decision had not been handed down as at 30 June 2007.

Appendix 4

Legislative Amendments and New Legislation

1. Summary

1.1 Fish Resources Management Act 1994

There were two amendments to this Act.

The *Machinery of Government (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2006* was passed during the last financial year, and commenced operation on 1 July 2006. This Act makes nomenclature changes to the above Act by replacing “Executive Director” with “CEO” and deleting several references to the Treasury.

The *Financial Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2007* was passed on 21 December 2006 in Government Gazette number 8 of 2007, and commenced 1 February 2007. This made nomenclature changes to this Act by replacing “Fund” with “Account” and makes reference to section 16 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* where relevant.

1.1.1 Regulations

There were six amendments made to the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* (see item 2.1.1 below).

1.1.2 Management Plans

There were no new management plans and fourteen amendments to existing management plans (see item 2.1.2 below).

1.1.3 Orders

There were eight new orders (see item 2.1.3(a) below) and one amendment to an existing order (see item 2.1.3(b) below).

1.1.4 Notices

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

1.2 Pearling Act 1990

There were two amendments to this Act.

The *Machinery of Government (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2006* was passed during the last financial year, and commenced operation on 1 July 2006. This Act makes nomenclature changes to the above Act by replacing “Executive Director” with “CEO” and deleting several references to the Treasury. Other amendments include the inclusion of a power of delegation for the CEO, insertion of a definition of “Department”, changing the definition of the Fish Resources Development Fund and a provision making all fisheries officers (under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*) pearling inspectors.

There was a reprint of the *Pearling Act 1990* as at 6 October 2006, including all amendments as listed above.

The *Financial Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2007* was passed on 21 December 2006 in Government Gazette number 8 of 2007, and commenced 1 February 2007. This made nomenclature changes to this Act by replacing “Fund” with “Account” and makes reference to section 16 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* where relevant.

1.2.1 Regulations

There were no amendments to these Regulations.

1.2.2 Notices

There were twelve notices published in the Gazette (see item 2.2.1 below).

1.3 Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987

There was one amendment to this Act.

The *Financial Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2007* was passed on 21 December 2006 in Government Gazette number 8 of 2007, and commenced 1 February 2007. This made nomenclature changes to this Act by replacing “Fund” with “Account”.

There was a reprint to the *Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987* as at 6 April 2007, including amendments as listed.

1.3.1 Regulations

There was one amendment to the Regulations. (See 2.3.1 below)

1.3.2 Notices

There were no amendments to the notices.

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

There was one amendment to this Act.

The *Machinery of Government (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2006* was passed during last period, and commenced operation on 1 July 2006. This Act makes nomenclature changes to the above Act by replacing “Executive Director” with “CEO”.

1.5.1 Regulations

There were no amendments to the Regulations.

2. Subsidiary Legislation

2.3.1 Fish Resources Management Act 1994

2.1.1 Regulations

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 5) 2006. Amended various fees in Schedule 1. Commenced 5 September 2006. Government Gazette number 153 of 2006.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 6) 2006. Amended Regulation 38D(2)(a) “Requirements regarding abalone”. Commenced 10 November 2006. Government Gazette number 189 of 2006.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No.8) 2006. Various amendments relating to shark, rock lobster and abalone. Commenced 4 October 2005. Government Gazette number 189 of 2006.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 7) 2005. Various amendments regulating the marron fishery. Commenced 29 December 2006. Government Gazette number 234 of 2006.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No.2) 2005. Various amendments related to Schedule 1 Part 3 (3) – Fees for the grant or renewal of authorisations – Managed Fishery Licence fees. Commenced 16 February 2007. Government Gazette number 27 of 2007.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 5) 2007. Various amendments related to Schedule 1 Part 3 (3) – Fees for the grant or renewal of authorisations – Managed Fishery Licence fees. Commenced 12 June 2007. Government Gazette number 124 of 2007.

2.1.2 Management Plans

(a) Amendments to Existing Plans

West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No. 4) 2006. Inserted a clause referring to the “Standard time to apply” as defined in the Standard Time Act 2005. Commenced 8 December 2006. Government Gazette number 208 of 2006

West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No. 3) 2006. Amending information regarding the “Executive Director” to read “CEO” and various other amendments relating to a capacity to fish for Rock Lobster. Commenced 5 January 2007. Government Gazette number 2 of 2007.

Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2006. Amending dates from 2004 to 2006 and amending scheduled Areas. Commenced 1 August 2006. Government Gazette number 136 of 2006.

Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2006. Adding information regarding applying for a permit prior to certain dates and deleted clause 2. Commenced 13 December 2006. Government Gazette number 216 of 2006.

Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment (No. 3) 2006. Amending dates from 2006 to 2007. Commenced 15 December 2006. Government Gazette number 222 of 2006.

West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2007. Inserted a cessation date for the Interim Management Plan. Commenced 15 December 2006. Government Gazette number 222 of 2006.

Joint Authority Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2006. Amended a large majority of the Management Plan and inserted a number of schedules. Commenced 21 July 2006. Government Gazette number 126 of 2006.

Joint Authority Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2006. Amending zone titles and headings to four Schedules in the Management Plan. Commenced 15 December 2006. Government Gazette number 221 of 2006.

West Coast Deep Sea Crab Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2006. Amended the cessation date of the Management Plan. Commenced 22 December 2006. Government Gazette number 232 of 2006.

Shark Bay Snapper Management Plan Amendment 2006. Amending information regarding the “Executive Director” to read “CEO” and amending the capacity to fish. Commenced 29 December 2006. Government Gazette number 234 of 2006.

Shark Bay Snapper Management Plan Amendment 2007. Amending the capacity to fish. Commenced 11 April 2007. Government Gazette number 74 of 2007.

South Coast Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan Amendment (1 amendment) 2007. Amending information regarding the “Executive Director” to read “CEO” and amending licence information. Commenced 9 March 2007. Government Gazette number 46 of 2007.

South-West Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2007. Inserted Easter 2007 closures. Commenced 4 April 2007. Government Gazette number 69 of 2007.

Pilbara Fish Trawl (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2007. Amended the cessation date of the Management Plan. Commenced 29 May 2007. Government Gazette number 113 of 2007.

2.1.3 Orders

(a) New Orders

Prohibition on Fishing (Point Samson) Order (No. 2) 2006 (No. 4 of 2006). Prohibits fishing in the waters described in the Schedule by both recreational and commercial fishermen. Commenced 28 July 2006. Government Gazette number 130 of 2006.

Prohibition on Fishing by Line from Fishing Boats (Pilbara Waters) Order 1 of 2006. Prohibits fishing by line from a fishing boat, in the waters described in the interpretation, except under specified authorities and as listed. Commenced 15 August 2006. Government Gazette number 139 of 2006.

Prohibition on Recreational Fishing for Rock Lobster (West Coast) 2006, Order 7 of 2006. Prohibits fishing for rock lobster by pulling a pot or diving, at scheduled times and at a scheduled location. Commenced 8 December 2006. Government Gazette number 207 of 2006.

Prohibition on Recreational Fishing for Crabs (Cockburn Sound) Order 2006, Order 9 of 2006. Prohibits recreational fishing for crabs in Cockburn Sound. Commenced 15 December 2006. Government Gazette number 222 of 2006.

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing for Crabs (Cockburn Sound) Order 2006, Order 10 of 2006. Prohibits commercial fishing for crabs in Cockburn Sound. Commenced 15 December 2006. Government Gazette number 222 of 2006.

Prohibition on Fishing (Shannon River) Order 2007, Order 2 of 2007. Prohibits fishing, by any person, in the Shannon River. Commenced 25 January 2007. Government Gazette number 13 of 2007.

Prohibition on Fishing (Lena Wreck Site) Order 2007, Order 3 of 2007. Prohibits fishing by any person, by any means at the Lena wreck site. Commenced 2 February 2007. Government Gazette number 16 of 2007.

Prohibition on Fishing (Rottnest Island) Order 2007, Order No 4 of 2007. Prohibits fishing by any person by means of fishing, a net or a spear, in the scheduled waters. Commenced 26 June 2007. Government Gazette number 133 of 2007.

(b) Amendments to Existing Orders

Prohibition on Fishing (Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound) Amendment Order 2006, No. 12 of 2006. Inserted a prohibition on fishing for pink snapper between 20 December 2006 and 10 January 2007. Commenced 20 December 2006. Government Gazette number 229 of 2006.

2.1.4 Notices

Regulation 55AA(3) – Notice of Approved Directions.

Scheduled list of approved directions for the installation, use and testing of approved Automatic Location Communicators for managed fisheries. Commenced 4 July 2006. Government Gazette number 115 of 2006.

Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993. Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns, Notice No. 3 of 2006. Revoked the previous notice and gave notice of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Commenced 25 July 2006. Government Gazette number 127 of 2006.

Abalone Management Plan 1992. Clause 18 – Notice of Approved Fish Processors. Lists approved fish processors in respect of abalone. Commenced 22 August 2006. Government Gazette number 146 of 2006.

Authorised Persons. Revokes notice 224 of 20 December 2002, and is made under S213. Commenced 15 September 2006. Government Gazette number 158 of 2006.

Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2004. Notice pursuant to Clause 10(2). Notice of areas, times and dates fishing is permitted in the fishery. Commenced 17 October 2006. Government Gazette number 175 of 2006.

Full Moon and Easter Closure Times in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery. Notice of the closure times and dates in the fishery. Commenced 24 October 2007. Government Gazette number 178 of 2006.

Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery Management Plan 2000 – Notice of Determination. Determination of the capacity of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery for the 2007 licencing period. Commenced 18 December 2006. Government Gazette number 206 of 2006.

Approved Automatic Location Communicators. Scheduled list of approved make and models of approved Automatic Location Communicators. Commenced 19 January 2007. Government Gazette number 8 of 2007.

Regulation 55AA(3) – Notice of Approved Directions. Cancelled Notice dated 3 July 2006 and approved the list of directions for the installation, use and testing of approved Automatic Location Communicators for managed fisheries. Commenced 6 February 2007. Government Gazette number 19 of 2007.

Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery. Clause 9 – Closures of Areas Within the Fishery. Cancelled Determination No. 1 of 2006 and gives notice that Determination No 1 of 2007 has been made of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Commenced 23 February 2007. Government Gazette number 31 of 2007.

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. Commenced 27 February 2007. Government Gazette number 33 of 2007.

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Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993. Clause 10 – Closures of Areas Within the Fishery. Cancelled Determination 1 of 2006 and gave notice that a new Determination (1 of 2007) has been made of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Commenced 13 March 2007. Government Gazette number 47 of 2007.

Regulation 55AA(3) – Notice of Approved Directions. Cancelled Notice dated 31 January 2007 and approved the list of directions for the installation, use and testing of approved Automatic Location Communicators for managed fisheries. Commenced 11 May 2007. Government Gazette number 97 of 2007.

Broome Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1999. Notice of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns. Notice No.1 of 2007. Cancelled Notice No. 1 of 2006 and gave notice of the areas, time and date that fishing is prohibited in the fishery. Commenced 1 June 2007. Government Gazette number 115 of 2007.

2.2 Pearling Act 1990

2.2.1 Notices

Pearling (Annual Fees) Notice 2006. Established the fees payable for various pearling licences and permits for the year commencing 1 January 2007 and ending 31 December 2006. Commenced 1 January 2007. Government Gazette number 222 of 2006.

Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Lease (Mura Bay). Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd at Mura Bay. Government Gazette number 130 of 28 July 2006.

Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Lease (Talbot Bay). Granted a variation to Pearls Pty Ltd for a variation to an existing lease. Government Gazette number 189 of 10 November 2006.

Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Lease (Point Lefroy). Granted a variation to Pearls Pty Ltd for a variation to an existing lease. Government Gazette number 206 of 8 December 2006.

Grant of an Emergency Pearling Oyster Farm Lease (Serrurier Island). Notice of the grant of an emergency pearl oyster farm lease to Exmouth Pearls Pty Ltd until 31 August 2007. Government Gazette number 25 of 2007.

Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Lease (Osborne Island West). Granted a variation to Pearls Pty Ltd for a variation to an existing lease. Government Gazette number 27 of 16 February 2007.

Grant of Pearl Oyster Hatchery Licence (Maxima Pearl). Notice of the grant of a Hatchery Licence including a Hatchery (Nursery) Licence to Maxima Pearling Co Pty Ltd. Government Gazette number 33 of 27 February 2007.

Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Lease (Red Island and Osborne Island South West). Notice of the grant of a farm lease to Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd at Red Island and Osborne Island South West. Government Gazette number 33 of 27 February 2007.

Grant of Pearling Licence (Blue Seas Pearling). Notice of a grant of a Pearling (Wildstock) Licence and a Pearling (Seeding)

Licence to Blue Seas Pearling (Administration) Pty Ltd. Government Gazette number 52 of 20 March 2007.

Grant of Pearl Oyster Farm Leases Deep Water Point A, B & C. Granted a variation to Blue Seas Pearling Company for existing leases. Government Gazette number 81 of 20 April 2007.

Grant of Pearl Oyster Hatchery Licence (For Propagation) Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park. Notice of the grant of a Hatchery Licence including a Hatchery (Propagation) Licence to Clipper Holdings Pty Ltd. Government Gazette number 126 of 19 June 2007.

Grant of Variation to Pearl Oyster Farm Leases at Vansittart Bay, Seaflower Bay and Encounter Cover. Granted a variation to Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd to existing leases. Government Gazette number 7 of 2007.

2.3 Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987

2.3.1 Regulations

Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Repeal Regulations 2006. Repealed the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Regulations 1988. Commenced 11 August 2006. Government Gazette number 136 of 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 that are either fully managed fisheries or they are in the process of having dedicated management plans developed for them.

Full information on the current management status and future directions of commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries and aquaculture industries is given in the *State of the Fisheries Report*.

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
WEST COAST BIOREGION							
West coast rock lobster	Yes	Adequate	8,166 – 14,523	10,326	2005/06	Yes	The below average catch is due to a poor puerulus settlement three to four years previously.
Roe's abalone	Yes	Adequate	112.7 (Q) (679 – 914 days)	98.4 (625 days)	2006	Yes	The stocks of Roe's abalone are considered to be higher than historical levels. However, increased fishing efficiency is considered the main cause for the reduced effort. The effort range will be reviewed.
Abrolhos Islands and mid west trawl	Yes	Adequate	95 – 1,830	205	2006	Yes	The annual recruitment (and therefore catch) of scallops is highly variable, depending upon environmental conditions. The low catch in 2006 was anticipated due to low recruitment.
South-west trawl	NA	NA	Not available	Prawns 8 Scallops <1	2006	NA	
Cockburn Sound crab	Yes	Inadequate	200 – 350	52	2005/06	No	This was the third consecutive year of low commercial catches in Cockburn Sound. A subsequent review of the stock status resulted in the whole fishery being closed for the 2006/07 season. A research program is currently underway to monitor if there has been a recovery.
Deep sea crab	Yes	Adequate	100 – 300 (crystal crabs)	188	2006	Yes	This is a developing fishery, targeting a long-lived species.
Estuarine fisheries (west coast)	NA	NA	75 – 220 (Peel-Harvey only)	185	2006	Yes	Recent catches are stable but low relative to historic levels (pre-1990) due to substantial reductions in commercial effort in each estuary.
West coast beach bait	Yes	Adequate	60 – 275 (whitebait only)	231	2006	Yes	Yearly fluctuations in whitebait stocks are due to environmental conditions.
West coast purse seine	Yes	Adequate	3,000 (Q)	494	2006	NA	Continued low catches are due to a combination of irregular availability of fish and low activity levels by the fleet. Acceptable effort level not available.
West coast demersal scalefish	Yes	Inadequate	558 – 798	975	2005/06	No	The catch is above the target range for the fifth year. The recent stock assessment indicates that two key indicator species are being overfished.

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Appendix 5 – continued

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
GASCOYNE COAST BIOREGION						
Shark Bay prawn	Yes	Adequate	1,501 – 2,330	1,559	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	899	Yes	All three major prawn species were within target catch limits.
Shark Bay scallop	Yes	Adequate	1,250 – 3,000	1,044	Yes	The annual recruitment of scallops is highly variable. The catch in 2006 was below the target catch range due to low recruitment levels and catch rate thresholds introduced this season halted fishing for two months during the season, with a smaller meat size being caught once the fishing recommenced.
Shark Bay beach seine and mesh net	Yes	Adequate	235 – 335	229	Yes	The total catch fell below the target range for the first time due to low fishing effort. The target catch in recent years was affected by self-imposed restrictions by the fishery rather than reduced abundance. Therefore, there are no concerns about these stocks.
Shark Bay snapper	Yes	Inadequate	338.3 (Q) (425 – 558 days*) * June - July	318.2 (416 days*)	Yes	Despite the increased catch rate, based on an updated stock assessment, a further review of management arrangements was undertaken and the TACC reduced to 277.3 tonnes for the 2006/07 season to achieve the required rate of stock recovery.
NORTH COAST BIOREGION						
Onslow prawn	Yes	Adequate	60 – 180	54	Yes	Tiger and banana prawns were within target catch limits, whereas king and endeavour prawns were just below target ranges. Reduced effort was a factor, with the lowest number of days fished since 2000.
Nickol Bay prawn	Yes	Adequate	90 – 300	394	Yes	Following high summer rainfall, higher than normal banana prawn catches were predicted.
Broome prawn	Yes	Adequate	55 – 260	45	Yes	King prawns were within the target catch range, but coral prawns were considerably below their target range. This species was not targeted due to poor prices for small prawns. The exploitation rate was still < 40%.
Kimberley prawn	Yes	Adequate	240 – 500	335	Yes	Banana prawn catches were within expected range for observed rainfall. Other species also within target catch ranges.
Kimberley gillnet and barramundi	Yes	Adequate	25 – 40 (barramundi)	36	Yes	Barramundi catch level was similar to 2005 and was within the target range.
Northern demersal scalefish	Yes	Adequate	Total 600 – 1,000 (goldband <327) (red emperor <167)	Total 801 (goldband 336) (red emperor 166)	No	Catches of goldband snapper and red emperor were both lower than last season, but are still either above, or close to, the target range. A stock assessment review of goldband snapper and red emperor is currently in progress, with results expected in 2007.

Fishery	Stock assessment complete	Breeding stock assessment	Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Season reported ¹	Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Comments on performance in reported season
Pilbara fish trawl	Yes	Adequate	2,000 – 2,800	2,222	2006	Yes	Catches of lower-value species decreased.
Pilbara demersal trap and line	Yes	Adequate	160 – 360 (trap) 50 – 115 (line)	473 (trap) 105 (line)	2006	No	Trap catches were again above the upper limit, due to increased catch of some species. Line catch, including goldband snapper, however, were reduced to acceptable levels, due to management changes for this sector.
Mackerel	Yes	Adequate	246 – 410 (all except grey mackerel)	275	2006	Yes	The implementation of the formal management arrangements continues to affect the fishery. Catches declined significantly in the Pilbara due to decreased effort and poor weather, but good catches were reported elsewhere.
Northern shark	Yes	Declining	< 20 (sandbar only)	< 1	2005/06	Yes	The target sandbar catch has been lowered significantly to reflect the sustainability objectives of new management arrangements introduced in 2005.
Pearl oyster	Yes	Adequate	557,000 oysters (O) (14,071 – 20,551 dive hours)	538,882 oysters (13,684 dive hours)	2006	Yes	Effort was below historical range, indicating stocks are higher than historical levels. TAC increased to 603,000 in 2007.
SOUTH COAST BIOREGION							
South coast crustacean	Yes	Uncertain	50 – 80 (southern rock lobster)	40	2005/06	No	The downturn in the 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	211.5 (O) (907 – 1,339 days)	206 (1,161 days)	2006	Yes	Fishery is considered to be within historical levels, however localised declines in some areas have prompted a review of performance indicators for the fishery.
Estuarine fisheries (south coast)	Yes	Adequate	200 – 500	170	2006	Yes	The total catch is below target level due to an ongoing decline in total effort level, but the stock levels of key species are considered adequate.
WA salmon	Yes	Adequate	1,200 – 2,800	1,986	2006	Yes	Recent catches are low relative to historic levels, due to very limited market demand.
Australian herring	Yes	Uncertain	475 – 1,200 (south coast only)	301	2006	Yes	Stock levels appear to have declined over the last five to 10 years as the result of poor recruitment, possibly due to environmental factors. At same time, commercial catch (and effort) has declined to a historically low level, partly due to market forces, and so is currently acceptable.
Albany/King George Sound purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (O)	1,342	2005/06	NA	Quotas are adjusted annually. Target effort levels are not available.

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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
Bremer Bay purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (0)	391	2005/06	NA	Quotas are adjusted annually. Target effort levels are not 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 (0)	138	2005/06	NA	Quotas are adjusted annually. Target effort levels are not available. The low catches this season are due to a scarcity of market-size fish in the traditional fishing grounds.
Southern and west coast demersal gillnet and longline	Yes	Gummy and whiskery increasing. Dusky and sandbar declining.	725 – 1,095	1,121	2005/06	No	The depletion of the breeding stocks of dusky and sandbar sharks has resulted in reductions in the juvenile catch rates of these species, and this situation will continue for many years. The use of monthly gear units has seen the recent activation of latent effort and catch levels have therefore increased. Consequently, management will shift to the use of daily gear units to more explicitly control fishing effort.
NORTHERN INLAND BIOREGION							
Lake Argyle catfish	Yes	Adequate	95 - 155	78	2006	Yes	The reduction in catch is related to a drop in the level of effort for 2006.

NOTES:

1 Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available.

NA Not assessed.

Q Quota management.

TAC Total Allowable Catch

TACC Total Allowable Commercial Catch

Appendix 6

Exemptions

Exemption No	Applicant	Period of exemption	Provisions	Purpose
1572	Peter P Rogers, Chief Executive Officer, Department of Fisheries	01/10/2006 ongoing	Subregulation 64(4) of the Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995	To allow aquaculture licensees with pearl oysters, excluding <i>Pinctada maxima</i> , to lodge annual returns.
1573	Peter P Rogers, Chief Executive Officer, Department of Fisheries	01/10/2006 ongoing	Subregulation 64(4) of the Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995	To allow aquaculture licensees with species other than pearl oysters to lodge quarterly returns.
1574	JayBow Lobster Australia Pty Ltd	15/11/2006 – 30/06/2007	Fish Resources Management Act 1994	To allow JayBow Lobster Australia Pty Ltd to continue processing western rock lobster under the authority of Fish Processing Licence numbers 1095, 1030 and 1034 whilst their formal transfer applications are being considered.
1575	Paul Merendino	03/07/2006 – 11/07/2006	Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995	The take of crabs in the Developing New Fishery, Port Hedland to Onslow.
1576	WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories - Trawl Research Section	02/08/2006 – 31/12/2006	Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995	To allow the vessel 'Beacon K' to commercially fish for prawns in the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery using non-standard otter trawl nets.
1577	Antonino LaMacchia	04/09/2006 – 03/09/2007	Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995	To fish for rock lobster without a Managed Fishery Licence in the C zone of the fishery using 88 units.
1578	Mackerel Interim Managed Fishery Permit Holders	04/08/2006 – 28/02/2007	Fish Resources Management Act 1994	Processing mackerel other than broad-barred Spanish mackerel at sea on a licensed fishing boat that is named on a Mackerel Interim Managed Fishery permit.
1579	Jose Da Silva	03/07/2006 – 11/07/2009	Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995	The take of crabs in the Developing New Fishery, Port Hedland to Onslow.
1580	Brad Arnup	08/10/2006 – 18/10/2006	Fish Resources Management Act 1994	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.
1581	Jimmy Butcher	08/10/2006 – 18/10/2006	Fish Resources Management Act 1994	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.
1582	Nils Stokke	08/10/2006 – 18/10/2006	Fish Resources Management Act 1994	To assist the Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in conducting the annual independent breeding stock survey required to monitor the sustainability of the rock lobster fishery.
1583	NDSF Permit Holders	01/10/2006 – 31/12/2006	Fish Resources Management Act 1994	To enable persons listed in Schedule 1 to assist the Fisheries Research Division in undertaking dedicated catch sampling of the target indicator species, red emperor (<i>Lutjanus sebae</i>) and goldband snapper (<i>Pristipomoides multidens</i>).

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Exemption No	Applicant	Period of exemption	Provisions	Purpose
1584	WCRL Licence Holders	15/11/2006 – 30/06/2007	Fish Resources Management Act 1994	To enable members of the commercial fishing industry to assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in recapturing tagged lobsters by allowing those persons to have in their possession, for return to their usual processing factory or depot, tagged lobsters that are below the legal minimum size and/or are setose or berried.
1585	WCRL Processing Licence Holders	15/11/2006 – 15/07/2006	Fish Resources Management Act 1994	To enable licensed rock lobster processors and holding depots to assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting data on tagged lobsters by allowing those persons to have in their possession tagged lobsters that are below the legal minimum size and/or are setose or berried.
1586	National Fisheries Pty Ltd	15/11/2006 – 30/06/2007	Fish Resources Management Act 1994	To enable the processing of western rock lobster at the establishment situated at 71-75 Reg Clark Road, Fishermans Wharf, Geraldton, until the formal applications are finalised.
1587	Department of Fisheries	07/12/2006 – 31/12/2009	Clauses 11(2), 16, 17 and 18 of the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan, Clauses 11(2), 18, 19 and 20 of the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Management Plan, Clauses 15, 16 and 17 of the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan, Clauses 14, 15 and 16 of the Onslow Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan, Clauses 12, 13 and 14 of the Nickol Bay Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan, Clauses 10(5), 14, 15 and 16 of the Abrolhos Island and Mid West Trawl Managed Fishery Management Plan.	To provide licensees with the operational flexibility to maximise economic efficiency within a sustainable fisheries management framework.
1588	Central West College of TAFE	05/12/2006 – 31/12/2007	Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995	To undertake hatchery operations at the TAFE facilities at Separation Point in Geraldton.
1589	URS Australia Pty Ltd	14/02/2007 – 28/02/2010	Regs 117, 121 & 127 of Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and Notice 366.	To allow the collection of pearl oysters (<i>Pinctada margaritifera</i> and <i>P. albina</i>) for research purposes.
1590	Steven Da Silva	23/01/2007 – 31/01/2008	Warnbro Sound Crab Management Plan, Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and other subsidiary legislation.	The taking of crabs (<i>Portunus pelagicus</i>) by crab pot from the boat named on Fishing Boat Licence number 3580 in the waters of the Warnbro Sound Crab Managed Fishery.
1591	ASR Enterprises Pty Ltd	8/3/2007 – 30/6/2007	Sections 79 & 82 of the Fish Resources Management Act 1994	To allow ASR Enterprises to process fish other than rock lobster, prawns or abalone at 48 Austral Parade, Bunbury.

Appendix 6 – continued

Exemption No	Applicant	Period of exemption	Provisions	Purpose
1592	Ian John Rowland	15/03/2007 – 30/06/2007	Regulations 36(2), 117(1), 117(4), 117(6), 121(1) & 121(2) of Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995; and Clause 4(a), 4(b) and 7 of West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993; The Fish Trap Prohibition Notice 1994 (as amended); and The Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 (as amended).	To fish for western rock lobster from Licensed Fishing Boat D25 in the area described as Zone A of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery, using not more than: 104 pots from 15 March 2007 to 14 April 2007 inclusive; and 115 pots from 15 April 2007 to 30 June 2007 inclusive.
1593	Fisheries and Marine Officers attached to the Department's Esperance and Albany District Offices	29/03/2007 – 30/04/2007	Fish Resources Management Act 1994	To collect samples of fish from the Esperance Harbour area.
1594	Department of Environment and Conservation	30/11/2006 – 30/11/2007	Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulation 1995	To permit the possession, consignment and purchase of no more than 400kg of a totally protected species – tarwhine (<i>Rhabdosargus sarba</i>) at lengths less than 250mm - as part of the Monkey Mia dolphin feeding program.
1595	Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Managed Fishery Licence Holders	30/11/2006 – 30/11/2007	Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995	To permit the take, possession, consignment and purchase of no more than 400kg of a totally protected species – tarwhine (<i>Rhabdosargus sarba</i>) at lengths less than 250mm - as part of the Monkey Mia dolphin feeding programme.
1596	Shark Bay Fish Factory	30/11/2006 – 30/11/2007	Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995	To permit the take, possession, consignment, purchase and sale of no more than 400kg of a totally protected species – tarwhine (<i>Rhabdosargus sarba</i>) at lengths less than 250mm - as part of the Monkey Mia dolphin feeding programme.

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The Department of Fisheries is interested in your feedback and comments regarding the 2006/07 Annual Report. This will help us to improve the report in the future and make it more informative to our readers.

In general terms, how would you rate the Annual Report?

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ VERY GOOD ☐ AVERAGE ☐ POOR

In what ways do you think the Annual Report could be improved?

Other comments?

Your occupation or business?

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> FISHING GEAR MANUFACTURER/SALES |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> MARINE SCIENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATIONAL FISHER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> AQUACULTURIST |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT AGENCY | <input type="checkbox"/> MARINE INDUSTRY SUPPLIES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEAFOOD PROCESSING OR MARKETING | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ |

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