

Annual Report

TO THE PARLIAMENT

2003/04



Department of
Fisheries



Fish for the Future



**To the Hon. Kim Chance MLC
Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

Sir

In accordance with Section 62 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* and Section 263 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, I submit for your information the Annual Report to Parliament of the Department of Fisheries of Western Australia for the financial year ending 30 June 2004.

The *State of the Fisheries* report 2003/04, prepared in accordance with the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, is a separate publication.

Peter P Rogers

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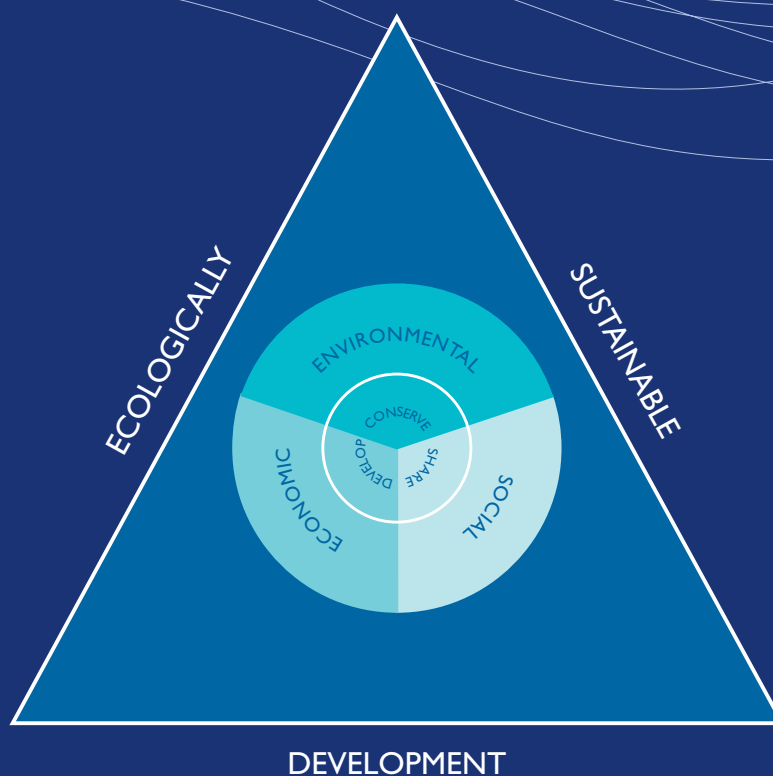
Cover photo: Rock lobster fishers camps on Pelsaert Island, Houtman Abrolhos Island (by Bill Bachman). Copyright Department of Fisheries/All Rights Reserved.

Contents

From The Executive Director	6	■ REPORT ON CORPORATE SERVICES	75
Profile Of The Department Of Fisheries	11	Customer Service Council	76
Operating Environment: Significant Issues And Trends	13	Regional Customer Service	78
Department Operating Structure	16	Services To People With Disability	82
Corporate Governance Reporting	19	Human Resources And Staff relations	84
Compliance Reports	20	Capital Works Program	89
Public Sector Standards	21	■ FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	91
■ REPORT ON OPERATIONS	23	Certification Of Financial Statements	92
Commercial Fisheries	24	■ PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	134
Recreational Fisheries	30	Appendices	146
Pearling And Aquaculture	34	Table And Figure Index	190
Fish & Fish Habitat Protection	38	Feedback Form	191
■ REPORT ON OPERATIONS	43		
Regional Services Branch	44		
International Operations	50		
Fisheries Research	52		
Strategic Planning And Policy	56		
Corporate And Community Relations	60		
Legislation And Drafting Unit	64		
Licensing	68		
Registrar And Office Of General Counsel	70		



FISH FOR the Future



The Department of Fisheries is committed to implementing Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD). Reporting against the three components (or 'bottom lines') of economic, environmental and social performance is directly tied to the concept and goal of ESD.

The ESD principles, whilst not explicit, are contained within the objectives of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and it is therefore incumbent upon the Department to demonstrate both to the Government and to the broader community that these principles are being achieved.

The illustration above shows the integration of the Department of Fisheries' business with the triple-bottom line. The inner circle highlights our core business of conserving, developing and sharing WA's fish and fish resources. The outer circle highlights the linkages of our business with environmental, economic and social objectives - the 'bottom lines'.

All this is contained within the pyramid of the overall departmental 'outcome' of ESD-compliant management of the State's fish and fish resources, reported through the triple-bottom line.

The Department 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

FROM THE Executive Director



Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) remained central to the operations of the Department of Fisheries in 2003/04 and accordingly our reporting is focussed against the three components (or 'bottom lines') of economic, environmental and social performance.

This focus is crucial. Without a strong and sustained management commitment based on ESD, there would be marked deterioration in Western Australia's fish stocks and fish habitats.

Our reporting has also been shaped by the Department of Premier and Cabinet's requirement that government departments report against its *Strategic Planning Framework*, which sets outcomes for the State Government as a whole.

The *Strategic Planning Framework* incorporates the three ESD reporting measures - environmental, social and economic - and adds to them reporting requirements in regional operations and governance. The Department has adopted this broader reporting structure for 2003/04.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The Department contributes towards the achievement of the following *Strategic Planning Framework* environmental outcomes:

- Effective management of marine and coastal resources, estuarine and inland environments.
- Better understanding and protection of biological diversity.
- A world class system of national parks, marine parks and other conservation reserves.

The year saw the release of the State Government's *State Sustainability Strategy*, which highlighted the work of the Department of Fisheries and its clients in achieving fisheries management based on ESD principles. The Strategy not only acknowledged this work, but also promoted the strategies used by the Department as a model for other agencies.

The *State Sustainability Strategy* proposed principles, approaches and actions for achieving sustainability and is being used by the Department to benchmark and monitor our progress in integrating environmental protection with economic prosperity and social advancement.

INTEGRATED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

One of the year's highlights was the Government's decision, as part of its May budget, to proceed further with a system of Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM). Under IFM, a total allowable catch will be determined for each fishery and shares allocated, as relevant, to commercial, recreational and customary fishers.

This world-leading approach is crucial for Western Australians to retain long-term healthy fisheries in the face of continuing demands on fisheries resources. It represents the central platform from which Government will deliver fisheries management policy into the future. As a result, the Department has reshaped its operations this year to specifically include a program area devoted to IFM.

For 2004/05 and beyond, our priorities for IFM will be on western rock lobster, abalone and west coast demersal finfish, especially dhufish and associated species.

FISH STOCKS

It was pleasing to see our research and management efforts bear fruit, with some fish stocks that have been vulnerable in the past looking better in 2003/04. Of particular interest is evidence that:

- The tiger prawn stocks in the Exmouth Gulf have recovered from the environmental damage sustained during Cyclone Vance in 1999.
- Pilchard stock levels improved after a more cautious approach to the setting of quotas.
- Stocks of inner eastern gulf snapper stocks improved as a result of our management strategies for the eastern and western gulf.

However, there were a number of areas of concern - in particular, stocks of whiskery and dusky sharks continued to decline due to overfishing. Management arrangements for both the larger shark fisheries and other fisheries that take shark are being reviewed to address this issue.

An assessment of oceanic pink snapper stocks around the State revealed that the stocks off Shark Bay were undesirably low. As a result the Department introduced a 40 per cent reduction of the fishing quota for the 2003/04 season. Further action will be required and a special working group has been established to consider these issues. Similar measures may be necessary for the charter and recreational sectors

In many areas, marron stocks were also found to need attention after a significant drop in recruitment and fishing quality, due to poor rainfall as well as overfishing. As a result, for 2003/04 the marron season was significantly shortened.

The development of management arrangements for the Wetline and Mackerel Fisheries has also been an important focus. These have included the drafting of a management plan for the Mackerel Fishery and the setting-up of committees to review the Wetline Fishery.

There is a need under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to develop strategies to reduce the impact of fishing on protected species. The main areas of concern for the Department involve the North West trawl fisheries and the rock lobster fisheries.

PROTECTING FISH AND FISH HABITATS

Achievements include the completion of a Plan of Management for the Point Quobba and a draft Plan for the proposed Kalbarri Blue Holes Fish Habitat Protection Areas. In addition, the Department provided advice to the Minister for Fisheries and the Department of Conservation and Land Management during the planning stage for proposals to develop marine park plans for the Dampier Archipelago, Monte Bello Islands, Walpole Inlet and the Cape-to-Cape area.

During 2003/04 the Department's Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program continued to contribute to the development of the proposed National System for the Prevention and Control of Marine Pest Incursions. The Program also provided advice and funding through the Consultative Committee on Introduced Marine Pest Emergencies to help address incursions of the North Pacific seastar in Eastern Victoria and green Asian mussels in Queensland.

FISHERIES RESEARCH

Applications for research funding were again successful in 2003/04, with the Department's Research Division obtaining about \$3 million in external grants.

Highlights of the year included:

- Commencement of a new Fisheries Research and Education Centre at Hillarys, which will enable the Research Division to meet the State's needs for fisheries research and conservation work well into the future.
- Commissioning of work from Emeritus Professor Ian Potter, Director of the Centre for Fish and Fisheries at Murdoch University, relating to the health of the Swan River. Data will be gathered on fish populations and fish habitats, contaminants, the deaths of large number of fish through disease or algae blooms, the impact of recreational activities on the river, the potential to lose fish species and reductions in the numbers of cobbler, Perth marron and river prawns.

The Department of Fisheries completed two research contracts for the Grains Research and Development Corporation. One of these was a pilot assessment on the potential of canola meal and oil for use in aquaculture feeds, whilst the other looked at the nutritional variability of lupins as an aquaculture feed ingredient. There is increasing interest on using grains as aquaculture feeds, which could provide a growing market for WA's grain industry.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

In 2003/04, the Department contributed towards the achievement of the following *Strategic Planning Framework* social outcomes:

- A society where Indigenous Australians have greater economic and social opportunities and the capacity to determine their own lives.
- A society that is physically active through its participation and achievement in sport and recreation.
- A positive difference to the lives of people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- A society that recognises the varying contribution of its diverse population and is able to respond effectively to the needs of its diverse population.

Executive Director

Examples of the Department's endeavour in this area are:

- Preparations for an Aboriginal Fishing Strategy continued, following the release last financial year of the draft strategy. The chairman of the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy Working Group reported to the Minister during 2003/04 and it is anticipated that a final decision will be announced during 2004/05.
- Work was commissioned in 2003/04 from the University of Western Australia to develop social and demographic indexes for West Coast communities within the area of the rock lobster fishery. The application of these indexes to an area of fisheries management is genuinely ground-breaking. It is hoped to use the indexes in an examination of the future management options for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, in terms of providing the 'bottom line' of social performance. The three-year study of future management options is likely to be the most comprehensive review of the fishery ever carried out.
- Departmental support for a series of workshops, coordinated by the Women's Industry Network for the Seafood Community, to provide business skills to women from the agriculture sector who are working in the seafood industry. These sessions were held in Albany, Fremantle, Geraldton and Carnarvon.

2003/04 was the tenth anniversary of the Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers program. A 'birthday' celebration was held, including a series of workshops providing recreational fishers with education about 'fishing for the future'.

THE ECONOMY

The Department contributes towards the achievement of the following *Strategic Planning Framework* economic outcomes:

- Strong research and development capacity in an environment that encourages innovation.
- An environment that encourages diversification, investment and exports for economic growth whilst ensuring that community and global environmental and social goals are met.

WA's commercial fisheries are a major contributor to the economy of the State, directly accounting for \$750 million of income per annum. The pearling industry alone was valued at \$120.5 million in 2003.

While export markets continued to suffer the lingering effects of the terrible events of September 11 2001, the outbreak of the SARS virus and other trade issues throughout 2003/04, there also seemed to be a firming of market conditions, resulting in more positive price outcomes for WA's fishing industry.

There was a close to record catch for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery this year - 13,400 tonnes - an increase of almost 2,000 tonnes on the 2002/03 season.

PEARLING AND AQUACULTURE

In June 2003, the Minister released a draft strategy document designed to stimulate comment on the future of WA's aquaculture industry. The reason behind a lack of growth was one of the questions that the Aquaculture Review, initiated by the Minister of Fisheries in 2002, sought to answer. This review, completed in 2003/04, determined that the lack of industry growth had been due to a lack of financial investment in the industry, which limited the licensed ventures' ability to construct aquaculture facilities and commence activity. Despite the slowing of development, promising activities that occurred in 2003/04 included the issue of a new large-scale land-based aquaculture licence for mahi mahi. Preliminary operations at the associated facility have now commenced.

A decision to retain the pearl oyster hatchery policy and the development of a new pearling bill is linked to maximising economic benefits to the State. We continue to evaluate that position and are looking at the question of pearl certification as a long-term tool to differentiate Australian production from the rest of the world.

THE REGIONS

The Department contributes towards the achievement of the following *Strategic Planning Framework* regional outcomes:

- Effective government service delivery to regions that is responsive to the needs of diverse communities.
- Sustainable natural resource management.

There have been significant achievements across regional Western Australia during 2003/04 that acknowledge the economic importance of the State's diverse fishing industry, as well as the contributions of the coastal communities - including Department of Fisheries staff - that form its backbone.

Examples of these achievements are:

- The Regional Services Branch assumed responsibility for the delivery of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's (DPI) marine safety at-sea compliance program for the Perth metropolitan region. This 'amalgamation' is now complete. Responsibility for marine compliance within the Swan and Canning Rivers remains with the DPI. This merger of the two agencies' at-sea compliance work has resulted in greater efficiency and a strengthened service to recreational boat fishers and boating enthusiasts. Whilst marine safety responsibility remains with DPI in WA as a whole, as a service to government the Department enforces marine safety compliance in regional Western Australia during routine fisheries inspections.
- It is anticipated that the implementation of the Aquaculture Review during 2004/05 will promote increased investment activity, business facilitation and infrastructure support for aquaculture throughout regional WA.
- Compliance risk assessments for all the major trawl fisheries in the Gascoyne region (including the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery, the Shark Bay Prawn Fishery and the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery) have been completed. These will assist to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishing industries in these regional areas.
- The VFLO Fishers with Disabilities program was successfully expanded into the Southern Region, with workshops conducted in Bunbury and Albany. Preparations for a pilot Fish and Fish Habitat VFLO Program based in Bunbury have been carried out, which will go ahead in 2004/05.

GOVERNANCE

The Department contributes towards the achievement of the following *Strategic Planning Framework* governance outcomes:

- Better opportunities for the community to participate in and make creative and effective contributions to government processes.
- Coordinated, integrated, high quality service delivery to the community.
- Greater community confidence in the processes and actions of government agencies through effective independent oversight and reporting.

We are fully committed to openness and to involving our clients in decision-making and in setting priorities in funding. This openness and involvement is critical to our whole corporate ethos and structure.

Examples of achieving the *Strategic Planning Framework* outcomes during 2003/04 are:

- The development of a new strategic plan for the Department, which reflects the need for all government agencies to align their operations and reporting with the State Government's *Strategic Planning Framework*. The new plan will come into effect in 2004/05.
- Surveys of the Department's client groups and the broader community to determine their satisfaction ratings on the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving sustainable fisheries management objectives. There continues to be significant client satisfaction with the work of the Department.
- The Department of Fisheries being awarded a Gold Lonnie Award, the A.J. Skinner Award for innovation and the overall W.S. Lonnie Award for its 2002/03 Annual Report. These awards serve to promote excellence in annual reporting across the State's public sector and to improve standards of accountability. It is the third year in succession that the Department has been judged by the W.S. Lonnie committee as the producer of the best annual report in the State's public sector. This success is a tribute to the Corporate and Community Relations Branch, which coordinates the preparation of the annual report, and to all staff who operate and report against ESD outcomes and the *Strategic Planning Framework*.

Executive Director

- In October 2002, the Minister announced an inquiry into the feasibility and desirability of establishing a single Statutory Management Authority to administer Western Australia's fisheries. An independent advisory committee, chaired by Mr Joe Berinson, was established to conduct the inquiry. The committee has now reported to the Minister and actions from the inquiry will be made available in 2004/05.

CHALLENGES

The move by the State Government towards the development of 'Corporate Service Bureau', as it seeks to rationalise and gain efficiency in procurement, capital expenditure, corporate servicing and e-government, is major challenge for the Department of Fisheries in 2004/05. A change of this nature is likely to affect the shape and size of the Department, its service delivery and may impact on cost recovery arrangements for the fishing industry; in turn requiring the renegotiation of the latter's business operating arrangements with the Department.

Another real concern among clients is that the level of funding for our program areas is inadequate to ensure the delivery of our ultimate goal – the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources - and in particular the complexity and cost associated with managing the finfish fisheries. Ensuring sustainability across these largely 'social benefit' fisheries, which encompass around 100 different species of finfish exploited by both the commercial and recreational sectors, represents a major challenge. As the State's population continues to grow and fishing pressure increases, this challenge extends beyond the fishing sector to the WA Government as a whole.

The fisheries management framework under which the Department currently operates places a major focus on compliance, decentralisation of services to regional areas, and working closely with the community. All of these activities, whilst essential, are very time and resource intensive. While the Department of Fisheries has expanded its management activities to embrace an expanding population, regionalisation, plus ESD and triple bottom-line reporting, this has created an enormous challenge for us in regard to our own 'bottom line'. This consists of the finite financial resources and numbers of staff that are available to carry out this increased workload.

CONCLUSION

I would like to conclude by expressing my appreciation to all Department of Fisheries staff for their continuing efforts to manage the challenges of departmental change. Throughout my tenure at the Department it has been a great privilege to lead such a resilient, dedicated and hard working team.

My thanks also to the Minister for Fisheries the Hon. Kim Chance MLC for his leadership - and to his staff for their support and assistance - during the year.



PP Rogers
Executive Director

PROFILE OF the Department of Fisheries

VISION

To be recognised as world leaders in the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and the aquatic environment.

MISSION

Partnered by fishers, aquaculturalists 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 Governor in the Executive Council has approved of the administration of the following Acts being placed under the control of the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and 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 Executive Director. In broad terms, the Minister establishes the statutory and policy framework for fisheries management, and the office of the Executive Director 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 compliance services on behalf of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. The Department also carries out fisheries compliance activities on behalf of the Commonwealth in waters adjacent to Western Australia in Australia's Economic Exclusion Zone, in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth's Fisheries Management Act 1991. This Zone extends 200 nautical miles (370 kilometres) from the State's coastal baselines.

The following list shows 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 Western Australia in accordance with State law:

- All bony fish and shark.
- All aquatic invertebrates.
- All marine algae.
- All sea grass.

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

Fisheries under Western Australia Joint Authority Jurisdiction

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

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

the Department of Fisheries

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.
- Western Deepwater Trawl.
- North-West Slope Trawl.

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 stock subject to their respective Offshore Constitutional Settlement agreements and Joint Authority arrangements. One such meeting was held during the reporting period. One meeting of the Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority was also held during the reporting period. The activities of fisheries managed through the Joint Authority are described separately in a report tabled in the Commonwealth and Western Australian Parliaments.

Statutory Responsibilities

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

- Commercial Fisheries.
- Recreational Fisheries.
- Pearling and Aquaculture
- 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 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 WA's aquatic resources.
- Recreational fishers in Western Australia.
- Aboriginal people.
- Fisheries volunteers.
- Environmental groups, passive users and ecotour operators.
- Department of Fisheries staff.
- Other state, national and international government agencies and tertiary institutions.

Department Outcomes and Outputs

The Department of Fisheries has a single outcome:

Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fisheries.

This outcome is achieved through four key outputs:

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

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

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

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

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT: Significant Issues and Trends

Continued focus on sustainability

To address its primary concerns of the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources and protection of fish habitats, the Department of Fisheries is addressing a number of significant issues and trends over the short to medium term (one to five years). These issues and trends are:

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

- Continuing to undertake research and monitor all significant fisheries in the State and publishing these findings annually in the *State of the Fisheries Report*.
- Continuing to work with the Environmental Protection Authority, Department of Environment, Department of Conservation and Land Management and other relevant government agencies and environmental interest groups on fish habitat and marine conservation issues.
- Implementing a policy for the Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) of all fisheries and aquaculture sectors within the State.
- Implementing satellite vessel monitoring technology and bycatch action plans in the State's trawl fisheries.
- Reviewing consultative methods over time to ensure community and stakeholder involvement in decision-making.
- Contributing to the preparation of regional natural resource management strategies.
- Establishing a licence system to provide a legal basis for the existence of commercial fishermen's camps on the Abrolhos Islands and using the revenue to protect the Abrolhos environment.

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:

- Recovering the costs of management for the State's major commercial fisheries from the commercial fishing sector.
- Implementing an Integrated Fisheries Management Strategy for WA's coastal fisheries.
- Collecting a Development and Better Interest Fee from licensees in managed fisheries. Revenue collected from this fee enables the Minister for Fisheries to fund projects that will advance the interests of fisheries and/or fish habitat protection.
- Delivering the Government's at-sea marine safety function.
- Participating in planning for proposed marine parks including the Ningaloo Marine Park extension, Dampier Archipelago, Monte Bello Islands, the Cape Leeuwin to Cape Naturaliste area and Walpole Inlet to ensure commercial fishing, recreational fishing, pearling and aquaculture activities are properly considered.

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:

- Facilitating fisheries adjustment schemes and voluntary resource sharing in partnership with the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.
- Continuing to review and refine strategies for the management of recreational and commercial fisheries.
- Reviewing the 'wetline' component of commercial fishing with a view to implementing more formal management arrangements.

Significant Issues and Trends

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

- Developing regional recreational fishing plans in consultation with the WA community.
- Refining management and licensing arrangements for the fishing tour and aquatic ecotour sectors.

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

- the assessments for all of the State's export fisheries in accordance with the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- Together with other State agencies, continued to work with the National Oceans Office with respect to integrated oceans management and integrated coastal zone management.
- Contributed, with other agencies, academia and the Commonwealth, to the 'Marine Cluster' model for marine research and management.

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

- Supported the preparation of a development plan to provide strategic direction to the aquaculture industry. This plan is now being implemented.
- Continued to provide licensing and policy services for development of the aquaculture industry.

'With the harvest of wild capture fisheries at or beyond maximum sustainable levels, there continues to be strong emphasis on developing aquaculture industries.'

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:

- Supported in-bound trade and fisheries delegations.
- Provided support to the seafood industry through the publication of newsletters and provision of advice on trade and market enquiries.
- With industry, responded to specific trade and market issues such as declines in traditional markets and changes in international market trends.
- Managed, on behalf of the National Food Industry Strategy Ltd, the Australian Seafood Strategy for Export Growth project.

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

- Implemented the WA Seafood Quality Management Initiative 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, with the Department of Health, a WA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program to ensure that shellfish products farmed in WA are safe for human consumption.

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

- Developed an Aboriginal Fishing Strategy for Government consideration focused on improving the integration of, and opportunities for, Aboriginal involvement in management of the State's fisheries.
- Further advanced consultative processes with the indigenous community through state-wide meetings with Aboriginal groups and the wider community and through existing formal channels.
- Participated in the development of a national framework for customary fishing.

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

- Implemented and refined a risk management process.
- Implemented an integrated project and activity-based costing system to provide more accurate data relating to the cost of services it provides.
- Developed a process for implementing risk assessment-based compliance programs.
- Continued to operate and refine a departmental Performance Indicator measurement system.
- Introduced a customer feedback system.
- Reviewed its strategic plan.
- Enhanced corporate governance processes and internal reporting.



DEPARTMENT Operating Structure

MAKING THE MOST OF OUR PEOPLE

The Department of Fisheries' operating structure consists of an Executive Directorate and two divisions: Fisheries Management Services and Fisheries Research.

The Strategic Planning and Policy Branch, the Finance and Administration Branch and the Office of the Registrar and General Counsel provide direct support to the Executive Directorate.

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

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

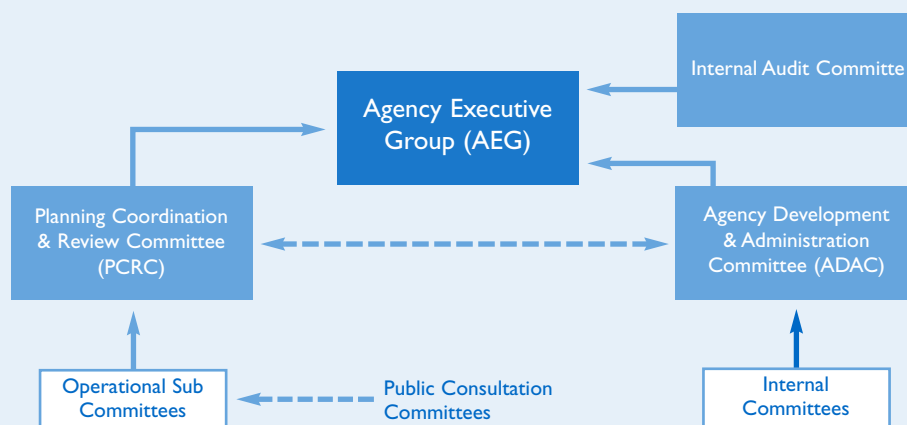
The committees are: the Agency Development and Administration Committee; the Planning Coordination and Review Committee; the Operational Sub-Committees; the Agency Executive Group and the Internal Audit Committee.

Agency Development and Administration Committee (ADAC)

The ADAC is responsible for the general management and administration of the Department as a public sector organisation. Consisting of members from all corporate service areas, the ADAC is responsible for the financial, information technology, human resource and administrative issues within the Department.

The committee also oversees compliance with statutory obligations and internal policies and standards for Departmental administration, in areas such as asset management, and information and human resource management.

The ADAC is supported by a number of committees including the Occupational Health and Safety Committee and the Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Committee.



Planning Coordination and Review Committee (PCRC)

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

The PCRC also advises on strategic policy issues arising from - and across - programs, and provides a forum for discussion on key fisheries policy and related issues.

Operational Subcommittees (OSCs)

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

Agency Executive Group (AEG)

The AEG comprises the Executive Director, the Department's two directors and the managers of Finance and Administration Branch, the Strategic Planning and Policy Branch and the Corporate and Community Relations Branch. 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 PCRC and the ADAC, and by the Department's directors/managers.

Internal Audit Committee (IAC)

The IAC maintains and manages the Department's internal audit function on behalf of the Executive Director. The committee assists the Executive Director to identify and quantify the risks to the achievement of the Department's goals, and to ensure its operations and functions are effectively reviewed.

Public Consultation/Advisory Committees

Commitment to consultation and participatory decision-making

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

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

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

Advisory committees are also an important component of this process and an effective consultative mechanism for fisheries management.

The Department administers a number of advisory committees with representatives from the government and non-government sectors. The committees reflect the Department's commitment to inviting significant public participation in the formulation and implementation of strategies for fisheries management and industry development. A series of Ministerial Advisory Committees 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 established under the *Pearling Act 1990*. See Appendix 1 for a complete listing of members of statutory and non-statutory Advisory Committees.

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

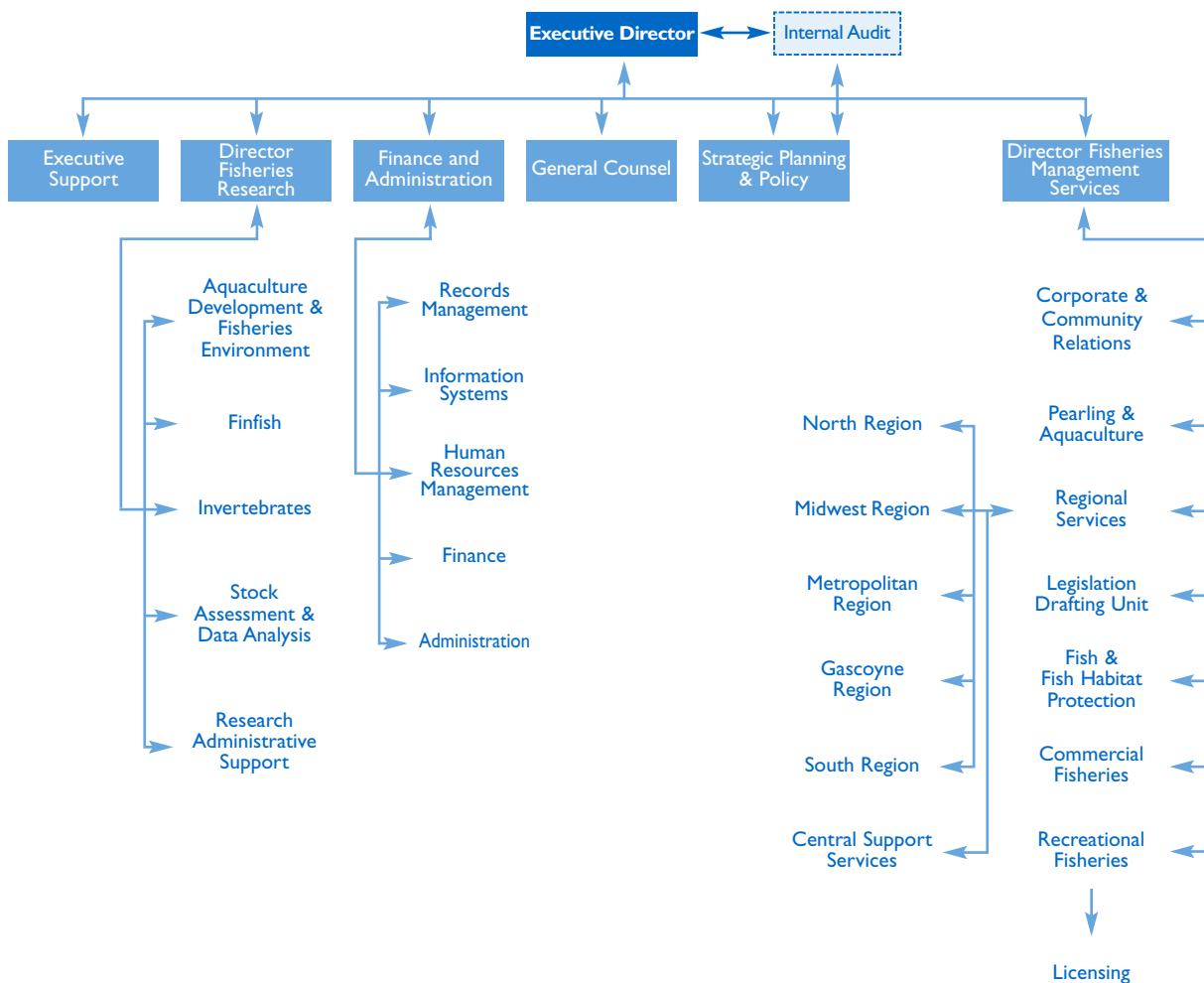
Operating Structure

The Department of Fisheries Operations

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

- The Fisheries Research Division operates from the Western Australian Marine Research Laboratories at Waterman and Pemberton.
- The International Operations Branch is located at Koolinda House in North Fremantle.
- The Fleet Maintenance Centre operates from Capo D’Orlando Drive in Fremantle.
- The Regional Services Branch of the Fisheries Management Services Division has regional offices at Broome, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Fremantle and Albany, with a further 13 district offices throughout the State.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



CORPORATE Governance Reporting

The Executive Management team of the Department of Fisheries consists of the Executive Director, the Director of Fisheries Management Services and the Director of Fisheries Research. They are supported by the Agency Executive Group, which consists of the Manager of Finance and Administration, the Manager of Strategic Planning and Policy, and the Manager of the Corporate and Community Relations Branch as an observer.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Peter Rogers* BSc (Agric) (Hons) MBA FAICD
Executive Director



Peter has been with the Department of Fisheries since 1972 and has served as Executive Director of the Department for the past 13 years. His broad experience and specialist knowledge covers all facets of fisheries resource management and the fishing industry, encompassing commercial and recreational fisheries, aquaculture, and fish and fish habitat protection.

* Terms of Appointment

The Executive Director is appointed under Part 3 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*. The current five-year term of the Executive Director expires on 8 September 2005.

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



Peter has been with the Department of Fisheries for 18 years in the policy area and has had more than 30 years experience in fisheries resource management. Peter is responsible for the Department's program management and for service delivery through its regional structure.

Jim Penn Dip Ag, BSc PhD

Director, Fisheries Research Services



Dr Jim Penn has been a research scientist with the Department of Fisheries for 35 years and Director of Fisheries Research for the past 16 years. His extensive research experience has involved work on all of the State's major crustacean and mollusc fisheries, with a focus on stock assessment for sustainable resource management.

AGENCY EXECUTIVE GROUP

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



Heather has been with the Department of Fisheries since 1986, principally in the fisheries policy area. She is currently the Manager, Strategic Planning and Policy and has held that position since the beginning of 2002. Heather's experience extends across the commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture sectors and includes management of the Pearling sub-program within the Pearling and Aquaculture Program.

Bruno Mezzatesta BBus FCPA GAICD
Manager, Finance and Administration



Bruno has been with the Department of Fisheries since 1996 and was appointed Manager Financial and Administrative Services in June 2001. This role involves overseeing the Financial and Administrative Services, Human Resources and Information Technology Branches. Bruno previously held the position of Manager, Financial Services. He is a fellow of CPA Australia.

Rae Burrows BA (Geog.) (Hons)
Manager, Community Relations Branch



Rae has more than 20 years experience working in the communications aspect of natural resource management, in both the terrestrial and aquatic environments. She joined the Department of Fisheries in 1996 and has since been responsible for the development and delivery of strategic communications solutions for fisheries issues.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Executive Management team 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.

COMPLIANCE Reports

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 page 12).

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 Activities

In the performance of its functions, the Department of Fisheries complies with the following relevant written laws:

- *Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972*
- *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*
- *Industrial Relations Act 1979*
- *Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 1981*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1984*
- *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985*
- *Occupiers Liability Act 1985*
- *Government Employees Superannuation Act 1987*
- *State Supply Commission Act 1991*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1992*
- *Disability Services Act 1993*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- *New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*
- *State Records Act 2000*
- *Electronic Transactions Act 2002*
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2003*
- *Marine Act 1982*

Numerous other State and Federal laws also affect the agency'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.



Peter P Rogers BSc (Agric) (Hons) MBA FAICD
Accountable Officer



Bruno Mezzatesta BBus FCPA GAICD
Principal Accounting Officer

30 June 2004

PUBLIC SECTOR Standards

Statement of Compliance as required under Section 31 (1) of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

In the administration of the Department of Fisheries, we have complied with the Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management, Public Sector Code of Ethics and the Department's Code of Conduct.

The Human Resource Branch undertakes a quality control audit of all recruitment selection and appointment processes which are for greater than six months. In addition random audits are conducted on temporary deployment ('acting') and lower volume activities covered by the standards, such as transfer and secondment. The Department has made a significant effort in recent years to raise the profile of the Public Sector Standards among staff, in conjunction with the development and promotion of the departmental Code of Conduct.

The Department carried out an independent employee satisfaction survey during 2002 which revealed that supervisory staff were perceived to have integrity, honesty and openness. In addition, staff reported that they were generally treated fairly and consistently by their supervisors. The Department's Code of Conduct was reviewed in March 2003, with staff awareness-raising sessions conducted to raise the profile of the Code and the Public Sector Code of Ethics. The Code of Conduct is due for review after two years and this will be undertaken through the Department's staff joint consultative committee.

Below is a summary of the breach of standard claims for 2003/04.

• Claims lodged	1
• Claims not finalised from previous financial year	0
• Total claims in 2003/04	1

The outcome of the claims handled was:

• Withdrawn (in department)	1
• Resolved (in department)	0
• Still pending (in department)	0
• Referred to OPSSC*	0
• Total claims 2003/04	1

*Office of Public Sector Standards Commission

There have been no complaints within the agency alleging non-compliance with the Code of Ethics or the Code of Conduct.



Peter P Rogers BSc (Agric) (Hons) MBA FAICD
Accountable Officer
30 June 2004



Bruno Mezzatesta BBus FCPA GAICD
Principal Accounting Officer
30 June 2004

Electoral Act 1907 – Advertising and Sponsorship

In accordance with Section S175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Department of Fisheries incurred the following marketing expenditure in 2003/04:

Advertising agencies	Nil
Market research organisations	Nil
Polling organisations	Nil
Direct mail organisations	Nil
Media advertising organisations	Marketforce, \$84,138.19
Total Expenditure for 2003/04	\$84,138.19

Freedom of Information Act 1992

This section has been prepared in accordance with Section 94 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*, in order to convey the maximum possible detail about the Department of Fisheries' operations and make accessible to the public documents not previously available. Much of the information required is at the location indicated.

The Department has a Freedom of Information (FOI) Coordinator to facilitate the handling of all requests. FOI requests may be lodged at any Department of Fisheries' office throughout the State. If assistance is required in completing a request or inquiring into its progress, the FOI Coordinator can be contacted at Level 3, The Atrium, 168 St. Georges Terrace, Perth, by phone on 08 9482 7333, by facsimile on 08 9482 7389 or by email to headoffice@fish.wa.gov.au.

For the year ending 30 June 2003, the Department received five applications for access to information in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*.

Action on four of the applications has been finalised, with full access to information permitted in one case and edited access in all others. One very recent application is ongoing.

On average, each application took 23 days to process, against the Government standard of 45 days.

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.
- Provide protection for those who are the subject of a disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, the Department has duly appointed a Public Interest Disclosure Officer and has published internal policies and procedures related to its obligations. No public interest disclosures were received during 2003/04.

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 agency is required to have a Record Keeping Plan (RKP). The RKP is to provide an accurate reflection of the record keeping program within the agency and must be complied with by the agency and its officers.

Under Part 3, Division 4, the agency is to review its RKP periodically or when there is any significant change to the agency's functions.

In November 2003 the Department's RKP was fully endorsed by the State Records Commission. The RKP commits the Department to a number of initiatives including the implementation of an online record keeping training and awareness-raising program. This program is currently being introduced within all metropolitan and regional centres.

The continuing effectiveness of this program will be measured through record keeping audits and surveys – the first of which will be carried out in 2004/05.

Other noteworthy initiatives include:

- The implementation of a retention and disposal schedule covering all departmental records regardless of form.
- The development of a record keeping policies and procedures framework.
- Inclusion of record keeping principles as part of the Department's formal induction program.
- Continuing commitment towards the management of electronic records.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the Department's record keeping systems will be evaluated through an internal audit scheduled for 2004/05.

Report on Operations

DEPARTMENT OUTPUTS

Commercial Fisheries

Recreational Fisheries

Pearling and Aquaculture

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection



Commercial FISHERIES

VISION

Healthy, wealthy fisheries for Western Australia.

MISSION

To deliver the optimum long-term return to Western Australia from its commercial fisheries, while taking into account environmental issues and community social values.

INTRODUCTION

The Commercial Fisheries Program is responsible for the management of commercial fisheries throughout Western Australia under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.



STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Program contributes to and supports the achievement of all five goals set out in the State Government's *Strategic Planning Framework*.

The Environment

The ecological sustainability of the State's commercial fisheries is central to the operations of the Program.

The State's major commercial fisheries rely on relatively high-value, low-volume products for their viability. Tight management controls, which are established and managed by the Program, ensure that each fishery is sustainable. These management controls are primarily either:

- Input controls, such as limitations on the number of licences issued, gear restrictions, seasonal closures and limits on total fishing time (effort quotas); or
- Output controls (catch quotas) which directly limit the quantity of fish that can be landed.

Where necessary, additional controls, are also used. These include:

- Permanently closing areas to fishing to protect important habitats or communities; and

- specific measures to protect juvenile or breeding fish (such as size limits and seasonal or area closures).

Other key activities in 2003/04 include:

- The development of ecological sustainability reports for the Department of the Environment and Heritage for continued listing of species taken in various export fisheries under Section 303 DB of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- The implementation of management arrangements for the West Coast Estuarine Fishery.
- The development of management arrangements for the Wetline and Mackerel Fisheries.

People and Communities

As indicated in the mission statement, the social values of the State's commercial fisheries are also central to the work of the Program. The Department's community attitudinal survey indicated that, amongst the respondents with an understanding of the Department's operations, 82.7 per cent were satisfied that the Commercial Fisheries Program was achieving sustainable fisheries management outcomes.

Formal processes to incorporate social data into decision-making are currently limited. However, the Program is engaged in developing ways of obtaining, and taking account of, social data in the development of management options for WA commercial fisheries. Progress in this area has included:

- The commissioning of research by the University of Western Australia to look at the development of social and demographic indexes for communities on WA's west coast close to where fishing for rock lobster is carried out.
- The development and promotion of the Integrated Fisheries Management concept.

Consultation with industry is vital to achieving successful management of commercial fisheries. Education, compliance and industry support, along with an increasing focus on ecologically sustainable fishing, are key management factors for the Commercial Fisheries Program.



The availability of social and demographic indexes for West Coast communities will ensure that social requirements are able to be incorporated in the development of future management options for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery. Implementation of Integrated Fisheries Management will ensure that fishery production is distributed in the community in a way which takes into account the social and economic benefits of fishing, as well as supporting the sustainable management of fisheries.

The Economy

Commercial fisheries make a significant contribution to the economy of the State. The exact value of this contribution varies from year-to-year as a result of catch variations in the major fisheries (particularly the western rock lobster fishery), as well as exchange rate fluctuations and international economic and market forces.

In the most recent year for which complete data is available (2001/02) the gross production value of the State's commercial fisheries was approximately \$434 million.

In addition to supporting the economy through this annual gross production value contribution, the Program's focus on sustainable management of the industry works to ensure that this dividend will be ongoing.

The exploitation level of most of the existing fisheries in the State is such that catches cannot be expected to increase (beyond normal environmentally-driven catch variation) and the economic contribution of commercial fisheries is largely controlled by the price received for the product. However, there is a process (the Developing New Fisheries process) to systematically encourage the development of new fisheries which are considered to have the potential to become viable commercial fisheries.

The Developing New Fisheries process is designed to encourage new fisheries which have a likelihood of being economically and ecologically sustainable.

The Regions

The work of the Program contributes significantly to the regions. Most of the State's commercial fisheries operate in regional areas and provide significant economic benefits and employment opportunities outside the Perth metropolitan area. In addition, the Program is served by a team of Regional Service Policy Officers based in Albany, Fremantle, Carnarvon and Broome, who provide commercial fisheries management support.

Governance

Successful management of commercial fisheries depends on good research and robust education and compliance regimes, with industry support for sustainable fishery management practices also being a vital ingredient.

Consultation with industry occurs in a range of forums and is a key factor in achieving management approaches that have strong support. Management Advisory Committees (MACs) currently provide advice to the Minister on the West Coast Rock Lobster, Shark Bay Prawn, Shark Bay Scallop, Exmouth Gulf Prawn, Abalone and Purse Seine Managed Fisheries and on the group of fisheries which target sharks (primarily the Demersal Gillnet and Longline fisheries). A list of MACs is included in Appendix 1.

REPORT ON MAJOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

The five major commercial fisheries (West Coast Rock Lobster, Abalone, Exmouth Gulf Prawn, Shark Bay Prawn and Shark Bay Scallop) operate in a fully cost-recovered management environment, covering 100 per cent cash costs as well as capital accruals and employee entitlements.

In 2003/04 the remaining fisheries paid a contribution towards their management costs of 2.246 per cent of their gross value of production (GVP). All fisheries also contribute to the Development and Better Interest Fund at a rate of 0.65 per cent of their GVP.

Commercial

FISHERIES

West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery

Coastal Season: Zones B and C: 15 November to 30 June

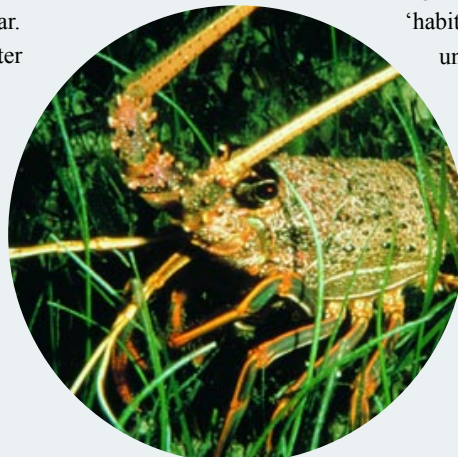
Abrolhos Island Season: Zone A: 15 March to 30 June

The West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, located within three zones in the West Coast bioregion, is widely recognised as one of the best-managed fisheries in the world. The commercial fishery is Australia's most valuable single species commercial fishery and the stock also supports a large recreational fishery (approximately 37,000 licensed recreational fishers).

In recent years the fishery's management process has been examined within the context of ecological sustainability. The status of the fishery's management arrangements was enhanced in March 2000 when it became the first in the world to receive chain of custody certification from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). In August 2002 the fishery was also accredited by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage as satisfying the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

There are significant variations in the size of the fishery's catch from year-to-year, where variations in stock size and catchability are strongly influenced by environmental factors. The 2003/04 catch was 13,400 tonnes, an increase of almost 2,000 tonnes on the 2002/03 season, and is in line with the 10-year average for the fishery.

While the vast majority of the 2003/04 catch was exported, there was an increase in the quantity sold domestically, a fact most likely attributable to the increase in catch and the strength of the Australian dollar. The beach price for western rock lobster was relatively low, averaging \$18.50 for the season, but far more stable than in the 2002/03 season. At this average price, the annual value of the fishery in 2003/04 was \$248 million.



The catch is controlled primarily through a management system that limits the total number of pots. The extent of entitlement to operate in the fishery is expressed in terms of units, with a unit currently having a value of 0.82. Thus, a licence having 100 units of entitlement would authorise the use of 82 pots. Varying the value of a unit (by varying the 'capacity' of the fishery, i.e. the total number of pots which may be used), is a key mechanism for meeting sustainability objectives.

In 2003/04 the Department of Fisheries, in partnership with the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC), made significant advances in the development of an explicit decision-making framework which explains how changes in capacity can occur. It is expected that, following input from stakeholders, a decision rules framework will be implemented prior to the 2004/05 season.

The 2003/04 rock lobster season saw the development of two major projects:

- The Ministerial Policy Guideline (MPG) regarding the assessment of applications relating to rock lobster aquaculture.
- The Global Marketing Database.

The MPG is a response to a significant increase in interest in rock lobster aquaculture. The most promising approach to rock lobster aquaculture continues to be through harvesting puerulus from the wild and growing them to a marketable size. However, other areas of rock lobster aquaculture such as 'holding and fattening', 'closed cycle aquaculture' and 'habitat enhancement' are also being considered under the MPG.

The Global Marketing Database aims to help the industry better understand existing international markets and look for alternative approaches to the challenges facing the industry in the medium-to-longer-term.



Shark Bay Prawn Fishery

Season: March to October

Twenty-seven vessels operate in the Shark Bay Prawn Fishery. King prawns are the dominant species, representing about 65 per cent of the catch, with tiger prawns making up most of the remainder. The total catch for the fishery in the 2003 season was 1,633 tonnes, consisting of 1,145 tonnes of king prawns, 485 tonnes of tiger prawns and three tonnes of endeavour prawns, which reflects an average season. The estimated annual value of the fishery in 2003 was \$22.3 million.

Management controls to ensure long-term sustainability for this fishery involve a combination of strict controls over the gear used and the permitted effort levels. These include controls over the maximum mesh size, length of net openings and otter board sizes, as well as a maximum number of fishing days for the year, based on annual stock assessment advice.

In addition, there are a number of permanent trawling closures, to protect shallow nursery habitats, and a variety of other closures that are used to control spawning stock levels and catch sizes. The boundaries of the recognised tiger prawn spawning areas have been further refined in consultation with industry. A minimum catch rate threshold for tiger prawns has been established for the implementation of closures to protect spawning stock.

The formal requirement for Bycatch Reduction Devices ('grids') to be installed in all nets continued during the 2003 fishing season with Fish Exclusion Devices installed in half of the nets to facilitate assessment of fishing efficiencies.

Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery

Season: April to November

The Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery focuses primarily on king, tiger and endeavour prawns. While there are 16 licenses to operate in the fishery, only 13 vessels operated in the 2003 season, due to the amalgamation of fishing gear from three vessels onto the remaining vessels.

The Exmouth Gulf tiger prawn stocks and habitat seem to have recovered from the damage caused by Cyclone Vance in 1999. The total catch in the 2003 season was 1,089 tonnes, higher than in both the 2001 and 2002 seasons. The catch consisted of 633 tonnes of tiger prawns, 231 tonnes of king prawns and 225 tonnes of endeavour prawns. The estimated annual value of the fishery in 2003 was \$11.9 million.

Like the Shark Bay Prawn Fishery, the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery is managed through a mix of measures to protect shallow nursery habitats and control spawning stock levels and catch sizes, including permanent and temporary closures of areas and limiting fishing days. The maximum number of fishing days is set each year based on annual stock assessment advice.

The formal requirement for Bycatch Reduction Devices to be installed in all nets continued during the 2003 fishing season, with Fish Exclusion Devices installed in half of the nets to facilitate an assessment of fishing efficiencies.

As with the other WA trawl fisheries, there are strict limits on the gear that can be used within this fishery. However, for the past six seasons the fishery has trialled the use of quad trawl gear, instead of the standard twin gear. The aim of the trials is to examine the potential for operating efficiencies by redistributing the available gear allowance over a smaller number of boats.

In June 2004 the fishery was accredited as being compliant with US Turtle Exclusion Device laws, permitting prawns harvested in the fishery to be exported to the United States.

Commercial

FISHERIES



Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery

Season: April to October

The 2003 season scallop catch was around 155 tonnes meat weight or 755 tonnes whole weight. Annual catches of saucer scallops vary significantly from year-to-year, due to major variations in recruitment and the short (two or more years) lifespan of scallops. Over the past 20 years, scallop catches have ranged from around 1,000 tonnes to 20,000 tonnes (whole weight), so the 2003 catch is at the low end of the catch range. The estimated annual value of the fishery in 2003 was \$2.6 million.

As with the prawn trawl fisheries, the primary form of sustainability management involves input controls, including ones on gear, boat numbers, season duration and crew limitations. Spawning stock levels and size at capture are managed through the timing of the opening of the season. The catch is taken by a fleet of 41 vessels including 14 vessels with A-class licences (only licensed to trawl for scallops with 100 mm mesh nets) and 27 vessels with B-class licences (licensed to trawl for prawns and scallops using nets with a mesh of 60 mm or less).

The formal requirement for Bycatch Reduction Devices for this fishery continued during the 2003 fishing season. Because of the large mesh size of nets used by vessels operating under A-class licences, Fish Exclusion Devices are not required for this group.

Abalone Managed Fishery

Season: 1 April to 31 March

The Abalone Fishery operates off the west and south coasts of the State, and involves the taking of Roe's abalone (west and south coasts), and greenlip and brownlip abalone (south coast). The fishery is divided into eight management areas, each allocated an area catch limit for each of the species of abalone fished.

Abalone Managed Fishery Licences are endorsed with tradable units of entitlement in relation to each of the specific areas and species. These units of entitlement may be permanently or temporarily transferred between existing licence holders, or permanently transferred to new licence holders subject to minimum holding requirements.

The fishery is an output-managed fishery and catch levels are reviewed annually. During the 2003/04 licensing period, entitlements (quotas) in the fishery amounted to 75,936 kg (meat weight) of greenlip abalone, 14,981 kg (meat weight) of brownlip abalone, and 110,900 kg (whole weight) of Roe's abalone. At this catch level, the annual gross value of production of the fishery in 2003 was approximately \$15 million.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- Maintaining Marine Stewardship Council certification for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.
- Achieving accreditation of the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery as complying with US Turtle Exclusion Device laws, which permits the export of the fishery's prawns to the US.
- The Minister for Fisheries' approval of the completed review of the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee's (RLIAC) functions, composition and process for appointing members.
- The introduction of remedial management measures in the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery to protect pink snapper stocks and to support the long-term sustainability of other demersal scalefish stocks in the Gascoyne area.

- Enhanced access to management plans for the State's managed commercial fisheries, which can now be accessed via the Department of Fisheries' website.
- The development of Ecologically Sustainable Development reports which were lodged with the Department of the Environment and Heritage for 11 WA fisheries.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

- Renewal of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery's five-year Marine Stewardship Council accreditation.
- Completion of Ecologically Sustainable Development reports to the Department of the Environment and Heritage for the remaining WA commercial fisheries.
- Adoption of management plan changes to aid the recovery of whiskery and dusky shark stocks in the two temperate shark fisheries.
- Commencement of a three-year review of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery management systems, assessing the relative benefits of alternative management models against the current system.
- Finalisation of long-term management arrangements to ensure the sustainability of the West Coast and Gascoyne Scalefish Fisheries.
- Undertaking of an allocation review of rock lobster and abalone fisheries under the Integrated Fisheries Management initiative.
- A management review for the WA North Coast Shark Fishery and the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery to address conservation and sustainability issues.



Recreational FISHERIES

VISION

A Western Australian recreational fishery based on sustainable aquatic ecosystems and fish stocks which provide a diverse range of high-quality and valued experiences.

MISSION

To maintain or improve the quality, diversity and value of recreational fishing in Western Australia through partnerships with the community – in management, education, research and the provision of adequate funding.

INTRODUCTION

The Recreational Fisheries Program is responsible for planning and implementing effective management strategies for the recreational fishing and fishing-tour sector's share of the State's fish resources, within the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

The Program's five-year business plan, developed in close consultation with key stakeholders, sets out objectives and outcomes for recreational fisheries management, research, compliance and education, and aligns available resources against priorities.

Increasing pressure on WA's fisheries by the recreational sector can be attributed to population and tourism growth, coastal development, improved fishing technology and easier access to many remote areas. In some parts of the State, these factors are compounded by environmental change brought about by such things as water allocation policy, eutrophication of rivers and estuaries, and the destruction of fish habitats.

Major priorities for the Program are:

- Development and implementation of a regionalised framework for the management of the recreational fishing and ecotour components of all fisheries.
- Implementation of regional management strategies for the Gascoyne, West Coast, Pilbara/Kimberley and South Coast bioregions.
- The review of licensed and high risk fisheries.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Recreational Fisheries Program contributes to the achievement of all five goals set out in the *State Government's Strategic Planning Framework*.

The Environment

In keeping with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development and the conservation of biodiversity, a key aim of the Program is to ensure the sustainability of those fish stocks of most significance to the recreational and fishing tour sectors.

2003/04 has seen the development, implementation and review of specific fisheries management programs for angling and net fishing, and for the fishing and aquatic ecotourism industry in the West Coast and Gascoyne bioregions. In addition, reviews have been undertaken for Shark Bay's inner gulf pink snapper fishery, the marron and south-west freshwater line fisheries, and the recreational components of the rock lobster and abalone fisheries. The development of management strategies for the

South Coast and Pilbara/Kimberley bioregions is underway.

Where necessary, specific management strategies have been introduced for individual fish stocks, or within marine reserves, to address localised issues.



The Recreational Fisheries Program is responsible for a range of fisheries management, compliance, community education and research projects to manage the recreational and fishing tour components of the State's fisheries and ensure the sustainability of fish stocks. Recreational fishing is a popular activity involving 34 per cent of the State's population, contributing over \$570 million a year to the State's economy and supporting an estimated 7,000 jobs.

People and Communities

Recreational fishing is an important part of the Western Australian lifestyle. Recreational fishing is supported by fisheries management strategies which seek to ensure not only the biological sustainability of fish stocks, but also the maintenance of high-quality recreational fishing experiences throughout WA.

In 2003/04 the Department's Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer (VFLO) program, community education and volunteer research projects, regional advisory committees and fishery management consultation processes all assisted in providing life-long learning opportunities for their participants and contributed to community empowerment and diversity.

The Economy

Recreational fishing has a significant economic impact, particularly for regional economies and regional tourism.

Western Australia's recreational fishers have Australia's second highest expenditure per capita, spending an average of \$706 per year, or \$338 million collectively, on items and services directly attributable to their pastime.

The overall economic impact of recreational fishing is estimated at \$570 million per year, and 7,000 full-time jobs.

In 2003/04, the Program was involved in underpinning the sustainability of fish and their habitats through the implementation of management plans for the recreational fishing sector on a bioregional basis, as well as through the introduction of management strategies for the fishing and aquatic ecotour industries. These strategies not only support valuable components of WA's economy, but also provide a base for the development of new regional tourism opportunities.

The Regions

Recreational fisheries management contributes to WA's regions through a regional planning and management framework that provides the flexibility to identify and address local and regional issues, improve environmental management, and ensure sustainable natural resource management.

An inclusive community-based planning and policy development process involving the State Recreational Fishing, Advisory Committee (RFAC), 13 regional RFACs and extensive regional community consultation, ensures planning in partnership with regional communities.

In 2003/04 review papers for the Pilbara/Kimberley and Southern bioregions were released. These reviews established a management framework for recreational fishing in these bioregions for the next five years.

Governance

Open, effective governance aimed at a sustainable future, is achieved through inclusive community planning and consultation for recreational fisheries, coordination and integration of research, compliance and education activities to meet program and fishery management requirements, and community partnerships through volunteer education and research activities.

Recreational

FISHERIES

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- Implementation of new regulations, and community education and compliance strategies for the management of recreational fisheries in the Gascoyne and West Coast bioregions, as well as new regulations to introduce a State-wide individual possession limit and to prevent the landing of undersize fish.
- The commencement of reviews on:
 - Management of recreational fisheries on the South Coast and in the Pilbara/Kimberley regions.
 - Structure and resourcing for the Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer (VFLO) program.
- Review and implementation of new management and compliance strategies for Shark Bay's inner gulf pink snapper stocks, and the marron, rock lobster, abalone and south-west freshwater fisheries.
- Preparation of a review of the interaction of the commercial prawn trawl fishery with pink snapper in Denham Sound and its submission to the Minister for his consideration.
- Completion of submissions into marine reserves planning processes for Rottne Island, and the Ningaloo, Monte Bello, Rowley Shoals and Dampier Archipelago marine parks.
- The completion of surveys of 'catch' and 'effort' for South Coast estuaries, the Cockburn Sound and Geographe Bay Crab Fishery, and related to licensed fisheries for abalone, rock lobster, marron, freshwater finfish (trout), net fishing and tour charter operators.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

- Final recommendations for the management of recreational fishing in the Pilbara/Kimberley and South Coast bioregions will be presented for the Minister's consideration.
- Strategies to manage the interactions between the commercial prawn trawl fishery and pink snapper populations in Denham Sound will be finalised.
- A review of freshwater fisheries management, including the interaction between trout, marron and other native fish.
- Shark Bay inner gulf snapper, rock lobster and abalone fisheries will be reviewed.
- Preparation of a report on community consultation structures for recreational fisheries will be prepared for the Minister's consideration.
- The review of the structure and resourcing for the VFLO program will be continued.



REPORT ON OPERATIONS -
DEPARTMENT OUTPUTS

REPORT ON OPERATIONS -
DEPARTMENT SERVICES

REPORT ON
CORPORATE SERVICES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

APPENDICES

Pearling AND AQUACULTURE

VISION

Western Australia will be the leading producer and marketer of premium aquaculture and pearling products to the world.

MISSION

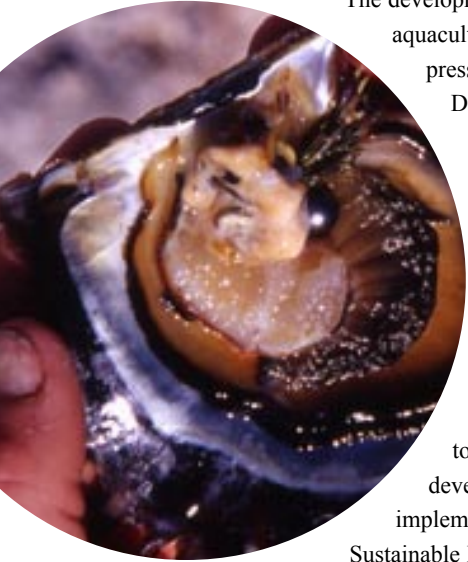
To optimise the value of, and opportunities for, a vibrant, diverse and environmentally sustainable aquaculture and pearling industry for all Western Australians through partnership with stakeholders.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Pearling and Aquaculture Program supports the achievement of all five goals of the State Government's *Strategic Planning Framework*.

The Environment

The Program supports the Department's role in ensuring Ecologically Sustainable Development of aquatic resources.



The development of a sustainable aquaculture industry will reduce pressure on wild fish stocks. The Department of Fisheries' approvals and consultation processes ensure that environmental issues and requirements are considered and addressed in the establishment of aquaculture operations. The Department of Fisheries is also contributing to a national project aimed at developing a framework for the implementation of Ecologically Sustainable Development reporting in aquaculture.

Management of the pearl oyster fishery is focused on Ecologically Sustainable Development principles to ensure:

- A sustainable catch from the wild.
- Minimal impact of pearling on the marine environment.
- Optimum returns to the State through management of hatchery production, thereby maintaining market confidence in Australian South Sea pearls and thus high pearl prices.

The Pearl Oyster Fishery received Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage approval as ecologically sustainable and was issued an export permit.

People and Communities

The Program supported the social well-being of the community through:

- Ensuring the sustainability and development of the pearling and aquaculture industries to provide income and job opportunities.
- Providing advice and information to agricultural farmers on aquaculture as a diversification opportunity.
- Supporting the development of the aquaculture industry as a source of fish and a contribution to meeting the communities' demand for seafood.
- Providing opportunities for Aboriginal communities to benefit from pearling and aquaculture activities, for example, through the restocking and subsequent harvesting of trochus.

The Economy

The Program supported economic objectives through:

- The management of the pearling industry, which was valued at \$120.5 million in 2003.
- Actively developing the aquaculture industry in WA which is predicted to provide a significant return to the State. The Department of Fisheries' achievements in this regard have enabled WA to boast one of the most streamlined aquaculture approvals processes in Australia. The Program's work includes providing information gathered through research and development on selected species, undertaking planning for aquaculture in key regions, and issuing numerous licences.

The major achievement for the aquaculture sector for 2003/04 has been the completion of the Aquaculture Review for Western Australia and the adoption of a set of actions to be encompassed in an Aquaculture Development Strategy for the State.

- Providing significant input into the development of the Aquaculture Review which identified key impediments to aquaculture development and provided a strategy to achieve successful development of the industry in WA, potentially providing a significant economic return to the State.

The value of aquaculture to the State (\$6.5 million in 2003/04) is anticipated to increase over coming years as the outcomes of a review of aquaculture, which reported in 2003/04 are implemented.

The Regions

The Program supported the delivery of the Department's core business in regional WA by:

- Supporting the development of regional aquaculture ventures throughout the State.
- Providing assistance for regionally-based aquaculture farms to overcome product quality issues.
- Maintaining the sustainability of the Kimberley-focused pearling industry.
- Supporting the aquaculture industry, which provides an alternative source of income to many farming communities and assists the diversification and long-term survival of many farms.

Governance

The Program supported outcomes relating to good governance through:

- The provision of executive support to the Pearling Industry Advisory Committee, a statutory Management Advisory Committee established under the *Pearling Act 1990*, and its subcommittees.
- The provision of executive support to the Aquaculture Development Council, a statutory Management Advisory Committee established under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.
- Maintaining strong linkages with the peak industry representative bodies, in particular the Pearl Producers Association and the Aquaculture Council of Western Australia.

- Progressing necessary legislative amendments through contributing to the review of pearling and aquaculture legislation.
- Adherence to Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 8 - *Assessment of applications for authorisations for Aquaculture and Pearling in coastal waters of Western Australia*.

PEARLING

The Pearling sub-program is responsible for the development, implementation and review of management of the pearl oyster fishery. Its projects relate to the management of the wild capture oyster stock and hatchery sector, research and monitoring of the wild pearl oyster stocks, disease management, compliance and education and lease and licence assessment and administration.

Management of the fishery is undertaken through a quota management system, which is focussed on Ecologically Sustainable Development principles.

There are 16 pearling licensees. The total amount of wildshell permitted to be taken is divided into catch 'units'. The total number of hatchery shell permitted to be seeded is also divided into hatchery 'units'. There is a total of 572 units in the wild stock fishery and 350 hatchery units.

In 2003/04 the sub-program assessed seven lease applications, four of which were granted. In addition the sub-program assessed variations to five existing leases. There were no transfers of licences in 2003/04.

The catch in Zone 1 was maintained at 55,000 shells to relieve pressure on the stocks as research showed that wild pearl oyster stocks in Zone 1 were still recovering from the impact of past cyclones. Zone 1 licensees are permitted to substitute hatchery-produced oysters for wild-captured oysters in order to maintain their annual pearl production.

Pearling

AND AQUACULTURE

During 2003/04, the sub-program's key activities continued to focus on the review of the *Pearling Act 1990* and implementation of the outcomes of the National Competition Policy review.

In 2003/04 the sub-program commenced a review of the Hatchery Quota Policy (due for expiry in December 2005), the development of a new and strategic approach to pearling compliance, and the preliminary drafting of an industry strategy.

AQUACULTURE

The Aquaculture sub-program of the Department of Fisheries is responsible for the management of the aquaculture industry. Its projects relate to management, policy development, research, disease management, compliance and education and licence and exemption assessment and administration.

The Aquaculture Development Council provides advice to the Minister for Fisheries on management and development issues relevant to the aquaculture industry.

Major species currently under commercial aquaculture production in WA include mussels, barramundi, abalone, western rock oysters, silver perch, trout, pearl oysters producing black pearls, marron and yabbies. Algae are also grown for the production of *beta carotene*. In 2003/04 the farming of the finfish species mahi mahi commenced.

Growth in the granting of aquaculture licences stabilised in 2003/04, with the Department issuing 469 aquaculture licences throughout the year compared to 470 in 2002/03.

The distribution of licences was:

- 285 (in comparison to 288 last year) marron licences;
- 115 (111 last year) mariculture or non-freehold land licences (including mussels, abalone, non-maxima pearls); and
- 70 others (71 last year) including yabby, silver perch, trout and ornamental fish.

The Department assessed 33 new applications, 11 variations and seven transfers for licences in 2003/04. A total of 41 new licences were granted including 27 marron licences, nine non-marron freehold land licences, four mariculture licences (three for non-maxima pearls and one for mussels), and one licence on non-freehold land for finfish aquaculture.

Significant growth in the value of aquaculture in Western Australia had been predicted for the last few years as it was assumed that the holders of licences granted in the late 1990s would move to construction and then to commercial maturity of their aquaculture projects.

Unfortunately this has not occurred. The reason behind the lack of growth was one of the questions raised by the Aquaculture Review, initiated by the Minister for Fisheries in 2002. The review determined that the lack of industry growth was due to a lack of financial investment in the industry, thereby limiting a licensed venture's ability to construct an aquaculture facility and commence activity.

The Aquaculture Review resulted in the determination of a series of actions which have been packaged together as an Aquaculture Development Strategy for WA. Major actions include the establishment of an Aquaculture Development Group which will focus on the key impediments of investment attraction, business facilitation and infrastructure support; and the refocusing of the Aquaculture Development Council to guide the strategies necessary to address the key impediments.

These key actions have resulted in the restructuring of the Department's Pearling and Aquaculture Program and its priorities. From the commencement of the 2004/05 financial year, the Department of Fisheries' charter with respect to aquaculture will focus on management and regulation. The developmental activities previously undertaken by the Department will be the responsibility of the Aquaculture Development Group, guided by the Aquaculture Development Council.

Despite the temporary slow-down in development, promising activities have occurred in 2003/04 including the issue of a new large-scale, land-based aquaculture licence and the subsequent commencement of construction of the associated facility.

Public consultation and assessment of coastal water applications under Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 8 *Assessment of applications for authorisations for Aquaculture and Pearling in coastal waters of Western Australia* also continued.

TABLE I: WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PEARLING & AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION 1998/99-2002/03

	1998/99		1999/00		2000/01		2001/02		2002/03	
	\$'000	tonnes	\$'000	tonnes	\$'000	tonnes	\$'000	tonnes	\$'000	tonnes
Pearling	181,837	n/a	189,700	n/a	171,048	n/a	126,000	N/a	120,500	n/a
Aquaculture (a,b)	4,114	921	6,195	993	6,995	1,287	5,864	983	6,517	1,022
TOTAL PRODUCTION	185,951	921	195,895	993	178,043	1,287	132,563	1,228	127,017	1,022

Footnotes:

(a) Excludes hatchery production

(b) Excludes beta carotene production

n/a Not available

Sources of figures: ABARE and Department of Fisheries

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- Assisted the Minister to finalise the review of aquaculture development in WA including a review of legislation and the development of a five-year strategic development plan for government investment in aquaculture development.
- Developed a plan to restructure the Pearling and Aquaculture Program to focus on management and regulation in accordance with the results of the Aquaculture Review.
- Produced an Ecologically Sustainable Development report on the wild-capture component of pearling, which was subsequently approved by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage.
- Completed the review of the *Pearling Act 1990* in consultation with the pearling industry, and contributed to the process to draft an explanatory memorandum for a new Pearling Bill.
- Commenced the review of the pearl oyster hatchery policy.
- Assessed applications for seven pearl farm leases.
- Completed a review of the compliance activities for the pearling industry.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

- Commence implementation of the aquaculture review including the establishment of an Aquaculture Development Group to focus on development activities, redirection of the Aquaculture Development Council to focus on key impediments to aquaculture, implementation of the legislative review and restructuring of the Department of Fisheries' Pearling and Aquaculture Program.
- Submit preliminary drafting instructions for a new Pearling Management Bill to Cabinet.
- Finalise, in liaison with the Strategic Planning and Policy Branch, the review of the pearl oyster hatchery policy and commence determination of a new policy for implementation in 2006.
- Implement the new compliance strategy for the pearling industry.
- Commence the development of a medium-term strategy to guide the future development and management of the pearling industry.

Fish and FISH HABITAT PROTECTION

VISION

To sustain and protect for future and current generations the healthy fish habitats and aquatic ecosystems of Western Australia that support our diverse fish populations and aquatic communities.

MISSION

To conserve and enhance Western Australia's fish habitats, fish populations and aquatic biodiversity through partnerships across Government, industry and the wider community.



INTRODUCTION

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program is involved in the management of marine, estuarine and riverine ecosystems through the protection of fish and fish habitats on behalf of the Western Australian community.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Program contributes to the achievement of all five goals set out in the *State Government's Strategic Planning Framework*.

The Environment

Protecting the State's fish habitats is the core function of this Program and includes:

- Working with the community on the establishment of Fish Habitat Protection Areas (FHPAs) to achieve the twin goals of protection of fish and conservation of their habitats.
- Meeting Commonwealth reporting requirements for Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) in commercial fisheries.
- Management of introduced marine pests.
- The provision of advice to State and Australian government agencies, proponents and stakeholders on the potential impact on fisheries, aquaculture and the marine environment of coastal and marine developments.
- The provision of advice to State and Government agencies on marine and environmental policy and planning.

- The FISHCARE WA program, which supports community stewardship of the marine environment by giving grants to assist the community to undertake specific projects to protect fish and fish habitats.
- Ensuring the environmentally responsible management of the translocation of non-native fish species into the State.
- Providing advice on the planning and management of a comprehensive, adequate and representative marine conservation reserve system in Western Australia.

The Economy

Commercial, recreational and pearling and aquaculture industries depend on healthy fish and marine ecosystems. Therefore, the maintenance of Western Australia's aquatic environment is crucial to State and local economies.

The Program is working towards enhancing the preservation of fish and their environments through the establishment of a system of FHPAs and raising public awareness of the need to protect and manage the marine estuarine and riverine aquatic ecosystems.

The mitigation of human impacts is a cornerstone of any viable and responsible economy. The Program has a lead role in translocation of non-endemic species and introduced marine pest management strategies and through its FHPA and FISHCARE WA initiatives is supporting the economic viability of Western Australia's fishing sectors.

In 2003/04, the Fish and Habitat Protection Program enhanced the protection of fish in a number of Fish Habitat Protection Areas throughout WA. Assisting community awareness and stewardship of the aquatic environment remained a priority.

People and Communities

The Program contributes to the social well-being of Western Australians through a number of initiatives. Its FHPA system depends on community involvement for its success.

The Program has put in place a successful community consultation process to develop FHPAs and other conservation proposals put forward by groups and individuals. The success of this approach has led to the establishment of FHPAs like Lancelin Island Lagoon and Cottlesloe Beach on the west coast.

The Miaboolya Beach FHPA in the Gascoyne, which was first nominated for protection by Carnarvon Senior High School, was officially dedicated by the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in September 2003.

Through initiatives such as the FHPA system, the Program is assisting the preservation of social and environmental values of popular attractions like Busselton Jetty and shipwreck sites such as the *Sanko Harvest*.

Around the State, the FISHCARE WA program works closely with the community, schools and indigenous and environmental groups. FISHCARE WA has a strong educational and community stewardship focus. This year, almost \$60,000 has been directed to FISHCARE WA programs. Tables 2 and 3 detail projects funded and completed in 2003/04.

The Regions

In 2003/04, the Program delivered key services to WA's regions. FISHCARE WA grants were given to initiatives State-wide. Further details are provided in Table 2.

The Program provided support to the Australian Government's Natural Resource Management (NRM) initiatives, under Natural Heritage Trust II, by preparing the Department of Fisheries' contribution to WA's regional NRM strategies. These strategies identify the assets, threats and future NRM actions for each region.



Governance

The protection of the marine environment is a complex task that cannot succeed without community support. The Department of Fisheries uses a variety of processes and channels to maximise community input. The Program works towards good governance through:

- Encouraging industry and community input through a series of stakeholder reference groups and in responding to community concerns for the establishment of FHPAs.
- Being responsive to community demand for the establishment of FHPAs, and involving the community and industry in the long-term management of these areas.
- Supporting the Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee to provide industry, recreational and environmental representation in the management of this unique marine environment.
- Establishing a community-based recovery team to assist in the conservation of Margaret River 'hairy' marron, a species threatened by environmental change and competition from smooth marron introduced from other catchments.
- Liaising with other Commonwealth and State Government agencies.
- Investigating and initiating closures around popular iconic areas known to be sites where fish gather.

Fish and

FISH HABITAT PROTECTION

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- Completed the final Plan of Management for the Point Quobba FHPA and a draft Plan for the proposed Kalbarri Blue Holes FHPA in partnership with the local communities.
- Declaration of the Miaboolya Beach FHPA.
- Contributed to the preparation of the five draft Regional NRM strategies being prepared for WA.
- Provided advice to the Minister for Fisheries, the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and the Department of CALM to develop marine management plans for the Ningaloo Reef, Rowley Shoals and Dampier Archipelago, Monte Bello Islands, Walpole Inlet and the Cape Leeuwin to Cape Naturaliste area.
- Contributed to the development of the proposed national system for the Prevention and Control of Marine Pest Incursions. Also provided advice and funding to help address incursions of the North Pacific seastar in Eastern Victoria and green Asian mussels in Queensland. This assistance was provided through the Consultative Committee on Introduced Marine Pest Emergencies.
- Provided advice on a number of significant new offshore petroleum developments including exploration activity within the areas used by West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery and offshore from Exmouth Gulf.
- Assisted community stewardship of the aquatic environment through FISHCARE WA (see Tables 2 & 3).
- Reviewed the Department's shark incident emergency response plan during 2003/04 to ensure the continued protection of great white sharks and to assist the WA Police Service with its public safety role.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

- Obtain final ESD approval for all WA fisheries from the Department of the Environment and Heritage.
- Put in place preliminary arrangements to prevent marine pest incursions in WA.
- Continue to provide advice into the marine conservation reserve planning process in WA.
- Complete a draft land conservation plan for the Houtman Abrolhos Islands.
- Contribute to a state-wide bioregional marine planning processes.
- Contribute to National Oceans office marine planning initiatives for the South West of WA.



TABLE 2: FISHCARE WA PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2003/04

Project Title	Applicant	Funding Amount
The impacts of barriers on fish migration in Gingin Brook	Gingin LCDC	\$3,000
Fish faunal survey of the lower Vasse River	Geocatch	\$2,760
Kalbarri Extension Science Group: Seahorse research	Kalbarri District High School	\$2,210
'Responsible mud crabbing' - signage for the Bay of Rest, Exmouth Gulf	Cape Conservation Group	\$400
Roe Districts fishing awareness school clinics and community presentations	Kulin Shire - Roe Districts 'Be Active' Scheme	\$3,000
Biology of the Port Jackson shark on the lower west coast of Australia	Murdoch University	\$4,186
Community awareness: Sustainable marine fish stocks	Naragebup - Rockingham Regional Environment Centre Inc.	\$3,179
Seaweek teachers expo 2004	Rottnest Island Authority	\$3,000
Coral reef ecosystems sustainability	Geraldton Senior College	\$3,592
Identifying parasitic disease threats to native freshwater fish in the south west of Western Australia	Murdoch University	\$4,180
One Mile Jetty beach blitz	Carnarvon Heritage Group Inc.	\$2,000
Comparison of fish community structure in sand, transplanted seagrass and existing seagrass habitats in Princess Royal and Oyster Harbours	Albany Senior High School	\$5,530
Fish surveys of Gunyulgup Brook and Ellen Brook	Cape-to-Cape Catchments Group and Geocatch	\$5,000
Development of a recovery plan for the pouched lamprey in south-western Australia	Murdoch University	\$4,945
Freshwater sawfish survey and education program	Kimberley Land Council	\$5,000
Site designs for fish (aquatic fauna) movement past weirs on the Lefroy Brook and Wilgarrup River	Manjimup LCDC	\$1,600
The Western Australian dhufish workshop 2004	Recfishwest	\$6,283
	TOTAL	\$59,865

Fish and

FISH HABITAT PROTECTION

TABLE 3: FISHCARE WA PROJECTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED IN 2003/04

Project Title	Applicant	Funding Amount
The impacts of barriers on fish migration in Gingin Brook	Gingin LCDC	\$3,000
Fish faunal survey of the lower Vasse River	Geocatch	\$2,760
Seaweed teachers expo 2004	Rottnest Island Authority	\$3,000
Biology and distribution of fish in inland waters of the North-West/Pilbara	Murdoch University	\$10,000
Margaret River rock ramp fish way	Margaret River Environment Centre	\$6,000
Comparison of fish community structure in sand and seagrass habitats in Princess Royal Harbour	Albany Senior High School	\$4,495
Environmental impacts of three exotic fish species in Western Australia	Murdoch University	\$2,600
Revegetation of fish migratory pathway	Bennett Brook Catchment Group	\$2,997
Rehabilitation of fish habitat at Boyagarra Pool	Friends of Boyagarra Pool (Brookton LCDC)	\$2,380
	TOTAL	\$37,232

Report on Operations

DEPARTMENT SERVICES

Regional Services

International Operations

Fisheries Research

Strategic Planning and Policy

Corporate and Community Relations

Registrar, Legal and Licensing



Regional SERVICES BRANCH

VISION

To be recognised as an active contributor to the sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture through best practice delivery of regional programs.

MISSION

To deliver high quality, regionally based programs that meet our client's needs now and into the future.

The Regional Services Branch has more than 130 staff around the State and supports each of the Department's four programs: Commercial Fisheries, Recreational Fisheries, Pearling and Aquaculture, and Fish and Fish Habitat Protection. Branch staff are spread across five major regions: Perth Metropolitan, Southern, Midwest, Gascoyne and Northern. Staff operate from five regional and 13 district offices and are equipped with a fleet of vehicles and vessels for land and sea patrols and associated activities.

In 2003/04, the Department of Fisheries assumed responsibility for the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's marine safety at-sea compliance program, bringing

together marine and fisheries compliance activities for the first time in Western Australia. The merge was designed to encourage greater coordination and efficiency through the integration of at-sea compliance into one unit. The benefits include better service delivery, less confusion for customers who communicate 'out on the water', more

opportunities for community education and more staff in more places at all times.

Ensuring that stakeholders comply with fisheries management rules remains a core function of the Regional Services Branch. Community awareness and education are an important part of the compliance function and programs such

as the Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer (VFLO) program play a vital role. VFLOs promote voluntary compliance with fishing laws throughout WA, with a focus on the densely populated south-west of the State.

Through its International Operations Group, the Branch also provides a compliance service to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority in respect to Commonwealth fisheries and foreign vessels in the Australian Fishing Zone.

The Serious Offences Unit, a group of specialist investigators, acts as a deterrent against organised illegal fishing.

In addition to its compliance role, the Regional Services Branch is involved in:

- Fisheries management.
- Aboriginal fishing and employment strategies.
- Prevention of the introduction of exotic pests.
- Technical management of satellite-based vessel monitoring systems.
- Management of aquaculture development parks.
- Compliance research and compliance data analysis.
- Investigating and monitoring fish 'kills'.
- Assisting with research projects.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Branch supports the achievement of all five goals of the State Government's Strategic Planning Framework.

The Environment

Environmental sustainability is the core business of the Department of Fisheries and the Regional Services Branch. Compliance and management activities and projects that assist the Department in achieving environmental outcomes include:



The Regional Services Branch oversees the compliance of fisheries legislation across the five major regions of the State, through the monitoring of land and sea patrols.

The Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer Program is run by the Branch, and other education initiatives enhance voluntary compliance and education.

- The delivery of at-sea fisheries compliance for marine parks and marine reserves through the deployment of regional Fisheries and Marine Officers.
- The provision of management, compliance and policy services into the development and maintenance of Fish Habitat Protection Areas.
- The provision of expert advice to the Department of CALM on marine planning issues and proposed marine parks and reserves.
- The provision of policy advice to other government agencies and community groups into the sustainable management of marine, coastal, estuarine and inland environments.
- The provision of vessels to assist the Research Division and other government agencies in the collection of data and management of the marine environment.
- The provision of officers for monitoring and investigating large-scale fish 'kills' and marine pest incursions.

People and Communities

The Branch supports the social well-being of the community. Branch projects and activities that support and assist in achieving social outcomes are:

- Fisheries and Marine Officer traineeships for people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.
- Management of the VFLO program to promote voluntary compliance with fishing laws.
- Fishing clinics for people with disabilities conducted through the VFLO program.
- Fisheries and Marine Officers regularly conducting education programs in schools and communities, as well as providing expert fisheries advice at boating shows and fishing competitions.
- Playing an important role in the development of the Department of Fisheries' Aboriginal Fishing Strategy.

The Economy

Compliance activities undertaken by the Branch are pivotal in achieving a strong fisheries economy in WA.

The programs, undertaken by branch staff, that assist in achieving economic outcomes are:

- The provision of fisheries compliance services to ensure that sustainable management objectives for commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, pearling and aquaculture are met, to ensure the viable commercial use of aquatic resources.
- The management of regional aquaculture parks, which are important in fostering regional economic development.
- The provision of management and compliance services to assist with maintaining equity between users of the aquatic resource and maximising the value of commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, pearling and aquaculture.

The Regions

The Branch plays a pivotal role in the Department's support of regional and rural WA.

Programs and activities undertaken by the Branch that support and assist fisheries management in the regions include:

- The delivery of compliance, education, policy and management services into regional Western Australia through a regionalised management structure. Regional Services maintains five regional and 13 district offices across the State.
- The provision of advice on fisheries' matters to community consultative groups and other government agencies.
- The provision of advice on compliance and management issues to the regional Ministerial Advisory Committees for commercial fisheries and Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees.

Regional

SERVICES BRANCH

- The provision of Fisheries and Marine Officer support to marine safety compliance as part of recreational fishing compliance inspections.
 - The provision of support to other regional Government agencies in relation to sea search and rescue operations, oil spills and other emergency situations such as natural disasters.
 - Fisheries and Marine Officers in the regions play an important role in the collection of data for research and compliance purposes.
- The 'buy local' government policy whereby regional offices support the local economy by spending money in the regions on the purchase and maintenance of vessels and other compliance equipment.

TABLE 4: DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES REGIONAL STAFFING 2003/04

Area	Offices	Regional Services Staff	Fisheries Managed	Regionally Based Policy Officers	Aquaculture Development Officers	Regionally Based Research Staff	VFLOs	MACs
Southern Region	4	21*	10	1	0	0	41	3
Perth Metropolitan Region	5	40*	7	1	0	0	90	0
Gascoyne Region	4	16	7	1	0	1	2	1
Midwest Region	3	19**	2	1	0	0	16	1
Northern Region	2	17.2***	4	1	1	1	9	4

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

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

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

Governance

The Branch carries out projects and activities that assist in providing good governance in fisheries management. These include:

- The provision of expert advice on proposed primary and subsidiary legislation (and amendments to this legislation), fisheries management plans and other policy issues relating to commercial and recreational fisheries, pearling and aquaculture, and fish and fish habitat protection.
- Contributing to the MACs and RRFACs.

- Contributions from regional managers and policy officers on community issues relating to sustainable management and use of aquatic resources and the environment.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- Operational implementation of Machinery of Government Recommendation 30 for the integration of marine safety and fisheries compliance services. This includes the cross training and authorisation of 31 staff in the Perth Metropolitan Region and the creation of new Fisheries and Marine Officer positions with full delivery of land and sea-based services under the service level agreement with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

- Successful deployment into the regions of two mobile patrol units focusing on recreational fishing.
- Development of an effective data collection system designed to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the deployment of compliance resources.
- The development of a new pearling compliance program focusing on the management of pearl production.
- Risk assessment and compliance planning workshops for recreational fisheries in most regions and a number of large commercial fisheries.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS BY REGION 2003/04

Perth Metropolitan

- Completed the realignment of farm sites and progressed consultation on new management arrangements for the Cockburn Sound mussel aquaculture industry.
- Established a new district office in Rockingham and increased staffing and equipment levels leading to a significant increase in service delivery (marine safety and fisheries compliance).
- Implemented new management arrangements for the Swan, Canning and Mandurah estuarine fisheries.
- Continued VFLO beachfront education programs, focusing on fishing techniques, ethics and bag and size limits. VFLOs attended major boat shows (including the Hillarys and Mandurah Boat Shows) and other festivals, conducted school and community group fishing workshops and distributed educational material to tackle shops throughout the Perth metropolitan area.
- The Fishers with Disabilities program was a finalist in the ninth Annual Community Services Industry Awards in the category of 'Building the capacity of the community services industry'.
- The Perth metropolitan VFLOs held a festival to celebrate their tenth anniversary or 'birthday' in March 2004.

Northern

- Expansion of the VFLO program in Karratha to include six trained volunteers. The program has also been established in Port Hedland, coordinated from the Karratha office.

- Expansion of promotional activities with Goolarri Media in Broome, targeting all recreational fishers, including indigenous participants.
- Increased compliance-patrolling capacity for recreational fishing in the Northern Region with the introduction of a mobile patrol in peak activity periods.
- The development and implementation of the aquaculture compliance strategy for the Kimberley Region. The first in a series of fully-planned inspections of aquaculture facilities was undertaken.
- The completion of marine safety compliance training for all Northern Region Fisheries and Marine Officers and the incorporation of the marine safety compliance program into Fisheries and Marine Officers' inspection activities.
- Regional staff developed a revised logbook reporting system for monitoring seeding quotas within the pearling industry.

Midwest

- Construction of the Department of Fisheries' new research facility — the Saville-Kent Centre on Rat Island — in the Abrolhos Islands.
- Installation of communications facilities at the Saville-Kent Centre, comprising radio and telephone capabilities together with a large-capacity satellite data transfer capability.
- Initiated the development of land leasehold arrangements for rock lobster fishers with camps on the Houtman Abrolhos.
- The development of an integrated waste management strategy for the Houtman Abrolhos in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Island users.
- Construction of two patrol vessels, one 4.8 metres and the other 7.8 metres long, at a cost of \$350,000. One vessel will be stationed in the Abrolhos/Mid West Coast regions for compliance controls and the other will work within the Abrolhos Islands and Jurien Bay Marine Park. The second vessel will be stationed in Broome, with a compliance focus on the WA pearling industry.

Regional

SERVICES BRANCH

- Construction of an environmentally-friendly boardwalk crossing Pelsaert Island.
- Training of staff in the understanding and application of the *Historic Shipwreck Act 1976* to develop awareness of cultural issues and legislative requirements relating to compliance activities and shipwrecks.

Southern

- Undertook joint compliance operations with the WA Police for the recreational marron fishery.
- Conducted a research project into the distribution and abundance of crystal (snow) crabs on the south coast in conjunction with the commercial fishing industry and the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.
- Completed a draft framework for the management of the South Coast Scallop and Fish Trawl Fisheries and the South West Beach Seine Fishery.
- Contributed to the development of ESD reports for the South Coast Crustacean Fisheries, Salmon Fisheries, and the Abrolhos Islands, Mid-West Trawl and South Coast Trawl fisheries.
- Successfully expanded the VFLO Fishers with Disabilities program into the Southern Region, with workshops conducted in Bunbury and Albany.

Gascoyne

- The Miaboolya FHPA, an important nursery for many local species including tailor, mullet and mud crabs, was gazetted, following public consultation.
- A draft plan of management for the Point Quobba FHPA was amended to incorporate public comments and is ready for a final round of public consultation before being formally adopted.
- The completion of compliance risk assessments for all the major trawl fisheries in the Gascoyne region (including the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery, the Shark Bay Prawn Fishery and the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery). Similar compliance risk assessments were also finalised for the commercial Shark Bay Snapper Fishery and the Charter Fishing Tour and Gascoyne Bioregion Recreational Fisheries.

- Contributed extensively to the development of legislation resulting from the Gascoyne Recreational Fishing Review. Supporting education and compliance programs were developed to assist with the introduction of the new recreational fishing arrangements.

- Regional Fisheries and Marine Officers, as an adjunct to their normal fisheries management duties, successfully delivered marine safety compliance and education services across the Gascoyne region. This resulted in a vast improvement in the level of compliance and made a significant advance in the level of community awareness and understanding of marine safety-related matters.
- Negotiations were entered into with seven coastal pastoral leaseholders in the Gascoyne region with the view to securing ongoing community access to key coastal sites for recreational purposes, as part of the Pastoral Lease Exclusions process.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

Perth Metropolitan

- Establish a new position of VFLO Coordinator to better support and develop the VFLO program.
- Establish a new Hillarys district office within the new research facility at Hillarys Boat Harbour with full-time access to all client-based services.
- Finalise new lease and industry management arrangements within the Cockburn Sound mussel industry.
- Rationalise the at-sea capabilities and resources in order to improve the delivery of new integrated marine safety and fisheries compliance and education activities.
- Progression of Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery Agreed Arrangements and establishment of Cockburn Sound Crab Arrangements Co-management Council.
- Review of Cockburn Sound managed fisheries.

Northern

- Consultation on the development of a new accord for the Barramundi Fishery in the Kimberley (to be completed in 2005).

- Commissioning of a new patrol vessel to provide greater range, improved sea capability and complement the new pearling compliance program.
- Implementation of a revised compliance program for the pearling industry.
- Development of new initiatives, including a training video, aquapack information package and support for the establishment of two model aquaculture farms, in conjunction with the Indigenous Aquaculture Development Working Group.
- Undertake a feasibility study for a proposal to relocate the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park seawater intake to improve water quality and supply volume.
- Implement the installation of satellite monitoring on all commercial pearling vessels as part of the new compliance program.

Midwest

- Finalise the development of the integrated waste management system at the Houtman Abrolhos Islands and oversee its introduction.
- Finalise the Abrolhos Islands Tourism proposals made by proponents in accord with the Sustainable Tourism Plan for the Houtman Abrolhos.
- Complete further environmental protection works on East and West Wallabi Islands in the Houtman Abrolhos.
- Prepare and deliver a marketing strategy for the Saville-Kent Centre on the Houtman Abrolhos Islands.
- Conduct a review of the regulatory requirements for current and future management of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands and quantify any changes required.

Southern

- Finalise implementation of management arrangements for crab fishing in Geographe Bay and South West Beach Seine Fisheries.
- Finalise a review of management arrangements for the South Coast Crustacean Fisheries and update management arrangements for the South and South West Salmon Managed Fisheries.

- Implement the Margaret River marron recovery actions, as identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.
- Promote increased VFLO recruitment over the entire southern region.
- Undertake an inland school education tour including VFLOs.
- Assessment and improvement of disabled fishing locations by VFLOs in the south west.

Gascoyne

- Review the management arrangements for the Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf Beach Seine and Mesh Net Fisheries. The management plan and other legislation relating to these fisheries will be reviewed in line with the Department's Estuarine and Marine Embayment Review and its Integrated Fisheries Management strategy.
- Draft a plan of management for the Shark Bay Crab Developmental Fishery in consultation with the industry and interested community groups and implement the result.
- Further develop a quota recording and monitoring system, suitable for the local administration of output-based fishing industries, and implement it when the Mackerel Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan is gazetted.
- Complete compliance risk assessments for the remaining commercial fisheries in the Gascoyne Region and incorporate this information into compliance management plans for these fisheries.
- Implement new amendments to the Gascoyne recreational fishing rules and State-wide possession and filleting arrangements. This includes the development and delivery of community awareness and compliance management programs.
- Achieve a key involvement in the Natural Heritage Trust NRM processes for an area known as the Rangelands Region (incorporating the Murchison, Gascoyne, Pilbara, Kimberley and Goldfields) to promote the importance of the region's coastal and marine natural resources to the community and secure funding for community projects relating to these resources.

International OPERATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Fisheries is responsible for six Commonwealth fisheries programs within the 200 nautical mile Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) through an arrangement with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA). These involve, but are not limited to, areas of the AFZ adjacent to mainland Western Australia, the external territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos/Keeling group of islands, and Heard and McDonald Islands situated in the sub-Antarctic region.

The programs managed by the International Operations Group are the Heard and McDonald Islands, West Coast Tuna and Billfish, Southern Bluefin Tuna, Northern Prawn Fishery, Australian Fishing Zone Programs, and Apprehensions and Prosecutions.

Monitoring Activities

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

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) permits traditional Indonesian fishermen to fish in the north-western sector of the AFZ, including the outer areas of Ashmore Reef, Seringapatam Reef, Scott Reef and Browse Island. International Operations officers monitor the activities of these Indonesian fishers through aerial surveillance and boardings conducted at sea.

As part of offshore patrol activities Indonesian fishers, inside and outside the permitted area, are briefed on the MOU arrangements and their catch and fishing equipment are inspected. Records of these inspections are kept for resource management purposes.

A number of illegal fishing activities outside the permitted area and involving Indonesian fishing vessels were detected in northern Australian waters during routine patrols.

The AFZs of Cocos/Keeling and Christmas Islands were included in the International Operations Aerial Patrol program, with officers completing surveillance flights in these regions.

International Operations officers continue to be involved in the protection of turtles on Browse Island to reduce, and ultimately prevent, the illegal killing of marine turtles at the island. International Operations officers first brought the impact of this practice to the Federal Government's attention.

Patrols to the AFZ of Heard and MacDonal Islands continue. Several successful interceptions, boardings and apprehensions occurred in August 2003 involving the vessel *Viarsa I*, and in January 2004, the vessel *Maya V* (see Major Achievements). The entire crew of the *Maya V* were charged for breaches of the *Australian Fisheries Management Act 1991*, the first time this action has been applied to Southern Ocean vessels. Thirty-two of the crew pleaded guilty and were sentenced and repatriated. Further investigations with regard to the vessel's senior officers continue.

International Operations officers monitored the unloading of Australia's legal Patagonian toothfish vessels on behalf of the AFMA. These took place in Albany (WA), Devonport (Tasmania) and Mauritius. Monitoring of unloading is in accordance with the quota management of the fishery and represents a fundamental component of the management regime for Australian Patagonian toothfish stocks.

Training

International Operations continued to develop its own monitoring control and surveillance capability and assisted other agencies with specifically designed training packages in various aspects of monitoring control and surveillance.

Training was provided to the Australian Customs Service National Marine Unit's Southern Ocean deployment teams. Officers continued to give ongoing advice in the field to the Australian Customs Service, Coastwatch, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, the Australian Defence Force, and the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.



International Operations officers monitor domestic and foreign fishing in all areas of the Australian Fishing Zone. Significant surveillance and compliance work is also carried out in protecting Australia's sub-Antarctic fishing zones of Heard and MacDonal Islands.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- International Operations officers apprehended eight Indonesian fishing vessels during the year and a further four vessels were dealt with at-sea by administrative seizure under Section 106 of the Commonwealth's *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.
- In January 2004, the Patagonian toothfish longliner *Maya V* was intercepted in the Australian Fishing Zone of Heard and MacDonal Islands by the Australian warship HMAS *Warramunga*. International Operations officers boarded the *Maya V* and subsequently ordered the vessel back to Fremantle for an investigation into illegal fishing activities. In accordance with legislation, the catch was seized and sold by tender.

In August 2003, following a 3,900 nautical mile chase at sea, the Patagonian toothfish vessel *Viarsa I* was apprehended and escorted to Fremantle by International Operations officers. The catch was seized and sold by tender. After two and a half years, the officers of the Patagonian toothfish longliner *Volga*, pleaded guilty to illegal fishing in Australian waters following investigations by International Operations officers.

- In the Southern and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery, officers conducted 65 vessel inspections for logbook compliance and catch composition. Warnings and infringement notices were issued for minor offences and prosecution briefs were submitted in relation to operators landing shark fin. Compliance and surveillance pressure continues to be applied to the tuna fleet in this regard. Processor inspections were also conducted and surveillance flights were undertaken to ensure compliance with permit conditions, including daylight setting, use of Tory poles and areas of operation.
- In the Northern Prawn Fishery, officers undertook net measuring checks prior to this equipment being deployed to sea.
- The continuation of training of members of the Australian Customs Service's National Marine Unit in sub-Antarctic foreign fishing vessel boardings and investigations.
- Completion of 'Operation Snapshot' a project involving surveillance and data collection on the Indonesian fishing pressure applied to Scott Reef in the northern MOU area.

This project gathered invaluable information and is currently AFMA's foundation document with regard to this portion of the Indonesian presence in the MOU area.

- The International Operations Business Plan and the group's position restructure were implemented.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/2005

- Development and implementation of a strategy to increase compliance of illegal, unlicensed and unregulated fishing in Australia's sub-Antarctic regions.
- Undertake a review and assess illegal foreign fishing activities with regard to Indonesian fishers and future changes to their operations.
- Upgrade and implement strategies to address issues of non-compliance by foreign operators in the Christmas and Cocos Island regions of Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone.
- Promote formal discussions with respect to alternative fisheries-based livelihoods for Indonesian fishers.
- Review and develop training needs for core client groups.
- Promote overseas networking and work exchange opportunities with international fisheries compliance agencies.
- Develop and establish strategies to efficiently address monitoring, control and surveillance needs arising from the implementation of international fisheries management legislation, such as the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and the Highly Migratory and Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement.

Fisheries

RESEARCH

VISION

To ensure the provision of quality scientific knowledge and advice to enable the conservation, sustainable management and development of the State's aquatic resources, and the habitats which sustain those resources.

MISSION

To be recognised by our clients and stakeholders as an innovative provider of high quality and leading-edge scientific knowledge relevant to the management and development of the State's aquatic biological resources.



INTRODUCTION

The Research Division provides expert scientific advice and research information necessary to manage and develop the State's extensive fisheries resources. Researchers are based at the WA Marine Research Laboratories at Waterman, a number of Perth metropolitan locations and at regional facilities around the State.

The Research Division's 120-plus staff members are structured in four expertise-based branches, supported by an administration/management group. Research projects are carried out through multi-disciplinary teams.

The major categories of research output provided by the 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.
- Development of new techniques and basic knowledge to add to the community's understanding of aquatic resources and their environment.

A more detailed description of the functions of the Division is available in the annual *State of the Fisheries* report, which is compiled and edited by the Division and is part of the reporting process of the Department. This publication provides to Parliament and the WA community a detailed

summary of the scientific and other information supporting key management and aquaculture development activities of the Department of Fisheries. The document's fishery status reports for 2003/04 also incorporate the Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) reporting and assessment framework necessary to meet State and Federal legislative requirements.

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

Invertebrate Fisheries

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

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

The Invertebrate Fisheries Branch employs around 25 graduate staff members, including seven research scientists/project leaders, and administers the Department's major research vessel, RV *Naturaliste*, and its crew of five. The vessel is used for fisheries and related research between Cape Naturaliste and the Kimberley.

Finfish Fisheries

The Finfish Fisheries Branch undertakes research to underpin management of the State's diverse finfish resources, and facilitates fisheries chemistry projects to support finfish research and environmental management. Finfish stocks

A vigorous research program continues to attract major funding from a wide range of sources to ensure the best management for the State's aquatic resources. Continuing development and use of the framework for Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) has assisted in the completion of environmental assessments for all export-based fisheries.

investigated include the tropical shallow and deep-water snappers, sharks, salmon and herring, pelagic stocks (pilchards, whitebait, mackerel), and coastal embayment and estuarine stocks.

Commercial fishers supplying local markets, the recreational fishing sector and the newly-managed recreational charter sector harvest these. Much of this research work relates to stocks that are the focus of the Department of Fisheries' Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) strategy.

The Branch has a graduate staff of around 30, including eight research scientists/project leaders, and supports a significant proportion of the Research Division's external projects at Murdoch and other universities. These collaborative projects involve a considerable number of postgraduate research students.

Aquaculture Development and Fisheries Environment

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

The Branch is involved in the development of fish feeds (which will also generate export markets for WA agricultural products), fish disease identification and testing, trout and trochus stock enhancement, monitoring of the recreational marron stock and its environment and Aboriginal aquaculture development. Staff also maintain a database of aquaculture production statistics and manage the WA Marine Research Laboratories marine aquarium and scientific workshop facilities.

The Branch has a graduate staff of around 30, including 10 research scientists/project leaders, based at a number of sites. These include:

- WA Marine Research Laboratories.
- Department of Agriculture laboratories (fish pathology).
- Challenger TAFE in Fremantle (mariculture group).
- Broome TAFE.

- The Department's major freshwater research centre at Pemberton.

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

Stock Assessment and Data Analysis

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

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

The Branch has a graduate staff of around 25, including eight research scientists/project leaders, who, in collaboration with other branches, assess the status of all fish stocks in Western Australia. The success of the Department's fisheries management arrangements is effectively monitored by these assessments.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Division supports the achievement of all five goals of the State Government's *Strategic Planning Framework*.

The Environment

Environmental sustainability is the core business of the Department of Fisheries, and the Division supports the work of the Department in this regard through the collection and analysis of information to provide advice on the development and review of management arrangements. Specifically, this involves:

- The collection and analysis of biological information on aquatic species for use in the development of management arrangements for the State's aquatic resources.

Fisheries

RESEARCH

- Monitoring the catch and effort of the commercial fishing sector.
- Undertaking regular surveys of aquatic recreational fishing and ecotourism activities.
- The completion of annual stock assessments to determine if stocks are being maintained at appropriate levels.
- Assessing the broader ecosystem impacts of fishing, including the development of biodiversity and habitat monitoring systems and the assessment of bycatch reduction devices.
- Monitoring the efficacy of current fisheries management arrangements and assessing the likely impact of management proposals.

People and Communities

The Division supports the social well-being of the community through:

- Assisting in the education of the community about sustainable fishing practices.
- Publication of research results on the aquatic ecosystem of Western Australia to the wider community.
- Participating in the supervision and review of research being undertaken by higher degree students.

The Economy

The Division contributes to economic outcomes by:

- Undertaking research for the establishment or enhancement of aquaculture industries.
- Providing advice on the appropriate levels of harvesting and effort levels to optimise the production and utilisation of wild capture fisheries.
- Assisting in the development of efficient and eco-friendly fishing methods.
- The generation of annual estimates of Gross Value of Production statistics for the State's aquaculture and fishing industries.

The Regions

The Division assists in meeting this goal by:

- Improving the information base on aquatic natural resources in each of the regions.
- Assisting natural resource management in each of the regions.

Governance

The Division supports better governance outcomes by:

- The collection and provision of information on the current allocation of access amongst the various resource user groups.
- The production of the annual *State of the Fisheries* report which outlines the status of wild fish stocks and their habitats for scrutiny by the Parliament, stakeholder groups and the general public.
- The development of ESD reporting and assessment frameworks.
- Assisting in the completion of ESD reports for each export fishery to meet the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation* legislation.
- Providing scientific input to enable the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery to maintain environmental certification through the Marine Stewardship Council.
- Offering scientific advice on the potential impacts of non-fishery-related activities and management initiatives within the aquatic environment.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- Applications for external funding were again successful in 2003/04, with the Division obtaining funding of about \$3 million from a wide variety of sources, including the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Grains Research and Development Corporation, Water Corporation of WA, Kimberley Sustainable Regions Program, Australian Fisheries Management Authority and the Department of the Environment and Heritage.
- The following externally-funded research projects have been completed during 2003/04 and are now being utilised in the Department's management and development processes:

- Development of the National ESD Assessment Framework for wild capture fisheries.
- Stock evaluation of mother-of-pearl shell stocks for management and future harvesting.
- Characterisation of the inshore fish assemblages of the Pilbara and Kimberley coasts.
- Assessment of the sustainable yield from oceanic snapper off Shark Bay, and of a continuing cost-effective monitoring system.
- Habitat enhancement for marron fisheries.
- Evaluation of commercial barramundi feeds in terms of waste output by fish, and development of on-line models for eco-efficient feed design and usage.
- Characterisation of the Lake Argyle ‘turnover event’ and its impact on barramundi farming.
- Completion of the first phase of commercialisation of marine fish larval feeds.
- Determination of the disease status of Western Australian commercial prawn stocks.
- The Division’s scientists, in collaboration with the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program, have completed applications to the Department of the Environment and Heritage for environmental approval of all remaining export-based fisheries.
- As part of a national initiative to develop aquatic animal disease management plans, the Division’s Fish Health section successfully coordinated a disease response exercise to a simulated outbreak of crayfish plague. This exercise involved various government departments and the aquaculture industry.
- Following a 10-year planning process, tenders were let for the building of the new Fisheries Research and Community Education Centre at Hillarys. Construction of this facility commenced in January 2004.
- Effects of rock lobster fishing on the deepwater ecosystems off the west coast of WA.
- Determination of cost-effective methodology for continued age monitoring needed for the management of finfish fisheries.
- Development of methods to manage and monitor fish spawning aggregations within the West Coast bioregion.
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of ‘pingers’ and exclusion grids in reducing accidental dolphin catches in the Pilbara Trawl Fishery.
- The following new externally-funded research projects will be undertaken to support the development of the State’s aquaculture industries:
 - Evaluation of lupin products in salmon and marine prawn feeds.
 - Further development towards commercialisation of marine fish larval feeds.
 - Development of a national translocation policy using abalone and prawns as templates for other aquatic species.
- Scientific input to the Department of the Environment and Heritage’s environmental assessment process for the State’s commercial non-export fisheries will be completed by July 2005.
- The strategic directions for the finfish research and data collection sections will be re-focused to meet future needs related to IFM, ESD and marine planning.
- A newly developed resource assessment framework will be used to ensure that all resource assessments are completed in an appropriate and consistent manner as part of an overall best practice planning and management scheme for the Division.
- Commissioning of the new Fisheries Research and Community Education Centre at Hillarys will enhance the Division’s capacity for collaboration with WA universities, international exchange and training programs, training of research volunteers and educational interaction with the wider community.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2003/04

- New externally-funded research projects to ensure the ongoing productivity of wild stock fisheries and the maintenance of the aquatic ecosystem will be instigated on the following topics:

Strategic Planning AND POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Planning and Policy Branch is responsible for ensuring the preparation and periodic review of the Department's Strategic Plan and for supporting business and operational plans, in consultation with relevant divisions. It is also responsible for the development of policy advice on a wide range of issues that have implications for fish resources management in WA and the Department's capacity to deliver stated outputs and outcomes. In addition, the Branch has the role of overseeing the Department's budget planning process and financial settings, and is responsible for management of the internal audit function.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Branch supports the achievement of all five goals of the State Government's *Strategic Planning Framework*.

The Environment

Environmental sustainability is core business for the Department of Fisheries. The Branch supports this work through the following initiatives:

- The State Sustainability Strategy.
- Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) and Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD).
- Strategic compliance planning.

The Branch is responsible for implementation of the *State Sustainability Strategy*. Work to date has focused on finalising those elements of the strategy relating to the fisheries sector and contributing to the draft Code of Practice and Resource Guide for State Government departments. Future work will require the development of a Sustainability Action Plan and reporting progress against this plan.

The Branch also maintains a 'watching brief' on key fisheries policy initiatives including IFM and ESD, and is working towards the development of a national risk assessment framework for compliance.



People and Communities

The Branch supports the social well-being of the community through its work in relation to the development of an Aboriginal Fishing Strategy

The draft Aboriginal Fishing Strategy was released for public comment in May 2003. The Hon E.M. Franklyn QC prepared the strategy, in liaison with a working group comprising representatives from peak stakeholder groups and the Aboriginal community. The strategy focuses on customary fishing, involvement of indigenous interests in fisheries management and the development of economic opportunities for indigenous people in the fisheries sector.

The final strategy has been completed and provided to Government for consideration. This strategy was informed by public submissions on the draft report, a national indigenous fishing rights conference held in late 2003 and the outcomes of a technical working group in relation to a national framework for customary fishing. Subject to that consideration, work in 2004/05 will be focused on implementation of the strategy and determining the detail around customary fishing on a regional basis.

Strategic Planning and Policy plays a vital role in ensuring that the Department stays on-target and plans for the future. National Competition Policy, development of an Aboriginal Fishing Strategy and supporting the Department's program areas to meet management and planning requirements have been major priorities for 2003/04.

The Economy

Projects and activities undertaken by the Branch contribute to important economic outcomes through:

- National Competition Policy (NCP) reforms.
- Trade and international relations.
- The Australian Seafood Strategy for Export Growth (ASSEG) project.
- Development of a unit entitlement register for commercial fisheries.
- The Seafood Quality Management Initiative.

Implementation of NCP reforms in the rock lobster, pearling and general fisheries sector continued to be a key focus of the Branch during 2003/04, including reporting progress to the National Competition Council.

The Branch was also responsible for managing the ASSEG project on behalf of the National Food Industry Strategy Ltd. This involved extensive liaison with the seafood sector across Australia, with a view to developing a strategic approach to seafood marketing. During 2003/04, the Branch assumed responsibility for the development of a unit entitlement register for commercial fisheries, with an initial focus on rock lobster. The Branch has also continued work relating to seafood quality management and international and trade relations.

The Regions

The Branch supports regional outcomes through:

- Involvement in the State Regional Development Policy.
- Development of customary fishing arrangements on a regional basis.

The fisheries and aquaculture sector makes a significant contribution to the regional economy. The Branch has participated in the development of the State Regional Development Policy and will commence formal reporting against this in 2004/05.

As part of the development of the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy, discussions commenced on the need for customary fishing arrangements to be developed on a bioregional basis. This work will be continued in 2004/05.

Governance

The Branch supports outcomes relating to good governance through:

- The Fisheries Statutory Management Authority Inquiry.
- Carriage of proposed new pearling legislation through government processes.
- Departmental planning processes.
- Annual performance reporting and contribution to the Department's annual report.
- Internal audit and risk management.

A major initiative during 2003/04 was the finalisation of the inquiry into the desirability and feasibility of establishing a Statutory Management Authority to administer the State's fisheries. The inquiry commenced in late 2002 and the Branch has been responsible for the provision of executive support to the Ministerial Advisory Committee undertaking the inquiry. The final report of the Advisory Committee was provided to Government in May 2004.

Another significant achievement was a review of the Department's Strategic Plan and development of a new plan for the period 2004 to 2008. The Branch also provided work relating to internal audit, risk management and performance and annual reporting, as key elements of the Department's governance framework. The Branch also assumed responsibility during 2003/04 for the carriage of new pearling legislation through Government processes. This work will continue during 2004/05.

Strategic Planning

AND POLICY

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- Implementation of outcomes arising from the review of fisheries and pearling legislation under NCP.
- Provision of executive officer support to the Statutory Management Authority Advisory Committee.
- Review of the Department's Strategic Plan.
- Finalisation of the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy for Government consideration, including extensive consultation with the Aboriginal community and other stakeholders.
- Management of the ASSEG project on behalf of the National Food Industry Strategy Ltd.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

- Review of the pearl oyster hatchery policy, in accordance with outcomes arising from NCP and in liaison with the Department's Pearling sub-program.
- Development of a new Pearling Management Bill and associated regulations.
- Development of a unit register of entitlements for commercial fisheries, with an initial focus on rock lobster.
- Finalisation of a report on the nature and extent of rights to fish in WA.
- Development of a Sustainability Action Plan in accordance with government requirements under the State Sustainability Strategy.
- Development of customary fishing arrangements on a regional basis.

STATE GOVERNMENT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Department of Fisheries' activities contribute to a number of outcomes and strategies in the Government's Regional Development Policy. Key initiatives with a regional focus include:

Aboriginal Fishing Strategy

During 2003/04 the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy was finalised for consideration by the WA Government. The 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, and an Aboriginal Fisheries Managers and Wardens program. Both of these programs, if supported, will contribute directly to the social and economic well-being of regional Aboriginal communities.

Aquatic Tour

The Department of Fisheries commenced licensing and managing the WA aquatic tour (charter) industry in June 2001. The industry operates across the four bioregions of the Pilbara/Kimberley, Gascoyne, West Coast and South Coast. Two hundred and sixty fishing tour licences and 37 aquatic tour licences have been issued. Since regulation of this industry, business viability has increased by improving predictability and stability in terms of long-term access to the aquatic resource-based tourism market.

Bioregional Marine Planning

The Department is working to ensure that marine planning and IFM are fully incorporated in regional and natural resource management planning processes. Work continues relating to the establishment of Fish Habitat Protection Areas under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* to complement the marine parks and reserves system (e.g. Miaboolya Beach and Point Quobba) and supporting the marine parks and reserves planning process including contributing to the process for the Capes to Capes, Ningaloo, Dampier and Rowley Shoals parks.

In addition, the Department's continued work in commercial and recreational fisheries management within an ESD framework contributes directly to regional development, given the regional focus of many fishing activities. Pearling and aquaculture activities also contribute significantly to regional communities. The pearling industry, for example, operates predominantly in the Kimberley region with an estimated Gross Value of Production of \$120.5 million for 2002/03.



Corporate and COMMUNITY RELATIONS

VISION

To enhance the positioning of the Department as a world leader in the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and the aquatic environment.

MISSION

In partnership with industry and the community, to develop and provide strategic and innovative communication strategies to promote and ensure the sustainable management of the State's fisheries and aquatic environment.

INTRODUCTION

The Corporate and Community Relations Branch (CCRB) delivers the Department of Fisheries 'Fish for the future' message to targeted audiences and key stakeholders through planning, development and delivery of communications services and materials.

Staff in the CCRB are involved in the delivery of most communication services provided by the Department of Fisheries.

Documents published by the Department of Fisheries can be obtained from its offices around the State, and down-loaded from its web site at www.fish.wa.gov.au

Appendix 2 of this document provides a summary of publications and other information resources produced during 2003/04.

Section 262 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* requires that a copy of every order, regulation and management plan in force under the Act be kept at the Department of Fisheries' head office and be available for inspection free of charge by members of the public at the office during normal office hours. Most of these are now also available on-line.



STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Branch supports the achievement of all five goals of the State Government's *Strategic Planning Framework*.

The Environment

The CCRB supports the Department's role in ensuring Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) within the State's fisheries.

This year the CCRB further enhanced the Department's ESD-based communications through the development of the Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) Communications Plan.

Key objectives of this plan include:

- To promote community awareness and understanding of the need for an integrated approach to ensure sustainable management of fish and their habitats.
- To actively encourage public understanding and support of the management process.
- To develop and maintain community support for the process, and to promote informed consideration of the proposals.
- To increase awareness and understanding that implementation of IFM is a long-term process.

The Department's core environmental communications efforts were supported by a number of projects including:

- In November, the Branch organised and delivered 'catch care' and fish and fish habitat protection messages for an educational tour of schools. Featuring spokesman Glen Jakovich, the event was held over two days in Geraldton.

The prime priorities for the Corporate and Community Relations Branch have been the development of cost-effective, quality communication tools, which set new benchmarks and convey key messages on behalf of the Minister and the Department of Fisheries.

- The Branch designed and delivered a media campaign, using AM and FM radio stations, to promote the *'Fish for the future'* message prior to, and during, the West Coast and Gascoyne recreational fishing season.
- The Branch produced more than 147 separate publications, stickers, posters, signs and brochures to help promote and reinforce marketing and community relations messages to the Department's key stakeholder and customer groups. These included brochures for the Miaboolya Beach, Cottesloe Reef and Lancelin Lagoon Fish Habitat Protection Areas (FHPAs) and anti-pest brochures for the Department's Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program.
- The Branch produced 74 media releases for press, radio and television and supplied the Glen Jakovich and Ashley Prescott newspaper columns, carrying the Department's core sustainability messages to the public each week.
- The Branch helped coordinate the official launch of the Miaboolya FHPA by the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries held in Carnarvon in September. It also assisted with the production of public relations material for the annual Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee coastal tour – an event that promotes the western rock lobster fishery as a world leader in sustainability.
- The Branch provided news and feature stories for all four quarterly editions of *Western Fisheries* magazine and produced and distributed them.
- Environmental messages were carried through the production of a range of materials for the Department's Seafood Quality Management Initiative and included the *Handbook for the On-board Handling of WA Demersal Gillnet Catch*.



People and Communities

The Branch supports the social well-being of the community through a variety of programs and initiatives. During 2003/04, these included:

- Coordination of the Department of Fisheries' annual recreational fishing education campaign, based around the *'Fish for the future'* message, in conjunction with the Recreational Fisheries Program, representatives from the recreational fishing sector, volunteers and contractors.
- Coordination of the production and distribution of four editions of the Western Fisheries magazine. The *'Fish Tales'* section of the magazine is aimed at educating upper primary and high school students about the State's marine and freshwater environments.
- Assisting the Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer (VFLO) program in the production of new fishing products for people with disabilities. The Branch also helped to arrange the 10th birthday celebration for the VFLO program in Fremantle.
- Editing and carrying out the print production of the draft Aboriginal Fishing Strategy (Fisheries Management Paper No. 168). This paper contained a range of recommendations for the recognition and enhancement of economic and social opportunities in WA's fisheries for indigenous people.

Corporate and

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Economy

The Branch assisted the Department to deliver its goals of delivering quality fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic research services and in the sustainable management and development of the State's aquaculture industry. This work included:

- The editing, print production and promotion of a range of materials for the Department's Seafood Quality Management Initiative, aimed at improving the handling of freshly caught fish by commercial fishers. These included *The Western Australian Quality Finfish Guide* and the Handbook for the On-board *Handling of WA Demersal Gillnet Catch*.
- The editing, print and web production, and distribution of the *Proposed Strategy for the Development of the Western Australian Aquaculture Industry - Final Report* (By Zelko Lendich & Associates) and the *Report to the Minister for Fisheries on The Review of Legislative Arrangements in the Aquaculture Industry in Western Australia* (prepared by Anna Ciffolilli).

The Regions

The Branch supported the delivery of the Department's core business in regional WA through the following projects:

- Extensive media training of a range of Department of Fisheries' regional staff, especially key officers working in regional and district offices in Broome, Carnarvon, Fremantle and Albany.
- The development of communications plans for the South Coast, West Coast, Gascoyne and Pilbara/Kimberley regions. In support of these plans the Branch developed a range of printed/web material, including regional fishing booklets and fish identification guides.
- A series of media opportunities were created in the regions for the Department and the Minister at the national Aboriginal Fishing Conference (in Fremantle), the 'Inland Aquaculture' initiative which promoted the production of trout in saline dams and ponds (Narrogin), the

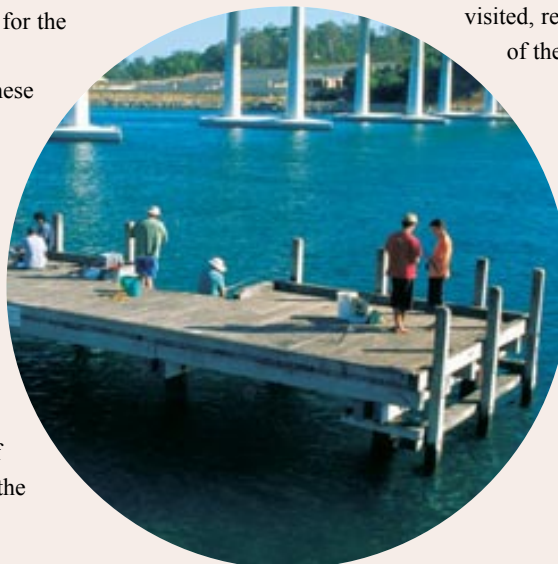
launch of mobile patrols to help compliance with fisheries rules in southern WA (Busselton), a two-day consultation on the effects of trawl fishing on pink snapper stocks in Denham Sound, and the launch of the Miaboolya Beach FHPA (Carnarvon).

Governance

In 2003 a Stakeholder Relations Planning Officer was appointed in the Branch to enable better opportunities for the community to participate in - and make - creative and effective contributions to the Department's management and decision-making processes.

To this end, the Stakeholder Relations Planning Officer began a review with internal and external stakeholders of the Department's consultation processes, drafted the principles for how consultation should be carried out, in collaboration with key external stakeholders, and worked to improve departmental communications and engagement with key external stakeholders.

The Branch improved departmental credibility and accountability through coordinating the redesign and further development of the Department of Fisheries' award-winning website, to maximise its usability and relevance to the community, fishers, aquaculturists and departmental staff. The website receives more than 1.5 million hits per month and is believed to be the most popular government web site in the State. During 2003/04 the aquaculture and children's sections of the website were the most visited, receiving three-quarters of the total hits.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

In addition to those achievements mentioned previously, the following were accomplished:

- Developed and commenced implementation of plans for the public visitor areas of the new departmental research and education centre at Hillarys.
- Coordinated the writing, design and production of the web-based *Annual Report 2002/03*, which won the overall Lonnie Award for the best public sector annual report of the year, plus a 'gold' Lonnie and the AJ Skinner Award for technical achievement.
- Coordinated the Department's involvement in a number of important conferences, events, tours and workshops, and provided supporting educational material for them. These events included the Seafood Directions 2003 conference, the Women's Industry Network for the Seafood Community free workshops, the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee 2003 coastal tour, the Reward and Recognition 2003 Awards for WA's Fisheries, the Mandurah Boat Show 2003, and celebrations of the 10th birthday of the state-wide Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer program.
- Coordinated the production and printing of a suite of publications communicating the changes to recreational fishing rules in the West and Gascoyne Regions. The Branch coordinated the production of documents describing the draft recreational fishing management strategy for the Pilbara/Kimberley and South Coast Regions.
- Coordinated the launch and promotion of the integration of the at-sea patrol services of the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.
- Continued with the creation of new volunteer programs in fisheries research and in the protection of fish and fish habitats.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

- Coordinate the publication, on the web and in an abbreviated book form, of the Department of Fisheries' Strategic Plan 2004/08, containing strong visual elements to improve accessibility.
- Continue the development of the Department's Internet and intranet sites, to maximise their relevance and usability for the community, fishers, aquaculturists and staff.
- Coordinate the consolidation of Glen Jakovich as a spokesman for the '*Fish for the Future*' conservation philosophy for recreational angling.
- Commence the implementation of new volunteer programs in fisheries research and in the protection of fish and fish habitats.
- Coordinate the Department's involvement in a number of important conferences, events, tours and workshops, and provide supporting educational material for them. These events include the World Aquaculture Society conference, 'WA on Show' exhibition, the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee 2004 coastal tour, the Reward and Recognition 2004 Awards for WA's fisheries and the Mandurah Boat Show 2004.
- Coordinate a pilot 'knowledge management' project for the IFM initiative.
- Present a report to the Executive Director on the outcome of stakeholder consultation workshops and make recommendations about the ways in which the Department should carry out stakeholder consultation in the future.
- Establish the new research and education centre at Hillarys as the focal point for public interaction and feedback.

Legislation AND DRAFTING UNIT

The Legislation and Drafting Unit (LDU) is a specialised legislation and drafting unit within the Fisheries Management Services Division.

The LDU constitutes a centre of expertise within the Department. This knowledge asset is a result of the collective experience of the drafting officers and includes expertise developed in distinguishing between legislative (law-making) and executive (decision-making) powers.

In accordance with the objects of the empowering legislation, the LDU provides a strategic role in identifying matters that may impact adversely upon the integrity of the fisheries legislative and policy base.

The LDU provides a number of services to the Minister, the Executive Director, the Director of Fisheries Management Services and other departmental staff. These services include:

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



- Providing advice in respect of amendments to relevant primary legislation that may be consequential to legislation being proposed by another department.
- Providing advice in respect of policy matters and Ministerial Policy Guidelines.

The LDU is able to provide both legal advice regarding legislative proposals and policy advice regarding issues or consequences that may arise from, or be connected to, legislative proposals. Consideration is given to the function and standards of the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and any advice from the State Solicitor's Office.

Following the departure of the former Registrar, the delivery of legal services within the Department is under external review. The structure and role of LDU have been included as a matter for consideration by the review.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The LDU supports the achievement of all five goals of the State Government's Strategic Planning Framework.

The Environment

The LDU contributes to the management, development, sustainability and preservation of the biological diversity of the environment through:

- Implementing government policy in relation to marine parks, as shown by the recent gazettal of Shark Bay Marine Park orders and the current preparation of orders for the Jurien Bay Marine Park, for the protection of ecosystems and their dependent ecological communities.
- The establishment of Fish Habitat Protection Areas (FHPAs) and supporting legislation to manage activities in those areas.
- Rapidly assisting in adaptive management through prompt legislative change where sustainability is an issue.
- Supporting Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) through the implementation of legislation regulating line fishing.

People and Communities

The LDU supports the social well-being of the community through:

- Establishing legislatively, FHPAs based on community consultation and protecting dive sites to ensure high quality social, recreational and tourism experiences.
- A commitment to a rigorous legislative development process, including broad pre-legislative consultation externally as well as within the Department of Fisheries.
- Supporting the development of legislation that deals equitably with members of the community.

The Economy

The LDU contributes to economic outcomes through:

- Providing support to the implementation of transferability and National Competition Policy principles in legislative development.
- Seeking to implement legislation that integrates efficiently with the business reality of the commercial sector, facilitating competition and certainty, including provisions relating to the transfer of authorisations and parts of entitlements.

The Regions

Fishing has a great economic and social significance the State's regional coastal communities. The LDU contributes to regional Western Australia through supporting the transition to IFM and regional natural resource management frameworks including:

- Developing legislative initiatives relating to sustainability.
- Developing legislation that is region-specific to address local or regional issues such as the Cleaverville Beach and Capes Orders, Gascoyne and West Coast regional recreational regulations.
- Establishing and regulating regional FHPAs through community consultation to complement other legislation drafted by the LDU to implement marine parks.
- Working towards more integrated and effective legislation that is easily accessible (including online) and that is fully developed and gazetted in advance of commencement.

Legislation

AND DRAFTING UNIT

Governance

The LDU contributes to governance outcomes through:

- Continuing review of Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangements.
- Consultation in legislative development with industry groups, fishers and Management Advisory Committees.
- Adhering to established drafting principles and conventions.
- Commitment to transparency and accountability of legislation development, including support for the role of Parliament and its Joint Standing Committee in delegated legislation.
- Supporting the development of legislation and administration that best delivers proper and efficient administration (including statutory delegations, approved forms and Ministerial Policy Guidelines).
- Setting new standards for, and higher levels of, delivery in fisheries subsidiary legislation produced - including review and repeal of obsolete legislation.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- The drafting and gazettal of the *Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Shark Bay Marine Park) Order 2004* and the Prohibition on Recreational Fishing (Shark Bay Marine Park) Order 2004 and the drafting and gazettal of the new interim Management Plans for the West Coast Estuarine Fishery and the state-wide Mackerel Fishery.
- The completion of the work for the gazettal of the *Regional Recreational Regulations (Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 8) 2003)* regulating the West Coast and Gascoyne regions.
- The LDU has conducted a number of training seminars throughout the State to assist the Department of Fisheries' staff in understanding fisheries legislation and in particular, the rules applying to subsidiary legislation development and the process by which policy ideas are most efficiently transformed into effective legal rules. The LDU has maintained a 'continuous improvement' focus in respect of the Subsidiary Legislation Development Guide. Suggested improvements are routinely documented and presented to the Director of Fisheries Management Services for consideration.
- A review of statutory delegations was completed and a register and policy produced to ensure the Department's delegations remain relevant and valid. Transfer and variation forms were also redrafted to more directly address proper industry and Government requirements.
- The LDU has continued to play a lead role in issues relating to access to legislation and is assisting in improving public and internal access to current and unofficially consolidated subsidiary fisheries legislation, as well as reviewing and repealing obsolete legislation.
- The LDU provided key strategic and legal advice in relation to the development of IFM in the context of an Ecologically Sustainable Development framework.
- The items of the legislation completed and instruments gazetted during the year are set out in Appendix 4.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

Subject to the outcome of the legal services review and an identified 20 per cent reduction in staffing levels from 2004/05 onwards, the LDU plans to:

- Prepare and implement more marine parks legislation and develop Cocos and Christmas Island legislation.
- Develop and implement regional recreational fishing regulations for the South Coast and Pilbara/Kimberley regions.
- Provide further training seminars for Department of Fisheries staff involved in the development of legislation. These are intended to assist staff in understanding the legislation process, the rules applying to legislation development (both primary and subsidiary legislation) and the process by which policy ideas are efficiently transformed into effective legal rules.
- Continue to review issues relating to access to legislation with a view to improving public and internal access to current and unofficially consolidated fisheries legislation, as well as continuing the review and repeal of obsolete legislation.
- Implement the Ministerial Policy Guide and Primary Legislation Development Guide (previously developed and prepared by the LDU), including identification of potential amendments to the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.
- Support the implementation of IFM principles and the development and gazettal of preliminary legislation providing for the effective resource allocation amongst competing user groups and regulating line fishing activities.



Licensing

VISION

To be acknowledged by our clients as providers of a most professional fisheries licensing and registry service.

MISSION

To provide Government, industry and the wider community with an efficient, accurate and cost-effective licensing and registry service.

The Licensing Branch is responsible for the management of licensing services for Western Australia's aquaculture, pearling and commercial fishing industries as well as for recreational fishing.

The core business areas of the 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:
 - Granting and renewal of fish processing, aquaculture, pearling, commercial and recreational fishing licences;
 - Transfer and variation of fish processing, aquaculture, pearling and commercial fishing licences; and
 - Notation, removal and variation of security interest notations on the Register.
- Management of the renewal notice process for fish processing, aquaculture, pearling, commercial and recreational fishing licences.

The licensing process is managed under the computer-based Fisheries Licensing and Management System (FLAMS) which is located at Head Office, Perth.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Branch supports the achievement of all five goals of the State Government's Strategic Planning Framework.

The Environment

The Branch supports the work of the Department by ensuring the integrity of the Licence Register through the grant, renewal, transfer and variation of licences and permits.

The FLAMS and Licence Register are the underlying platforms for fisheries management and compliance, and are the core components in policy initiatives including Integrated Fisheries Management and Ecologically Sustainable Development.

People and Communities and the Regions

The Branch supports the social well-being of the wider community through:

- Providing the WA Government, industry and the wider community with an efficient accurate and cost-effective licensing and registry service.
- Improving processing times in the consideration of commercial and recreational fishery licence applications.
- Providing greater access to the community for the grant and renewal of recreational fishing licences through the Internet, other agencies and Department of Fisheries' offices.
- Providing training for regional offices in the provision of licensing services and the operation of FLAMS.

The Economy

A major objective of the Branch is to process commercial licence applications in a timely manner and to maintain the accuracy and validity of FLAMS and the Licence Register for the better interest of the fishing industry and wider community.

An accurate FLAMS and Licence Register:

- Provides the basis for fisheries management and the preservation of our fish stocks.
- Protects the fishing rights of licence holders and investors.
- Ensures the continued lending confidence of financial institutions against licences.

Governance

The Licensing Branch supports governance outcomes through:

The Licensing Branch continues to explore more efficient ways to manage its service delivery. The introduction of an internal tracking system to monitor commercial applications lodged with the Department for consideration, will lead to a reduction in processing times.

- Consideration of applications in accordance with the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* and subsidiary legislation.
- Management of FLAMS and the Licence Register.
- Annual performance reporting and contribution to the Department's Annual Report.
- Annual auditing of the Licensing Branch function, systems and processes.

RECREATIONAL FISHING

More than 65,500 varying combinations of recreational fishing licences were issued during 2003/04.

To maintain service delivery with the objective of decreasing costs, the Licensing Branch continues to explore alternative licensing service outlets.

In September 2001 the renewal of recreational fishing licences went 'live' on the Department of Fisheries' website in conjunction with WA Fast Pay. As of June 2004, a total of 5,536 licences were renewed on the Internet, compared to the previous reporting period total of 4,215.

It is anticipated that when the grant of new licences also goes live on the Internet later this year more significant savings will be made in recreational fishing licensing expenditure.

COMMERCIAL LICENSING

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

The introduction of the renewal of commercial licences at regional offices in November 2001 has provided greater flexibility to licence holders leading up to the commencement date of their respective fisheries.

Amendments to managed fishery plans and fisheries legislation are ongoing. To give effect to these changes it is necessary to modify FLAMS and amend and reassess application forms and the way the Branch conducts its business with the commercial fishing industry. Commercial licence application forms are now available on the Department of Fisheries website.

The number of applications lodged continues to rise in line with fishing business activity.

AQUACULTURE LICENSING

There has been a moderate increase in the number of aquaculture licences issued during 2003/04 (See Table 7).

**TABLE 5: DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
AQUACULTURE LICENCE STATISTICS**

Year	2003/04
Freehold	354
Non-freehold	115
TOTAL	469

There are currently six new applications being considered for freehold land-based sites and four applications for non-freehold sites (all sea based).

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- Development of an internal tracking system to monitor commercial licence applications received by the Department. The new tracking system should lead to a reduction in application processing times.
- A licensing workshop was conducted with commercial licence brokers and fisheries cooperative representatives on various aspects relating to stamp duty provisions and the lodgment of the Department's commercial licence applications.
- Commercial licensing application forms have now been reviewed and are available on the Department of Fisheries website.
- The implementation of licensing arrangements for the Cocos (Keeling) and Christmas Islands Territories.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/2005

- Licensing and Register facility to be established at the new Hillary's customer service centre.
- Introduction of the granting of recreational fishing licences on the Department of Fisheries' website.
- Continued management of the renewal notice process for fish processing, aquaculture, pearling, commercial and recreational fishing licences.

Registrar and OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

VISION

To be acknowledged by our clients as providers of a most professional fisheries registry service.

MISSION

To provide Government, industry and the wider community with an efficient, accurate and cost-effective registry service..

Functions

The Registrar's primary function is to keep a register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases, pursuant to Part 12 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA). Officers of the

Licensing Branch under the authority and direction of the Registrar perform day-to-day registry operations.

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.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Registrar supports the achievement of several of the goals of the State

Government's *Strategic Planning Framework*.

People and Communities

The register, kept by the Registrar, provides a record of a number of Aboriginal fishing initiatives that have required exemptions from the FRMA to facilitate fishing activity.

The Economy

The Registrar contributes to economic outcomes by providing a research tool for investors and others:

- For the acquisition and disposal of licences.
- For matching data on the register with other data.
- For market research.

The Regions

To provide improved service delivery to the regions, the register has been made available for inspection by the public, during normal business hours, at the Department's offices in Geraldton and Fremantle.

Governance

The Registrar supports governance outcomes through:

- Annual reporting.
- The provision of certificates in proceedings for offences under the FRMA.
- Recording of convictions for prescribed offences under the FRMA.
- Maintaining the accuracy and integrity of the information recorded on the register.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- The development of proposals for a register function in the new pearling legislation.

INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

- The reviewing of the Office of Registrar to improve service efficiency and quality.
- Undertaking a review of fees for extracts from the register.
- Providing assistance to the Strategic Planning and Policy Branch in the development of a unit entitlement register for commercial fisheries with a focus initially on the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.
- Managing issues that have been identified concerning recording the holder's name on the register (for example, trading names and deceased estates).



The statutory role of the Registrar is to keep a register of specified details of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases that is accurate, reliable, of evidential quality and accessible to the public at reasonable cost.



THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Functions

General Counsel has three main functions.

- The provision of strategic and operational legal advice and legal policy to the Minister, Executive Director 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 Department's activities.
- Management of litigation in which the Department is the defendant or plaintiff.
- Management of the Fisheries Objection Tribunal process.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

General Counsel supports the achievement of the goals of the State Government's Strategic Planning Framework.

The Environment

General Counsel supports economic outcomes through:

- Drafting of the *Fish for the Future Foundation* document for the Foundation, a company, limited by guarantee, for the principal purpose of attracting tax-effective donations for the promotion of environmentally-relevant activities.
- The provision of strategic legal advice on matters concerning biodiversity, conservation and bioprospecting.
- Providing comments on the Agriculture Bill for inclusion in the Department's response on the Bill and on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's discussion document on the *Land Administration Act*.
- Involvement in issues concerning the Minister's role as land manager of the Abrolhos Islands Reserve with the responsibilities designated by Land Management Order.

People and Communities

General Counsel supports the social-well being of the community through:

- The provision of strategic legal advice on development of an Aboriginal Fishing Strategy.
- The provision of day-to-day legal advice on commercial fishing ventures by Aboriginal groups and settling of exemptions.

The Economy

General Counsel supports economic outcomes through:

- Contributing to the Department's response to the draft reports by the reviewers of the legislative arrangements in the aquaculture industry and the proposed strategy for the development of the Western Australian aquaculture industry.
- The procurement of advice that will assist management of fishing tour operators and gave impetus to implementing National Competition Policy in WA fisheries legislation.
- Supporting the Strategic Planning and Policy Branch in implementing a framework to identify and protect intellectual property developed in the Department of Fisheries.

The Regions

General Counsel assists in meeting this goal through:

- The provision of legal advice and drafting services on matters that have a regional focus, for example the development of more permanent tenure arrangements at the Abrolhos Islands for fishers who hold a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence in Zone A of the fishery.
- Providing legal advice to the Commercial Fisheries Program in the management of fisheries that have a regional and/or lifestyle focus.

Governance

General Counsel supports better governance outcomes through:

- Input into the submission by the Department in respect of the inquiry into a Statutory Management Authority.
- The provision of legal advice in the development of legally effective fisheries and pearling legislation; in the application of current legislation; on options for changes to legislation; and on interaction with other State, Territory and Commonwealth legislation.

Registrar and

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

- Attendance at Government Lawyer group meetings to develop network of contacts in other government departments and statutory management authorities for consultation and discussion purposes.
- Meeting with the State Solicitor at least annually to discuss legal service delivery and quality issues.
- Assisting Branches and Programs within the Department of Fisheries with the development of Ministerial Policy Guidelines that provide a framework for exercise of the Executive Director's discretion in licensing matters.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2003/04

- Assisting the Corporate and Community Relations Branch with the development of the Department's consultation principles, which will provide citizens with greater opportunity for consultation and involvement in decision-making in fisheries matters.
- Obtaining legal advice on national competition principles that had a positive effect on the Department's process for assessing legislative proposals against national competition policy.
- Repealing Part 14 Division 2 of the FRMA and consequential provisions to facilitate creation of aquaculture leases.
- Providing input to the legislation amending the *Port Authorities Act 1999*.
- Clarifying aspects of the legislation regulating fishing tour operators.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

- Implementing a review of the Office of General Counsel to improve efficiency and quality of service.
- Implementing recommendations from the review.
- Assisting the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program to provide security of tenure at the Abrolhos Islands to commercial rock lobster fishers holding Zone A licences in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.

FISHERIES OBJECTIONS TRIBUNAL

Functions

The primary function of a Fisheries Objections Tribunal is to hear and determine objections to a proposed licensing decision of the Executive Director that has been referred to the Tribunal by the Minister pursuant to Part 14 of the FRMA.

A Tribunal appointed by the Minister hears the matter afresh and makes its own decision about the matter. A decision of the Tribunal is final and the Executive Director must give effect to it.

The Fisheries Objections Tribunal is not a standing tribunal. The Minister appoints one or more members (up to three) to hear a matter. In practice, only one member has been appointed to hear a matter to date.

A part-time clerk to the Tribunal provides the communication link between Tribunal members, objectors and the Tribunal Legal Officer whose function is to manage the caseload and represent the Executive Director at conferences and hearings. The clerk and Tribunal Legal Officer report to General Counsel.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Fisheries Objections Tribunal supports four of the aims of the *Strategic Planning Framework*.

People and Communities

The Tribunal supports the well-being of the community through:

- Providing a less formal system than the court process for review of administrative decisions by the Executive Director and his delegates.
- Objectors are able to put their case without legal representation, if they choose. The Tribunal assists objectors to identify information relevant to the matter and adopts an inquisitorial approach to questioning.
- Affordability to those who need to use the service.

The Economy

The Tribunal supports economic outcomes:

- By providing a valuable low cost forum for determining appeals to administrative decisions under the FRMA.
- Through decisions of the Tribunal, for example in relation to appeals for fishing tour operator licences, which have provided a measure of consistency in application of the criteria for entry to the industry.

The Regions

The Tribunal supports regional outcomes through:

- A criterion that is relevant to the grant of certain licences is the better interest of the industry. This often has a regional component.
- The facility to conduct preliminary conferences by telephone, hear witness evidence by phone and occasionally to hold hearings in regional centres provides improved service delivery to the regions.

Governance

The Tribunal supports better governance through:

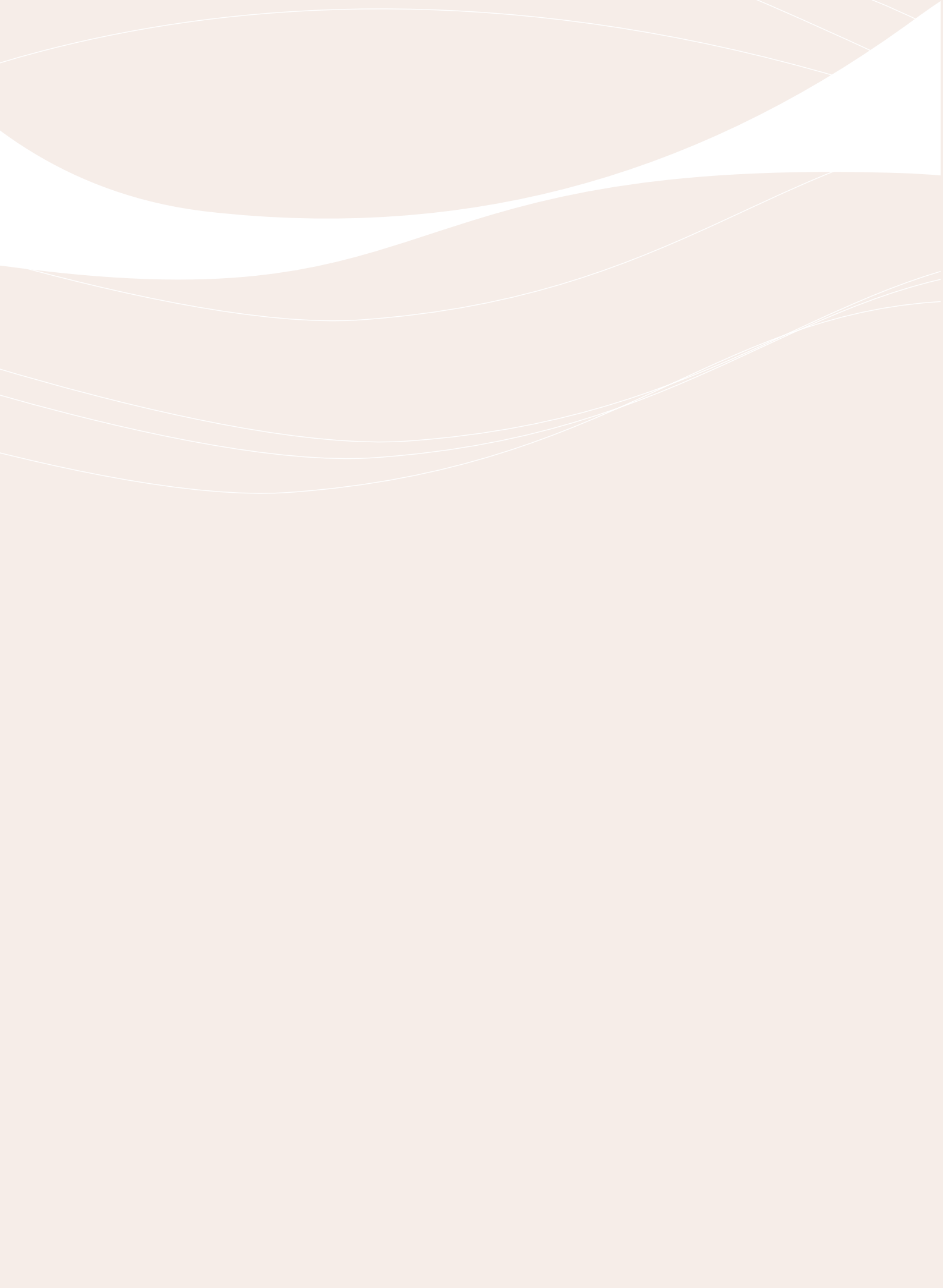
- Applying careful scrutiny to the Executive Director's decisions and the reasons for those decisions.
- The beneficial effect of scrutiny on the quality of administrative decisions, as well as providing independent assessment of the decisions.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- The Department lodged a submission with the Standing Committee on Legislation in the Legislative Council on the *State Administrative Tribunal Bill (SAT)*.
- The Tribunal handed down all but one of the decisions relating to fishing tour objections lodged following the introduction of the fishing tour licensing legislation.
- The Tribunal Legal Officer has provided drafting instructions to the Ministry for Justice on the impact of SAT on the FRMA, the *Pearling Act 1990* and other legislation under the Department's control.
- The Tribunal Legal Officer assisted in settling drafting instructions for the appeals process in the proposals for a new Pearling Bill.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

- Implementing new internal procedures for SAT.
- Clearing long-standing matters.



Report on Corporate Services

Customer Service Council

Regional Customer Service

Services to People with disability

Human Resources and Staff relations

Capital Works Program



Customer Service

COUNCIL

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

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.

'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 is described in its Feedback Management Policy and related documents.'

INTRODUCTION

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, policy and procedures.

Consisting of senior Department of Fisheries' staff and representatives from peak industry and recreational fishing groups, the Customer Service Council was instrumental in the development of a customer service charter which established

procedures for the effective management and resolution of complaints and feedback by members of the public.

The charter, known as the Feedback Management Policy, meets the criteria for effective Complaints Handling laid down by the Australian Standard (AS 4269-1995).

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

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

FEEDBACK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

During the 2002/03 financial year, the Department's online Feedback Management System was introduced.

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

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

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



Overview 2003/04

Between the implementation date and 30 June 2004, a total of 51 items of feedback have been submitted through the Feedback Management System. This is broken down into 36 compliments, seven suggestions and eight complaints.

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

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

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

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

As a result of feedback the following major actions were undertaken:

- An investigation into the availability of credit card facilities at all district offices.
- All Department of Fisheries brochures now carry a publication date.
- Completion of the review of the customer service feedback system and the commencement of staff training in its operation.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

- Completion of the Feedback Management System review by the Customer Relations Manager.
- The Customer Service Council to progress review recommendations.
- Timely resolution for disabled access to the Bunbury District Office.



Regional


CUSTOMER SERVICES

Objective 1:

Regional customers have equitable access to the services provided.

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

This network of regional and district offices ensures that operational and research staff from the Department of Fisheries are available to provide advice on local commercial fishing, recreational fishing and aquaculture activities.



Each office is a distribution point for a comprehensive range of Department of Fisheries' pamphlets and brochures. Additional information can be posted out as required. Regional customers are also able to obtain information on fishing from the Department of Fisheries' award-winning website.

Since the renewal of recreational fishing licences went 'live' on the Internet through WA Fast Pay, regional customers have had access to this potentially more convenient method of renewing licences. In 2003/04, a total of 5,536 licences were renewed on the Internet.

It is anticipated that new recreational licences will be able to be provided on the Internet later this year. This will further assist regional customers to access the Department's services equitably. Commercial licensees have been able to renew their licences at regional offices since November 2001.

The Licence Register went 'live' for inspection at the Geraldton and Fremantle Regional Offices in December 2002. The new inspection sites provided greater access for regionally-based commercial boat brokers and the general public, in addition to the site located at the head office in Perth.

The Department's activities in a particular region are actively promoted through local media and, where possible, at regional fairs and expos. Regional publications, relating to management changes affecting a particular area, may also be drafted locally.

Regional customers requiring information and services appreciate the face-to-face contact with Fisheries and Marine Officers, regional policy officers, clerical officers, Regional Managers and Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLOs), both in the field and through the Department of Fisheries' network of five regional and 13 district offices.

Regional staff also provide essential executive support for the Department's community consultative processes, such as the Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees, which operate in 13 regional centres. Table 5 in the Regional Services Branch section shows Department of Fisheries staff and volunteers in regional areas.

Regional communities are also able to access initiatives such as the FISHCARE WA grants. In 2003/04 FISHCARE WA provided grants for projects in Gingin, Kalbarri, Exmouth, Kulin, Rottneest Island, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Albany, the Kimberley and Manjimup.

Indigenous Western Australians from regional Western Australia will also be the major beneficiaries of the outcomes of the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy, which looks at customary fishing arrangements on a bioregional basis.

Objective 2:

Regional customers are informed of the services available to them.

The commitment to provide ongoing media training for regional staff to enhance their skills and abilities to use regional media for the dissemination of the Department of Fisheries' messages was continued this year. In 2003/04 Departmental staff from Broome, Carnarvon, Fremantle and Albany participated in media training programs provided by the Department, to enhance their expertise in providing information through the local media.

The Department of Fisheries uses regional radio advertisements and regional newspaper columns to promote fisheries management rules and the *'Fish for the future'* conservation ethic. These communications encourage customers to refer to local Department of Fisheries' offices as points-of-contact for additional information.

All of the Department's publications and its website contain contact details of regional offices, which can provide further information to customers.

The appointment of Community Education Officers in the Perth metropolitan and southern regions, have ensured a proactive approach to communication and capacity building within the community. These officers develop strategic education initiatives promoting the *'Fish for the future'* message and work with a wide variety of stakeholders by delivering information, advice, presentations and workshops. Based in the regions, Community Education Officers offer a strong link between education and compliance programs and develop strategies specific to their region.

In 2003/04 the Department supported a series of workshops, coordinated by the Women's Industry Network for the Seafood Community, which provided business skills to women in the agricultural sector who are working with the seafood industry. These sessions were held in Albany, Fremantle, Geraldton and Carnarvon.

In 2003/04 the VFLO Fishers with Disabilities program was successfully expanded into the southern region, with workshops conducted in Bunbury and Albany.



The Department also continues to promote and respond to the 24-hour freecall 'Fishwatch' service for the reporting of illegal fishing activities.

Additionally, the Department's website:

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au> provides a comprehensive coverage of the services and facilities available to clients in the regions.

Objective 3:

Your organisation used regional suppliers.

The Department of Fisheries supports the 'buy local' policy.

Staff actively seek quotations from local suppliers whenever products or services are purchased. If quotations are competitive, local suppliers are given preference. The Department is now a registered buyer with the Government Electronic Market. This system directs buyers to local suppliers in the first instance and is used by the Department's metropolitan and regional offices.

Local purchases have ranged from stationery and electronic supplies to vehicle replacements. The Department routinely uses regional suppliers to provide operational equipment, such as vessels, trailers, dive equipment and outboard motors. Regional suppliers are also preferred in the provision of service and repairs to patrol vessels and the purchasing of fuel and oils. Additionally, office renovation and maintenance contracts are administered, and cleaning services provided, on a local basis. Local service providers are also sourced to carry out maintenance activities at the Department's aquaculture parks located in Albany and Broome.

Recreational research surveys recruit and use local staff on a part-time casual basis to perform duties within regional areas.

Regional

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Objective 4:

Your organisation consulted with regional communities about effects of proposed changes.

Consultation is important within the Department of Fisheries and each of the Department's four program areas – recreational fisheries, commercial fisheries, pearling and aquaculture, and fish and fish habitat protection – have established mechanisms for carrying out consultation with regional communities when there are changes proposed to fisheries management in their areas.

Community advice to the Recreational Fisheries Branch on operational planning and operational priorities is provided through the RFAC and a network of 13 Regional RFACs, along with the peak recreational fishing body Recfishwest and the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.

Additional advice on specific management issues is provided to the Recreational Fisheries Branch through community-based working groups and public submissions collated during planning processes and informally via VFLO activities.

Similarly, with regard to the Department's Commercial Fisheries Branch, there are Management Advisory Committees that provide a local industry contribution into the development and maintenance of fisheries management plans for the major fisheries around the State. Some of the staff responsible for these management plans are located in regional areas, ensuring the Department's clients in them have access to policy staff.

Local communities are invited to comment on aquaculture licence applications through the Department's Pearling and Aquaculture Branch, before licences are granted. Proposals for conserving fish habitats, such as through the creation of Fish Habitat Protection Areas, are wholly developed in close consultation with local communities by the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Branch – and usually come from within the community.

Objective 5:

Supported local planning processes.

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

These groups cover the broad range of local area interest, including:

- Shark Bay World Heritage Property Community Consultative Committee.
- Marine Park Working Groups.
- Regional Intelligence Committees.
- Illicit Drug Facts Advisory Groups.
- Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees.
- Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers.
- Harbour Marine Advisory Committees.
- The District and Local Emergency Advisory Committees.

Department of Fisheries staff are members of, or attend meetings arranged by, the following groups:

- Shark Bay World Heritage Property Consultative Committee.
- Batavia Coast Planning Review.
- Albany Harbours Planning Committee.
- Albany Small Boat Harbour Reference Group.
- Wilson Inlet Management Advisory Group.
- South Coast Management Group.
- Government Officers Technical Advisory Group.
- Cockburn Sound Co-Management Committee.
- Port Kennedy Management Board.



REPORT ON OPERATIONS –
DEPARTMENT OUTPUTS

REPORT ON OPERATIONS –
DEPARTMENT SERVICES

REPORT ON
CORPORATE SERVICES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

APPENDICES

Services

TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

DISABILITY SERVICES PLAN

The State Government introduced the *Disability Services Act 1993* to ensure that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as other members of the Western Australian community.

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

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

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

The Disability Services Plan has enabled the Department to meet a series of objectives:

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

Tailored recreational fishing workshops are provided by Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLOs) throughout the State specifically for people with a disability. Perth metropolitan VFLOs are also training other groups around the State in the use of specialised fishing equipment for people with disabilities.



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

Neville Thomas, a VFLO who developed the specialist recreational fishing equipment for people with a disability, continues to develop equipment to enable fishers to not only reel in their catch themselves, but to also cast the line independently. This program has now been adopted by fisheries agencies across Australia.

The Department of Fisheries has three representatives on the Fishers with Disabilities Association Incorporated, a group which has a goal of increasing recreational fishing access for people with disabilities.

- *Access to buildings and facilities is improved.*

The Department of Fisheries has maintained access to its offices and facilities around the State. The design for extension and refurbishment of the Bunbury District office is well advanced and will incorporate improved disabled access. The new Research and Education Centre under construction at Hillarys will improve access to research and education resources, including the State's leading marine reference library.

Through its VFLO program, the Department of Fisheries is also working with a number of local government authorities to improve access to recreational fishing sites and to toilet facilities at those locations.

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

S N A P S H O T

The Department continued to enhance its services to encourage participation in recreational fishing by people with a disability. All previous strategies continued throughout the year and a new initiative saw three departmental representatives appointed to the Fishers with Disabilities Association. Ross Gould is the Association's secretary, Rae Burrows joins as a member and Alison Fleming is its permanent vice-chair.



The schematic design for a new Marine Operation Centre in Fremantle will have enhancements in accessibility and facilities, particularly for those people with a disability.

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

The Department of Fisheries is committed to continually improve the information dissemination processes. For example, the Department's website is now 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's monthly internal newsletter *Bottom Line* continues to meet the needs of staff with visual impairments.

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

Department of Fisheries staff and volunteers undergo training in working with disabled people and participate in the Fishers with Disabilities program.

In the Perth metropolitan area, there were 28 workshops in 2003/04 with 531 participants (including carers).

- *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. Through initiatives such as the Fishers with Disabilities program, the Department receives suggestions on how to best tailor its services to adequately meet the needs of those people with a disability.

Human Resources

AND STAFF RELATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Fisheries' approved annual staffing level for the year was the equivalent of 407 full-time employees, with the average staffing level being the equivalent of 400 full-time employees.

TABLE 6: DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES PERMANENT AND FIXED TERM EMPLOYEES (BY CLASSIFICATION, LEVEL AND GENDER) AS AT 30 JUNE 2004

Level	Female	Male	Total Employees
1	38 (39)	29 (22)	67 (61)
2	35 (36)	63 (66)	98 (102)
2/4	3 (1)	3 (1)	6 (2)
3	19 (21)	62 (58)	81 (79)
4	13 (13)	38 (34)	51 (47)
5	10 (8)	19 (17)	29 (25)
6	7 (8)	22 (22)	29 (30)
7	3 (3)	13 (12)	16 (15)
8	2 (2)	17 (16)	19 (18)
9	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Class I & above	0 (0)	3 (3)	3 (3)
TOTAL	130 (131)	269 (251)	399 (382)

Figures in brackets denote comparative figures at 30 June 2003

STAFF RELATIONS

In July 2003, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's (DPI) marine operations function was transferred to the Department of Fisheries, along with a number of its marine operations staff. The transferred staff have satisfactorily integrated within the Regional Services Branch and their move resulted in a change of name for the Department's enforcement group to 'Fisheries and Marine Officers'. Partly as a consequence of the transfer, the Department of Fisheries undertook a restructure of the Regional Services Branch in 2003/04. The restructure is expected to be completed early in 2004/05.

The Agency Specific Agreement negotiated with the Civil Service Association, on behalf of employees, has now been operating successfully for 12 months and is due to be renewed

in December 2004. This agreement covered modifications to award overtime allowances for Technical Officers working in the field, annualised hours for Fisheries and Marine Officers and a range of other matters. The annualised hours agreement, which enables hours to be calculated on an annual basis (including weekends and public holidays), has provided opportunities for the Fisheries and Marine Officers to work additional hours during peak seasonal activity and work reduced hours or have 'time off' out of season.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Occupational Safety and Health policy review and development is one of the key tasks of the Human Resource Branch.

The Department's Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Committee plays an important role in addressing occupational safety and health issues impacting on the Department and in ensuring staff are kept informed on OSH issues being addressed by the Committee.

The Committee has been very active over the past year with the Department allocating greater resources to the OSH function. An OSH Bulletin, published every two months following each committee meeting, provides information on issues arising from the meeting and is widely distributed to all staff members.

Two of the key OSH policies reviewed by the committee this year were the Department's Marine Operations Safety Policy and Manual, and its Diving Policy and Manual. The Marine Operations Safety Manual is a tool used by all staff who work in the vicinity of the marine environment, particularly for those who work at-sea. The manual outlines the safety and health requirements of employees working in marine operations and aims to set a high standard throughout the Department.

The committee received valuable input from the DPI Marine Safety Officers in reviewing sections relating to marine safety at-sea and compliance with the Marine Act. The OSH Committee continues to review a range of policies formulated to ensure safe work practices throughout the Department.



The number of workers' compensation claims lodged with the Department has increased from last year. There were 17 claims for the year, 10 of which resulted in lost time. Many departmental staff work at sea in often unpredictable and unstable conditions and the increase in claims and lost time injuries can be attributed to a couple of incidents at sea. In general, however, the number of claims and injuries is decreasing, which is reflected by the Department's workers' compensation premium. The Department's Human Resource Branch has continued to focus on early intervention strategies to ensure that employees receive the assistance they need to make a speedy recovery from work-related injuries or personal illness.

TABLE 7: DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM HISTORY 2000/04

Year	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Total Claims	23	16	12	17
Lost Time Injuries	7	9	4	10
Lost Time Hours Per Million Hours Worked	6960.60	5418.30	1618.90	6023.30
W/C Premium \$ 000	338	482*	568**	(357)***

* The Workers Compensation premium for 2001/02 comprises the premium rate of \$310,730 plus an arrears adjustment from 97/98 of \$171,537 resulting in a total premium of \$482,267.

** The Workers Compensation premium for 2002/03 comprises the premium rate of \$235,811 plus an arrears adjustment from 97/98 of \$332,664 resulting in a total premium of \$568,475.

*** The Workers Compensation premium for 2003/04 comprises the premium rate of \$226,811 plus an arrears adjustment from 99/00 of \$584,517. The Department has been credited \$357,706 from RiskCover for the 2003/04 workers compensation premium.

Human Resources

AND STAFF RELATIONS

CORPORATE TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP

The Department of Fisheries has completed the third and final year of a three-year corporate leadership and management program, originally designed to maximise the Department's flexibility to cope with increasing public sector change.

The program has broadened to include a number of corporate training initiatives that focus on training middle management and other staff in anticipation of future promotional opportunities as well as whole-of-government reform.

A report on each of the corporate training initiatives undertaken this year follows.

Supervisor Development

The Department's Level 2 to Level 4 officers were invited to express interest in completing a competency-based supervisor development program. Four officers completed the program in 2003/04 and another four are completing a Certificate III in Business, which links to core frontline management competencies.

Diploma in Business

A number of staff participated in a management program that enabled them to achieve 11 frontline management competencies. The program, jointly developed by Monash University and Mt Eliza School of Management, allows participants to gain an understanding of the academic and theoretical basis of management principles as well as practical application. Eight officers completed the units required for a Diploma in Business (Frontline Management) in 2003/04.

Certificate III in the Seafood Industry (Fisheries Compliance)

The Department of Fisheries and Challenger TAFE have developed an arrangement whereby Fisheries and Marine Officers can achieve the Certificate III in the Seafood Industry (Fisheries Compliance) qualification. This process involves the recognition of competencies (skills recognition) and prior learning (credit transfer). The skills, knowledge, experience and qualifications officers have developed through their work is assessed to prove their competency in various units. At present, one-third of the Fisheries and Marine Officers have gained the qualification.

Executive Development Program

In addition to the training courses outlined above, the Department has continued with an Executive Development Program for approximately 20 senior managers to ensure a high standard in senior staff, and the development and sharing of corporate knowledge. To date, the group has undertaken a range of tests to determine their individual strengths and development needs. Training has subsequently been delivered to assist in their professional and personal development. This training, consistent with the SES competency framework, is scheduled to continue over the coming year.

Corporate Training Plan

The Department is currently developing and implementing a Corporate Training Plan for the next three years. The success of the training initiatives described in the previous paragraphs has resulted in a number of staff developing greater skills, knowledge and experience to enable them to perform their current jobs more effectively and efficiently and to be more competitive for promotional or acting opportunities (succession planning). The Department's training output now needs to continue under the Corporate Training Plan with a view to increasing the focus on training to prepare for the continuing change facing the Department.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO)

EEO and Diversity Management Plan 2002/05

The Department of Fisheries' *EEO and Diversity Management Plan 2002/05* is designed to achieve a 'culture that celebrates diversity' within the agency. The EEO and Diversity Action Plan was developed in 2003 to illustrate how the Department will fulfil the requirements of the plan. In 2003/04 we have updated the action plan to reflect the progress the Department has made in achieving the specified outcomes. The Department is on target to achieve the 2005 EEO and diversity objectives set in the Plan.

Grievance and Contact Officers

Early in 2004, staff were invited to nominate or re-nominate for the positions of Grievance and Contact Officers. All the existing Grievance and Contact Officers expressed an interest in continuing in the role and a number of other staff volunteered for the role.

EEO and Diversity

The EEO Committee reviewed the Department's Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Policy in 2003/04 and set itself an objective to promote EEO and diversity through publications like the Department's internal newsletter, *Bottom Line*, and on posters to be distributed throughout the Department.

In addition, over the past couple of years the Department has adopted a series of innovative advertising methods to attract a culturally diverse range of applicants, in particular female and indigenous Australian applicants.

In 2003/04 this has seen the number of females applying for Fisheries and Marine Officers increase by 200 per cent. For this year's intake of Fisheries and Marine Officers, candidates

were required to complete an online application. The online application process included a facility to accelerate indigenous applicants through the online screening process.

During the past year the Department established affiliations with employment agencies (specifically DEAFinite Society) that assist people with disabilities to gain employment. Short-term positions in various regional offices have been filled with people who have a disability and are seeking some practical work experience.

Recently the Department also formed a relationship with Disability Works, an agency that provides the Department with a network of employment agencies for people with disabilities throughout Western Australia.

LONG -SERVING FISHERIES STAFF

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

20 years +		30 years+	40 years +
Theo Berden	Graeme Hall	Derek Blackman	Eric Barker
Chris Bird	Paul Hillier	John Breeden	
Stuart Blight	Barry Jones	Nick Caputi	
Paul Boase	Tony Lemmon	Kevin Carhart	
Gary Brown	Eric Loughton	George Cassells	
Laurie Caporn	Gordon Lymn	Alex Cechner	
Tony Cappelluti	Tom Morris	Tony Goadby	
Rod Casey	John Mutter	Peter Johnsen	
Chris Chubb	Shane O'Donoghue	Lindsay Joll	
Tony Church	Phil Readhead	Phil Kelly	
Mark Cliff	Mark Rossbach	Bob Kirk	
Kerry Colwell	Neil Sarti	Kerry Knapp	
Mike Cranley	Gerry Segers	Rod Lenanton	
Kevin Donohue	Phil Shaw	John Looby	
Laurie Edwards	Errol Sporer	Jim Penn	
Greg Finlay	Bruce Stevenson	Peter Rogers	
Ken Gittens	Robert Tregonning	Peter Willey	
Peter Godfrey	Bruce Webber	John Williams	

Human Resources

AND STAFF RELATIONS

The Department of Fisheries also wishes to acknowledge those hard-working members of staff who contribute to the community in their spare time. Many of our staff volunteer to assist with children's sport, fire and emergency services, and aged care. Thank you for your efforts.

ENERGY SMART GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

The Government's 'Energy Smart' initiative, Sustainable Energy for the Future Policy, aims to create direct and lasting savings in greenhouse gas emissions across government and to establish energy efficiency as a basis for effective management of government assets. The Energy Smart policy contributes to these aims by realising ongoing savings in agency energy operating budgets and publicly reporting on those energy savings and the consequent greenhouse gas emissions.

The policy is an opportunity to make real and ongoing energy cost savings within all State Government agencies, achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and create jobs in the sustainable energy industry.

Monitoring government energy use has enabled appropriate benchmarks to be set, opportunities to be identified and improvements to be published. Along with other participating agencies the Department of Fisheries is required to achieve a 12 per cent reduction in stationary energy consumption by 2006/07. Annual energy reduction milestones of five per cent, six per cent, eight per cent, 10 per cent and 12 per cent from the 2001/02 baseline year have been established for the years 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2003/04

- The Department has achieved the 2003/04 target of six per cent. Future targets, however, will be more difficult to achieve as the building infrastructure of the Department expands. Of particular significance will be the addition of the new \$16 million Research and Education Centre now under construction at Hillarys.

Energy Executive

In order to coordinate the implementation of the Energy Smart policy the Department established an Energy Management Committee.

In accordance with its reporting commitments under the Energy Smart Government policy, the Department of Fisheries has submitted the following return for 2003/04.

INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

- In response to the Government's State Sustainability Strategy, the Department of Fisheries will develop a Sustainability Action Plan. To achieve this, the Department will establish an internal Sustainability Committee that will assist in developing the Sustainability Action Plan. This new committee will supersede the existing Energy Management Committee.

TABLE 8: TRACKING ENERGY USAGE

Energy Smart Government Program	Baseline Data	2003/04 Actuals	Variation %
Energy Consumption (MJ)	5,447,727	5,102,370	6%
Energy Cost (\$)	245,279	216,333	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (tonnes of CO ₂)	1,287	1,266	
Performance indicators			
• MJ/sqm – Office Buildings	354	344	
• MJ/FTE – Office Buildings	10,494	9,322	
• MJ/sqm – Laboratories	804	809	

Capital Works

PROGRAM

The 2003/04 Capital Program budget totalled \$15.7 million, with actual expenditure of \$6.6 million. The table below details the projects designed to provide the necessary infrastructure support to enable the Department of Fisheries to deliver against the budgeted outputs. The nature of capital works is such that expenditure crosses financial year boundaries and contributes to the variation against budget.

TABLE II: CAPITAL WORKS

Project Description	Planned Expenditure \$'000		Actual Expenditure \$'000	
Small Boats, Outboards & Trailers		\$762		\$496
Fremantle Operations Centre		\$1,871		\$83
Fit-out & Equipment Program		\$971		\$243
New Research and Education Facility		\$7,384		\$4,336
Abrolhos Islands Capital Program		\$523		\$171
Replacement of Computer Hardware & Software		\$727		\$300
Financial Management Information System		\$160		\$116
Information Systems Development - Licensing		\$1,005		\$193
- Others		\$98		\$13
Network Upgrade		\$823		\$226
Aquaculture - Regional Initiatives & Aquaculture Park Upgrades		\$724		\$46
Operational Equipment		\$194		\$113
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program		\$41		\$0
Communications Equipment		\$55		\$41
Recreational Fishing Initiatives		\$98		\$43
Human Resource Management Replacement		\$160		\$143
Vessel Monitoring System		\$100		\$32
FLAMS Modifications - Research		\$50		\$0
Total Capital Works Program		\$15,746		\$6,595

REPORT ON OPERATIONS -
DEPARTMENT OUTPUTS

REPORT ON OPERATIONS -
DEPARTMENT SERVICES

REPORT ON
CORPORATE SERVICES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PERFORMANCE
INDICATORS

APPENDICES



Financial Statements

Certification of Financial Statements

Performance Indicators



Certification of Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

The accompanying financial statements of Department of Fisheries have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2004 and the financial position as at 30 June 2004.

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



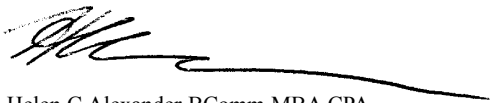
Bruno Mezzatesta BBus FCPA GAICD
Principal Accounting Officer

26 July 2004



Peter P Rogers BSc (Agric) (Hons) MBA FAICD
Accountable Officer

26 July 2004



Helen C Alexander BComm MBA CPA
Manager Financial Services

26 July 2004



AUDITOR GENERAL

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the controls exercised by the Department of Fisheries provide reasonable assurance that the receipt and expenditure of moneys, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (ii) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and the Treasurer's Instructions, the financial position of the Department at June 30, 2004 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Scope

The Executive Director's Role

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

The financial statements consist of the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Output Schedule of Expenses and Revenues, Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations and Revenue Estimates, and the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Summary of my Role

As required by the Act, I have independently audited the accounts and financial statements to express an opinion on the controls and financial statements. This was done by looking at a sample of the evidence.

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

D D R PEARSON
AUDITOR GENERAL
September 9, 2004

Statement of Financial Performance

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

COST OF SERVICES	Note	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employee expenses	4	24,915	22,768
Supplies and services	5	5,038	4,524
Depreciation and amortisation expense	6	1,568	2,226
Borrowing costs expense	7	135	260
Administration expenses	8	8,603	8,447
Accommodation expenses	9	1,635	1,184
Grants and subsidies	10	3,948	3,673
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	11	128	768
Capital User Charge	12	3,192	2,519
Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed	13	488	244
Total cost of services		<u>49,650</u>	<u>46,613</u>
Revenues from ordinary activities			
<i>Revenue from operating activities</i>			
User charges and fees	14	23,328	22,737
Grants and contributions	15	2,838	2,773
		<u>26,166</u>	<u>25,510</u>
<i>Revenue from non-operating activities</i>			
Other revenues from ordinary activities	16	1,005	846
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets	13	320	630
		<u>1,325</u>	<u>1,476</u>
Total revenues from ordinary activities		<u>27,491</u>	<u>26,986</u>
NET COST OF SERVICES		22,159	19,627
REVENUES FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Output Appropriations	17	22,460	18,979
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	17	289	402
Resources received free of charge	18	264	584
Total revenues from State Government		<u>23,013</u>	<u>19,965</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		<u>854</u>	<u>338</u>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Asset Revaluation Reserve		<u>2,856</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity		<u>2,856</u>	<u>1,200</u>
TOTAL CHANGES IN EQUITY OTHER THAN THOSE RESULTING FROM TRANSACTIONS WITH WA STATE GOVERNMENT AS OWNERS.		<u><u>3,710</u></u>	<u><u>1,538</u></u>

This statement of financial performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2004

	Note	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Assets	19	16,747	14,202
Restricted Cash Assets	20	1,897	1,079
Receivables	21	880	395
Amounts Receivable for Outputs	22	1,282	1,575
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Receivables	23	0	1,500
Prepayments	24	228	153
Total current assets		<u>21,034</u>	<u>18,904</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Restricted Cash Assets	20	0	664
Amounts Receivable for Outputs	22	2,432	2,442
Property, plant and equipment and vehicles	25	30,054	21,727
Total non-current assets		<u>32,486</u>	<u>24,833</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		53,520	43,737
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	26	1,007	1,062
Interest Bearing Liabilities	27	155	1,526
Provisions	28	3,228	3,132
Other Liabilities	29	827	815
Total current liabilities		<u>5,217</u>	<u>6,535</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Interest Bearing Liabilities	27	1,354	1,509
Provisions	28	2,394	2,152
Total non-current liabilities		<u>3,748</u>	<u>3,661</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>8,965</u>	<u>10,196</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus	30	20,357	19,503
Contributed equity	31	14,195	6,891
Reserves	32	10,003	7,147
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>44,555</u>	<u>33,541</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		<u><u>53,520</u></u>	<u><u>43,737</u></u>

This statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

	Note	2004 Inflows (Outflows) \$'000	2003 Inflows (Outflows) \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Output Appropriations	17	20,155	16,743
Capital Contributions	31	5,000	2,122
Holding account drawdowns	22	3,085	1,324
Net cash provided by State Government		<u>28,240</u>	<u>20,189</u>
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee costs		(24,073)	(21,576)
Grants and subsidies		(3,948)	(3,673)
Administration		(8,554)	(7,846)
Supplies and Services		(5,038)	(4,524)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks		(128)	(768)
Accommodation		(1,635)	(1,184)
Borrowing costs		(243)	(360)
GST Payments on purchases		(2,381)	(1,997)
Capital User Charge		(3,192)	(2,519)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		24,238	23,733
Grants and contributions		2,673	2,773
GST Receipts on sales		560	571
GST Receipts from taxation authority		1,501	1,432
Net cash used in operating activities	33	<u>(20,220)</u>	<u>(15,938)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchases of non-current physical assets		(5,615)	(3,035)
Proceeds from the sale of non-current physical assets	13	320	630
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(5,295)</u>	<u>(2,405)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment - Fisheries Adjustment Scheme (FAS)		(1,382)	(1,274)
Repayment of Principal - Leases		(144)	(135)
Amounts received from FAS participants		1,500	1,500
Net cash flows provided by financing activities		<u>(26)</u>	<u>91</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		2,699	1,937
Cash Assets at the beginning of the financial year		<u>15,945</u>	<u>14,008</u>
Cash Assets at the end of the financial year	19,20	<u>18,644</u>	<u>15,945</u>

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



REPORT ON OPERATIONS –
DEPARTMENT OUTPUTS

REPORT ON OPERATIONS –
DEPARTMENT SERVICES

REPORT ON
CORPORATE SERVICES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PERFORMANCE
INDICATORS

APPENDICES

Output Schedule of Expenses and Revenue

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

COST OF SERVICES	COMMERCIAL		RECREATIONAL	
	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Expenses from ordinary activities				
Employee expenses	12,979	12,314	6,171	5,005
Supplies and services	2,454	2,359	1,148	807
Depreciation and amortisation	812	1,213	380	474
Borrowing costs expense	76	260	31	0
Administration expenses	4,263	4,267	2,265	1,811
Accommodation expenses	866	669	388	254
Grants and subsidies	3,172	2,474	304	415
FAS Buybacks	128	768	0	0
Capital User Charge	1,657	1,358	796	556
Other expenses from ordinary activities	253	131	122	54
Total cost of services	26,660	25,813	11,605	9,376
Revenues from ordinary activities				
User charges and fees	16,164	16,044	2,659	2,366
Grants and contributions	1,542	1,931	405	142
Other revenues from ordinary activities	525	606	249	85
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets	166	446	80	65
Total revenues from ordinary activities	18,397	19,027	3,393	2,658
NET COST OF SERVICES	8,263	6,786	8,212	6,718
REVENUES FROM STATE GOVERNMENT				
Output Appropriations	8,375	6,562	8,324	6,496
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	108	139	107	138
Resources received free of charge	99	201	98	200
Total revenues from State Government	8,582	6,902	8,529	6,834
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	319	116	317	116
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	319	116	317	116

This Output Schedule of Expenses and Revenues should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

PEARLING AND AQUACULTURE		FISH & FISH HABITAT PROTECTION		TOTAL	
2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
4,361	4,223	1,404	1,226	24,915	22,768
1,067	1,061	369	297	5,038	4,524
275	415	101	124	1,568	2,226
21	0	7	0	135	260
1,537	1,628	538	741	8,603	8,447
290	204	91	57	1,635	1,184
342	585	130	199	3,948	3,673
0	0	0	0	128	768
545	471	194	134	3,192	2,519
83	46	30	13	488	244
8,521	8,633	2,864	2,791	49,650	46,613
4,034	4,258	471	69	23,328	22,737
801	490	90	210	2,838	2,773
170	153	61	2	1,005	846
55	117	19	2	320	630
5,060	5,018	641	283	27,491	26,986
3,461	3,615	2,223	2,508	22,159	19,627
3,508	3,496	2,253	2,425	22,460	18,979
45	74	29	51	289	402
41	108	26	75	264	584
3,594	3,678	2,308	2,551	23,013	19,965
133	63	85	43	854	338
133	63	85	43	854	338

REPORT ON OPERATIONS –
DEPARTMENT OUTPUTS

REPORT ON OPERATIONS –
DEPARTMENT SERVICES

REPORT ON
CORPORATE SERVICES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PERFORMANCE
INDICATORS

APPENDICES

Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations and Revenue Estimates

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2003 TO 30 JUNE 2004

Item	2004			2004	2003	Variance
	Estimate \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Actual \$'000	Actual \$'000	
PURCHASE OF OUTPUTS						
47 Net amount appropriated to deliver outputs	20,798	20,314	(484)	20,314	18,832	(1,482)
Section 25 transfer of appropriation	0	1,996	1,996	1,996	0	(1,996)
Amount authorised by other statutes						
- Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	150	150	0	150	147	(3)
Total appropriations provided to deliver outputs	20,948	22,460	1,512	22,460	18,979	(3,481)
Details of Expenditure by Output						
Management of the State's Commercial Fisheries	25,141	26,660	(1,519)	26,660	25,813	847
Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries	11,267	11,605	(338)	11,605	9,376	2,229
Development and promotion of the State's Aquaculture Industry	8,367	8,521	(154)	8,521	8,633	(112)
Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat	2,707	2,864	(157)	2,864	2,791	73
Total Cost of Outputs	47,482	49,650	(2,168)	49,650	46,613	3,037
Less Total Revenue from Ordinary Activities	(26,416)	(27,491)	1,075	(27,491)	(26,986)	(505)
Adjustment for movement in cash balances and other accrual items	(118)	301	(419)	301	(648)	949
Total appropriations provided to deliver outputs	20,948	22,460	(1,512)	22,460	18,979	3,481
CAPITAL						
131 Capital Contribution	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	2,122	2,878
Capital Expenditure						
Capital appropriations	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	2,122	2,878
Adjustment for movement in cash balances and other funding sources	(3,770)	(700)	(3,070)	(700)	(913)	213
Total Capital Expenditure	8,770	5,700	3,070	5,700	3,035	2,665
GRAND TOTAL OF APPROPRIATIONS	25,948	27,460	1,512	27,460	21,101	6,146

This summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations and Revenue Estimates should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes. This Summary provides the basis for the Explanatory Statement information requirements of TI 945 which are shown at Note 37.

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

1 DEPARTMENTAL MISSION AND FUNDING

The Department's mission is as follows:

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

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

2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) General Statement

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

The *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* and the Treasurer's Instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and UIG Consensus Views. The modifications are intended to fulfil the requirements of general application to the public sector, together with the need for greater disclosure and also to satisfy accountability requirements.

If any such modification has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and where practicable, the resulting financial effect is disclosed in individual notes to these financial statements.

(b) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AAS 29.

The statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities which, as noted, are measured at fair value.

Administered assets, liabilities, expenses and revenues are not integral to the Department in carrying out its functions and are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements, forming part of the general purpose financial report of the Department. They are items which the Government requires the Department to administer on its behalf. The assets do not render any service potential or future economic benefits to the Department, the liabilities do not require the future sacrifice of service potential or future economic benefits of the Department, and the expenses and revenues are not attributable to the Department.

As the administered assets, liabilities, expenses and revenues are not recognised in the principal financial statements of the Department, the disclosure requirements of Australian Accounting Standard AAS33, Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Instruments, are not applied to administered transactions. Administered transactions are disclosed at note 43.

(c) Output Appropriations

Output 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. Refer to Note 17 for further commentary on output appropriations

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

(d) Contributed Equity

Under UIG 38 "Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities" transfers in the nature of equity contributions must be designated by the Government (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 and have been credited directly to the Contributed Equity in the Statement of Financial Position. Capital appropriations which are repayable to the Treasurer are recognised as liabilities. Refer to Note 31 for further commentary on the application of UIG 38 and TI 955.

(e) Net Appropriation Determination

Pursuant to section 23A of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, the net appropriation determination by the Treasurer provides for retention of the following moneys received by the Department:

- GST receipts on sales and input credits

In accordance with the determination, the Department retained \$2.061m in 2003-04 (\$2.003m in 2002-03).

Retained revenues may only be applied to the outputs specified in the 2003-04 Budget Statements.

(f) Grants and Other Contributions

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the Department obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon their receipt.

Contributions 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.

(g) Revenue Recognition

Revenue from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets and the rendering of services is recognised when the Department has passed control of the goods or other assets or delivery of the service to the customer. 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.

(h) Non Current assets

Acquisition of assets

The cost method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets. Cost is measured as the fair value of the assets given up or liabilities undertaken at the date of acquisition plus incidental costs directly attributable to the acquisition.

Assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised at their fair value at the date of acquisition.

Property costing less than \$2,000 is expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Revaluation of Land and Buildings

The Department has a policy of valuing land at fair value. Buildings has a mix of cost and fair value but will be progressively moved to fair value under the transitional provisions in AASB 1041 (8.12)(b). The annual revaluations of the Department's land and buildings undertaken by the Valuer General's Office for the Government Property Register are recognised in the financial statements.

Revaluation of Other Assets

Other assets, including vessels, both large and small, were revalued during the financial year 2003/04 to fair value by Keith Haslam, an independent valuer, under the transitional provisions in AASB 1041 (8.12)(b).

Depreciation of non current assets

All non current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits. Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis using rates which are reviewed annually.

During the year, residual values were applied to large vessels, small vessels, motor vehicles and marine equipment. This has resulted in a significant permanent impact on the depreciation expense on these assets.

Expected useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

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

(i) Employee benefits

Annual leave

This benefit is recognised at the reporting date in respect to employees' services up to that date and is measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Long service leave

The liability for long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date is recognised in the provisions for employee benefits and is measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The liability for long service leave expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date is recognised in the provisions for employee benefits and is measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Consideration is given, when assessing expected future payments, to expected future wage and salary levels including relevant on costs, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

The Department, in accordance with AAS30 and AASB1028, has had the present value of its long service leave liability estimated by PricewaterhouseCoopers using actuarial methodology. Over the next 3 years, the Department will be using the relevant short-hand method for measurement of long service leave liability. This is the sum of unconditional long service leave for all employees at current remuneration rates (including on-costs) plus pro-rata long service leave for all employees with 3 or more years of service at current remuneration rates (including on-costs). The accuracy of this methodology will be re-checked no later than 30 June 2007, and every three years thereafter by a full actuarial assessment.

This method of measurement of the liability is consistent with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standard AASB1028 "Employee Benefits".

Superannuation

Staff may contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefits pension scheme now closed to new members, or to the Gold State Superannuation Scheme, a defined benefit lump sum scheme also closed to new members. All staff who do not contribute to either of these schemes become non contributory members of the West State Superannuation Scheme, an accumulation fund complying with the Commonwealth Government's Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992. All of these schemes are administered by the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

The superannuation expense comprises the following elements:

- i. change in the unfunded employer's liability 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 Act Scheme; and
- ii. employer contributions paid to the Gold State Superannuation Act Scheme and West State Superannuation Scheme.

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

A revenue "Liabilities Assumed by the Treasurer" equivalent to (i.) is recognised under Revenues from Government in the Statement of Financial Performance as the unfunded liability is assumed by the Treasurer. The GESB makes the benefit payments and is recouped by the Treasurer.

(j) Leases

The Department's rights and obligations under finance leases, which are leases that effectively transfer to the Department substantially all the risks and benefits incident to ownership of the leased items, are initially recognised as assets and liabilities equal in amount to the present value of the minimum lease payments. The assets are disclosed as leased office equipment and leased patrol vessel, and are amortised to the Statement of Financial Performance over the period during which the Department is expected to benefit from use of the leased assets. Minimum lease payments are allocated between interest expense and a reduction of the lease liability, according to the interest rate implicit in the lease.

Finance lease liabilities are allocated between current and non-current components. The principal component of lease payments due on or before the end of the succeeding year is disclosed as a current liability, and the remainder of the lease liability is disclosed as a non current liability.

The Department has entered into hire arrangements for motor vehicles. Hire payments are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance as incurred as this is representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the assets.

The Department has entered into a number of operating lease arrangements for the rent of office buildings where the lessor effectively retains all of the risks and benefits incident to ownership of the items held under the operating leases. Equal instalments of the lease payments are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance over the lease term as this is representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property.

(k) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at the amounts receivable as they are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

Prior to the current financial year, the Department had receivables resulting from fishery specific adjustment schemes. The amounts due were levied as part of a fisheries access fee on an annual basis. The amounts were recognised as the amounts receivable. These fisheries adjustment schemes have now been finalised.

Collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectable are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is raised where some doubt as to collection exists.

(l) Payables

Payables, including accruals not yet billed, are recognised when the Department becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. Payables are generally settled within 30 days.

(m) Accrued Salaries

The accrued salaries suspense account (refer note 20) 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 in that year instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

Accrued salaries (refer note 29) represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the end of the last pay period for that financial year does not coincide with the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are settled within a few days of the financial year end. The Department considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to the net fair value.

(n) Resources Received Free of Charge

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

(o) Research and Development Costs

Research and development costs are charged against income in the Statement of Financial Performance as incurred, except to the extent that such costs, together with unamortised deferred costs in relation to that project, are expected, beyond any reasonable doubt, to be recoverable.

The deferred costs are amortised over the period in which the corresponding benefits are expected to arise, commencing with the commercial production of the product.

The unamortised balance of research and development costs deferred are reviewed regularly and at each reporting date, to ensure the criterion for deferral continues to be met. Where such deferred costs are no longer considered recoverable, they are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance for the financial year.

(p) Comparative Figures

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

(q) Cash

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash assets and restricted cash assets. These include short-term deposits that are readily convertible to cash on hand and are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

(r) Investments

Investments are brought to account at the lower of cost and recoverable amount.

Interest revenues are recognised as they are accrued.

(s) Interest Bearing Liabilities

Bank loans and other loans are recorded at an amount equal to the net proceeds received. Borrowing costs expense is recognised on an accrual basis.

(t) Rounding of Amounts

Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, or in certain cases, to the nearest dollar.

(u) Amalgamation of Function

The report of the Functional Review Taskforce included a recommendation that the maritime compliance service delivery function for both the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) and the Department of Fisheries (Fisheries) should be amalgamated into a single management structure administered by Fisheries.

The maritime compliance functions of DPI and Fisheries were, with the exception of those activities on the Swan and Canning Rivers, amalgamated effective 1 July 2003. The amalgamation resulted in the transfer of staff, assets, liabilities and the associated appropriation. The effect of this amalgamation is reported as appropriate in these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

(v) 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.

3 OUTPUTS OF FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

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

Information about the Department's outputs, and the expenses and revenues, which are reliably attributable to those outputs, is set out in the Outputs Schedule. Information about expenses, revenues, assets and liabilities administered by the Department are disclosed in Note 43.

The outputs of Fisheries Department:

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.

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.

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.

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.

	2004	2003
	\$'000	\$'000
4 EMPLOYEE EXPENSES		
Wages and salaries	20,718	19,289
Superannuation	2,393	2,200
Long service leave	555	329
Annual leave	645	279
Other related expenses (i)	604	671
	<u>24,915</u>	<u>22,768</u>
<p>(i) These employee expenses include superannuation, workers compensation premiums and other employment on-costs associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability. The related on-costs liability is included in employee benefit liabilities at Note 28.</p>		
5 SUPPLIES AND SERVICES		
Consultants and contractors	2,356	2,097
Materials	309	407
Repairs and maintenance	2,373	2,020
	<u>5,038</u>	<u>4,524</u>
6 DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION EXPENSE		
Depreciation		
Furniture	327	160
Plant and equipment	351	328
Small vessels	50	34
Computer equipment	281	314
Buildings	58	34
Major vessels	172	843
Motor vehicles	17	209
Other Construction	118	98
Other	8	11
	1,382	2,031
Amortisation		
Leased office equipment	1	10
Leased patrol vessel	185	185
	<u>186</u>	<u>195</u>
Total depreciation and amortisation	<u>1,568</u>	<u>2,226</u>
7 BORROWING COSTS EXPENSE		
Finance lease finance charges	125	133
Interest paid - Fisheries Adjustment Scheme	10	127
	<u>135</u>	<u>260</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

	2004	2003
	\$'000	\$'000
8 ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
Administration	5,208	5,259
Communications	825	776
Advertising	175	166
Consumables	1,320	1,183
Electricity and water	252	296
Operating lease expenses	761	670
Other	62	97
	<u>8,603</u>	<u>8,447</u>
9 ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES		
Lease rentals	<u>1,635</u>	<u>1,184</u>
	<u>1,635</u>	<u>1,184</u>
10 GRANTS & SUBSIDIES		
Recurrent		
Grants to Educational Institutions (Schools etc)	26	28
Grants to Key Stakeholder Groups	2,061	2,010
Contributions to Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	1,138	1,062
Research Grants	400	425
Other	323	148
	<u>3,948</u>	<u>3,673</u>
11 FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEME BUYBACKS		
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	<u>128</u>	<u>768</u>
12 CAPITAL USER CHARGE		
Capital User Charge	<u>3,192</u>	<u>2,519</u>
	<u>3,192</u>	<u>2,519</u>
<p>A capital user charge rate of 8% has been set by the Government and represents the opportunity cost of capital invested in the net assets of the Department used in the provision of outputs. The charge is calculated on the net assets adjusted to take account of exempt assets. Payments are made to the Department of Treasury and Finance on a quarterly basis.</p>		
13 NET GAIN / (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets	320	630
Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed of during the year	488	244
Net gain / (loss) on disposal of non-current assets	<u>(168)</u>	<u>386</u>
Gain on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	198	411
Loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	(366)	(25)
Net gain/(loss)	<u>(168)</u>	<u>386</u>

	2004	2003
	\$'000	\$'000
14 USER CHARGES AND FEES		
Access fees	13,390	13,131
Development of Better Interests Fees	3,503	3,566
Application fees	1,067	1,070
Licence fees	2,382	2,291
Fees for service	1,316	1,644
Other	1,670	1,035
	<u>23,328</u>	<u>22,737</u>
15 GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS		
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	2,296	2,617
Other	542	156
	<u>2,838</u>	<u>2,773</u>
16 OTHER REVENUES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
Interest		
Fisheries Research and Development Fund	967	789
AFMA Fund	30	30
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Fund	8	27
	<u>1,005</u>	<u>846</u>
17 REVENUES FROM STATE GOVERNMENT		
Appropriation revenue received during the year (i):		
Output appropriations - recurrent	14,859	12,649
Appropriation to fund superannuation	2,104	1,845
Appropriation to fund capital user charge	3,192	2,249
Total Cash Appropriations	<u>20,155</u>	<u>16,743</u>
Appropriation transferred to holding account	2,305	2,236
	<u>22,460</u>	<u>18,979</u>
The following liabilities have been assumed by the Treasurer during the financial year (ii):		
Superannuation	289	402
Total liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	<u>289</u>	<u>402</u>
(i) Output appropriations are accrual amounts, reflecting the fullcost of outputs purchased by the Government. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.		
(ii) The assumption of the superannuation liability by the Treasurer is only a notional revenue to offset the notional superannuation expense reported in respect of current employees who are members of the pension scheme and current employees who have a transfer benefit entitlement under the Gold State Scheme.		

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

	2004	2003
	\$'000	\$'000
18 RESOURCES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE		
Administration expenses	264	584
	<u>264</u>	<u>584</u>
Resources received free of charge has been determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
Office of the Auditor General	0	66
Department of Justice	263	258
Department of Land Information	1	260
	<u>264</u>	<u>584</u>

Where assets or services have been received free of charge or for nominal consideration, the Department recognises revenues 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 are recognised as assets or expenses, as applicable.

Commencing with the 2003-04 audit, the Office of the Auditor General will be charging a fee for auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators. The fee for the 2003-04 audit (\$79,200) will be due and payable in the 2004-05 financial year.

19 CASH ASSETS

Advance Account	18	15
Recreational Fishing Fund	10	10
AFMA Fund	72	169
Fisheries Research and Development Fund	16,647	14,008
	<u>16,747</u>	<u>14,202</u>

20 RESTRICTED CASH ASSETS

Current

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Fund (i)	(74)	235
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account (ii)	1,213	844
Salaries Suspense Account (iii)	758	0
	<u>1,897</u>	<u>1,079</u>

Non-Current

Salaries Suspense Account (iii)	0	664
	<u>1,897</u>	<u>1,743</u>

- (i) Monies held in the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Fund are not available for operations of the Department as they relate to specific research projects. Approval has been granted to overdraw this account to a limit of \$300K.
- (ii) Monies held in the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account are only available for use as prescribed by the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987.
- (iii) Amount held in suspense account is only to be used for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years. Classification has been changed to Current as this amount will be drawn in 2004/05.

	2004	2003
	\$'000	\$'000
21 RECEIVABLES		
Amounts receivable for goods and services supplied	333	171
GST Input Tax Credit Receivable	599	311
	<u>932</u>	<u>482</u>
Less: provision for doubtful debts	(4)	(7)
GST due to ATO	<u>(48)</u>	<u>(80)</u>
	<u><u>880</u></u>	<u><u>395</u></u>
22 AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR OUTPUTS		
Current	1,282	1,575
Non Current	2,432	2,442
	<u><u>3,714</u></u>	<u><u>4,017</u></u>
<p>This asset represents the non-cash component of output appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement in accordance with approved capital program or for leave entitlements.</p>		
23 FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEME RECEIVABLES		
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme - Receivables - Current	<u>0</u>	<u>1,500</u>
	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>1,500</u></u>
<p>Reconciliation Reconciliations of the consolidated carrying amounts of non-current receivables at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below:</p>		
Carrying amount at start of year	0	1,500
Transfer to current	<u>0</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Carrying amount at end of year	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>
24 PREPAYMENTS		
Licences and rentals	53	49
Management Fee	15	0
Grants	2	41
Lease Patrol Vessel	28	63
Industry Advances	<u>130</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u><u>228</u></u>	<u><u>153</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

	2004	2003
	\$'000	\$'000
25 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES		
LAND		
Land at fair value (i)	6,690	6,693
	<u>6,690</u>	<u>6,693</u>
BUILDINGS		
At cost	2,008	1,962
Accumulated depreciation	(543)	(407)
	1,465	1,555
At valuation (i)	2,603	1,647
Accumulated depreciation	(52)	0
	<u>4,016</u>	<u>3,202</u>
MAJOR VESSELS		
At fair value (ii)	8,428	7,731
Accumulated depreciation	(281)	(3,403)
	<u>8,147</u>	<u>4,328</u>
SMALL VESSELS		
At fair value (ii)	301	315
Accumulated depreciation	(115)	(293)
	<u>186</u>	<u>22</u>
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
At cost	3,629	3,247
Accumulated depreciation	(1,560)	(1,383)
	<u>2,069</u>	<u>1,864</u>
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS		
At cost	2,060	1,544
Accumulated depreciation	(1,136)	(809)
	<u>924</u>	<u>735</u>
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		
At cost	3,407	2,984
Accumulated depreciation	(2,787)	(2,508)
	<u>620</u>	<u>476</u>
LEASED OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
At capitalised cost	84	84
Accumulated amortisation	(84)	(83)
	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
LEASED PATROL VESSEL		
At capitalised cost	1,848	1,848
Accumulated amortisation	(416)	(231)
	<u>1,432</u>	<u>1,617</u>
MOTOR VEHICLES		
At cost	810	808
Accumulated depreciation	(260)	(312)
	<u>550</u>	<u>496</u>
CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS		
At construction cost	5,420	2,293
	<u>5,420</u>	<u>2,293</u>
Total property, plant and equipment and vehicles	<u>30,054</u>	<u>21,727</u>

- (i) The revaluation of freehold land, land improvements and buildings was performed in July 2003 in accordance with an independent valuation by the Valuer General's Office. Fair value has been determined on the basis of market value or current use where market value is not appropriate. The valuation was made in accordance with a regular policy of annual revaluation.
- (ii) A revaluation of large and small vessels was performed in July 2003 in accordance with an independent valuation undertaken by Keith Haslam Pty Ltd

Reconciliation

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

	Carrying amount at start of year \$'000	Additions \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Transfers from WIP \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Assets Transferred from DPI	Deprecn. For the year \$'000	Carrying amount at end of year \$'000
as at 30 June 2003								
Land	6,693		225		222			6,690
Major vessels	4,328	93	66		2,491	1,473	172	8,147
Small vessels	22	8	33	28	82	129	50	186
Plant and Equipment	1,864	229	39	115	58	201	359	2,069
Furniture and Fittings	735	30		486			327	924
Computer Equipment	476	420	2			7	281	620
Leased Office Equipment	1						1	-
Leased Patrol Vessel	1,617						185	1,432
Buildings	3,202	26	83	1,027	3	17	176	4,016
Motor Vehicles	496	111	40				17	550
Work in progress	2,293	4,783		(1,656)				5,420
	<u>21,727</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>488</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,856</u>	<u>1,827</u>	<u>1,568</u>	<u>30,054</u>

26 PAYABLES

Amounts payable for goods and services received - General
 Amounts payable for goods and services received - Capital

	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Amounts payable for goods and services received - General	845	985
Amounts payable for goods and services received - Capital	162	77
	<u>1,007</u>	<u>1,062</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

	2004	2003
	\$'000	\$'000
27 INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES		
<u>Current</u>		
WATC Loans - Fisheries Adjustment Scheme	0	1,382
Finance Lease Liability	155	144
	<u>155</u>	<u>1,526</u>
<u>Non Current</u>		
Finance Lease Liability	1,354	1,509
	<u>1,354</u>	<u>1,509</u>
<p>Lease liabilities are effectively secured as the rights to the leased assets revert to the lessor in the event of default.</p> <p>Assets pledged as security: The carrying amounts of non-current assets pledged as security are:</p>		
Finance Leases		
Leased office equipment	0	1
Leased Patrol Vessel	1,432	1,617
	<u>1,432</u>	<u>1,618</u>
28 PROVISIONS		
<u>Current</u>		
Annual leave	1,568	1,548
Long service leave	1,330	1,245
Other (i)	330	339
	<u>3,228</u>	<u>3,132</u>
<u>Non Current</u>		
Long service leave	2,150	1,919
Other (i)	244	233
	<u>2,394</u>	<u>2,152</u>
TOTAL PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS	<u>5,622</u>	<u>5,284</u>
<p>(i) The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including superannuation and WorkCover premiums. The liability for such on-costs is included here. The associated expense is included in Other related expenses (under Employee Expenses) at Note 4.</p> <p>The Department considers the carrying amount of employee benefits to approximate the net fair value.</p>		
29 OTHER LIABILITIES		
Accrued salaries	782	580
FBT Accrued	45	32
Accrued Interest - Fisheries Adjustment Scheme	0	108
Income received in advance	0	95
	<u>827</u>	<u>815</u>

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.

	2004	2003
	\$'000	\$'000
30 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Opening balance	19,503	19,165
Change in net assets from ordinary activities	854	338
Closing balance	<u>20,357</u>	<u>19,503</u>
31 CONTRIBUTED EQUITY		
Opening balance	6,891	4,769
Capital Contributions (i)	5,000	2,122
Assets assumed (ii)	2,304	0
Closing balance	<u>14,195</u>	<u>6,891</u>
(i) Capital Contributions have been designated as contributions by owners and are credited directly to equity in the Statement of Financial Position.		
(ii) Net capital contributed upon restructure, for non-reciprocal transfers after 1 July 2003 (designated as Contributions by Owners in TI 955)		
32 RESERVES		
Asset Revaluation Reserve		
Opening balance	7,147	5,947
Revaluation during the year:		
Land	222	242
Buildings	3	958
Vessels and Plant	2,631	0
Closing balance (i)	<u>10,003</u>	<u>7,147</u>
Total equity	<u>44,555</u>	<u>33,541</u>
(i) The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets, as described in accounting policy note 2(h)		
33 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
(a) <u>Reconciliation of cash</u>		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:		
Cash assets	16,747	14,202
Restricted cash assets (refer note 20)	1,897	1,743
	<u>18,644</u>	<u>15,945</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

	2004	2003
	\$'000	\$'000
(b) <u>Reconciliation of net cash used in operating activities to net cost of service:</u>		
Net cash (used in)/from operating activities	(20,220)	(15,938)
<u>Non Cash Items</u>		
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	(289)	(402)
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,568)	(2,226)
Resources received free of charge	(264)	(584)
<u>Increase/(Decrease) in Assets</u>		
Accounts receivable - General	485	(62)
Profit/(Loss) on disposal of assets	(168)	387
Prepayments	75	(21)
<u>(Increase)/Decrease in Liabilities</u>		
Accrued salaries	(202)	(148)
FBT Accrued	(13)	-
Accrued interest - FAS	108	100
Liability for employee entitlements	(338)	(642)
Income in advance	95	(95)
Accounts payable - General	140	4
Net cost of services	<u>(22,159)</u>	<u>(19,627)</u>

34 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	9,154	6,881
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	0	0
Later than 5 years	0	0
	<u>9,154</u>	<u>6,881</u>
The capital commitments include amounts for:		
Buildings	<u>4,837</u>	<u>3,855</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 as liabilities are payable:

Within 1 year	1,640	1,436
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	4,032	3,503
Later than 5 years	1,691	1,834
	<u>7,363</u>	<u>6,773</u>

	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
(c) Finance Lease Commitments		
Commitments in relation to finance leases are payable as follows:		
Within 1 year	266	266
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,066	1,066
Later than 5 years	666	932
Minimum lease payments	1,998	2,264
Less Future finance charges	(489)	(611)
Total finance lease liabilities	<u>1,509</u>	<u>1,653</u>
Included in the financial statements as:		
Current (note 27)	155	144
Non-current (note 27)	1,354	1,509
	<u>1,509</u>	<u>1,653</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.

35 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent Liabilities

There is a court action proceeding in which the State of Western Australia is defending a claim which concerns the Department of Fisheries. This claim is valued at \$1.1 million. However, a reliable estimate of the quantum of the claim cannot be determined.

Contingent Assets

The Department has no contingent assets.

36 Events Occurring After Reporting Date

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

37 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriation and Revenue Estimates discloses appropriation and other statutes expenditure estimates, the actual expenditures made and revenue estimates and payments into the Consolidated Fund. Appropriations are now on an accrual basis.

The following explanations are provided in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 945. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10%.

(a) Significant variances between estimate and actual - Total cost of outputs.

No significant variations

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

(b) Significant variances between actual and prior year actual - Total appropriation to deliver outputs

	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000	Variance \$'000
Outputs			
Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries	11,605	9,376	2,229

The transfer of the "at sea" safety functions from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure has resulted in an increase in cost and activity in this output.

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

No variation.

(d) Significant variances between actual and prior year actual - Capital Contribution

	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000	Variance \$'000
Capital Contribution	5,000	2,122	2,878

The appropriation each year is consistent with and will vary according to the approved Capital Works programme.

2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
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38 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Assets

Cash Resources	18,644	15,945
Accounts receivable - General	880	395
Accounts receivable - Fisheries Adjustment Schemes	0	1,500
Amounts Receivable for Outputs	3,714	4,017
Total Financial Assets	<u>23,238</u>	<u>21,857</u>

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	1,007	1,062
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes - Loan principal	0	1,382
Accrued salaries	782	580
Employee entitlements	5,622	5,284
Lease liabilities	1,509	1,653
Total Financial Liabilities	<u>8,920</u>	<u>9,961</u>

Net Financial Assets	<u>14,318</u>	<u>11,896</u>
----------------------	---------------	---------------

	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
RECONCILIATION OF NET FINANCIAL ASSETS TO NET ASSETS		
Net financial assets/(liabilities)	14,318	11,896
Non-financial assets and liabilities:		
Land	6,690	6,693
Buildings	4,016	3,202
Plant, equipment and other	19,348	11,832
Other assets - prepayments and deferred expenses	228	153
Accrued interest - Fisheries Adjustment Scheme	0	(108)
Other liabilities	(45)	(127)
Net assets per Statement of Financial Position	<u>44,555</u>	<u>33,541</u>

Credit Risk

Financial Assets

The Department's cash is held as part of the Government of Western Australia Bank Account and the risk associated with these assets is equivalent to that relating to the Government of Western Australia Bank Account.

All other financial assets are unsecured and the reported amounts represent the maximum exposure with respect to those assets.

Net Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The net fair value of financial assets and liabilities is the amount at which the asset could be exchanged, or liability settled in a current transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction after allowing for transaction costs.

The following methods were used to estimate the net fair value of each class of material financial instrument:

Cash, receivables and payables	Carrying amount approximates fair value.
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Loan Principal	Carrying amount approximates fair value.
Employee entitlements	Carrying amount of provisions are considered to reflect their net fair value.

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

Interest Rate Risk

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

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Fixed Interest Rate to Maturity					Non- Interest Bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
		Variable interest rate \$'000	Less than 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000			
2004								
Financial Assets								
Cash Assets	5.02%	16,747					16,747	
Restricted cash Assets	0.00%					1,897	1,897	
Receivables	0.00%					4,594	4,594	
		<u>16,747</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,491</u>	<u>23,238</u>	
Financial Liabilities								
Payables	0.00%					1,007	1,007	
Finance lease liabilities	7.66%		155	753	601		1,509	
		<u>0</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>753</u>	<u>601</u>	<u>1,007</u>	<u>2,516</u>	
2003								
Financial Assets								
Financial Liabilities							<u>21,857</u>	
							<u>4,097</u>	

39 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:

	2004	2003
\$120,001 - 130,000	2	1
\$130,001 - 140,000	0	1
\$180,001 - 190,000	1	1
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of senior officers	<u>436</u>	<u>435</u>

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

No senior officers are members of the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act Scheme

40 Related Bodies

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

41 Affiliated bodies

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

42 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Write-Offs

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

The Accountable Officer
The Minister

2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
1	8
0	78
<u>1</u>	<u>86</u>

During the financial year, assets which were stolen or scrapped were written off under the authority of:

The Accountable Officer
LESS: Recovered by Insurance

5	26
0	(13)
<u>5</u>	<u>13</u>

Act of Grace Payments

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

The Minister

1	1
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
43 ADMINISTERED TRANSACTIONS		
ADMINISTERED EXPENSES AND REVENUES		
Expenses		
Recoup to Fisheries Research and Development Fund for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATASIC) related activities	0	347
ATASIC - Other expenses	0	2
Total administered expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>349</u>
Revenues		
Contribution from ATASIC	0	50
Total administered revenues	<u>0</u>	<u>50</u>
ADMINISTERED ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Administered Assets		
ATASIC Trust Account	0	0
Total administered expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM ADMINISTERED TRANSACTIONS		
Cash Inflows from Administered Transactions		
Contributions from ATASIC	0	50
Total administered cash inflows	<u>0</u>	<u>50</u>
Cash Outflows from Administered Transactions		
Recoup to Fisheries Research and Development Fund from ATASIC	0	347
ATASIC Administration costs	0	2
Total administered cash outflows	<u>0</u>	<u>349</u>
Net cash inflows/(outflows) from administered transactions	<u>0</u>	<u>(299)</u>

44 International Financial Reporting Standards

The Department of Fisheries is adopting international accounting standards in compliance with AASB1 First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

AASB 1 requires an opening balance sheet as at 1 July 2004 and the restatement of the financial statements for the reporting period to 30 June 2005 on the IFRS basis. These financial statements will be presented as comparatives in the first annual financial report prepared on an IFRS basis for the period ending 30 June 2006.

AASB1047 Disclosing the *Impacts of Adopting Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards* requires financial reports for periods ending on or after 30 June 2004 to disclose:

1. How the transition to Australian equivalents to IFRSs is being managed

The Department of Fisheries established a project team that will:

- identify the key differences in accounting policies, disclosures and presentation and the consequential impacts and risks to the agency;
- assess the changes required to financial management information systems and processes;
- identify the necessary staff skills and training requirements; and
- prepare a plan to convert accounting policies, financial management information systems and processes so that the Model Agency can account and report on the IFRS basis.

2. Key differences in accounting policies that are expected to arise from adopting Australian equivalents to IFRS

The Department of Fisheries has identified the following key differences:

AASB101	Presentation of Financial Statements:	
	Currently	IFRS
	Statement of Financial Performance	Income Statement
	Statement of Financial Position	Balance Sheet
	Statement of Cash Flows	Cash Flow Statement
	Notes	Notes
		Statement of Changes in Equity
AASB116	Property Plant and Equipment (PPE)	
	<u>Recognition and measurement at fair value</u> using either Cost Model or Revaluation Model which is applied to each class of PPE. This is similar to the existing measurement models used in the Department.	
	<u>Concept of Impairment.</u> An asset is impaired when its carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. Any impairment loss is taken directly to the profit and loss. Impairment is not restricted to non-current assets.	
AASB137	Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets	
	Currently	IFRS
Disclose	Higher than remote but not probable	Probable but not virtually certain
Recognise	Probable	Virtually certain

Quantitative information relating to the above changes was not known or able to be estimated reliably at the time these financial statements were prepared.

Trust Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments

FOR THE PERIOD | JULY 2003 TO 30 JUNE 2004

45 FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

2003 \$'000		2004 \$'000	\$'000
11,753	Opening balance - 1 July		14,008
	Receipts		
13,711	Contribution from Consolidated Fund	18,908	
13,885	Fisheries Access Fees	14,501	
3,566	Development and Better Interests	3,503	
1,032	Application Fees	1,032	
788	Interest	967	
25	Contributions to Projects	89	
39	Insurance Recoups	2	
156	Grants	542	
136	Recoups of Expenditure	86	
24	Sale of Publications and Retail Goods	15	
64	Sale of Confiscated Fish and Equipment	52	
239	Sale of Assets	260	
11	Recovery of Legal Costs	0	
44	Aquaculture Development Fund	65	
346	Other Sundry Revenue	696	40,718
45,819			54,726
	Payments		
31,706	Contribution to Fisheries WA operations	37,985	
105	Contribution to Salaries Suspense	94	38,079
31,811			38,079
14,008	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		16,647

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

46 AFMA FUND

2003 S'000		2004 S'000	S'000
510	Opening balance - 1 July		169
	Receipts		
1,269	Funds received from AFMA	1,228	
30	Interest	8	
20	Other	0	1,236
1,829			1,405
	Payments		
1,660	Expenditure on AFMA related activities	1,333	1,333
1,660			1,333
169	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		72

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

47 RECREATIONAL FISHING FUND

2003 S'000		2004 S'000	S'000
8	Opening balance - 1 July		
	Receipts		
6,890	Contribution from Consolidated Fund	8,053	
2,291	Recreational Fishing Licences	2,381	
0	Sale of Confiscated Equipment	13	
6	Court Costs Recovered	8	
1	Sale of Retail Goods	1	
6	Other Revenue	8	10,464
9,202			10,474
	Payments		
9,192	Expenditure on recreational fishing related activities	10,464	10,464
9,192			10,464
10	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		10

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

Trust Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

48 FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FUND

2003 \$'000		2004 \$'000	\$'000
2	Opening balance - 1 July		235
	Receipts		
2,617	Contributions from FRDC	2,296	
28	Interest	30	
9	Other	23	2,349
2,656			2,584
	Payments		
2,421	Expenditure on Fisheries WA research related activities	2,658	2,658
2,421			2,658
235	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		(74)

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

49 FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEMES TRUST ACCOUNT

2003 \$'000		2004 \$'000	\$'000
1,124	Opening balance - 1 July		844
	Receipts		
1,500	Contributions from participants in Prawn fisheries adjustment schemes	1,500	
500	Specific State contributions to fisheries adjustment	500	2,000
3,124			2,844
	Payments		
12	Administration	3	
768	Unit buy back State Scheme	128	
1,500	Loan repayments	1,500	1,631
2,280			1,631
844	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		1,213

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.

50 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMISSION TRUST ACCOUNT

2003 \$'000		2004	
		\$'000	\$'000
299	Opening balance - 1 July		0
	Receipts		
50	Contributions from ATSIC	0	0
349			0
	Payments		
347	Recoup to Fisheries Research and Development Fund	0	
2	Expenditure on ATSIC related activities	0	0
349			0
0	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		0

The purpose of this account is to hold funds received from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) for the purposes of providing financial support and assistance in aquaculture project development within the scope of the ATSIC business development programme.

51 FISHERIES PRIVATE MONEYS TRUST ACCOUNT

2003 \$'000		2004	
		\$'000	\$'000
15	Opening balance - 1 July		19
	Receipts		
4	Proceeds from the sale of seized fish	34	34
19	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		53

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

52 FISH FARM BOND DEPOSITS TRUST ACCOUNT

2003 \$'000		2004	
		\$'000	\$'000
19	Opening balance - 1 July		19
	Receipts		
0	Deposits received	5	5
19	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		24

The purpose of this account is to hold fish farm bond deposits lodged by licensees, as security and guarantee for the due and punctual performance of the licensees Fish Farm licence conditions.

Trust Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments

FOR THE PERIOD | JULY 2003 TO 30 JUNE 2004

53 CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

2003 \$'000		2004 \$'000	\$'000
26	Opening Balance		49
	Receipts		
85	Reimbursements	42	42
111			91
	Payments		
23	Salaries	24	
14	Travel & Accommodation	6	
	Administration	17	
25	Oncosts	26	73
62			73
49	Balance 30 June		18

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



REPORT ON OPERATIONS –
DEPARTMENT OUTPUTS

REPORT ON OPERATIONS –
DEPARTMENT SERVICES

REPORT ON
CORPORATE SERVICES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PERFORMANCE
INDICATORS

APPENDICES

Financial OVERVIEW

Summary

The following is a summary of the financial performance and financial position of the Department for the year ended 30 June 2004:

- The Department's net cost of services has increased by 12.9%. Operating revenue increased by 1.9% (\$27.5m : 2004, \$27.0m: 2003), and operating expenses increased by 6.5% (\$49.7m :2004, \$46.6m :2003). The variance in expenditure results from increased activity as a consequence of the transfer of the "at sea" safety functions from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and from the increased Capital User Charge expense impacted by significant asset growth from work on the Hillarys Research and Education Centre.

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 Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Financial Position.

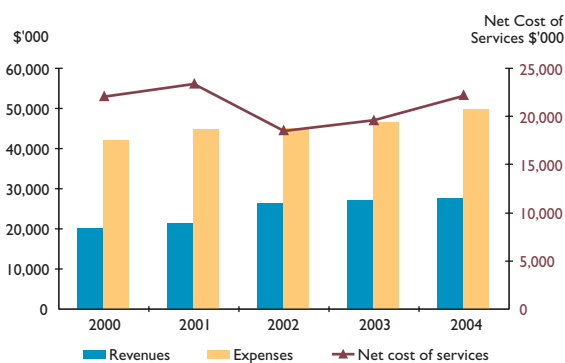
Financial Performance

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 12.9% (\$22.2m: 2004, \$19.6m: 2003).

The trend in the Department's net cost of services since 1999-2000 is depicted in Figure 1.

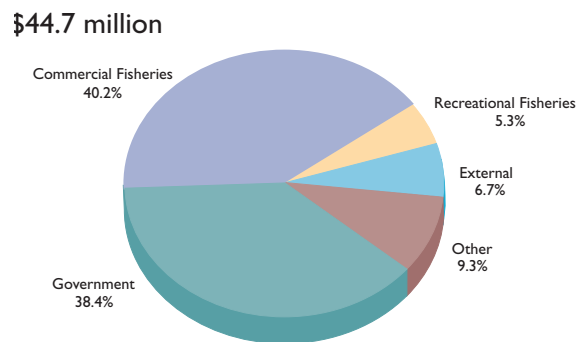
FIGURE 1: Net Cost of Services



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

Total revenue has increased by 6.6% between 2003 and the current financial year (\$44.7m: 2004, \$41.9m: 2003).

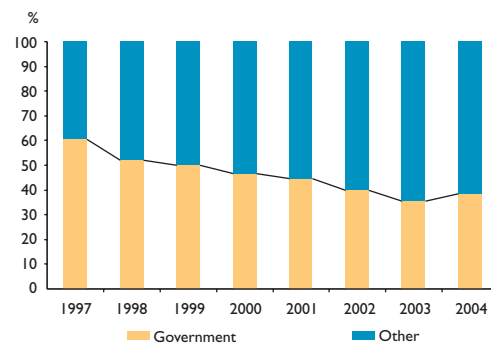
FIGURE 2: Revenue Sources 2003 – 2004



The reduction in the reliance on government funding is also demonstrated through the government funding ratio. This indicator shows the extent to which the Department is funded by the State. The government funding ratio has decreased from 60.5% to 38.4% since 1996-1997.

Figure 3 shows this trend with the most recent years reflecting that full cost recovery from part of the commercial sector was achieved in 2001-2002. The increase in 2003-2004 results from increased capital related expenses as the asset base grows.

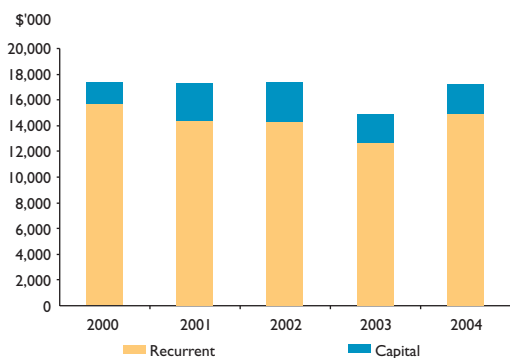
FIGURE 3: Proportion of Total Funding



The total State Government funding has increased in 2003-2004 as a result of amalgamation of the maritime compliance functions of DPI and Fisheries. Capital funding varies according to the scheduled capital works program.

Figure 4 shows the changes in government funding over the last 5 years.

FIGURE 4: Government Funding



Revenues from other sources are received from the commercial fishing industry through access fees under the cost recovery arrangement and external funding for research and management of the Australian Fishing Zone from the Commonwealth Government. The amount of revenue received from independent sources has increased marginally (\$27.5m: 2004, \$27.0m : 2003). The categories of user fees and charges which comprise these non State Government funding sources are displayed in Figure 5.

FIGURE 5: User Fees, Charges and Grants

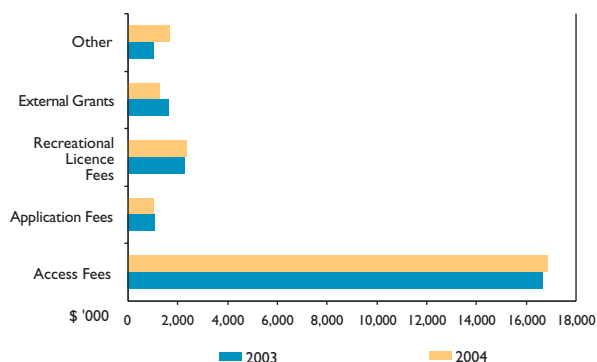
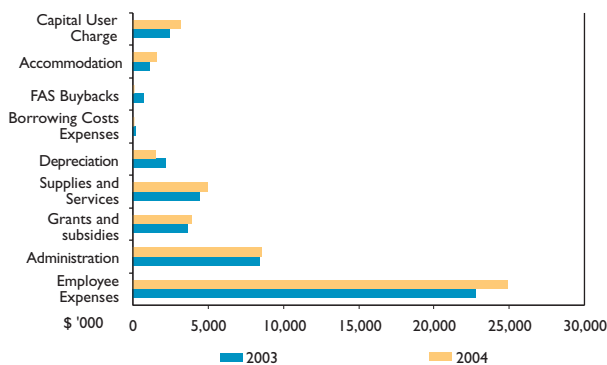


Figure 6 shows the total expenditure by type against comparative figures for the 2002-2003 financial year. Expenses significantly impacted by the amalgamation of the maritime compliance functions of DPI and Fisheries.

FIGURE 6: Total Expenses by Type



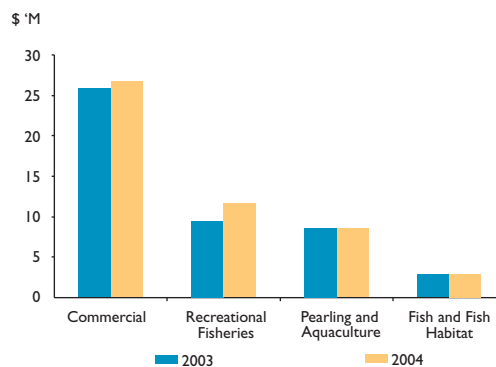
The Department has four outputs:

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

Figure 7 shows the level of expenditure by output, against comparative figures for the 2002-2003 financial year.

Recreational fisheries output significantly impacted by the amalgamation of the maritime compliance functions of DPI and Fisheries.

FIGURE 7: Outputs - Total Cost of Services



Financial

OVERVIEW

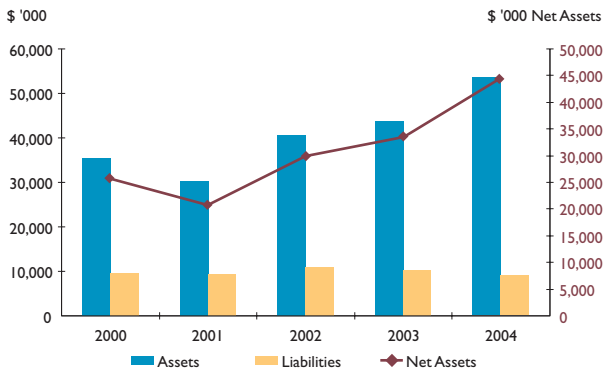
Financial Position

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

The net assets of the Department represent the residual interest in the assets after deducting liabilities. This position has increased during the financial year by 32.8% (\$44.6m : 2004, \$33.5m : 2003) due to an increase in both reported cash balances and property plant and equipment, as well as a decrease in liabilities, as a result of repayments of borrowings for the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme.

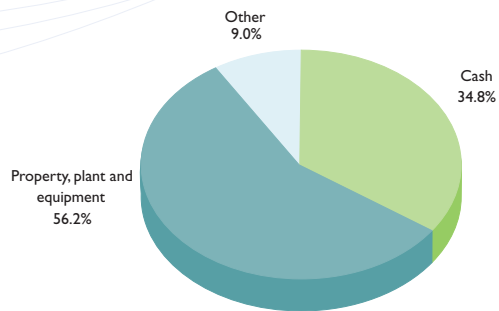
Figure 8 provides an overview of the asset and liability position of the Department for the past 5 years.

FIGURE 8: Financial Position



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

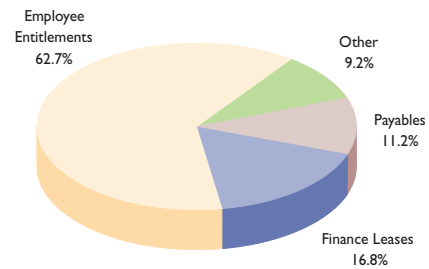
FIGURE 9: Asset Categories as at 30 June 2004



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

In the past, a major component of the Department's liabilities related to the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme. Final payments under the Scheme were made in 2003-04.

FIGURE 10: Liability Categories as at 30 June 2004



Employee entitlements consist of annual and long service leave. The Department has faced increasing staffing levels as well as increased salary rates since 1999-2000. The liability for employee entitlements has increased by 6.4% during the 2003-2004 financial year, although staffing levels have increased by 10.5%. The Department has in recent years aggressively pursued strategies to reduce its leave liability and these strategies will continue into the future.

FIGURE 11: Employee Entitlements

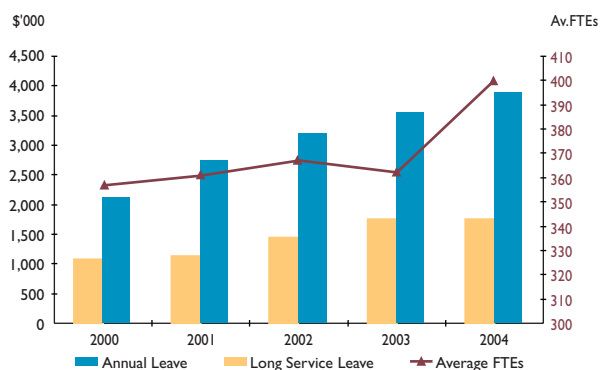
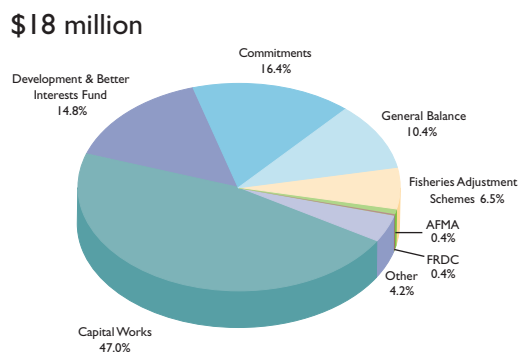


Figure 12 shows the composition of the amounts appearing as cash assets. Commitment for capital works accounts for 47.4% of this balance, while other commitments (including DBIF) account for a further 42.1%.

FIGURE 12: Bank Account Composition as at 30 June 2004



Performance Indicators 2003/2004

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

CERTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Treasurer's Instruction 905

Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985

I hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Department of Fisheries performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Department of Fisheries for the financial year ended 30 June 2004.



Peter P Rogers
Executive Director

26 July 2004



AUDITOR GENERAL

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the key effectiveness and efficiency performance indicators of the Department of Fisheries are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Department's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended June 30, 2004.

Scope

The Executive Director's Role

The Executive Director is responsible for developing and maintaining proper records and systems for preparing performance indicators.

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

Summary of my Role

As required by the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985, I have independently audited the performance indicators to express an opinion on them. This was done by looking at a sample of the evidence.

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the performance indicators is error free, nor does it 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 performance indicators.

D D R PEARSON
AUDITOR GENERAL
September 9, 2004

Performance Indicators 2003/2004

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

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

For the 2003/04 performance review, 34 fisheries have been utilised. This is the same number as was assessed in 2002/03.

For the 34 fisheries reviewed, Appendix 1 records that breeding stock assessments are now available for the major species taken in 32 (or 94%) of these fisheries. This is an increase of one on last year due to the further completion of assessments needed to meet the requirements of the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. In the remainder, there were insufficient data on the individual target species to make a critical assessment, but the catch histories of these fisheries suggest that most of the stocks being harvested are relatively stable. In situations where these stocks have the potential to become over-fished, they are given priority for new research and management.

Within the group of 32 fisheries, 29 (91%) involve stocks that have adequate breeding stock levels. The three fisheries with either inadequate or decreasing breeding stocks are the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery, the Lake Argyle Catfish Fishery and the Southern and West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Longline (shark) Fishery.

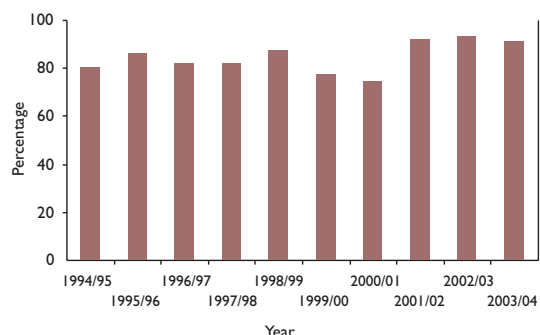
For the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery, a series of low recruitment years has resulted in a significant decline in the adult biomass during the past few years. Management actions to restore the spawning biomass to appropriate levels have already been implemented.

For the shark fishery, two of the four target stocks are still considered to be over-fished. For whiskery sharks, the current low breeding stock is now considered to be increasing. The level of adult (breeding size) dusky whalers, however, continues to decline due to changes in targeting practices by this and other fisheries. The management arrangements for both the shark fishery and other fisheries that capture these sharks (including one managed by the Commonwealth) are under review to address this problem.

Finally, the increased catch in the Lake Argyle Catfish Fishery during 2003 suggests that the recovery of this stock that was underway during the previous two years is unlikely to have continued. This will require a review of the management arrangements, including consideration of whether the industry code of practice is still an appropriate mechanism for controlling fishing activities.

FIGURE 1

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



1.2 - The proportion of commercial fisheries where predicted catches are achieved

An acceptable catch or effort range has been determined for each of the major commercial fisheries (see Appendix 1) by the Department's 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, management plans seek to directly control the fishing effort applied to the stock with the level of catch taken providing an indication of the effectiveness of the plan. That is, if the plan is operating effectively, the catch by the fishery should fall within a projected range. The size of this range reflects the effects of normal environmental variations on the level of recruitment of young fish to the stock which cannot be 'controlled' by the management plan.

In the specific case of quota-managed fisheries, the measure of success of the management arrangements is firstly that the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is achieved, but more importantly that it has been possible to take this catch using an acceptable amount of fishing effort. That is, 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 in the next reporting year has also been incorporated for assessing the performance of quota-managed fisheries (Appendix 1).

Comparisons of actual catches with the acceptable catch or effort ranges have been provided for 27 of the 34 fisheries referred to in Appendix 1. The fisheries for which ranges were provided account for most of the commercial value of WA's fish catch. The fisheries where ranges are unavailable include those that are largely developmental, plus the four pilchard fisheries where the effort levels to take the quotas have not yet been recalculated.

Of the 27 fisheries where 'acceptable catch ranges' were available in 2003/04, four were catch-quota managed (through a TAC allocated through individually transferable quotas or ITQs) and 23 were subject to effort control management (including individually transferable effort in more advanced management plans).

Whilst all four TAC/ITQ-managed fisheries were within their acceptable effort range, the catch of the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery was substantially lower than the quota. This was despite the relatively high level of effort used and is consistent with the depleted levels of adult biomass for this stock. Changes to the management of this fishery have already been initiated with a 40% reduction in quota for the 2004 season.

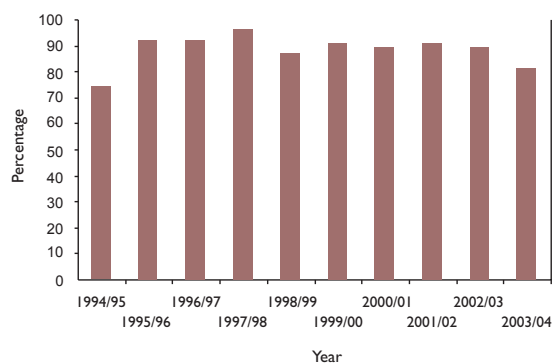
In the 23 effort-controlled fisheries, 16 produced catches that were within, or acceptably above, their catch ranges. Two of the four fisheries that had unacceptably high catches were the Pilbara Fish Trawl and Pilbara Trap fisheries, despite their effort levels being reduced by 7% during the 2003 season. The other two fisheries with unacceptably high catches were the Lake Argyle Catfish and Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi fisheries. All four of these will require review.

Three of the effort-based fisheries had catches below their acceptable range but were still judged to have performed acceptably. One was the Australian Herring Trap Fishery where there has been a reduction in fishing teams over the past few years and the current market conditions are poor. Another was the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery which had a relatively low catch in 2003 due to a combination of the low recruitment levels in the main part of the fishery combined with a significant shift in effort to the Abrolhos fishery which had a record year. Finally, the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery continues, for economic reasons, to significantly under-utilise its available effort.

In summary, 22 (81%) of the 27 fisheries assessed were considered to have met their performance criteria, or were affected by factors outside the purview of the management plan. This is a reduction on the result for 2002/03 (89%).

FIGURE 2

The proportion (%) of fisheries where catch or effort reported falls within the accepted range relevant to the management controls being applied.



Performance Indicators 2003/2004

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

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

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

In the past, fish resources have been shared mainly on an implicit basis with no explicit setting of catch shares within an overall total allowable catch. The Department is adopting an integrated fisheries management 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. Integrated fisheries management will need to be progressively phased in and it is likely to take some 10 years to bring the majority of the State's fisheries under this new framework.

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

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

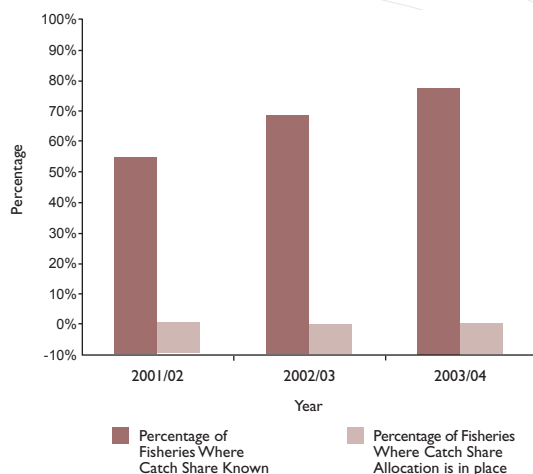
In this context, 'fisheries or fished stocks' can either be a managed fishery for a particular species (e.g. western rock lobster) or a spatially managed area of fishing activity encompassing a number of species (e.g. west coast estuaries). A 'current estimate' (of catch) is within the past five years (i.e. since 1998/99). For recreational fisheries, the accuracy of any catch estimate can be an issue and is often methodology dependent. For example, a telephone diary survey is more accurate than a mail-recall survey. A 'sharing allocation' is defined as a percentage of a total allowable catch.

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

The catch share data used for the first part of the indicator are reported in the Department's *State of the Fisheries Report*. These shares are currently based on commercial catch data and results from recreational surveys undertaken by the Department's Fisheries Research Division. The Department has made no assessment of whether these current shares are optimal or equitable with regard to community benefit and it acknowledges that this indicator does not include shares allocated implicitly or otherwise to the conservation sector (via 'no-take' areas) or to other sectors (e.g. indigenous).

On this basis, the share of catch attributable to the commercial sector and the recreational sector for 2003/04 is known for 17 of the 22 fisheries (77%), leaving 5 fisheries or 23% where the catch shares are not known. To provide comparison, figures were also drawn from the 2002/03 *State of the Fisheries Report*. Of the 22 fisheries, 15 fisheries (68%) had catch shares assessed and 7 (32%) did not. For the 2004/05 year, the Department's target is to have data available for 85% of the relevant fisheries or fished stocks with the long-term target of 100%. The number of fisheries with estimates of recreational catch should increase next year because of 4 fisheries where this is currently unknown, at least 2 will have reasonable estimates from the revised analyses of national recreational survey data.

In relation to the second part of the indicator, while there are a small number of fisheries or fished stocks where a formal or informal mediated catch share process and/or outcome has been achieved, there are no explicit allocations in place. As described above, the integrated fisheries management initiative will result in explicit allocations and/or re-allocations to specific sectors following a formal and structured allocation process. The Department is planning to initiate this formal allocation process for the Western Rock Lobster, Abalone and west coast finfish fisheries, during the 2004/05 year with the implementation of the final allocations from this process in 2006/07. Other fisheries will follow with the proportion of fisheries or fished stocks with formal allocations increasing over time.



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

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 the Department's Fisheries Research Division. Information for the years 2000/01 to 2002/03 in broad groupings is provided in Table 1.

The value of commercially caught crustaceans declined slightly during 2002/03 despite an increase in the tonnage landed. The large tonnage was mostly a result of the increased rock lobster catch during 2002/03 which was expected given the juvenile settlement observed 3–4 years earlier. There were also continued improvements in the catches of most of the prawn fisheries, particularly tiger prawns in the Exmouth Gulf and Onslow regions, plus banana prawns in Nickol Bay. These increases in catch were not, however, sufficient to override the drop in landed value of crustaceans that mainly resulted from the shifts in the exchange rate during this period.

There was a significant increase in the production and value of molluscan fisheries in 2002/03. The majority of this was due to the largest ever catch of scallops in the Abrolhos scallop fishery. Such variations in scallop abundance are mainly due to environmental effects on recruitment (abundance).

The finfish sector continues to be supported by a large number of stocks, thereby providing a relatively stable yearly production with the total production having remained above 16,000 t. Overall, the value of production in 2002/03 was slightly up on the previous year.

The value of pearl production in 2002/03 continued at similar levels to the previous year. Western Australia continues to be the dominant supplier of premium South Sea pearls in the international markets. The decline in aquaculture production in 2002/03 compared to the 2001/02 figure was due to a reduction in the production of mussels and yabbies.

In summary, WA fisheries production value declined marginally in 2002/03 due primarily to lower returns from the crustacean fisheries which eclipsed the large increase in the scallop catch. The WA fisheries sector continues to perform well despite significant external influences on market values, maintaining the overall upward trend in value evident during the 1990s. Consequently, WA remains the dominant State nationally in terms of fisheries production and value.

Performance Indicators 2003/2004

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

TABLE 1: WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES PRODUCTION – YEARS 2000/01 TO 2002/03

	2000/01		2001/02 (d)		2002/03 (d)	
	t	\$ m	t	\$ m	t	\$ m
Crustaceans	15,506	353	13,569	358	16,655	335
Molluscs (a)	4,282	47	2,767	35	7,653	50
Fish	14,685	36	16,389	39	16,373	42
Pearling (b)	n/a	150	n/a	175	n/a	175
Aquaculture (c)	1,312	7	1,231	7	1,022	7
TOTAL PRODUCTION	35,785	593	33,956	614	41,703	609

Footnotes:

a Includes miscellaneous invertebrates, e.g. beche-de-mer.

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

c Excludes hatchery production and algae production for betacarotene.

d Figures current as at end of financial year. Figures may be subject to change due to late production returns and ongoing validation of databases.

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 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 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.

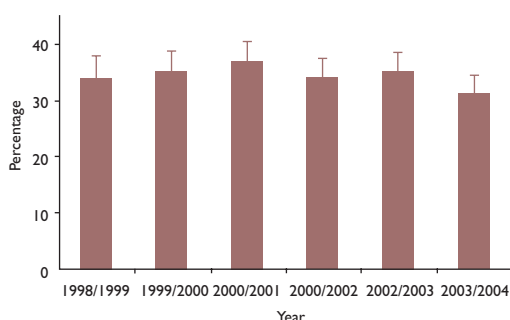
The survey was conducted by telephone during May 2004. The telephone numbers were randomly selected from the DTMS white pages on CD-ROM. Respondents were males and females older than 17 years residing in Western Australia. The total sample of 701 interviews comprised:

- 416 metropolitan interviews; and
- 285 from regional interviews.

3.1 - The participation rate in recreational fisheries

Research conducted by the Recreational Fishing Surveys and Statistics section of the Western Australian Marine Research Laboratories gives the number of people in Western Australia who went recreational fishing at least once in the previous 12 month period as 533 000 individuals or 30.8 percent of the WA population (using ABS population estimates from the 2001 census). The participation rate for recreational fishing in Western Australia was 34.6 percent in 2002/2003, 33.8 percent in 2001/2002, 37.1 percent in 2000/2001, 35.4 percent in 1999/2000, and 34.0 percent in 1998/1999 (Figure 1).

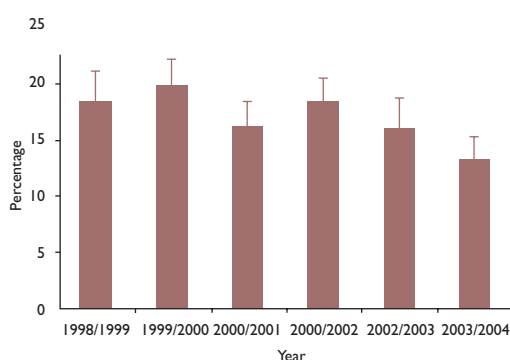
FIGURE 1
PARTICIPATION RATE IN RECREATIONAL FISHERIES
1998/1999 – 2003/2004



Days Fished

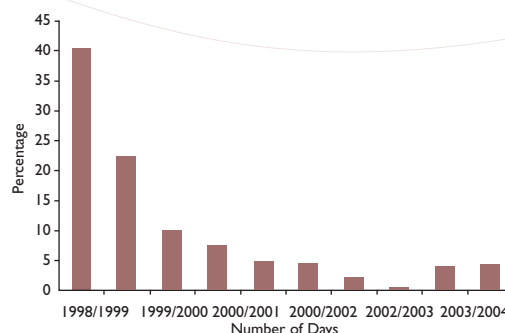
The average number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last twelve months was 13 days with a median of six days (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2
AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS FISHED 1998/1999 –
2003/2004



The number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last twelve months ranges from one to 156 days. The majority of people in Western Australia fished between one and 5 days. However, some fished for considerably more than 10 days, giving a skewed frequency distribution (Figure 3). It is likely that the number of days fished has been overstated due to the inability of respondents to accurately recall past fishing trips over a 12-month period.

FIGURE 3
DISTRIBUTION FOR NUMBERS OF DAYS FISHED



The most popular region for recreational fishers was the Perth Metropolitan area from Yanchep to Mandurah (50 percent). Other areas that people fished were the West Coast other than the Perth Metropolitan area (46 percent), South Coast – Marine (20 percent), Gascoyne (9 percent), Pilbara/Kimberley – Marine (8 percent), South Coast – Freshwater (4 percent) and Pilbara/Kimberley – Freshwater (2 percent). The total exceeds 100 percent due to multiple responses

3.2 – The satisfaction rate of those engaged in recreational fishing.

An overall satisfaction scoring model or index has been developed to measure and track the satisfaction of recreational fishers.

The satisfaction index is a combination of Knowledge, Management and Confidence.

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

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

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

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

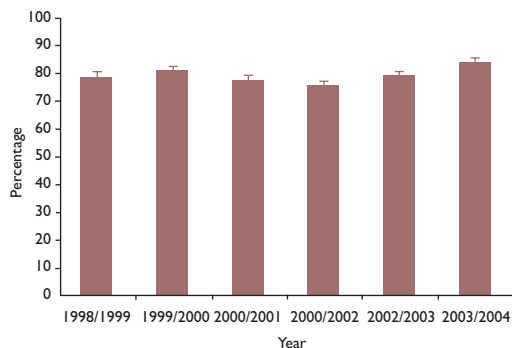
Performance Indicators 2003/2004

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

The satisfaction index for recreational fishing was 81.4 percent with a 95 percent confidence interval between 79.7 percent and 83.0 percent. The satisfaction index is significantly higher than the value of 79.2 percent reported by the 2003 Community Survey (Baharthah & Sumner, 2003). This was primarily due to an increase in the proportion of respondents who were satisfied with the number, variety and size of their catch. It is also due to an improvement in the satisfaction with the overall fishing trip.

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

FIGURE 4
SATISFACTION RATING OF THOSE INVOLVED IN RECREATIONAL FISHING 1998/1999 – 2003/2004



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 following results are from the 51 percent of respondents from the broader community who knew the Department of Fisheries was responsible for one or more of the four sub-programs. The Department of Fisheries was given a satisfaction rate of 83.9 percent by the Western Australian public.

The 95 percent confidence interval for the satisfaction rate of the broader community is between 81.0 percent and 86.8 percent. The satisfaction rate is not significantly different to the value of 82.8 percent for 2002/2003 (Baharthah, T. & Sumner, N. R., 2003). There is no significant change in the public's opinion on

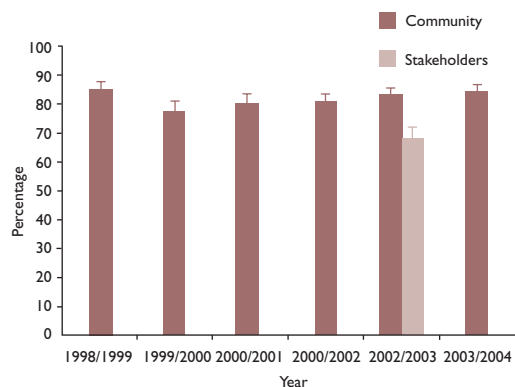
the management of the sub programs. The satisfaction rate of the broader community was 82.8 percent in 2002/2003, 80.6 percent in 2001/2002, 80.1 percent in 2000/2001, 77.0 percent in 1999/2000 and 85.3 percent in 1998/1999 (Figure 5).

During 2002 an additional survey was conducted to measure the satisfaction of Department of Fisheries' stakeholders. The survey comprised 149 interviews with representatives from commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, fish and fish habitat protection and aquaculture and pearling. This survey is planned to be repeated every two years. The Department of Fisheries was given a satisfaction rate of 68.3 percent by Department of Fisheries stakeholders (Baharthah, T. & Sumner, N. R., 2003).

The 95% confidence interval for the stakeholder satisfaction rate was between 64.8 percent and 71.9 percent. This was significantly different to the satisfaction rating of the broader community.

The satisfaction rating was 68.3 percent for stakeholders and 83.9 percent for the broader community as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving sustainable fisheries management.

FIGURE 5
SATISFACTION RATING OF THE BROADER COMMUNITY AND DEPARTMENT STAKEHOLDERS



4.0 Efficiency indicators

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

Year to year hourly costs have been impacted by variations in expenditures including those not linked to direct hourly service delivery eg. payment of grants, fisheries adjustment scheme payments. The reported hourly cost also includes a component to cover fixed indirect costs. This component will fluctuate in line with activity levels (hours delivered).

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

Output 1:
Management of the State's Commercial Fisheries

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

Output 1 Commercial	Actual 2002/03	Actual 2003/04
Cost		
Average Cost per hour Community Education and Compliance	\$125	\$133
Average Cost per hour for Management	\$142	\$137
Average Cost per hour for Research	\$111	\$112

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

Output 2:
Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries.

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

Output 2 Recreational Fishing	Actual 2002/03	Actual 2003/04
Cost		
Average Cost per hour for Management	\$108	\$139
Average Cost per hour for Research	\$96	\$94
Average Cost per hour Community Education and Compliance	\$121	\$107

Performance Indicators 2003/2004

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

Outcome:

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

Output 3:

Development and promotion of the State's aquaculture industry

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

Output 3 Aquaculture and Pearling	Actual 2002/03	Actual 2003/04
Cost		
Average Cost per hour for Aquaculture Management	\$117	\$131
Average Cost per hour for Pearling Management	\$98	\$121
Average Cost per hour for Aquaculture Research	\$120	\$113
Average Cost per hour for Pearling Research	\$77	\$78
Average Cost per hour Aquaculture Community Education and Compliance	\$131	\$174
Average Cost per hour Pearling Community Education and Compliance	\$152	\$163

Outcome:

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

Output 4:

Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat

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

Output 4 Fish and Fish Habitat Protection	Actual 2002/03	Actual 2003/04
Cost		
Average Cost per hour for Community Education and Compliance	\$112	\$124
Average Cost per hour for Management	\$122	\$116
Average Cost per hour for Research	\$142	\$119



REPORT ON OPERATIONS –
DEPARTMENT OUTPUTS

REPORT ON OPERATIONS –
DEPARTMENT SERVICES

REPORT ON
CORPORATE SERVICES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PERFORMANCE
INDICATORS

APPENDICES

Appendices

APPENDIX I

Ministerial and Management Advisory Committees (MACs) and REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ministerial and Management Advisory Committees (MACs) Membership as at 30 June 2004

Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee

(Section 29 FRMA 1994)

Number of meetings held 2003-04:	4
Remuneration:	
Chair	\$19,750 per annum
Members	\$308 full day, \$203 half day

Name	Membership expires
Ron Edwards <i>Chair</i>	31 May 2005
John Cole <i>Commercial sector</i>	30 April 2006
Angus Callander <i>Processing sector</i>	30 April 2006
Roy McVeigh <i>Commercial sector</i>	30 April 2006
Des Wood <i>Recreational sector</i>	30 April 2006
Chris Beissel <i>Commercial sector</i>	30 April 2006
PETER BAILEY <i>Commercial sector</i>	30 April 2006
Jenny Shaw <i>Department of Fisheries</i>	30 April 2006
Leonie Noble <i>Commercial sector</i>	31 August 2006
Jim Maloney <i>Commercial sector</i>	August 2006
Tony Jurinovich <i>Commercial sector</i>	31 August 2006
Sam Koncurat <i>Commercial sector</i>	31 August 2006

Nick Corbo 31 August 2006

Processing sector

Executive Director, Department of Fisheries
ex officio

Tim Bray

Executive Officer, Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee

Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee

(Section 33 FRMA 1994)

Meetings per year:	4
Remuneration:	
Chair	\$9,500 per annum
Members	\$215 full day, \$142 half day

Name	Membership expires
Doug Bathgate <i>Chair</i>	30 November 2005
Mr Peter Millington <i>Nominee of Department of Fisheries Executive Director</i>	30 November 2004
Mr Len Armstrong	30 November 2004
Mr Ian Bailey	30 November 2004
Mr Geoff Bunn	30 November 2005
Mr Ray Fidock	30 November 2004
Mr Scott Goodson	30 November 2004
Mr James Greig	30 November 2005
Mr Norman Halse	30 November 2005
Ms Sara Hennessy	30 November 2005
Ms Sandra Lymbery	30 November 2004
Mr Chris Mills	30 November 2004
Mr Pino Monaco	30 November 2004
Mr Ron Reynolds	30 November 2005
Mrs Kay Webber	30 November 2004
Ms Eileen Ferguson <i>Executive Officer Department of Fisheries</i>	

Aquaculture Development Council(Section 37 *FRMA 1994*)

Number of meetings held 2003-04: 9

Remuneration:

Chair \$15,750 per annum

Members \$215 full day, \$142 half day

Name	Membership expires
-------------	---------------------------

Dexter Davies 31 May 2005

Chair

Steve Nel 12 February 2005

Marine aquaculture

Mary Nenke 12 February 2005

Freshwater aquaculture

Stephen Hood 12 February 2005

Business Consultant

Sciona Browne 12 February 2005

Freshwater aquaculture

Russell Barnett 1 August 2006

Business expertise

Peter Rogers not applicable

*Executive Director Department of Fisheries***Pearling Industry Advisory Committee***(Pearling Act 1990)*

Number of meetings held 2003-04: 3

Remuneration:

Chair \$8,500 per annum

Members \$4,700 per annum

Name	Membership expires
-------------	---------------------------

Michael Smith 1 December 2004

Chair

Tim Bailey 1 October 2004

Industry

Jennifer Seabrook 1 December 2004

Independent

John Kelly 31 March 2005

Industry

Nick Paspaley 31 March 2005

Industry

Bruce Brown 31 March 2005

Industry

Nick Miller 31 March 2005

Industry

Peter Rogers 31 March 2005

Executive Director, Department of Fisheries

George Kailis 1 October 2006

Independent

Edward Harbuz 1 October 2006

Independent

John Jenkin 1 October 2006

*Industry***OTHER MACS***(SECTIONS 41 AND 42 FRMA 1994)*

WA Demersal Net and Hook Fisheries Management Advisory Committee

Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee

Purse Seine Management Advisory Committee

Abalone Management Advisory Committee

Joint Trawl Management Advisory Committee

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of ManagementCommittees established under Section 11 of the *Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act (FAS) 1987* which were in existence at 30 June 2004:

South Coast Herring and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

West Coast Estuarine and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

South West Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

Appendices

Membership as at 30 June 2004:

Ross Donald

Chair

Peter Millington

Member

Graeme Stewart

Member

Kay Webber

Member

Number of meetings held 2003-04 4

Remuneration

Chair \$323 full day, \$213 part day

Members \$215 full day, \$142 part day

APPENDIX 2

Publications And Promotional Items

Corporate

- *Western Fisheries magazine* (four issues annually) - 35,500
- *Bottom Line* staff newsletter (11 issues) - 2,750
- Stakeholder Survey - 500
- Scans for *Western Fisheries Magazine*, Spring 2003
- Certificates - 16
- Reward and Recognition Award Function Invitations - 200
- Name badges and boxes - 7
- *Western Fisheries* magazine subscription forms - 65,000
- *Fish for the future* rubber-grip pens - 1,000
- Western Fisheries Magazine reader survey – 6,500
- Marine Science Cluster - 65
- *Annual Report 2002/03* document - 106
- Marron Consignment Notebooks - 100
- Scans for *Western Fisheries* magazine - 10
- Print/Design Requisition Books - 5
- Fisheries Management Paper front covers - 10,000
- *Western Fisheries* magazine commercial fishers mailer - 10,000
- Management Paper back covers - 20,000
- Departmental sandwich signs - 6

Recreational Fishing

- Recreational Fishing Licences - 85,000
- Freshwater Angling brochure - 20,000
- Fishing for Marron brochure - 20,000
- Swan/Canning River Festival displays - 3
- Swan/Canning Frequently Asked Questions - 5,000
- Possession Limits Frequently Asked Questions flyer - 20,000
- Scans/Slides - 3
- Scan pink snapper slide - 1
- Generic 90cm fish ruler sticker - 20,000
- Recreational Fishing in the West Coast guide - 80,000
- Recreational Fishing in the Gascoyne guides - 70,000
- Fishing for Abalone - 20,000
- Fishing for Rock Lobster - 40,000
- Crabbing for Blue Swimmer Crabs - 10,000
- Mandurah Boat Show Display - 3
- Fishing for Abalone insert - 20,000
- Generic 90cm Fish Ruler sticker - 80,000
- Fishing for the future – South Coast and Northern Region - 10,000
- Fishing for Mud Crabs 2003/04 brochure- 5,000
- What's new? - recreational netting brochure - 5,000
- West Coast recreational fishing brochures - 5,000
- Fishing for the Future brochure – South Coast and Northern Region - 50,000
- Fishing for Rock Lobster brochure - 25,000
- Shark Bay snapper signs - 20
- Fishing for Pink Snapper in Shark Bay brochure - 20,000
- Recreational Net Fishing guide - 15,000
- Pink snapper lottery form - 2,000
- Crabbing signage - 20
- Shark Bay snapper tag cards - 1,000
- Crabbing signage decals - 15
- Crabbing for blue swimmer crabs in the West Coast and Gascoyne Regions brochure - 10,000

- Fishing for Barramundi brochure - 10,000
- Generic 90cm ruler stickers - 40,000
- West Coast Species ID Guide - 20,000
- Ningaloo Marine Park signage - 17
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 181 - A Quality Future for Recreational Fishing in the Pilbara/Kimberley. Proposals for Community Discussion. A five-year strategy for managing the recreational component of the catch, prepared by the Pilbara/Kimberley Recreational Fishing Working Group - 3,000
- FMP No. 181 questionnaire - 3,000
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 182 - A Quality Future for Recreational Fishing in the Southern Region of WA. Proposals for Community Discussion. A five-year strategy for managing the recreational component of the catch, prepared by the Southern Recreational Fishing Working Group - 3,000
- FMP No. 182 questionnaire - 3,000
- Yellow fin whiting signs - 3

Commercial Fisheries

- Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 18 - Assessment of Applications for Rock Lobster Processing Authorizations and Imposing Licence Conditions - 400
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 170 - Management of the proposed Geographe Bay Blue Swimmer and Sand Crab Managed Fishery - 600
- Generic rock lobster display - 1
- Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) display - 1
- RLIAC folders - 900
- RLIAC Strategic Plan - 900
- Marine Stewardship Council report - 900
- RLIAC - McKinlay compliance report - 900
- RLIAC - Stock Assessment document - 900
- RLIAC - New Datum for Fisheries Legislation document - 900
- RLIAC - 2003 Program - 900
- RLIAC - Venue Reminder document - 900
- Wetline poster - 30
- Rock Lobster Unit Holding - 650

- Fisheries Management Paper No. 169 - Hardy Inlet discussion paper - 500
- Ministerial Policy Guideline No.19 - Matters of Importance in respect of the 'fit and proper person' criterion for authorizations under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* - 150
- Commercial Abalone Fisheries displays - 2

Pearling and Aquaculture

- Prawn and barramundi display - 4
- Prawn and barramundi CD Case - 400
- Seafood Directions crazy pens - 500
- Prawn and barramundi posters laminating - 2
- Pearling and Aquaculture handout - 600
- Marron Profit CD duplication with cases - 100
- Marron Profit inlay - 100
- Report to the Minister for Fisheries on Legislative Arrangements of Aquaculture - 250
- Proposed Strategy for Development of Aquaculture - 250
- Identification of Freshwater Crayfish - 10,000
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 175 - Fish Stock and Fishery Enhancement in Western Australia - a discussion paper - 400
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 176 - Fish Stock and Fishery Enhancement in Western Australia - a summary report - 400

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Area

- Covers reprint - FMP No. 161 - 724
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 173 - Draft Plan of Management for the proposed Point Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Area - 500
- Women's Industry Network for the Seafood Community (WINSNC) brochure - 2,000
- WINSNC banner / corporate banner - 3
- WINSNC program - 250
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 151 - Inventory of the Land Conservation Values of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands - 500
- Lancelin Island Lagoon Fish Habitat Protection Area signs - 10

Appendices

- Shark safety flyer - 10,000
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 174 - Translocation of Golden Perch, Murray Cod and Australian Bass into and within Western Australia for the Purposes of Recreational Stocking, Domestic Stocking and Commercial and Non-commercial Aquaculture - 600
- Cottesloe Reef Fish Habitat Protection Area brochure - 10,000
- Mud Crab signage - 2
- Cottesloe Reef Fish Habitat Protection Area sign - 1
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 178 - Draft Plan of Management for the Kalbarri Blue Holes Fish Habitat Protection Area - 450
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 171 - Draft Aquaculture Plan for Shark Bay - 250
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 172 - Draft Aquaculture Plan for Exmouth Gulf - 250
- Anti-pest brochures x 3 - 500 of each
- Abrolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area poster - 1
- Ningaloo Marine Park brochure - 10,000
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 171 - Draft Aquaculture Plan for Shark Bay - 100

Strategic Planning and Policy

- Seafood Direction posters - 13 types - 1 of each
- Crazy pen holder - 600
- Trade & Development brochure - 10,000
- Indigenous Fishing poster - 1
- *Fish for the Future* Sustainability through Cooperation brochure - 5,000
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 168 - Aboriginal Fishing Strategy: Report to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries by the Hon E. M. Franklyn QC, Chairman of the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy Working Group - 200
- Statutory Management Authority - 300
- Finfish Handling Book - 1,500
- Handbook for the On-board Handling of WA Demersal Gillnet Catch - 300

Records

- Managing your records poster - 30

Regional Services

- Magnetic boat and vehicle signs - 42
- Occupational Safety and Health (OS&H) poster - 40 x A3, 10 x A4 - 50
- New Regional Management display - 1
- *Fish for the Future* balloons - 500
- Daily Catch and Disposal Record books - 20
- Karratha District Office sign - 1
- Broome vehicle stickers - 20
- Vessel decals - 13
- Saville Kent Centre brochure - 5,000
- Infringement books - 100
- Vessel decal reprint - 7
- Greenlip/Brownlip Abalone Catch and Disposal Record books - 30
- Roe's Abalone Catch and Disposal Record books - 30
- 'Identifying Emperors' guide - 20,000

Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer

- Framing VFLO Uniform - 1
- VFLO flyer - 200

Note: numbers above refer to the amount of each item, printed/produced.

APPENDIX 3

REGISTER OF LICENCES, PERMITS, EXEMPTIONS AND AQUACULTURE LEASES

The register of licences, permits, 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). There are currently no aquaculture leases. Although details of recreational licences are recorded on the register the Registrar is prohibited from making them available for public search – see section 125(6) of the FRMA.

Eighty-nine exemptions were recorded on the register during the period under review.

At 30 June 2004, there were 65,567 recreational fishing licences, 7,216 commercial authorisations and 469 aquaculture licences recorded on the register.

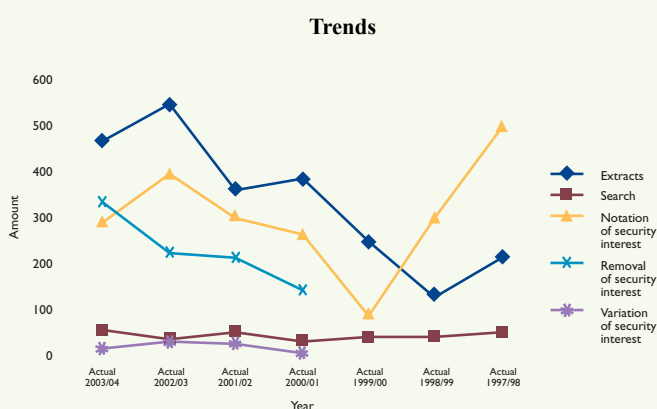
During 2003/04, 34 licences for new interim managed fisheries were recorded on the register and the work to record fish processing permits on the register was completed.

Fees to access the 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*.

The table below details types of transactions on the register in the period under review:

Transactions on the register	
Extracts	470
Searches	58
Notation of security interest	288
Removal of security interest	334
Variation of security interest	16

The following table below shows the trends in use of the register for the period 1997/98 –2003/04:



In addition to access by the public, the Registrar recorded 10 convictions against 24 authorisations in the relevant period, pursuant to the statutory obligation under s224(1) of the FRMA. The year under review was the first year since the commencement of the FRMA that three convictions within 10 years were recorded against authorisations on the register, resulting in cancellation of the authorizations under s224(2) of the FRMA.

The Registrar provided certificates under s212 of the FRMA for the purposes of proceedings for offences under the FRMA on eight occasions.

Fisheries Objections Tribunal

Eight matters were determined in 2003/04. All but one of those involved objections relating to fishing tour operator's licences. The other matter determined related to the transfer of a fish processing licence.

The Minister appointed a tribunal in six matters. Those and 15 other matters are going through the tribunal process.

APPENDIX 4:

NEW LEGISLATION, LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND GAZETTED INSTRUMENTS

1. SUMMARY

1.1 Fish Resources Management Act 1994

There were three amendments to this Act.

- (a) The *Sentencing Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2003* was given the Royal Assent on 9 July 2003. Section 63 (which affects the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA)) of the Act commenced operation on the day after proclamation (14 May 2004) amending imprisonment and monetary penalties.
- (b) The *Acts Amendment and Repeal (Courts & Legal Practice) Act 2003* commenced operation on 1 January 2004. References to the *Legal Practitioners Act 1893* were changed to the *Legal Practice Act 2002*.
- (c) The *Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendment) Act 2003* came into operation on 15 December 2003. The amendment implements changes to the Act following the High Court decision in *Western Australia v the Commonwealth* (1995) 183 CLR 373 which held the *Land (Titles and Traditional Usage) Act 1993* invalid. The amendment redefines 'aboriginal person' to make it consistent with the Commonwealth legislation. The amendment also simplified the process for granting exclusive licences and aquaculture leases including by removing the provisions creating rights of objection based on rights of traditional usage and associated procedural matters.

Appendices

Regulations

There were 14 amendments made to the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*. See item 2.1(a) below.

Management Plans

There was one new management plan and 23 amendments to existing management plans. See item 2.1(b) below.

Orders

There were four new orders and 36 amendments to existing orders. See item 2.1(c) below.

Notices

There were 16 notices published in the Gazette.
See 2.1 (d) below.

1.2 Pearling Act 1990

There were no amendments to this Act during 2003/04.

Regulations

There were two amendments to the *Pearling (General) Regulations 1991*. See item 2.2(a) below.

Notices

There were six notices published in the Gazette.
See item 2.2(b) below.

1.3 Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987

There was one amendment to this Act.

The *Acts Amendment and Repeal (Courts and Legal Practice) Act 2003* commenced operation on 1 January 2004. References to the Legal Practitioners Act 1893 were changed to the *Legal Practice Act 2002*.

Regulations

There were no amendments to the *Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Regulations 1988*.

Notices

There were no 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 were no amendments to this Act.

Regulations

There were no amendments to the *Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Regulations 1998*.

2. DETAILS OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

2.1 Fish Resources Management Act 1994

(a) Regulations

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 7) 2003
Commenced on the day on which section 3 of the Acts Amendment (Australian Datum) Act 2000 came into operation.

Amended the datum of Australia from AGD (Australian Geodetic Datum) to GDA (Geocentric Datum of Australia).

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 11) 2003

Commenced 19 September 2003. Amended Schedule 1 Fees.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 12) 2003

Commenced 1 October 2003. Amended West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery licence fee.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No.8) 2003

Commenced 1 October 2003. Amended recreational regulations for the West Coast and Gascoyne regions. The changes required a comprehensive restructuring of the regulations and included a bag and possession limit framework for the West Coast and Gascoyne regions, State-wide prohibitions on filleting at sea, changes to size limits for various fish species and a range of other changes.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 15) 2003

Commenced 8 November 2003. Amended coordinates in specified regulations.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 9) 2003

Commenced 8 November 2003. Repealed regulation 64R (prohibitions on use of nets in the Swan and Canning Rivers).

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations
(No. 16) 2003*

Commenced 28 November 2003. Inserted provisions regulating recreational abalone fishing.

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations
(No. 14) 2003*

Commenced 23 December 2003. Inserted management regulations for the Cottesloe Reef Fish Habitat Protection Area and Lancelin Island Lagoon Fish Habitat Protection Area. See also entry under 'Prohibition on Fishing (Cottesloe Reef and Lancelin Island Lagoon) Revocation Order 2003'.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations 2004

Commenced 9 January 2004. Amended regulation 38G to specify a 2004 marron season and inserted a new regulation prohibiting fishing for marron in Lake Navarino (Waroona Dam).

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations
(No. 2) 2004*

Commenced 1 March 2004. Amended general fees and fees for the grant or renewal of authorisations.

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations
(No. 3) 2004*

Commenced 6 April 2004. Amended various regulations dealing with tagging pink snapper taken in Shark Bay.

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations
(No. 6) 2004*

Commenced 1 July 2004. Amended various fees, including fees for applications for exemptions and fees payable on the grant or renewal of authorizations.

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations
(No. 5) 2004*

Commenced 29 June 2004. Amended the definition of the Fitzroy River and amended the prohibition on the use of throw nets in inland waters of the Pilbara/Kimberley.

*Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations
(No. 8) 2004*

Commenced 29 June 2004. Amended a provision of Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 6) 2004.

(b) Management Plans

New Plans

West Coast Estuarine Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2003

Commenced 8 November 2003. Introduced interim 'managed fishery' arrangements for commercial estuarine fishing on the west coast of the State.

Amendments to Existing Plans

*South Coast Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan
Amendment 2003*

Amended entitlements for areas in the fishery.

*West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan
Amendment 2003*

Varied the licence expiry date, removed maximum unit holding provisions and effected various minor amendments.

Shark Bay Snapper Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2003

Amended the capacity (total allowable catch) of the fishery.

*West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment
(No. 3) 2003*

Amended the payment of fees by instalment provisions to allow for late payment of first instalment.

*Windy Harbour-Augusta Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan
Amendment 2003*

The amendment re-describes the line of longitude at Cape Leeuwin in line with the Geocentric Datum Australia (GDA).

*West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment
(No. 2) 2003*

The amendment re-describes the line of longitude at Cape Leeuwin in line with the GDA.

*Warnbro Sound (Crab) Fishery Management Plan
Amendment 2003*

The amendment removes the clause that establishes and defines the Australian Geodetic Datum (AGD) within the instrument.

*Cockburn Sound (Fish Net) Fishery Management Plan
Amendment 2003*

The amendment removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD within the instrument.

*Cockburn Sound (Line & Pot) Fishery Management Plan
Amendment 2003*

The amendment removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD within the instrument.

Appendices

West Coast Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2003

Inserted a new provision dealing with restrictions on fishing and amended the offences provision.

West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No. 4) 2003

Amended the time period for certain temporary transfers of units.

Pilbara Trap Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2003

Amended the coordinates to redefine the area of the fishery and/or to redefine closures including port areas in line with the GDA.

Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2003

Amended the coordinates to re-define the area of the fishery and to redefine closures including port areas in line with the GDA.

Warnbro Sound (Crab) Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2003

Effected various amendments relating to transitional matters, the use of crab pots and the use of fishing boats. [Note correction published in Gazette of 8 April 2004.]

Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2003

Amended the coordinates to re-define the area of the fishery and/or to redefine closures including port areas in line with the GDA.

South Coast Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2003

Amended the coordinates to redefine the area of the fishery and/or to redefine closures including port areas in line with the GDA.

Cockburn Sound (Crab) Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2003

Inserted and amended several provisions relating to licences.

South Coast Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004

Deleted and substituted provisions in Schedule 2.

West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2004

Amended the date of cessation of the plan to further extend the operation of the interim management plan.

West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2004

Amended the payment by instalment provisions for the 2004 season only.

Shark Bay Snapper Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004

Inserted and amended provisions relating to licences, handling of fish, use of fishing boats and fishing returns.

West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004

Amended the payment by instalment provisions for 2004 onwards.

South Coast Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2004

Inserted a more comprehensive scheme of entitlement including provisions for temporary transfer of part entitlements and introduced an approved receiver system.

(c) Orders

New Orders

Prohibition On Commercial Fishing For Coral and Related Fish (Cleaverville Beach) Order 2003 (Order No. 6 of 2003)

Closes Cleaverville Beach to commercial fishing for coral and related fish.

Prohibition On Fishing For Rock Lobster (Gnarabup, Hamelin Bay and Cowaramup Bay) Order 2004 (Order No. 17 of 2004)

Prohibits fishing for rock lobster in certain waters.

Prohibition On Recreational Fishing For Molluscs And Sea Urchins Order 2004 (Order No. 3 of 2004)

Introduced a prohibition on recreational fishing for molluscs and echinoderms in certain areas and times.

Prohibition On Commercial Line Fishing (Waters Of the Shark Bay Snapper Managed Fishery) Order 2004 (Order No. 15 of 2004)

Introduced a prohibition on certain holders of a commercial fishing licence from line fishing in certain areas of the Indian Ocean and Shark Bay.

Amendments to Existing Orders

Recreational Fishing (Permitted Fishing Methods) Amendment Order 2003 (Order No. 19 of 2003)

Amended provisions regulating line fishing.

Prawn Hand Trawl Net (Revocation) Order 2003

(Order No. 10 of 2003)

Revoked Notice No. 172 published in the Gazette of 21 December 1984.

Recreational Abalone Fishery (Revocation) Order 2003 (Order No. 9 of 2003)

Revoked the Metropolitan Recreational Abalone Fishery Notice 1993 and the Mid West Coast Recreational Abalone Fishery Notice 1993.

Fish Traps Prohibition Amendment Order 2003

(Order No. 7 of 2003)

Amended provisions regulating recreational rock lobster fishing.

West Coast Rock Lobster (Recreational Fishing) Amendment

Order 2003 (Order No. 18 of 2003)

Re-described the line of longitude at Cape Leeuwin and removed clauses that refer to the AGD.

Fish Trap Restrictions Amendment Order 2003 (Order No. 16 of 2003)

Removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD within the instrument.

Prohibition On Taking Rock Lobster (Seasonal Closures)

Amendment Order 2003 (Order No. 15 of 2003)

Removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD within the instrument.

Prohibition On Taking Rock Lobster (Abrolhos Islands)

Amendment Order 2003 (Order No. 14 of 2003)

Removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD within the instrument.

Trawling Prohibition (Whole of State) Amendment Order 2003

(Order No. 13 of 2003)

Removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD within the instrument.

Trawling For Scallops (South Coast) Amendment Order 2003

(Order No. 12 of 2003)

Removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD within the instrument.

Surface Trawl Net Fishery (South Coast) Amendment Order 2003

(Order No. 11 of 2003)

Removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD within the instrument.

Swan/Canning And Mandurah Estuarine Fishery Prohibitions

Revocation Order 2003 (Order No. 3 of 2003)

Revoked Notice No. 192 published in the Gazette of 28 June 1985 and the Lawful Nets In Mandurah Estuarine Fishery Notice 1994.

Prohibition On Commercial Fishing Activity (Netting in Rivers, Estuaries, Inlets and Lakes South of 23° South Latitude)

Amendment Order 2003 (Order No. 8 of 2003)

Deleted certain areas listed in Schedule 1.

Prohibition On Fishing ('Kunmunya' and 'Samson II' Wrecks

Site) Amendment Order 2003 (Order No. 24 of 2003)

Reference point re-described to ensure the closure remains centred over the wreck (GDA).

Prohibition On Fishing ('HMAS Swan' Wreck Site) Amendment

Order 2003 (Order No. 23 of 2003)

Reference point re-described to ensure the closure remains centred over the wreck (GDA).

Prohibition On Fishing ('HMAS Perth' Wreck Site) Amendment

Order 2003 (Order No. 22 of 2003)

Reference point re-described to ensure the closure remains centred over the wreck (GDA).

Prohibition On Fishing ('Sanko Harvest' Wreck Site) Amendment

Order 2003 (Order No. 21 of 2003)

Reference point re-described to ensure the closure remains centred over the wreck (GDA).

Prohibition On Fishing ('Gudrun' Wreck Site) Amendment Order

2003 (Order No. 20 of 2003)

Reference point re-described to ensure the closure remains centred over the wreck (GDA).

West Coast Demersal Gillnet And Demersal Longline (Cape

Bouvard Buffer Zone) Revocation Order 2003 (Order No.

17 of 2003)

Revoked Notice No. 324 published in the Gazette of 13 May 1988.

Closed Waters Recreational Netting Restrictions (Rivers,

Estuaries, Inlets and Lakes South of 23° South Latitude)

Amendment Order 2003 (Order No. 29 of 2003)

Amended the times set gill nets can be used.

Prohibition On Fishing (Cottesloe Reef and Lancelin Island

Lagoon) Revocation Order 2003 (Order No. 31 of 2003)

The orders were revoked as the matters provided for in the orders have been inserted into the regulations.

Houtman Abrolhos Reef Observation Areas Amendment Order

2003 (Order No. 30 of 2003)

Amendment ensures that the prohibition remains over the same body of water (GDA). [Note correction published on 12 March 2004.]

Appendices

Prohibition On Fishing (Rottnest Island) Order 2003 (Order No. 27 of 2003)

The order revoked and replaced a previous order.

Prohibition On Commercial Fishing For Crabs (Geographe Bay) Amendment Order 2003 (Order No. 28 of 2003)

Amendment ensures that the prohibition remains over the same body of water (GDA).

Fish Traps Prohibition Amendment Order (No. 2) 2003 (Order No. 26 of 2003)

Amendment ensures that the prohibition remains over the same body of water (GDA).

Prohibition On Fishing (Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve) Order 2004 (Order No. 6 of 2004)

Prohibits all forms of fishing within the Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve.

Prohibition On Fishing ('Gudrun' Wreck Site) Revocation Order 2004 (Order No. 2 of 2004)

The order was revoked because the matters provided for in that order have been inserted into the Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Shark Bay Marine Park) Order 2004.

Prohibition On Commercial Fishing (Shark Bay Marine Park) Order 2004 (Order No. 7 of 2004)

Introduced commercial fishing restrictions to implement the Shark Bay Marine Reserves Management Plan.

Prohibition On Recreational Fishing (Shark Bay Marine Park) Order 2004 (Order No. 5 of 2004)

Introduced recreational fishing restrictions to implement the Shark Bay Marine Reserves Management Plan.

Prohibition On Taking Whale Sharks Revocation Order 2004 (Order No. 11 of 2004)

The order was revoked as the matters provided for in the order have been inserted into the regulations.

Prohibition On Taking Potato Cod Revocation Order 2004 (Order No. 9 of 2004)

The order was revoked as the matters provided for in the order have been inserted into the regulations.

Prohibition On Taking Leafy Seadragons Revocation Order 2004 (Order No. 10 of 2004)

The order was revoked as the matters provided for in the order have been inserted into the regulations.

Crab Netting Notice Revocation Order 2004 (Order No. 16 of 2004)

The order was revoked as the matters provided for in the order are now regulated under the regulations.

Barramundi Netting Notice Revocation Order 2004 (Order No. 14 of 2004)

The order was revoked as the matters provided for in the order are now regulated under a management plan and the regulations.

Kimberley Trap Fishery Notice Revocation Order 2004 (Order No. 12 of 2004)

The order was revoked as the matters provided for in the order are now regulated under a management plan.

Prohibition On Fishing By Net (North Coast) Amendment Order 2004 (Order No. 4 of 2004)

Amended the provisions regulating recreational throw net fishing.

(d) Notices

Issue of Ministerial Policy Guidelines

Guidelines in respect of the 'Assessment of Applications for Rock Lobster Processing Authorizations and Imposing Licence Conditions'. Notice published in the Gazette of 29 July 2003.

Revocation of Ministerial Policy Guidelines

Revoked Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 4 (June 1996), 'Determining what is in the better interests of the industry for rock lobster processing authorizations'. Notice published in the Gazette of 29 July 2003.

Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993 Clause 17 – closures of areas within the Fishery

Gave notice that fishing was prohibited in the Fishery during certain times and dates. Published in the Gazette of 21 October 2003.

Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery Management Plan 2000

Notice of Determination

Notice of determination of the capacity of the Fishery for the 2004 licensing period. Published in the Gazette of 5 December 2003.

Pilbara Trap Managed Fishery Determination of the capacity of the Fishery for the 2004 licensing period

Notice of determination of the capacity of the Fishery for the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004. Published in the Gazette of 5 December 2003.

Statement of Determination

Abalone Management Plan 1992

Statement of determination in regard to the maximum quantity of abalone that may be taken in an area of the Fishery during the licensing period commencing on 1 April 2004. Published in the Gazette of 27 February 2004.

Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery

Clause 9 closures of areas within the Fishery

Gave notice that a new determination (Determination No. 1 of 2004) has been made of the times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the Fishery. Published in the Gazette of 27 February 2004.

Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993

Clause 10 closures of areas within the Fishery

Gave notice that a new determination (Determination No. 1 of 2004) has been made of the times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the Fishery. Published in the Gazette of 27 February 2004.

Issue of Ministerial Policy Guidelines

Guidelines in respect of 'Matters of importance in respect of the fit and proper person' criterion (Ministerial Policy Guideline No.19) Notice published in the Gazette of 12 March 2004.

Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993

Notice No. 1 of 2004

Revoked the previous notice and gave notice that fishing was prohibited in the Fishery during certain times and dates. Published in the Gazette of 6 April 2004.

Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery

Clause 9 closures of areas within the Fishery

Gave notice that a new determination (Determination No. 2 of 2004) has been made of the times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the Fishery. Published in the Gazette of 15 April 2004.

Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993

Clause 10 – closures of areas within the Fishery

Gave notice that a new determination (Determination 2 of 2004) has been made of the times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the Fishery. Published in the Gazette of 7 May 2004.

Broome Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1999

Notices of Areas Closed to Fishing for Prawns – Notice No. 1 of 2004

Cancelled Notice No. 1 of 2003 and gave notice of the times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the Fishery. Published in the Gazette of 25 May 2004.

Abalone Management Plan 1992

Clause 18 – Notice of Approved Fish Processors

Revoked the previous notice and lists approved fish processors in respect of abalone. Published in the Gazette of 15 June 2004.

2.2 Pearling Act 1990

(a) Regulations

Pearling (General) Amendment Regulations 2003

Commenced on the day on which section 6 of the Acts Amendment (Australian Datum) Act 2000 came into operation.

Amended the datum from AGD (Australian Geodetic Datum) to GDA (Geocentric Datum of Australia).

Pearling (General) Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2003

Commenced on 7 October 2003. Amended the fees payable for various pearling licences and permits.

(b) Notices

Section 23(8)

Notice of Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Gourdon Bay North

Granted an application by Tennereef Pty Ltd, for a pearl oyster farm lease, in respect of an area of water located near Gourdon Bay North. Published in the Gazette of 22 July 2003.

Pearling (Annual Fees) Notice 2003

Established the fees payable for various pearling licences and permits for the year commencing 1 January 2004. Published in the Gazette of 30 December 2003.

Section 23(8)

Grant of a Pearl Oyster Hatchery

Licence – Carnarvon

Granted and application by Tennereef Pearling Company Pty Ltd, for a pearl oyster hatchery licence to undertake hatchery activities at Carnarvon. Published in the Gazette of 9 September 2003.

Section 23(8)

Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm

Lease – Quondong Point

Granted an application by Clipper Holdings Pty Ltd, for a pearl oyster farm lease, in respect of an area of water located near Quondong Point, north of Broome. Published in the Gazette of 12 March 2004.

Appendices

Section 23(8)

Notice of Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease – Wollaston Island

Granted an application by Broome Pearls Pty Ltd, for a pearl oyster farm lease, in respect of areas of water located near Wollaston Island, Montague Sound. Published in the Gazette of 19 March 2004.

Section 23(8)

Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm

Lease – Mudge Bay

Granted an application by Broome Pearls Pty Ltd, for a pearl oyster farm lease, in respect of areas of water located near Mudge Bay, Montague Sound. Published in the Gazette of 30 April 2004.

APPENDIX 5:

FISHERIES RESEARCH DIVISION: PROJECTS 2003/04

Invertebrate Fisheries Branch

- Western rock lobster sustainability
- Other rock lobster sustainability
- Western rock lobster puerulus enhancement
- Reproductive biology issues in rock lobster broodstock management
- Post-pueruli grow-out data for western rock lobsters
- Rock lobster recreational fishery survey
- Blue swimmer crab sustainability
- Snow crab sustainability
- Shark Bay prawn sustainability
- Exmouth Gulf prawn sustainability
- Shark Bay scallop sustainability
- Minor trawl fisheries sustainability
- Implementation and assessment of bycatch reduction devices in trawl fisheries
- Development of biodiversity and habitat monitoring systems
- Greenlip and brownlip abalone sustainability
- Roe's abalone sustainability
- Abalone recreational fishery survey
- Digital video techniques for assessing population size structure and habitat of greenlip and Roe's abalone

- Pearl oyster stock sustainability
- Mother-of-pearl stock evaluation
- Compliance evaluation and optimisation in commercial and recreational fisheries
- Fisheries oceanography

Finfish Fisheries Branch

- Estuarine, embayment and freshwater finfish sustainability
- Small pelagic finfish sustainability
- Kimberley demersal finfish sustainability
- Pilbara demersal finfish sustainability
- Characterisation of inshore fish assemblages of the Pilbara and Kimberley coasts
- Shark Bay offshore snapper sustainability
- Inner Shark Bay pink snapper sustainability
- Demersal gillnet fishery sustainability
- Spanish mackerel sustainability
- Regrowth of pilchard stocks
- Recreational marine angling finfish biology and stock assessment
- Spatial scales of exploitation among demersal scalefish populations
- Alternative management models for recreational finfish fisheries
- Shark DNA database
- Fish chemistry
- Marine environmental impact assessments

Aquaculture Development and Fisheries Environment Branch

- Aquaculture research technical extension
- Marron aquaculture development
- Commercialisation of hybrid yabbies
- Trout aquaculture
- Marine finfish culture research
- Development of marine finfish larval diets
- Abalone culture and genetics research
- Aquaculture nutrition and environmental research

- Evaluation of agricultural products in aquaculture feeds
- Aquaculture production statistics
- Kimberley aquaculture research
- Trochus reseedling
- Habitat enhancement for marron fisheries
- Marron recreational fishery sustainability
- Freshwater angling enhancement
- Freshwater conservation
- Fish health
- Response to simulated disease outbreak crisis
- Pearl oyster health general
- Pearl oyster health diagnostics and certification
- Prawn disease survey
- Pilchard herpes virus research

Stock Assessment and Data Analysis Branch

- National ESD program
- Resource assessment frameworks
- Commercial fisheries catch and effort statistics
- Age-structured stock assessment modelling of major finfish species
- Depletion-based population estimates for western rock lobster
- Modelling WA fisheries with techniques of time series analysis
- Recreational fisheries databases
- National recreational fishing survey
- Regional recreational creel surveys
- Crab recreational fishery survey

Appendices

APPENDIX 6:

STOCK EXPLOITATION STATUS AND CATCH RANGES FOR MAJOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

The information in this table is derived from data presented each year in the companion report State of the Fisheries. The fisheries referred to in the table are management units (explained fully in

State of the Fisheries), most of which are fully managed fisheries or are in the process of having dedicated management plans developed.

Full information on the current management status and future directions of commercial fisheries, as well as recreational fisheries and aquaculture industries, is given in the State of the Fisheries Report.

FISHERY	STOCK ASSESSMENT COMPLETE	EXPLOITATION STATUS	BREEDING STOCK ASSESSMENT	PREVIOUS ACCEPTABLE CATCH (and effort) RANGE IN TONNES (days)	CATCH (tonnes) FOR SEASON REPORTED ¹	SEASON REPORTED ¹	ACCEPTABLE CATCH (and effort) RANGE IN TONNES (days) FOR NEXT SEASON ²	COMMENTS
GASCOYNE BIOREGION								
Western rock lobster	Yes	Fully Exploited	Adequate	8,166-14,523	11,387	2002/03	8,166-14,523	The above-average catch due to good puerulus settlement three to four years previously.
Roe's abalone	Yes	Fully Exploited	Adequate	107.9 (Q) (679-914 days)	95.1 (714 days)	2003	110.9 (Q) (679-914 days)	Exploratory quota (9.9 tonnes) was not utilised in Area 1.
South West trawl	NA	NA	NA	Not available	Prawns 20 Scallops 12	2003	Not Available	A formal management plan is currently being developed.
Abrolhos Islands & Midwater trawl	Yes	Fully Exploited	Adequate	50-600	5,840	2003	95-1,830	The annual recruitment (and therefore catch) of scallops is highly variable, depending upon environmental conditions. The 2003 catch is the highest recorded for this fishery.
West Coast purse seine	Yes	Fully Exploited	Adequate	NA	1,164	2003	3,000 (Q)	Pilchards, scaly mackerel and other small pelagics are now subject to total allowable catches.
West Coast beach bait	Yes	Fully Exploited	Adequate	106-331	103	2003	60-275	Whitebait only: Low abundance has resulted from several years of weak to moderate flow of the Leeuwin Current, which has caused the catch to drop just below the acceptable range.
Estuarine fisheries (West Coast)	Yes ³	Fully Exploited	NA	Not Available	211	2003	75-220	Includes fish and crustaceans. Recent annual catches have been stable, but lower than in previous years due to reductions in the number of commercial fishers operating in the estuaries.
Deep Sea Crab	NA	NA	Adequate	NA	193	2003	NA	Developing fishery; still undertaking test fishing.

¹ Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available.

² Following the adoption of a more robust statistical approach, a number of the acceptable catch ranges have changed for the next season.

³ For key species only.

⁴ For main abalone stocks only (does not include quota for stunted or exploratory stocks).

NA No assessment.

Q Quota management.

FISHERY	STOCK ASSESSMENT COMPLETE	EXPLOITATION STATUS	BREEDING STOCK ASSESSMENT	PREVIOUS ACCEPTABLE CATCH (and effort) RANGE IN TONNES (days)	CATCH (tonnes) FOR SEASON REPORTED ¹	SEASON REPORTED ¹	ACCEPTABLE CATCH (and effort) RANGE IN TONNES (days) FOR NEXT SEASON ²	COMMENTS
GASCOYNE COAST BIOREGION								
Shark Bay prawn	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	1,501-2,330	1,716	2003	1,501-2,330	
Exmouth Gulf prawn	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	771-1,276	1,089	2003	771-1,276	
Shark Bay scallop	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	1,250-3,000	776	2003	1,250-3,000	Catch below acceptable range due to low recruitment in main area combined with a shift in effort to the Abrolhos fishery.
Shark Bay snapper	Yes	Over-exploited	Inadequate	563.7 (Q) (709-930 days)	429 (906 days*) *June-July period only	2003	338.3 (Q) (425-558 days)	Age-based stock assessment has confirmed the breeding stock is below acceptable levels. The 2004 quota has been reduced by 40% and the management arrangements of other fisheries affecting this stock are being reviewed.
Shark Bay beach seine & mesh net	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	210-353	306	2003	235-355	The catch for the four target species was within their individual acceptable ranges except for yellowfin bream which was higher than acceptable and may require review.
NORTH COAST BIOREGION								
Onslow prawn	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	60-130	193	2003	60-130	Tiger prawn catch was higher than the acceptable range, which probably reflects highly favourable environmental conditions.
Nickol Bay prawn	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	90-300	248	2003	90-300	
Broome prawn	Yes	Under-exploited	Adequate	55-260	201	2003	55-260	
Kimberley prawn	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	240-500	390	2003	240-500	
Pearl oyster	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	512,000 oysters (Q) (14,071-20,551 dive hours)	479,119 oysters (15,889 dive hours)	2003	512,000 oysters (Q) (14,071-20,551 dive hours)	Reduced catch and effort of oysters in Zone 1 offset by hatchery-produced oysters.
Pilbara trawl	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	1,900-2,200	2,860	2003	2,000- 2,800	Increased catch due to increased stocks, catch diversification and efficiency gains.
Pilbara demersal trap & line	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	150-300 (trap)	363 (trap) 81 (line)	2003	160-360 (trap) 50-115 (line)	As above
Northern demersal	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	600-1,000	526	2003	600-1,000	Catches remain around 500 tonnes due to significant levels of effort that remain un-utilised.
Kimberley gillnet & barramundi	Yes ³	Fully exploited	Adequate	25-40 (barramundi)	45 (barramundi)	2003	25-40 (barramundi)	The catch increase was a result of increased levels of effort.

Appendices

FISHERY	STOCK ASSESSMENT COMPLETE	EXPLOITATION STATUS	BREEDING STOCK ASSESSMENT	PREVIOUS ACCEPTABLE CATCH (and effort) RANGE IN TONNES (days)	CATCH (tonnes) FOR SEASON REPORTED ¹	SEASON REPORTED ¹	ACCEPTABLE CATCH (and effort) RANGE IN TONNES (days) FOR NEXT SEASON ²	COMMENTS
GASCOYNE BIOREGION cont'd								
Northern shark	Yes ³	Under-exploited	Adequate	< 117 (sandbar only)	88 (sandbar only)	2002/03	< 117 (sandbar only)	The catch of sandbar sharks is considered suitable to use to monitor the fishery. The sandbar shark is a long lived shark and the main target species in this region. Therefore if this is kept in good condition, then other stocks should also be in good condition.
Spanish mackerel	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	275-417	457	2003	246-410	Catches continued to exceed acceptable ranges in Kimberley and west coast regions, due to good recruitment. New management measures will cap catches.
SOUTH COAST BIOREGION								
South coast rock lobster	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	50-80	61	2002/03	50-80	Includes Esperance, GAB and Albany management zones.
Abalone (greenlip/ brownlip)	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	238.4 (Q) (1,095 – 1,511 days)	212.3 (1,104 days)	2003	197 (Q) ⁴ (906-1250 days)	Small TAC reductions (5%) taken for 2004 due to stock concerns. Future governance ranges are to be based on main stocks, not stunted or exploratory stocks.
WA salmon	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	1,300-3,600	1,892	2003	1,200-3,350	Environmental factors (e.g. Leeuwin Current) are considered the main influence on recruitment and catch levels in subsequent years.
Australian herring trap	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	450-1,200	415	2003	475-1,200	South Coast only. Low catch in 2003 due to limited market demand.
Southern & west coast demersal gillnet & longline	Yes ³	Over-exploited (dusky and whiskery only)	Declining (dusky only)	725-975	766	2002/03	675-1,125	The breeding stock of dusky shark is still declining and of concern. The acceptable catch ranges for three species have been adjusted, which has affected the overall range.
Estuarine fisheries (south coast)	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	200-500	282	2003	200-500	Includes fish, molluscs and crustaceans.
Albany/King George Sound purse seine	Yes	Under-exploited	Adequate	909 (Q)	757	2002/03	1,500 (Q)	Quotas are adjusted annually. Acceptable effort levels are not available.
Bremer Bay purse seine	Yes	Under-exploited	Adequate	1,230 (Q)	594	2002/03	1,500 (Q)	Quotas are adjusted annually. Acceptable effort levels are not yet available. The low catch this season is due to fishing operations just recommencing and the need to re-establish markets.
Esperance purse seine	Yes	Fully exploited	Adequate	1,500 (Q)	241	2002/03	1,500 (Q)	As above.
NORTHERN INLAND BIOREGION								
Lake Argyle catfish	Yes	Over-exploited	Depleted	100-140	165	2003	95-155	Catch levels are above the acceptable range and need to be reviewed.

APPENDIX 7: EXEMPTIONS

Admin No:	448
Exemption No:	1388
Applicant:	Mark's Quality Seafoods Pty Ltd
Subject:	For the taking of blue swimmer crabs in the Cockburn Sound Crab Managed Fishery.
Period of Exemption:	17/12/2002 to 30/09/2003
Granted To:	Mark's Quality Seafoods Pty Ltd
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 & Cockburn Sound Crab Management Plan.</i>
Purpose:	For the taking of blue swimmer crabs in the Cockburn Sound Crab Managed Fishery.
Justification:	Interim measure to permit a boat outside the boat replacement rules for the Cockburn Sound crab fishery to operate, pending boat replacement review.
Admin No:	480
Exemption No:	1389
Applicant:	Adams Crayfish Pty Ltd
Subject:	Fish, including southern rock lobster, but excluding western rock lobster, abalone prawns and scallops may be processed.
Period of Exemption:	20/03/2003 to 31/03/2003
Granted To:	Adams Crayfish Pty Ltd
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 & Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995.</i>
Purpose:	Ensure that commercially-taken crustaceans are appropriately utilised.
Justification:	Ensure that commercially-taken crustaceans are appropriately utilised.
Admin No:	485
Exemption No:	1390
Applicant:	Department of Fisheries
Subject:	Fishing for the collection of aquatic species, by those means necessary and practicable.

Period of Exemption:	27/03/2003 to 27/09/2003
Granted To:	Craig Astbury
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To achieve the removal of a confined and limited population of <i>Gambusia</i> .
Justification:	To provide for Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program activities required in relation to the eradication of a feral species from Margaret River that may have otherwise been outside current fisheries legislation requirements.
Admin No:	444, 462, 478, 479
Exemption No:	1391
Applicant:	Trophy Bay Pty Ltd, Barry Edwards, Phil Lake & Errol Francis
Subject:	This exemption shall extend to a person bringing into waters of the Shark Bay western gulf (as defined in Regulation 3 of the FRMR) and on to land at Denham a daily bag limit of seven fish, of which a maximum of six may be pink snapper.
Period of Exemption:	07/03/2003 to 31/12/2003
Granted To:	Trophy Bay Pty Ltd, Barry Edwards, Phil Lake & Errol Francis
Provisions:	Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
Purpose:	This exemption shall extend to a person bringing into waters of the Shark Bay western gulf (as defined in Regulation 3 of the FRMR) and on to land at Denham a daily bag limit of seven fish, of which a maximum of six may be pink snapper.
Justification:	This exemption permits fishing tour operators to fish oceanic stocks and land these fish at Denham above the Shark Bay inner gulf bag limits with a minimum size limit for pink snapper of 50 cm.
Admin No:	444, 462, 478, 479
Exemption No:	1392

Appendices

Applicant:	Trophy Bay Pty Ltd, Barry Edwards, Phil Lake & Errol Francis
Subject:	This exemption shall extend to a person bringing into waters of the Shark Bay western gulf (as defined in Regulation 3 of the FRMR) and on to land at Denham a daily bag limit of seven fish, of which a maximum of six may be pink snapper.
Period of Exemption:	21/05/2003 to 31/12/2003
Granted To:	Trophy Bay Pty Ltd, Barry Edwards, Phil Lake & Errol Francis
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	This exemption shall extend to a person bringing into waters of the Shark Bay western gulf (as defined in Regulation 3 of the FRMR) and on to land at Denham a daily bag limit of seven fish, of which a maximum of six may be pink snapper.
Justification:	This exemption permits fishing tour operators to fish oceanic stocks and land these fish at Denham above the Shark Bay inner gulf bag limits with a minimum size limit for pink snapper of 41 cm.
Admin No:	482
Exemption No:	1393
Applicant:	Department of Fisheries
Subject:	This exemption shall extend to a person bringing into waters of the Shark Bay western gulf (as defined in Regulation 3 of the FRMR) and on to land at Denham a daily bag limit of seven fish, of which a maximum of six may be pink snapper.
Period of Exemption:	07/03/2003 to 31/12/2003
Granted To:	Recreational Fishers – Shark Bay
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	This exemption shall extend to a person bringing into waters of the Shark Bay western gulf (as defined in Regulation 3 of the FRMR) and on to land at Denham a daily bag limit of seven fish, of which a maximum of six may be pink snapper.

Justification:	This exemption permits recreational fishers to fish oceanic stocks and land these fish at Denham above the Shark Bay inner gulf bag limits with a minimum size limit for pink snapper of 50 cm.
Admin No:	482
Exemption No:	1394
Applicant:	This exemption shall extend to a person bringing into waters of the Shark Bay western gulf (as defined in Regulation 3 of the FRMR) and on to land at Denham a daily bag limit of seven fish, of which a maximum of six may be pink snapper.
Subject:	21/05/2003 to 31/12/2003
Period of Exemption:	Recreational Fishers – Shark Bay
Granted To:	Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
Provisions:	This exemption shall extend to a person bringing into waters of the Shark Bay western gulf (as defined in Regulation 3 of the FRMR) and on to land at Denham a daily bag limit of seven fish, of which a maximum of six may be pink snapper.
Purpose:	This exemption shall extend to a person bringing into waters of the Shark Bay western gulf (as defined in Regulation 3 of the FRMR) and on to land at Denham a daily bag limit of seven fish, of which a maximum of six may be pink snapper.
Justification:	This exemption permits recreational fishers to fish oceanic stocks and land these fish at Denham above the Shark Bay inner gulf bag limits with a minimum size limit for pink snapper of 41 cm.
Admin No:	483a
Exemption No:	1395
Applicant:	Sportfishing & Sightseeing Safaris
Subject:	To extend to the fishing tour operator having possession of, or bringing onto land in the eastern gulf area, fish in number not more than three times the number of paying passengers who undertake recreational fishing on board the vessel.

Period of Exemption:	01/04/2003 to 01/10/2003
Granted To:	David Rock trading as Sportfishing & Sightseeing Safaris
Provisions:	Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
Purpose:	To extend to the fishing tour operator having possession of, or bringing onto land in the eastern gulf area, fish in number not more than three times the number of paying passengers who undertake recreational fishing on board the vessel.
Justification:	This exemption permits the fishing tour operator to have a total number of fish onboard which is no more than three times the number of paying passengers on the boat for that trip. Currently the possession limit relating to the number of fish that can be on a boat or brought onto land in the Eastern Gulf is 10, this being twice the daily bag limit of five.
Admin No:	483b
Exemption No:	1396
Applicant:	Sportfishing & Sightseeing Safaris
Subject:	Shall extend to a person bringing into waters of the Shark Bay western gulf (as defined in Regulation 3 of the FRMR) and on to land at Denham a daily bag limit of seven fish, of which a maximum of six may be pink snapper.
Period of Exemption:	01/04/2003 to 01/10/2003
Granted To:	David Rock trading as Sportfishing & Sightseeing Safaris
Provisions:	Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
Purpose:	Shall extend to a person bringing into waters of the Shark Bay western gulf (as defined in Regulation 3 of the FRMR) and on to land at Denham a daily bag limit of seven fish, of which a maximum of six may be pink snapper.
Justification:	This exemption permits fishing tour operators to fish oceanic stocks and land these fish at Denham above the Shark Bay inner gulf bag limits with a minimum size limit for pink snapper of 50 cm.

Admin No:	440, 431, 438
Exemption No:	1362
Applicant:	Rompearl Holdings Pty Ltd, Peter Shaw and Melissa Zerbe and Terry Maxwell
Subject:	Allow possession of or having processed fish in a boat in the Ningaloo Marine Park or bringing ashore into the Exmouth Gulf Landing Zone.
Period of Exemption:	15/01/2003 to 31/12/2003
Granted To:	Rompearl Holdings Pty Ltd, Peter Shaw and Melissa Zerbe and Terry Maxwell
Provisions:	Schedule 1 from Regulation 23 & 24 of the Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
Purpose:	Allow possession of or having processed fish in a boat in the Ningaloo Marine Park or bringing ashore into the Exmouth Gulf Landing Zone.
Justification:	Under current regulations, all fish landed in the Ningaloo Marine Park and Exmouth Gulf must be whole. However, on extended fishing charters there is a need to store fish in a manner which will avoid wastage and ensure the fish are in the best possible condition for eating.
Admin No:	496
Exemption No:	1397
Applicant:	Geoff Bastyan & Barb Green
Subject:	The taking of fish from Oyster Harbour, Western Australia for the purpose of monitoring fish abundance and diversity in transplanted seagrass areas.
Period of Exemption:	01/07/2003 to 30/06/2004
Granted To:	Geoff Bastyan and Barb Green
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> & Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
Purpose:	The taking of fish from Oyster Harbour, Western Australia for the purpose of monitoring fish abundance and diversity in transplanted seagrass areas.

Appendices

Justification: To enable research and educational activities into fish abundance and diversity in transplanted seagrass areas in Oyster Harbour.

Admin No: 519

Exemption No: 1398

Applicant: Director of Fisheries Research

Subject: To take, using trapping method, undersize pink snapper (*Pagrus auratus*) from the waters off the coast between Denmark and Bremer Bay, for research purposes. A maximum of 20 fish less than 41 cm are to be collected in each month, making a total of 240 fish overall.

Period of Exemption: 12/07/2003 to 11/07/2004

Granted To: Graham Kennedy

Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*

Purpose: To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis.

Justification: Local fishers working on a voluntary basis greatly assist the work of the Fisheries Research Division by collecting essential samples at times or in locations when Fisheries Research Division personnel cannot be present.

Admin No: 520

Exemption No: 1399

Applicant: Director of Fisheries Research

Subject: To take greenlip abalone of maximum shell length between the minimum legal size [of 140 mm] and 115 mm, from stocks in the Hopetoun area, for the purpose of research.

Period of Exemption: 03/07/2003 to 28/07/2003

Granted To: Abalone Commercial Licensee Holders

Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* & Abalone Management Plan 1992

Purpose: To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Fisheries Department, in collecting information on stunted stocks of greenlip abalone on the south coast of Western Australia.

Justification: Local fishers working on a voluntary basis greatly assist the work of the Fisheries Research Division by collecting essential samples at times or in locations when Fisheries Research Division personnel cannot be present.

Admin No: 485

Exemption No: 1400

Applicant: Sandra & Steve Pinner

Subject: The processing of all species of fish other than rock lobster and abalone at Shop 8, Albany Plaza, Albany Hwy, Albany.

Period of Exemption: 06/05/03 to 30/09/03

Granted To: Sandra and Steve Pinner

Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995

Purpose: Permitting the processing of fish other than rock lobster and abalone pending the outcome of formal applications.

Justification: To allow the licence holder operate as a processing establishment pending the consideration of an application for a processing licence and permit.

Admin No: 516

Exemption No: 1401

Applicant: Fremantle Ports

Subject: To use a trawl net to remove seaweed from the seabed in the waters of Success Channel, Cockburn Sound.

Period of Exemption: 15/07/2003 to 18/07/2003

Granted To: Fremantle Port Authority

Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*

Purpose: For the purpose of removing seaweed from the seabed in Success Channel to allow for the dredging of the Channel.

Justification: To assist the dredging operation in a section of Success Channel, Cockburn Sound, by removing and relocating seaweed prior to dredging.

Admin No:	484 & 497
Exemption No:	1402
Applicant:	Frank and Gail Seymour trading as Quindalup Fauna Park
Subject:	The fishing for and taking of fish.
Period of Exemption:	17/07/2003 to 31/07/2005
Granted To:	Frank and Gail Seymour trading as Quindalup Fauna Park
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	For the taking, breeding, hatching or culturing of rare or endangered fish; the promotion of tourism activities; and educational and community awareness programs.
Justification:	To provide for the collection, keeping, breeding, hatching or culturing of rare or endangered fish; the promotion of tourism or recreational activities; and the promotion of educational and community awareness programs at the Quindalup Fauna Park.

Admin No:	413
Exemption No:	1403
Applicant:	John Davies – Capricorn Pearls
Subject:	To hold in tanks and undertake seeding of black lip pearl oysters (<i>Pinctada margaritifera</i>) off the authorised aquaculture area in Exmouth Gulf.
Period of Exemption:	06/09/2002 to 08/09/2002
Granted To:	John Davies
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To hold in tanks and undertake seeding of black lip pearl oysters (<i>Pinctada margaritifera</i>) off the authorised aquaculture area in Exmouth Gulf.
Justification:	To hold in tanks and undertake seeding of black lip pearl oysters (<i>Pinctada margaritifera</i>) off the authorised aquaculture area in Exmouth Gulf.

Admin No:	402
Exemption No:	1404
Applicant:	Robert Williams & Michael Vinnicombe trading as Bluey's Bait And Tackle
Subject:	Operate a fishing tour on the lower Ord River in the Pilbara/Kimberley bioregion, as if they had been granted the licence for which they have applied.
Period of Exemption:	18/07/2002 to 26/07/2002
Granted To:	Robert Williams & Michael Vinnicombe trading as Bluey's Bait And Tackle
Provisions:	Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
Purpose:	Operate a fishing tour on the lower Ord River in the Pilbara/Kimberley bioregion, as if they had been granted the licence for which they have applied.
Justification:	To allow the licence holder to operate pre-booked tours pending the consideration of an application for a fishing tour operator's licence.

Admin No:	563
Exemption No:	1406
Applicant:	Lake Argyle Industries Pty Ltd
Subject:	The aquaculture of barramundi (<i>Lates calcarifer</i>) for commercial purposes in the waters of Lake Argyle within Coolabah Pocket.
Period of Exemption:	12/01/2004 to 11/04/2994
Granted To:	Lake Argyle Industries Pty Ltd
Provisions:	Section 90(a) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and any other provisions of the Act, Regulations or a management plan that would otherwise prevent the company conducting the activities set out in the Exemption.
Purpose:	To allow Lake Argyle Industries Pty Ltd to conduct aquaculture of barramundi (<i>Lates calcarifer</i>) outside the licensed site in Coolabah Pocket.

Appendices

Justification:	To allow Lake Argyle Industries Pty Ltd to conduct aquaculture of barramundi (<i>Lates calcarifer</i>) outside the licensed site, in Coolabah Pocket, during the period 12/01/2004 to 11/04/2004 in order to manage activities following fish mortality.
Admin No:	563
Exemption No:	1407
Applicant:	Brefjen Nominees Pty Ltd
Subject:	To gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks in the Carnarvon region under a controlled management regime.
Period of Exemption:	18/04/2002 to 31/12/2004
Granted To:	Brefjen Nominees Pty Ltd
Provisions:	Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1990 and Fish Traps Restrictions Notice 1994
Purpose:	To take blue swimmer crabs and sand crabs with a maximum of 300 crab traps of a design approved by the Research Division of the Department of Fisheries, within the boundaries of the Experimental Carnarvon Crab Pot Fishery.
Justification:	Will provide the necessary fishery data to enable a complete stock assessment to be undertaken for west coast snow crabs.
Admin No:	572
Exemption No:	1409
Applicant:	Shark Bay Prawn Trawler Operator's Association Inc.
Subject:	Operating a vessel greater than 175 boat units within the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery and the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
Period of Exemption:	From 12/03/2004 to cessation of the 2004 Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery fishing season.
Granted To:	Shark Bay Prawn and Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licensees
Exempted Provisions:	Clauses 11(2), 16(2) and 17 of the Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993 and Clauses 11(2), 18(1) and 19 of the Shark Bay Scallop Management Plan 1994.

Purpose:	To commercially fish for prawns in the Shark Bay Managed Fishery and scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery using a vessel greater than the prescribed 375 boat units.
Justification:	The 375-boat unit rule (calculated on a formula involving hull size and engine capacity) is practically unenforceable, with the result that some boats are larger than 375 units. The exemption was granted while new arrangements, which ensure sustainability, are developed.
Admin No:	586
Exemption No:	1410
Applicant:	Antonio LaMacchia
Subject:	To allow Mr Antonio LaMacchia to continue fishing in accordance with the West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan in the absence of all fishing authorisations [WCRL 1493 and FBL 1354 were automatically cancelled under the provisions of s.244].
Period of Exemption:	20/03/2004 to 30/06/2004
Granted To:	Antonio LaMacchia
Exempted Provisions:	Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995, Reg. 36(2), Reg 31(1), Reg 117(1), Reg 117(4) and Reg 117(6), Reg 117(6), Reg 121(1) and (2); West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery management Plan 1993, clauses 4(b) and 7; the Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 (as amended); and the Fish Traps Restrictions Notice 1990.
Purpose:	To allow Mr Antonio LaMacchia to continue fishing in accordance with the West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan in the absence of all fishing authorisations [WCRL 1493 and FBL 1354 were automatically cancelled under the provisions of s.244].
Justification:	To temporarily overcome the failure of the legislation to clearly define a pathway in the application of Section 244(4). The exemption allows time for this matter to be addressed appropriately.

Admin No:	545
Exemption No:	1408
Applicant:	Mark Ashley Paxton
Subject:	Operating in the Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl Fishery (the Fishery) without a Managed Fishery Licence (MFL).
Period of Exemption:	[date of execution] to 31/12/2004
Granted To:	Mark Ashley Paxton
Exempted Provisions:	Clauses 4,5 and 6 of the Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl Management Plan 1993.
Purpose:	To allow Mark Ashley Paxton to fish in the fishery to the extent of any gear units suspended by MFL holders.
Justification:	Mark Ashley Paxton claims that a licence of which he was the effective holder was cancelled by the Department of Fisheries, denying him the right to fish in the fishery.
Admin No:	521
Exemption No:	1411
Applicant:	ASR Enterprises Pty Ltd
Subject:	Allowing the processing of fish other than rock lobster, prawns and abalone at Unit 2, Lot 7 Bonnefoi Boulevard, Bunbury, without holding a Fish Processing Licence or Fish Processing Permit.
Period of Exemption:	17/04/2004 to 30/09/2004
Granted To:	ASR Enterprises Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	Section 79 and 82 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To allow ASR Enterprises Pty Ltd to process fish other than rock lobster, prawns and abalone at Unit 2, Lot 7 Bonnefoi Boulevard, Bunbury, while the formal applications for a Fish Processing Licence and Fish Processing Permit are being considered.
Justification:	To allow the applicant to continue supplying fish to their markets whilst the applications for a Fish Processing Licence and Fish Processing Permit are being considered.

Admin No:	552
Exemption No:	1412
Applicant:	Veridale Farming Pty Ltd
Subject:	Allowing the taking of yabbies from properties north and east of the 'yabby line'.
Period of Exemption:	01/12/2003 to 19/12/2003
Granted To:	Veridale Farming Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	Section 90 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To allow the aquaculture of yabbies at Lot 5155 Ash Road Beechina.
Justification:	To permit the applicant to begin selling legally obtained yabbies prior to the finalisation of the aquaculture licensing process.
Admin No:	392
Exemption No:	1413
Applicant:	GJW & SJ Howard trading as Arcadia Aquaculture
Subject:	Broodstock for aquaculture breeding purposes
Period of Exemption:	30/04/2003 to 29/04/2004
Granted To:	GJW and SJ Howard trading as Arcadia Aquaculture
Exempted Provisions:	Sections 46 and 47 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and regulations 10 and 44 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> .
Purpose:	To allow the capture of broodstock for breeding purposes.
Justification:	For aquaculture broodstock purposes\
Admin No:	599
Exemption No:	1414
Applicant:	Mark Ashley Paxton
Subject:	Processing of catch from the LFB F611 'Atlantic Ocean' while operating in the Abrolhos Island and Mid-West Trawl Managed Fishery without a Fish Processor's Licence.
Period of Exemption:	07 /04/2004 to 31/10/2004
Granted To:	Mark Ashley Paxton

Appendices

Exempted Provisions:	Section 82 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To allow Mark Paxton to process his catch onboard the LFB F611 'Atlantic Ocean' without the need to hold a Fish Processor's Licence.
Justification:	To allow Mark Paxton to undertake the activities provided for under Exemption No 1408.
Admin No:	588
Exemption No:	1415
Applicant:	Cammfish Pty Ltd
Subject:	Octopus fishing in the Cockburn Sound Line and Pot Fishery using a 9.8 metre boat.
Period of Exemption:	13/04/2004 to 30/06/2005
Granted To:	Cammfish Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	Only 5,000 octopus pots may be used. Temporal and spatial restrictions on operations.
Purpose:	To permit the use of a 9.8 metre boat in the Cockburn Sound Line and Pot Fishery to take octopus.
Justification:	To explore the viability of commercial scale octopus fishing in Cockburn Sound.
Admin No:	424
Exemption No:	1416
Applicant:	Director of Fisheries Research
Subject:	To take snow crabs/crystal crabs (<i>Chaceon bicolor</i>) by means of fish traps for the purpose of the South Coast Crystal Crab Research project administered by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.
Period of Exemption:	01/11/2003 to 30/04/2004
Granted To:	Mulataga Pty Ltd and Panorama Management Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> Order 677 of 1994 Fish Traps Prohibition Notice; Order 278 of 1987 Esperance Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery Notice; and Order 279 of 1987 Windy Harbour-Augusta Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery Notice.

Purpose:	To take snow crabs/crystal crabs (<i>Chaceon bicolor</i>) by means of fish traps for the purpose of the South Coast Crystal Crab Research project administered by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.
Justification:	To permit collection of data required for Department of Fisheries research.
Admin No:	424A
Exemption No:	1417
Applicant:	Director of Fisheries Research
Subject:	To take snow crabs/crystal crabs (<i>Chaceon bicolor</i>) by means of fish traps for the purpose of the South Coast Crystal Crab Research project administered by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.
Period of Exemption:	01/11/2003 to 30/04/2004
Granted To:	Mulataga Pty Ltd, Panorama Management Pty Ltd, SC McWhirter and GJ Sharp
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> Order 677 of 1994 Fish Traps Prohibition Notice; Order 278 of 1987 Esperance Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery Notice; and Order 279 of 1987 Windy Harbour-Augusta Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery Notice.
Purpose:	To take snow crabs/crystal crabs (<i>Chaceon bicolor</i>) by means of fish traps for the purpose of the South Coast Crystal Crab Research project administered by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.
Justification:	To permit the collection of data required for Department of Fisheries research.
Admin No:	603
Exemption No:	1418
Applicant:	Director of Fisheries Research
Subject:	To take, using hook and line, undersize pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) for research purposes. A maximum of 20 snapper less than 41 cm may be collected in each month.
Period of Exemption:	01/05/2004 to 30/04/2005
Granted To:	Peter Barrett and Evan Beckerleg

Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis.
Justification:	To permit the collection of data required for Department of Fisheries research.
Admin No:	424
Exemption No:	1419
Applicant:	Director of Fisheries Research
Subject:	To take snow crabs/crystal crabs (<i>Chaceon bicolor</i>) by means of fish traps in accordance with the requirements of the South Coast Crystal Crab Research project administered by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.
Period of Exemption:	01/05/2004 to 31/07/2004
Granted To:	SC McWhirter and GJ Sharp
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> Order 677 of 1994 Fish Traps Prohibition Notice; Order 278 of 1987 Esperance Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery Notice; and Order 279 of 1987 Windy Harbour-Augusta Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery Notice.
Purpose:	To take snow crabs/crystal crabs (<i>Chaceon bicolor</i>) by means of fish traps in accordance with the requirements of the South Coast Crystal Crab Research project administered by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.
Justification:	To permit the collection of data required for Department of Fisheries research.
Admin No:	424
Exemption No:	1420
Applicant:	Director of Fisheries Research
Subject:	To take snow crabs/crystal crabs (<i>Chaceon bicolor</i>) by means of fish traps in accordance with the requirements of the South Coast Crystal Crab Research project administered by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.

Period of Exemption:	15/05/2004 to 31/07/2004
Granted To:	Mulataga Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> Order 677 of 1994 Fish Traps Prohibition Notice; Order 278 of 1987 Esperance Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery Notice; and Order 279 of 1987 Windy Harbour-Augusta Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery Notice.
Purpose:	To take snow crabs/crystal crabs (<i>Chaceon bicolor</i>) by means of fish traps in accordance with the requirements of the South Coast Crystal Crab Research project administered by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.
Justification:	To permit the collection of data required for Department of Fisheries research.
Admin No:	579
Exemption No:	1421
Applicant:	Director of Fisheries Research
Subject:	To take, using hook and line, undersize WA dhufish (<i>Glaucosoma hebraicum</i>) from waters deeper than 40 m off the coast between Mandurah and Lancelin, for research purposes. A maximum of 20 dhufish less than 50 cm may be collected in each month.
Period of Exemption:	01/03/2004 to 28/02/2005
Granted To:	Allan Bevan
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis.
Justification:	Local fishers working on a voluntary basis greatly assist the work of the Fisheries Research Division by collecting essential samples at times or in locations when Fisheries Research Division personnel cannot be present.

Appendices

Admin No: 589

Exemption No: 1422

Applicant: Director of Fisheries Research

Subject: To take greenlip abalone (*Haliotis laevis*) of maximum shell length between the minimum legal size and 115 millimetres from stocks in the Hopetoun area, for the purposes of research. The combined catch of greenlip abalone for all participants in this research should not exceed a total of 4,176 kilograms meat weight.

Period of Exemption: 11/03/2004 to 01/05/2004

Granted To: B and D Adams, J Clauson, J Lashmar, G Pickering, P Gaebler, G & S Beres, D Maloney and M Rickerby

Exempted Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and Abalone Management Plan 1992

Purpose: To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting information on stunted stocks of greenlip abalone on the south coast of Western Australia, and the viability of industry video-surveys as a stock-monitoring tool. Knowledge of the dynamics of stunted colonies of greenlip abalone, which are generally excluded from fishable stocks by their small shell size, and an assessment of the usefulness of video technology for stock monitoring will allow a more comprehensive management of the Abalone Managed Fishery.

Justification: Knowledge on the dynamics of stunted abalone colonies is required to assist in effective management.

Admin No: 590

Exemption No: 1423

Applicant: Director of Fisheries Research

Subject: To take, using hook and line, undersize WA dhufish (*Glaucosoma hebraicum*) in the course of the Marmion Angling & Aquatic Club March angling competition day. A maximum of two dhufish less than 50 cm may be collected by each of the persons named in Schedule 1.

Period of Exemption: 13/03/2004 to 14/03/2004

Granted To: Glenn, James and Dylan Omond, Glen Hillary and Roland Margaria, Glen Wines and Brad Dixon, Russell, Vickie and Liam Hillary, John Cant, Alan Omond and Bob Jones, Peter Evans and John Gowdie, Steve and Melissa Knight, Roy and Kerry Lukies, Darren Lockhart and Michael Riches.

Exempted Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995

Purpose: To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis.

Justification: Local fishers working on a voluntary basis greatly assist the work of the Fisheries Research Division by collecting essential samples at times or in locations when Fisheries Research Division personnel cannot be present.

Admin No: 609

Exemption No: 1424

Applicant: Director of Fisheries Research

Subject: To collect, using a rod and line, undersize pink snapper (*Pagrus auratus*) from various locations in the Port Geographe Marina, for research purposes. Collection is to occur during fishing clinics held by the Department of Fisheries. A maximum of 20 fish, of total length less than 41cm, are to be collected by the exemption holder each month.

Period of Exemption: 01/11/2003 to 01/11/2004

Granted To: Michael Burgess

Exempted Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995

Purpose: To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological information (length/reproductive/age data) on *Pagrus auratus*.

Justification: To permit the collection of data required for Department of Fisheries research.

Admin No:	561
Exemption No:	1425
Applicant:	Director of Fisheries Research
Subject:	To take, using hook and line, undersize pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) and undersize WA dhufish (<i>Glaucosoma hebraicum</i>) from the waters off the coast between Bunbury and Cape Leeuwin, for research purposes. A maximum of 20 snapper less than 41 cm and 20 dhufish less than 50 cm may be collected by each of the exemption holders in each month.
Period of Exemption:	18/12/2003 to 30/11/2004
Granted To:	Dean Eggleston, Rusty Ellis and Dave Ellis
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
Purpose:	To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis.
Justification	Local fishers working on a voluntary basis greatly assist the work of the Fisheries Research Division by collecting essential samples at times or in locations when Fisheries Research Division personnel cannot be present.
Admin No:	591
Exemption No:	1426
Applicant:	Director of Fisheries Research
Subject:	To take the following quantities of abalone for the purposes of disease research: Esperance - 30 greenlip abalone, 30 Roe's abalone and five brownlip abalone. Albany - 30 greenlip abalone and five brownlip abalone. Busselton/Capes - 30 greenlip abalone, 30 Roe's abalone and five brownlip abalone. Geraldton - 30 Roe's abalone.
Period of Exemption:	16/03/2004 to 30/04/2004
Granted To:	Fisheries & Marine Officers of the Department of Fisheries: Russell Adams, Bob Bogumil, Steven Embling, Gary Harburn, Ken Gittins, Peter Johnsen, Kevin Johnson, Mark Killick, Michael Nicholas, Shaun Ossinger and Phillip Shaw.

Exempted Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and Abalone Management Plan 1992.

Purpose: To assist the Fish Health Section, Department of Fisheries, in collecting information on diseases occurring in wild stocks of all species and sizes of abalone in Western Australia for the FRDC National Abalone Health Survey. A better understanding of the diseases of abalone will allow for more comprehensive management of the Abalone Managed Fishery and the abalone aquaculture industry.

Justification: Additional samples are urgently required by the Research Division's Fish Health Section to complete the WA component of the National Abalone Health Survey.

Admin No:	553
Exemption No:	1427
Applicant:	'Growers' as defined by the Lakevista Pty Ltd Management Investment Scheme, Management Agreement
Subject:	Aquaculturing of abalone
Period of Exemption:	15/12/2003 to 31/12/2003
Granted To:	The persons who are party to the Management Agreement with Lakevista Enterprises Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , in particular Part 8
Purpose:	To provide a class exemption as a means to establish a legitimate management investment scheme under Australian Taxation Office (ATO) legislation and the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
Justification:	The lack of access to capital investment has been identified as a critical impediment to aquaculture development in WA. The ability to establish a management investment scheme allows aquaculturists an opportunity to use such schemes to seek investment. The development of a class exemption allows investors in the scheme to legitimately be involved in aquaculture, which is a prerequisite to the scheme being endorsed by the ATO.

Appendices

Admin No: 532
 Exemption No: 1428
 Applicant: Kimberley College of TAFE
 Subject: Taking mature barramundi for the purpose of educational and community awareness programs and aquaculture broodstock.

Period of Exemption: 13/02/2004 to 19/01/2006
 Granted To: Kimberley College of TAFE
 Exempted Provisions: Government Gazette No. 106
 Purpose: Taking mature barramundi for the purpose of educational and community awareness programs and aquaculture broodstock.
 Justification: Taking mature barramundi for the purpose of educational and community awareness programs and aquaculture broodstock.

Admin No: 488
 Exemption No: 1429
 Applicant: The Dolphin Discovery Centre
 Subject: The collection of a maximum of fifteen fish per year by hand from the area between the high and low water mark.
 Period of Exemption: 1/08/2003 to 31/07/2005
 Granted To: Phil Coulthard trading as The Dolphin Discovery Centre
 Exempted Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: (a) Promotion of tourism and recreational activities.
 (b) Educational and community awareness programs.
 Justification (a) Promotion of tourism and recreational activities.
 (b) Educational and community awareness programs.

Admin No: 434
 Exemption No: 1430
 Applicant: Bob Mitchell

Subject: The fishing for and taking of fish of the number(s) and scientific classification(s) as listed in Annex 1, from State Waters by means of i) hand line & barbless hook; ii) rod, line and barbless hook; iii) a handheld dip net and/or barrier net, when diving.

Period of Exemption: 26/11/2003 to 30/06/2005
 Granted To: Bob Mitchell
 Exempted Provisions: Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 & *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
 Purpose: (a) Collecting, keeping, breeding, hatching or culturing of rare or endangered fish.
 (b) Promoting tourism or recreational activities.

Justification: (a) Collecting, keeping, breeding, hatching or culturing of rare or endangered fish.
 (b) Promoting tourism or recreational activities.

Admin No: 610
 Exemption No: 1431
 Applicant: Director of Fisheries Research
 Subject: To collect up to a maximum each month of 40 samples of dhufish (*Glaucosoma hebraicum*) less than 50 cm total length, and 20 samples of pink snapper (*Pagrus auratus*) less than 41 cm total length, for research purposes.

Period of Exemption: 01/01/2004 to 31/12/2004
 Granted To: Geoffrey Myers
 Exempted Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
 Purpose: To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological information (length/reproductive/age data) on these important species.

Justification: Local fishers working on a voluntary basis greatly assist the work of the Fisheries Research Division by collecting essential samples at times or in locations when Fisheries Research Division personnel cannot be present.

Admin No: 611

Exemption No: 1432

Applicant: Director of Fisheries Research

Subject: To take greenlip abalone (*Haliotis laevis*) of maximum shell length between the minimum legal size and 115 mm, from stocks between Cape Pasley and Point Malcolm, for the purposes of research. The combined catch of greenlip abalone for all participants in this research should not exceed a total of 6,000 kilograms meat weight.

Period of Exemption: 30/09/2003 to 01/11/2003

Granted To: Alan Wilson, Callum Wilson, Gregory Leesteere, Dean Gaebler, Phillip Walsh, Ken Halton and Marc Payne.

Exempted Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and Abalone Management Plan 1992

Purpose: To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Fisheries Department, in collecting information on stunted stocks of greenlip abalone on the south coast of Western Australia, and the viability of industry video-surveys as a stock-monitoring tool. Knowledge of the dynamics of stunted colonies of greenlip abalone, which are generally excluded from fishable stocks by their small shell size, and an assessment of the usefulness of video technology for stock monitoring will allow a more comprehensive management of the Abalone Managed Fishery.

Justification: Knowledge on the dynamics of stunted abalone colonies, and the viability of video surveys as a stock-monitoring tool, is required to assist in effective management.

Admin No: 612

Exemption No: 1433

Applicant: Director of Fisheries Research

Subject: To take, using hook and line, undersize pink snapper (*Pagrus auratus*) from the waters of the Shark Bay Snapper Managed Fishery from Cape Cuvier to Steep Point (excluding the inner gulfs of Shark Bay) for research purposes.

Period of Exemption: 01/10/2003 to 31/09/2004

Granted To: Scott Newman and Dennis Wren

Exempted Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995

Purpose: To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis.

Justification: Local fishers working on a voluntary basis greatly assist the work of the Fisheries Research Division by collecting essential samples at times or in locations when Fisheries Research Division personnel cannot be present.

Admin No: 578

Exemption No: 1434

Applicant: Director of Fisheries Research

Subject: To take, using hook and line, undersize pink snapper (*Pagrus auratus*) and undersize WA dhufish (*Glaucosoma hebraicum*) from the waters off the coast between Mandurah and Lancelin, for research purposes.

Period of Exemption: 01/03/2004 to 28/02/2005

Granted To: Mark Saligari

Exempted Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995

Purpose: To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis.

Justification: Local fishers working on a voluntary basis greatly assist the work of the Fisheries Research Division by collecting essential samples at times or in locations when Fisheries Research Division personnel cannot be present.

Appendices

Admin No:	555
Exemption No:	1435
Applicant:	Director of Fisheries Research
Subject:	To retain undersize pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) taken while trawling in Zone D of the South West Trawl Fishery (Comet Bay), for research purposes. A maximum of 20 fish less than 41 cm are to be retained in each month (a maximum of 120 fish overall).
Period of Exemption:	05/12/2003 to 31/05/2004
Granted To:	Alan Butler
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
Purpose:	To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis.
Justification	Local fishers working on a voluntary basis greatly assist the work of the Fisheries Research Division by collecting essential samples at times or in locations when Fisheries Research Division personnel cannot be present.
Admin No:	556
Exemption No:	1436
Applicant:	Director of Fisheries Research
Subject:	To undertake fish sampling at 'Cobblers Pools' on Sussex Location 241, using handlines and a total of five traps ('opera house' and folding 'box'), and to retain a maximum of five freshwater cobbler (<i>Tandanus bostocki</i>) for examination of gut contents. Macroinvertebrates and water quality will also be sampled.
Period of Exemption:	05/12/2003 to 21/12/2003
Granted To:	Michael Burgess, Cassandra Jury, Kate Reading and John McKinney
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995

Purpose:	To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in investigating the health of this modified water system.
Justification:	To allow specified landholders to undertake on their property research of interest to the Department, assisted by Landcare and Department of Fisheries officers.
Admin No:	386
Exemption No:	1437
Applicant:	Stan MacDonald
Subject:	Developing Fisheries - Exmouth Blue Swimmer Crab.
Period of Exemption:	03/06/2004 to 03/06/2007
Granted To:	Stan MacDonald
Exempted Provisions:	Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 and Fish Traps Restrictions Notice 1990.
Purpose:	To participate in developing a blue swimmer crab fishery in the Exmouth Gulf.
Justification	To gather baseline data on blue swimmer crab stocks in the Exmouth Gulf.
Admin No:	614a
Exemption No:	1438
Applicant:	Director of Fisheries Research
Subject:	To collect up to a maximum in total of 20 samples per month of dhufish (<i>Glaucosoma hebraicum</i>) less than 50 cm and of pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) less than 41 cm total length, for research purposes.
Period of Exemption:	14/08/2003 to 13/08/2004
Granted To:	Chris Fenwick, Gus Davy and John Pozzi
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
Purpose:	To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, in collecting biological information (length/reproductive/age data) on these important species.
Justification	Challenger TAFE are likely to take these required specimens during normal training exercises, and this arrangement promotes cooperation between the two institutions.

Admin No:	495
Exemption No:	1439
Applicant:	Maxima Pearling Company Pty Ltd
Subject:	To progress the growing of barramundi in sea cages while the formal application for it is being progressed.
Period of Exemption:	24/10/03 to 23/10/04
Granted To:	Maxima Pearling Company Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , in particular Sections 90 and 92
Purpose:	To experiment with the growing of barramundi in sea cages on the aquaculture site in Cone Bay. This will enable the project to progress whilst the formal application for variation is being processed.
Justification:	The information gathered will provide data to assess aquaculture technology, which is an ongoing need.

Admin No:	517
Exemption No:	1440
Applicant:	Bayside Abalone Farms Pty Ltd
Subject:	Broodstock for abalone aquaculture
Period of Exemption:	4/11/03 to 3/11/04
Granted To:	Bayside Abalone Farms Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> in particular: subsection 50(3) and 51(2) and Section 46 & 74, Regulation 121 of the Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995. Clauses 4(1) and 21 of the Abalone Management Plan 1992 and the Prohibition on fishing (diving) Order 1999.
Purpose:	To collect broodstock for development of abalone culture.
Justification:	There is a need to access quality abalone broodstock, to increase the production of spat in Western Australia and counter the inconvenience that purchase from commercial divers may pose.

Admin No:	518
Exemption No:	1441
Applicant:	Coral World Australia Pty Ltd
Subject:	The fishing for and taking of fish of the number/s and scientific classification/s as listed in Annex 1, from State waters by means of - i) hand line and barbless hook; and/or ii) rod, line and barbless hook; and/or iii) a handheld dip net and/or barrier net, when diving; and iv) hand held tools in the case of coral, live rock and live sand collection.

Period of Exemption:	09/09/2003 to 31/08/2005
Granted To:	Coral World Australia Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995.
Purpose:	For the purpose of: (a) scientific research; (b) collecting, keeping, breeding, hatching or culturing of rare or endangered fish; (c) promoting tourism activities; and (d) promoting educational and community awareness programs.

Justification:	To enable Coral World Australia Pty Ltd to continue collecting various finfish, invertebrates and substrate for the purposes of undertaking scientific research; collecting, keeping, breeding, hatching or culturing of rare or endangered fish; promoting tourism activities; and promoting educational and community awareness programs.
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Admin No:	521
Exemption No:	1442
Applicant:	Hazelbay Pty Ltd
Subject:	The processing of fish other than rock lobster and abalone on the licensed fishing boat F461 'Thurburn Bluff' by means of washing, chilling, packing and freezing.
Period of Exemption:	05/08/2003 to 31/08/2003
Granted To:	Hazelbay Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995.

Appendices

Purpose:	Permitting the processing of fish other than rock lobster and abalone pending the outcome of the formal application.
Justification:	To allow processing to take place immediately on replacement of boat.
Admin No:	571
Exemption No:	1443
Applicant:	Shark Bay Prawn Trawler Operator's Association Inc.
Subject:	To permit licensees within the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery and the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery to use otter boards that are greater than the size provided for under the Shark Bay Prawn and Shark Bay Scallop Management Plans.
Period of Exemption:	16/03/2004 to 25/10/2004
Granted To:	Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery & Shark Bay Scallop (Class B) Managed Fishery
Exempted Provisions:	Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993 & Shark Bay Scallop Management Plan 1994
Purpose:	To facilitate the trailing of No. 5 and No. 6 Bison Boards.
Justification:	Trailing the No. 5 & No. 6 Bison boards to assess operational efficiencies such as fuel savings, reduced bottom contact and improved performance of bycatch reduction devices.
Admin No:	570
Exemption No:	1444
Applicant:	Shark Bay Prawn Trawler Operator's Association Inc.
Subject:	To permit licensees within the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery and the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery to use mesh in trawl nets that is greater than the size provided for under the Shark Bay Prawn and Shark Bay Scallop Management Plans.
Period of Exemption:	16/03/2004 to 25/10/2004
Granted To:	Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery & Shark Bay Scallop (Class B) Managed Fishery
Exempted Provisions:	Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993 & Shark Bay Scallop Management Plan 1994

Purpose:	To allow the use of mesh in trawl nets greater than 60mm to the extent that the mesh greater than 60mm is being used as part of a discrete Fish Exclusion Device.
Justification:	To facilitate the trailing of large mesh Fish Exclusion Devices that will reduce the amount of unwanted bycatch in the Shark Bay trawl fisheries.
Admin No:	546
Exemption No:	1445
Applicant:	Harold Richard Hoult
Subject:	To gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks in the Carnarvon region under a controlled management regime.
Period of Exemption:	03/02/2004 to 31/12/2005
Granted To:	Mr Harold Hoult
Exempted Provisions:	Fish Traps Restrictions Notice 1990 and Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994
Purpose:	To gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks in the Carnarvon region under a controlled management regime.
Justification:	To gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks in the Carnarvon region under a controlled management regime.
Admin No:	536
Exemption No:	1446
Applicant:	Fish Feeds Australia Pty Ltd
Subject:	Commercial fishing operations in the West Coast Purse Seine Managed Fishery using the boat, 'Ocean Raider III', which is three metres in excess of the 16 metre maximum size. Use of a purse seine net not longer than 500 metres, with a drop of not more than 90 metres and a mesh size of not less than 18 millimetres.
Period of Exemption:	18/12/2003 to either withdrawn by the Minister for Fisheries or made redundant by virtue of amendment or replacement of the West Coast Purse Seine Management Plan or other legislation.

Granted To:	Fish Feeds Australia Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	Commercial fishing operations in the West Coast Purse Seine Managed Fishery using the boat, "Ocean Raider III", which is three metres in excess of the 16 metre maximum size. Use of a purse seine net not longer than 500 metres, with a drop of not more than 90 metres and a mesh size of not less than 18 millimetres.
Justification:	To allow further development and exploration of the fishery.
Admin No:	534
Exemption No:	1447
Applicant:	Abacus Fisheries Co. Pty Ltd
Subject:	For the purpose of permitting the processing of fish other than prawns, scallops, rock lobster and abalone pending the outcome of the formal application.
Period of Exemption:	09/10/2003 to 07/11/2003
Granted To:	Abacus Fisheries Co. Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 & Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	For the purpose of permitting the processing of fish other than prawns, scallops, rock lobster and abalone pending the outcome of the formal application.
Justification:	To allow processing to be undertaken in the new factory during the 21-day advertising period while the variation to the permit and processing licence is being considered and advertising for any objections is being carried out.
Admin No:	528
Exemption No:	1448
Applicant:	Department of Fisheries
Subject:	South Coast Estuarine Interim Managed Fishery power hauling exemption.

Period of Exemption:	25/08/2003 to 31/12/2003
Granted To:	South Coast Estuarine Fishermen
Exempted Provisions:	South Coast Estuarine (Interim) Management Plan 2001
Purpose:	To allow for the limited use of winches (hand and powered) for hauling certain nets in the waters of the South Coast Estuarine Interim Managed Fishery.
Justification:	Prior to the introduction of interim management arrangements for this fishery in 2002, commercial fishers used powered winches to haul seine nets. Many also used hand-powered reels on their vessels to store nets. This exemption provides for the continuation of this practice.
Admin No:	564
Exemption No:	1451
Applicant:	Peter Fullarton
Subject:	Marine Aquarium Trade
Period of Exemption:	12/06/2004 to 30/06/2005
Granted To:	Peter Fullarton
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 & Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> and Notice No. 366
Purpose:	To take <i>Echnoidea</i> , <i>Asteroidea</i> and <i>Holothoroidea</i> species for the marine aquarium trade.
Justification:	Further development of the marine aquarium fishery.
Admin No:	576
Exemption No:	1453
Applicant:	Tennereef Pty Ltd on behalf of White Caps Fishing Co.
Subject:	To allow nominated vessels in the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery and the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery to vary the size of the bar spacing on the Bycatch Reduction Devices (between the outer bars of the grid) to test for the efficiency of seagrass extraction.

Appendices

Period of Exemption:	16/03/2004 to 25/10/2004
Granted To:	Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery & Shark Bay Scallop (Class B) Managed Fishery
Exempted Provisions:	Licence Condition 476
Purpose:	Using bycatch reduction devices with outer bar spacing gaps sizes exceeding 200mm
Justification:	To allow nominated vessels in the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery and the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery to vary the size of the bar spacing on the Bycatch Reduction Devices (between the outer bars of the grid) to test for the efficiency of seagrass extraction.
Admin No:	N/A
Exemption No:	1454
Applicant:	Department of Fisheries
Subject:	Operating a vessel greater than 375 boat units within the Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Managed Fishery.
Period of Exemption:	29/03/2004 to 31/12/2004
Granted To:	Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Managed Fishery
Exempted Provisions:	Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Management Plan 1993
Purpose:	To permit commercial fishing in accordance with the Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Management Plan 1993 using a vessel greater than the prescribed 375 boat units.
Justification:	The 375 boat unit rule (calculated on a formula involving hull size and engine capacity) is practically unenforceable, with the result that some boats are larger than 375 boat units.
Admin No:	542
Exemption No:	1456
Applicant:	James Gregory Morcombe
Subject:	Taking of freshwater cobbler for aquaculture broodstock purposes using fish traps and handlines.
Period of Exemption:	08/01/2004 to 07/01/2007

Granted To:	James Gregory Morcombe
Exempted Provisions:	Sections 46 & 47 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and Regulation 10 of the & Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
Purpose:	Taking of freshwater cobbler for aquaculture broodstock purposes using fish traps and handlines.
Justification:	This exemption allows James Gregory Morcombe to take freshwater cobbler (<i>Tandanus bostocki</i>) for aquaculture broodstock during the period 08/01/2004 to 07/01/2007, given the need to access broodstock to assess the suitability of the species to aquaculture.
Admin No:	538
Exemption No:	1455
Applicant:	Leeuwin Star Pty Ltd
Subject:	To train TAFE students in the correct procedure for receiving and handling live abalone.
Period of Exemption:	19/11/2003 to 19/11/2004
Granted To:	Leeuwin Star Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	The provisions of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and its subsidiary legislation.
Purpose:	To train TAFE students in the correct procedure for the receipt and processing of Roe's abalone (<i>Haliotis roei</i>), greenlip abalone (<i>Haliotis laevis</i>) and brownlip abalone (<i>Haliotis conicopora</i>) at Fremantle Maritime Centre.
Justification:	To train TAFE students in the correct procedure for receiving and handling live abalone
Admin No:	539
Exemption No:	1452
Applicant:	MG Kailis Pty Ltd
Subject:	The taking of tropical rock lobster and green tropical rock lobster for scientific research.

Period of Exemption:	06/11/2003 to 31/12/2006	Admin No:	527
Granted To:	MG Kailis Pty Ltd	Exemption No:	1449
Exempted Provisions:	The provisions of Section 46 and 90 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and the associated regulations	Applicant:	Bruce John Mackay
Purpose:	The taking of 50 adult (greater than 75mm) and 1000 juveniles (less than 25mm) of rock lobster (<i>Panulirus ornatus</i>) as well as 50 adult (greater than 75mm) and 1,000 juveniles (less than 25mm) of tropical rock lobster (<i>Panulirus versicolor</i>).	Subject:	The taking of up to three common weedy seadragons (<i>Phyllopteryx taeniolatus</i>) and up to three leafy seadragons (<i>Phycodurus eques</i>) for scientific research
Justification:	This exemption allows MG Kailis Pty Ltd, the holder of aquaculture licence No. 1578, to take painted tropical rock lobster (<i>Panulirus ornatus</i>) and green tropical rock lobster (<i>Panulirus versicolor</i>) for scientific research purposes, given the need to undertake scientific research on new aquaculture candidates and access quality broodstock.	Period of Exemption:	07/11/2003 to 31/12/2004
Admin No:	535	Granted To:	Bruce John Mackay
Exemption No:	1450	Exempted Provisions:	The provisions of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and the Fish Resources Management Regulations and any subsidiary legislation.
Applicant:	Sea Bed Ent. Pty Ltd	Purpose:	The taking of up to three common weedy seadragons (<i>Phyllopteryx taeniolatus</i>) and up to three leafy seadragons (<i>Phycodurus eques</i>) for scientific research.
Subject:	The taking of scallops (<i>Amusium balloti</i>) as broodstock for aquaculture purposes	Justification:	To permit the taking of up to three common weedy seadragons (<i>Phyllopteryx taeniolatus</i>) and up to three leafy seadragons (<i>Phycodurus eques</i>) for scientific research.
Period of Exemption:	15/11/2003 to 31/01/2004	Admin No:	608
Granted To:	Sea Bed Ent. Pty Ltd	Exemption No:	1457
Exempted Provisions:	The provisions of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and Clauses of the South West Trawl Management Plan 1989	Applicant:	Director of Fisheries Research
Purpose:	The taking of up to 2,000 scallops (<i>Amusium balloti</i>) as broodstock for aquaculture broodstock purposes.	Subject:	To take greenlip abalone (<i>Haliotis laevis</i>) of maximum shell length between the minimum legal size and 115 mm, from stocks between Jorndee Point and Bellinger Island, for the purposes of research. The combined catch of greenlip abalone for all participants in this research should not exceed a total of 5,200 kilograms meat weight.
Justification:	This exemption allows the applicant to take up to 2,000 scallops (<i>Amusium balloti</i>) for aquaculture broodstock purposes during the period 15/11/2003 to 31/01/2004 in order to access quality scallop broodstock and increase the production of spat in Western Australia.	Period of Exemption:	16/06/2004 – 31/07/2004
Admin No:	535	Granted To:	Alan Wilson, Callum Wilson, Gregory Leesteere, Mr Dean Gaebler, Phillip Penalurick, Ken Halton, Ian Donald Simpson and Marc Payne.
Exemption No:	1450	Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> , Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and Abalone Management Plan 1992.

Appendices

Purpose: To assist the Fisheries Research Division, Fisheries Department, in collecting information on stunted stocks of greenlip abalone on the south coast of Western Australia, and the viability of industry video-surveys as a stock-monitoring tool. Knowledge of the dynamics of stunted colonies of greenlip abalone, which are generally excluded from fishable stocks by their small shell size, and an assessment of the usefulness of video technology for stock monitoring will allow a more comprehensive management of the Abalone Managed Fishery.

Justification: Knowledge on the dynamics of stunted abalone colonies, and the viability of video surveys as a stock-monitoring tool, is required to assist in effective management.

Admin No: 600

Exemption No: 1458

Applicant: Clare Bennett and Suzanne Jordan

Subject: Taking coral and related fish. In this exemption 'coral and related fish' means any fish of the scientific classification: (a) Class - *Anthozoa; Hydrozoa; Polychaeta; Crinoidea; Ascidi* (b) *Phylum - Bryozoa; Porifera*.

Period of Exemption: 10/05/2004 to 30/06/2004

Granted To: Clare Bennett and Suzanne Jordan

Exempted Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*

Purpose: For the purpose of allowing Clare Bennet and Suzanne Jordan to collect coral and related fish to develop a marine aquarium as an educational resources at the Carnarvon Senior High School.

Justification: The purpose of the collection of fish is to establish an educational teaching tool.

Admin No: 602

Exemption No: 1459

Applicant: Shark Bay Tuna Farms (SBTF) trading as Cape Inscription Pearls.

Subject: Allowing the seeding and harvesting of pearl oysters on board a barge moored to the company jetty located in protected waters of Rat Island, Abrolhos Islands that is outside the area authorised in Aquaculture Licence No. 1574.

Period of Exemption: 29/04/2004 to 30/06/2005

Granted To: Shark Bay Tuna Farms (SBTF) trading as Cape Inscription Pearls.

Exempted Provisions: Section 90 and 91 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Purpose: To allow SBTF to conduct aquaculture activities at a location outside of that specified in Aquaculture Licence No. 1574.

Justification: To permit the applicant to conduct seeding and harvesting operations at a location that would improve pearl quality, staff safety and reduce potential risk to oyster mortality rate.

Admin No: 604

Exemption No: 1460

Applicant: Longreef Holdings Pty Ltd, trading as Cicerellos Fremantle

Subject: The collection of fish of the number (s) and scientific classification (s) as listed in Annex 1, from State waters.

Period of Exemption: 29/04/2004 to 30/06/2009

Granted To: Longreef Holdings Pty Ltd, trading as Cicerellos Fremantle

Exempted Provisions: *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, the Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995

Purpose: The promotion of tourism and educational and community awareness programs.

Justification: This exemption allows Longreef Holdings Pty Ltd, trading as Cicerellos Fremantle to collect a variety of fish, invertebrate, seagrass and algal species. This exemption was issued for the purposes of educational and community awareness programs and tourism.

Admin No:	607
Exemption No:	1461
Applicant:	Newbeach Nominees Pty Ltd and Sakan Pty Ltd
Subject:	Permitting a temporary vessel replacement within the Nickol Bay Prawn Managed Fishery (NBPMF), and permitting the storage and transport of catch by the replacement vessel for the same period.
Period of Exemption:	29/05/2004 to 30/06/2004
Granted To:	Newbeach Nominees Pty Ltd and Sakan Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	Nickol Bay Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1991 and the Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
Purpose:	Permitting a temporary vessel replacement within the NBPMF, and permitting the storage and transport of catch by the replacement vessel for the same period.
Justification:	To provide continued operation in the fishery while not to the disadvantage of other licensees.
Admin No:	582
Exemption No:	1462
Applicant:	James Stoddart
Subject:	Corals, in part or whole, will be collected for the purpose of taxonomic identification and/or biological assessment as a component of scientific research, monitoring or survey work.
Period of Exemption:	01//4/2004 to 01/04/2009
Granted To:	James Stoddart
Exempted Provisions:	Order Number 7
Purpose:	Corals, in part or whole, will be collected for the purpose of taxonomic identification and/or biological assessment as a component of scientific research, monitoring or survey work.

Justification: Under provisions of Section 7(3a) of the FRMA the Executive Director has granted an exemption form Order Number 7 of 2001 to allow Mr James Stoddart of Mscience and four associates to take coral samples for taxonomy, the assessment of reproductive biology and other scientific survey and monitoring purposes. The exemption has been granted for a period of five years. Only small quantities of coral are needed for these purposes and the collection of samples will not have material impact on the sustainability of corals or the preservation of fish habitat.

Admin No:	567
Exemption No:	1463
Applicant:	MG Kailis Gulf Fisheries Pty Ltd
Subject:	Fishing for prawns using a vessel greater than 375 boat units within the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery.
Period of Exemption:	01/04/2004 to 31/12/2004
Granted To:	Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery Licensees
Exempted Provisions:	Clauses 11(1)(b), 11(2)(b)(c) and (d), 15 and 16 of the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Management Plan 1989
Purpose:	For the purposes of improving the overall operational efficiency of the fleet and developing gear technology within the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery.
Justification:	To aid in the determination of the most efficient fleet size and gear configuration to improve the economics of prawn trawl fishing, to reduce the impact of trawl gear on the sea bed and to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
Admin No:	560
Exemption No:	1464
Applicant:	Harold Richard Hoult
Subject:	Operating a primary vessel with a measured length of up to 14.65 metres within the Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Managed Fishery (SBBS).

Appendices

Period of Exemption:	11/02/2004 to 10/02/2006
Granted To:	Harold Richard Hoult
Exempted Provisions:	Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Management Plan 1992
Purpose:	To improve the working conditions in terms of safety for the crew.
Justification:	To allow the use of a larger boat to access crabs outside the SBBS Fishery with a boat larger than prescribed under the SBBS Management Plan, to enable full use of the swimmer crab 'conditions of licence'. To improve the working conditions in terms of safety for the crew.
Admin No:	550
Exemption No:	1465
Applicant:	Laurence James Bellottie
Subject:	Operating a primary boat up to 12.9 metres in length within the Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Managed Fishery.
Period of Exemption:	26/11/2003 to 25/11/2005
Granted To:	Laurence James Bellottie
Exempted Provisions:	Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Management Plan 1992
Purpose:	To allow for the use of a boat purchased on the second-hand market that has improved at-sea holding and storage facilities, which will contribute to improved catch quality and hence economic efficiency within the Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Managed Fishery.
Justification:	To allow for the use of a boat purchased on the second-hand market that has improved at-sea holding and storage facilities, which will contribute to improved catch quality and hence economic efficiency within the Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Managed Fishery.
Admin No:	524
Exemption No:	1466
Applicant:	Jonathon Davies

Subject:	To hold black lip pearl oysters (<i>Pinctada margaritifera</i>) in tanks and undertake seeding off its authorised aquaculture area in Exmouth.
Period of Exemption:	20/09/2004 to 19/10/2003
Granted To:	JA, JR, PM and SM Davies
Exempted Provisions:	Section 90 <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To hold black lip pearl oysters (<i>Pinctada margaritifera</i>) in tanks and undertake seeding off its authorised aquaculture area in Exmouth.
Justification:	Continuation of original exemption granted (No. 1403) to hold black lip pearl oysters (<i>Pinctada margaritifera</i>) in tanks and undertake seeding off its authorised aquaculture area in Exmouth.
Admin No:	544
Exemption No:	1467
Applicant:	Mark's Quality Seafoods Pty Ltd
Subject:	For the taking of blue swimmer crabs in the Cockburn Sound Crab Managed Fishery.
Period of Exemption:	28/11/2003 to 30/09/2004
Granted To:	Mark's Quality Seafoods Pty Ltd
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> & Cockburn Sound Crab Management Plan.
Purpose:	For the taking of blue swimmer crabs in the Cockburn Sound Crab Managed Fishery.
Justification:	Interim measure to permit a boat outside the boat replacement rules for the Cockburn Sound Crab Managed Fishery to operate pending boat replacement review.
Admin No:	562
Exemption No:	1468
Applicant:	South West Regional College of TAFE
Subject:	The take of black bream (<i>Acanthopagrus butcheri</i>) for broodstock from Lake Clifton for aquaculture and environmental management education purposes.

Period of Exemption:	02/02/2004 to 02/06/2004
Granted To:	South West Regional College of TAFE
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	The take of black bream (<i>Acanthopagrus butcheri</i>) for broodstock from Lake Clifton for aquaculture and environmental management education purposes.
Justification:	Allow South West Regional College of TAFE (Collie) to take up to 20 black bream (<i>Acanthopagrus butcheri</i>) for broodstock from Lake Clifton for educational purposes during the period 02/02/2004 to 02/06/2004. These fish are required for training courses in aquaculture and genetic studies.
Admin No:	554
Exemption No:	1471
Applicant:	Western Australian Abalone Divers Association
Subject:	Pilot study to assess viability of re-seeding juvenile greenlip abalone into natural environment.
Period of Exemption:	15/01/04 to 15/01/05
Granted To:	Western Australian Abalone Divers Association
Exempted Provisions:	Section 90(a) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To undertake a pilot study to assess viability of re-seeding juvenile greenlip abalone into a natural environment.
Justification:	This exemption allows the Western Australian Abalone Divers Association Inc. to reseed juvenile greenlip abalone (<i>Haliotis laevis</i>) for scientific research purposes during the period 15/01/04 to 15/01/05, given the need to undertake scientific research on reseedling and stock enhancement.
Admin No:	574
Exemption No:	1472
Applicant:	Sea Urchin Pty Ltd
Subject:	Undertaking aquaculture activities at a place not included on their aquaculture licence.

Period of Exemption:	26/02/04 to 27/02/05
Granted To:	Sea Urchin Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	Section 90(a) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	Aquaculture Licence 1577 seeks to use the jetty at 28°52.023 S, 113°58.566 E for storage of aquaculture equipment, pearl oyster spat activities and pearl oyster seeding & grading operations.
Justification:	This exemption allows Sea Urchin Pty Ltd, the holder of aquaculture licence no. 1577, to use the jetty at the western end of Post Office Island, Abrolhos Islands for black lip pearl oyster (<i>Pinctada margaritifera</i>) aquaculture activities. This exemption is required to allow the jetty to be used pending the development of land lease arrangements for aquaculture within the Abrohlos Islands.
Admin No:	558
Exemption No:	1473
Applicant:	Seacage Systems Pty Ltd
Subject:	Requesting permission to collect wild blue mussels
Period of Exemption:	04/02/2004 to 03/02/2004
Granted To:	Seacage Systems Pty Ltd
Exempted Provisions:	Clause 17(1)(b) of West Coast Estuarine Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2003, clauses 5 & 6 of Cockburn Sound (Mussel) LEF Notice 1995, reg 121 and Schedule 3 Part 1 of the Regulations.
Purpose:	To request permission to collect wild blue mussel spat from Swan River and Cockburn Sound — mainly from moorings and non-treated jetty pilings & structures.
Justification:	This exemption allows Seacage Systems Pty Ltd, the holder of aquaculture licence 1572, to take blue mussel spat (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) from Cockburn Sound and the Swan River for scientific purposes during the period 04/02/2004 and 03/02/2005. Spat is required to trial new grow-out methods within the aquaculture industry.

Appendices

Admin No:	537
Exemption No:	1474
Applicant:	Mr Steve Hinge (Director of Goldband Nominees) and Mr Glenn Davis (Director of Northern Wildcatch Seafood Australia Pty Ltd).
Subject:	To permit fishing in the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery whilst using both traps and lines simultaneously without being subject to a doubled rate of effort consumption.
Period of Exemption:	For a period of no more than three months from the receipt of written confirmation from the Regional Manager North, of the commencement of fishing under the provisions of this exemption.
Granted To:	Goldband Nominees and Northern Wildcatch Seafood Australia Pty Ltd operating the vessels 'Aletha T' (LFBG178) and 'Centrefold' (LFBBR20) respectively in the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery.
Exempted Provisions:	Schedule 7 of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery Management Plan 2000.
Purpose:	To allow the collection of valuable research data as regards a comparison of trap and line fishing methods in the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery at an acceptable level of risk to stocks.
Justification:	To allow the collection of valuable research data as regards a comparison of trap and line fishing methods in the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery at an acceptable level of risk to stocks.
Admin No:	584, 592 & 593
Exemption No:	1475
Applicant:	Trophy Bay Pty Ltd; Barry C Edwards & Errol Francis
Subject:	Persons who have taken pink snapper by a line and hook with the Regulations for the purpose other than commercial in waters other than the waters of the Shark Bay eastern gulf and western gulf and paying customers of a licensed Fishing Tour Operation.

Period of Exemption:	29/03/2004 to 31/03/2005
Granted To:	Trophy Bay Pty Ltd; Barry C Edwards & Errol Francis
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	Persons who have taken pink snapper by a line and hook with the Regulations for the purpose other than commercial in waters other than the waters of the Shark Bay eastern gulf and western gulf and paying customers of a licensed Fishing Tour Operation.
Justification:	This exemption permits fishing tour operators to fish oceanic stocks and land these fish at Denham above the Shark Bay inner gulf bag limits, with a minimum size limit for pink snapper of 50 cm.
Admin No:	541
Exemption No:	1405
Applicant:	Mscience
Subject:	Collection of corals by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and the Australian National University (ANU) for scientific and educational use by WA Museum. To be collected from one hectare of reef immediately east of Hamersley Iron's Parker Point Wharf in Dampier Harbour.
Period of Exemption:	23/12/2003 to 23/12/2005
Granted To:	Mscience
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 & Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	Collection of corals by AIMS & ANU for scientific and educational use by WA Museum. To be collected from one hectare of reef immediately east of Hamersley Iron's Parker Point Wharf in Dampier Harbour.
Justification:	For scientific and educational use by WA Museum
Admin No:	531
Exemption No:	1476

Applicant	Kybret Pty Ltd and Bouvard Fisheries
Subject:	To soak unbaited rock lobster pots for their use in taking of rock lobster in the waters of the Windy Harbour - Augusta Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.
Period of Exemption:	09/11/2003 to 14/11/2003
Granted To:	Kybret Pty Ltd and Bouvard Fisheries
Exempted Provisions:	Windy Harbour - Augusta Rock Lobster Management Plan 1987
Purpose:	To soak unbaited rock lobster pots for their use in taking of rock lobster in the waters of the Windy Harbour - Augusta Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.
Justification:	Equity with the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.
Admin No:	525
Exemption No:	1477
Applicant	Jonathon Potter
Subject:	The fishing for or taking of fish by hand of the number/s and scientific classification/s as listed in Annex 1, from State waters using the boat with the Licensed Fishing Boat number C13.
Period of Exemption:	26/11/2003 to 30/11/2004
Granted To:	Jonathon Potter
Exempted Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and the Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995.
Purpose:	Developing the marine aquarium fishery.
Justification	Further development of the marine aquarium fishery.

Glossary

TERMS	DEFINITION	TERMS	DEFINITION
ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics.	Economically viable	Able to operate profitably.
Abrolhos Islands	The Houtman Abrolhos Islands. An archipelago of islands lying 65-90km off the coast of Western Australia, west of Geraldton.	Ecosystem	Community of plants, animals, other living organisms within a shared environment and habitat all living and interacting with each other.
ADAC	Agency Development and Administration Committee.	EMP	Environmental Management Plan.
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority.	ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development.
AFZ	Australian Fishing Zone	ERA	Ecological/Environmental Risk Assessment.
AGWEST	Product marketing arm of the Department of Agriculture.	Estuarine	Of or pertaining to an estuary.
Angling	The art of fishing with a rod.	Estuary	That part of the mouth or lower course of a river where sea water mixes with fresh water.
Aquaculture	Commonly termed 'fish farming' but broadly the commercial growing, holding of breeding of marine or freshwater animals and plants.	Exploited	Fished; harvested or put to use.
ATSIC	Australian Torres Strait Islander Commission.	FAS	Fisheries Adjustment Scheme.
Australian Fishing Zone	200 mile wide zone around the Australian coastline within which control over domestic and foreign access to fish resources is maintained	FBL	Fishing Boat Licence.
Bag Limit	Restriction on the number of a particular fish that a fisher may keep in one day.	Fecundity	Number of eggs an animal produces each reproductive cycle; the potential reproductive capacity of an organism.
Bêche-de-mer	Smoked or dried sea cucumber.	FHPA	Fish Habitat Protection Area.
Biogeographic biomass	The total weight of a species or fish in an area.	Finfish	Includes bony, vertebrate fish and cartilaginous fish such as sharks and rays.
BRC	Budget Review Committee.	Fish stock	Total population of fish in an area.
Brood stock	Adult animals used for breeding purposes.	Fisher	A person who fishes.
Bycatch	Species taken incidentally in a fishery where other species are the target.	FOI	Freedom of Information.
CCRB	Corporate and Community Relations Branch.	FPP	Funder-Purchaser-Provider – model of management.
DIBF	Development and Better Interest Fund.	FRDC	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.
Demersal	Found on or near the bottom of the water.	FRMA	Fish Resources Management Act 1994.
		Grow out	The period in which juveniles grow to market size.
		Habitat Particular	'living space' or environment in which an animal or plant lives, eats and breeds.
		IFM	Integrated Fisheries Management.
		Inshore waters	Waters of the shallower part of the Continental shelf.

TERMS	DEFINITION
KPI	Key Performance Indicator.
Limited entry fishery	Fishery where the number of operators is restricted to control the amount of fishing effort; frequently involves controls on the number and size of vessels and conditions relating to the transfer of fishing rights or the replacement of vessels.
MAC	Ministerial/Management Advisory Committee.
Managed fishery	A fishery declared by a management plan to be a managed fishery.
Marine Park	State protected area with associated rules and restrictions to control activities such as fishing or boating.
Minimum legal size	Legislated size below which individuals of some fish species are not to be taken.
NCP	National Competition Policy.
Non-endemic	Not native.
Offshore waters	Waters beyond the inshore waters, tend to be more oceanic waters, though still may relate to outer Continental Shelf waters.
Onshore waters	Waters beside the coastline.
OSC	Operational Sub-Committees.
Output controls	Controls directly limiting a catch (e.g. quotas).
Overfishing	Fishing beyond a desirable, sustainable, or 'safe' population or stock level.
PCRC	Planning Coordination and Review Committee.
Pelagic	Associated with the surface or middle depths of a body of water.
Purse Seine	A net fishing method capable of harvesting large quantities of surface-schooling pelagic fish.
Quota	Amount of catch allocated to a fishing licence.

TERMS	DEFINITION
Recreational fisher	Person who fishes for recreational purposes; catch fish for own personal use.
Recruitment	Entry of new individuals into a fishery's population resulting from reproduction of adult stock.
RFAC	Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee
RLIAC	Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee.
RRFAC	Regional Recreation Fishing Advisory Committee
SCFA	Standing Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture.
Seasonal restrictions	Seasonal closure of a fishery to achieve management objectives such as preservation of breeding animals or juvenile stocks.
Sustainable yield; maximum sustainable yield (MSY)	Maximum catch that can be removed over an indefinite period without causing the stock to be depleted, assuming that removals and natural mortality are balanced by stable recruitment and growth.
TAC	Total Allowable Catch.
TRIM	Tower Records Information Management.
VFLO	Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer.
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System.
WAFIC	Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.
WAMRL	Western Australian Marine Research Laboratories – location of the Department of Fisheries' Research Division.
Wetfishing	The targeting of finfish (i.e. Shark Bay Snapper Fishery, Southern Demersal Gillnet and Longline Fisheries).
Wetlining	Fishing activities for which there are no restrictions on the number of commercially licensed fishing vessels with access.

Table and Figure Index

Table and Figure

TABLE 1:
Western Australian Pearling & Aquaculture Production
1998/99-2002/03

TABLE 2:
Fishcare WA Projects Funded In 2003/04

TABLE 3:
Fishcare WA Projects Successfully Completed
In 2003/04

TABLE 4:
Department of Fisheries Regional Staffing 2003/04

TABLE 5:
Department of Fisheries Aquaculture Licence Statistics

TABLE 6:
Department of Fisheries Permanent and Fixed Term
Employees (By Classification, Level And Gender) as
at 30 June 2004

TABLE 7:
Department of Fisheries Workers' Compensation
Claim History 2000/2004

TABLE 8:
Tracking Energy Usage

Financial Report

FIGURE 1: Net Cost of Services

FIGURE 2: Revenue Sources

FIGURE 3: Proportion of Total Funding

FIGURE 4: Government Funding

FIGURE 5: User Fees, Charges and Grants

FIGURE 6: Expenses by Type

FIGURE 7: Outputs: Total Cost of Services

FIGURE 8: Financial Position

FIGURE 9: Asset Categories

FIGURE 10: Liability Categories

FIGURE 11: Employee Entitlements

FIGURE 12: Bank Account Composition

Performance Indicators

FIGURE 1:
The Proportion (%) of Fisheries where Breeding Stocks
of the Major Target Species are both Assessed and
Adequate to Ensure Catches are Sustained at maximum
levels within the Range Expected under Typical
Environmental Conditions

FIGURE 2:
The Proportion (%) of Fisheries where Catch or Effort
Reported Falls within the Accepted Range Relevant to
the Management Controls being Applied

TABLE 1:
Western Australian Fisheries Production – Years 2000/01
to 2002/03

FIGURE 3:
Participation Rate in Recreational Fisheries
1998/1999 – 2003/04

FIGURE 4:
Average Number of Days Fished 1998/1999 –
2003/04

FIGURE 5:
Distribution for Numbers of Days Fished

FIGURE 6:
Satisfaction Rating of those involved in Recreational
Fishing 1998/1999 – 2003/04

FIGURE 7:
Satisfaction Rating of the Broader Community
and Department Stakeholders



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES ANNUAL REPORT FEEDBACK FORM

The Department of Fisheries is interested in your feedback and comments, regarding the 2003/2004 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?

<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> VERY GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> AVERAGE	<input type="checkbox"/> POOR
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In what ways do you think the Annual Report could be improved?

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| <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT AGENCY | <input type="checkbox"/> SEAFOOD PROCESSING OR MARKETING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FISHING GEAR MANUFACTURER/SALES | <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATIONAL FISHER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MARINE INDUSTRY SUPPLIES | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

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