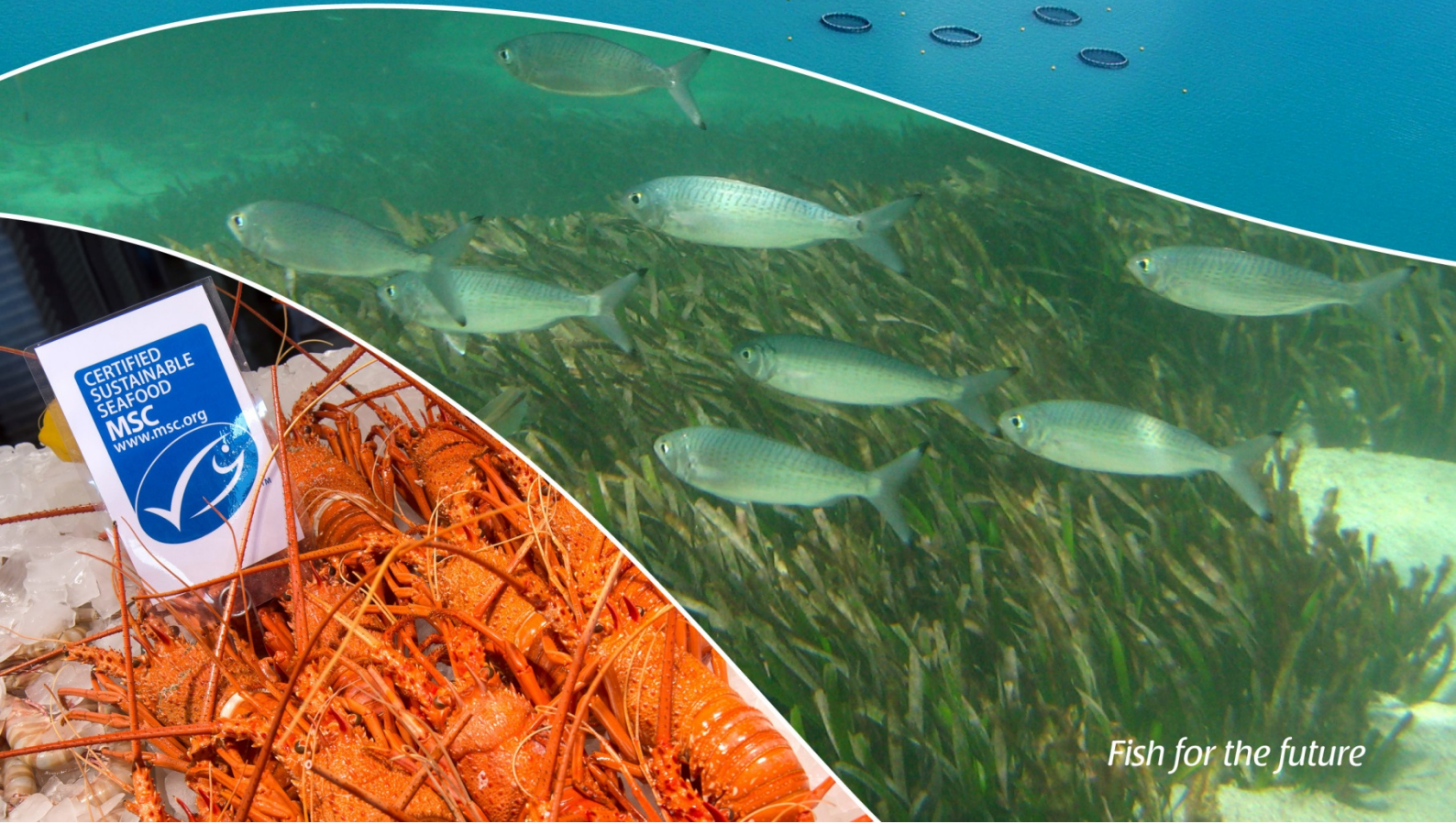




Government of Western Australia
Department of Fisheries

Department of Fisheries

Annual Report to Parliament 2014/15



Fish for the future

Feedback and queries

Each year we strive to improve on our previous year's annual report to ensure the current publication is as reader-friendly, relevant and engaging as possible. We would welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have about how we can improve on this report – please send any comments or queries to customerservice@fish.wa.gov.au or by post to the address below.

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Welcome to our 2014/15 Annual Report

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the Department, its operations and its performance over the past financial year (ending 30 June 2015). For a brief summary of our achievements over 2014-15, [go to our year at a glance section](#) on page 12. More detailed information on the agency's operations and performance can be found in the following sections:

- [Go to our Department overview](#) on page 6
- [Go to How we operate](#) on page 23
- [Go to How we performed](#) on page 38
- [Go to Disclosures and legal compliance](#) on page 56
- [Go to the Appendices \(including the status of fisheries and aquatic resources table\)](#) on page 158

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the Public Sector Commission's *Annual reporting framework – 2014/15 reporting year*.

Making this report accessible

Ensuring our publications are accessible to all our readers is a high priority for us. In this regard, we have been careful to ensure this report meets the accessibility requirements in the Public Sector Commission's *Annual reporting framework – 2014/15 reporting year* and the *State Government Access Guidelines for Information, Services and Facilities*.

We have made the information in the report clear and easy to understand. The design and content ensure it is accessible to people using assistive technologies and we have included clear explanations of photographs and graphs through 'alternative text' descriptions, as well as captions.

To meet the communication requirements of people with disabilities, this report is also available in alternative formats on request.

Statement of compliance

To the Hon Ken Baston MLC, Minister for Fisheries

Sir,

In accordance with section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and section 263 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Department of Fisheries for the financial year ending 30 June 2015.

The Department also produces the companion publication, *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia*, as required by section 263 of the FRMA. This annual report includes a table on stock status and catch ranges for major commercial fisheries, derived from the *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia 2014/15*.



Heather Brayford
Director General

Executive summary

The Department of Fisheries is committed to ensuring that the State's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems are managed in accordance with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, as enshrined in our legislation, and that the benefits from the use of those resources are shared across the community.

We continue to work closely with stakeholders in meeting these and other objectives as outlined in our [Strategic Plan 2009-2018 \(PDF 300 KB\)](#)^a.

With few exceptions, Western Australia's fish resources and the ecosystems that support them remain in a healthy condition. Only one fish stock – Australian herring – is the subject of management action to address sustainability issues as a result of fishing pressure. Management actions are also underway in four other fisheries to address sustainability issues caused by adverse localised or large-scale environmental influences such as ocean warming, over which the Department has no control, but must respond to in planning for fishery recovery.

During the year, the commercial G-Trap Herring Fishery was closed and the recreational bag limit for herring was cut from 30 to 12 to reduce fishing effort on the herring stock. The Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery was also closed and fishing effort in the metropolitan Abalone Fishery was reduced in response to environmental factors that have adversely impacted on valuable stocks. They were tough but necessary decisions to ensure there will be *fish for the future* in these fisheries – and their implementation has involved significant engagement and communication and with the community and compliance initiatives.

Similarly, due to increasing fishing pressure on the Peel-Harvey Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery, we carried out a concerted community engagement drive over the summer to ensure the fishing rules were understood and being adhered to by recreational fishers.

On the whole, the community has responded positively to these necessary actions and the experience has underlined the importance of continuing to get the '*fish for the future*' message across to our key stakeholders.

[Go to our fish for the future case study](#) on page 50 for more details about work in this area.

^a http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Documents/corporate_publications/strategic_plan_2009-2018_phase3.pdf

A major legislative milestone was achieved with the introduction of the *Aquatic Resources Management Bill 2015* to Parliament. When enacted, it will replace the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the *Pearling Act 1990*, bringing a new risk-based focus for aquatic resource management within a transparent framework. Importantly, it will recognise the rights of community users – customary, commercial and recreational – to benefit from the use of the State’s aquatic resources, but with resource sustainability as the primary consideration.

Another significant achievement for the Department was the completion of preliminary assessments for most fisheries against the independent Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sustainability standard – the globally-recognised gold standard for fisheries certification. Many leading supermarkets – overseas and in Australia – are beginning to only stock fish sourced from MSC-certified fisheries, or from fisheries that are on the road to MSC certification, to meet the growing consumer demand for sustainably sourced seafood products.

Full MSC sustainability assessments began this year for several major WA fisheries including the Peel-Harvey Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery, the first in the world to undergo MSC assessment for both commercial and recreational fishing sustainability.

In addition, this year the State’s largest and most valuable fishery, the Western Rock Lobster Fishery – the world’s first to be MSC certified – retained its MSC certification for the third assessment in succession.

Aquaculture development remains a strong strategic focus for the Department because of Western Australia’s largely untapped potential, particularly for marine finfish.

The reporting period saw the declaration of the Kimberley Aquaculture Zone – and procedures are being developed to enable sites within the zone to be allocated to prospective investors. Site selection and assessment for the Mid West Aquaculture Zone is well underway and is likely to be finalised next financial year.

Licensing approvals were also granted for the “ranching” or establishment of new colonies of abalone on artificial reef structures that have been placed on sandy substrate in Flinders Bay, near Augusta. For more details about our work in this area, [go to our aquaculture case study](#) on page 53.

During the year, the Department continued its efforts to protect the State’s aquatic environment from the threat of introduced pest species. Early detection of introduced

marine species entering WA waters is fundamental to this work – [go to our biosecurity case study](#) on page 47 of this report for more details.

The year also saw significant investment in the wellbeing and professional development of our staff through a range of initiatives. These included the continued roll-out of the Certificate IV in Frontline Management program, complemented by a Department-specific managers' course, the continuation of comprehensive wellness and suicide prevention programs and a Department-wide safety audit. The Department has continued to integrate staff pay, leave, financial and work hours accounting functions into our new human resources management system, implemented in September 2013, to increase efficiency.

The reporting year has also seen significant investment in our financial controls and reporting systems to enable the Department to better meet statutory financial reporting standards, obligations and timelines.

I would like to acknowledge the leadership and contribution of Mr Stuart Smith, who was Director General of the Department from 2008 until September 2014. During his tenure, Stuart successfully guided the Department through a period of significant change. On behalf of the Department, I wish him all the best in his role as Chief Executive Officer of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Department's executive and staff for their dedication to the important work they do on behalf of the community. The achievements outlined in this report would not have been possible without their efforts.

I would also like to thank the Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Ken Baston MLC, and his staff for the guidance and support provided to the Department during the year.



Heather Brayford
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Department overview



About us

Our vision

World-class management of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

Our mission

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

Our values

Respect – acting with integrity and courtesy

Innovation – finding new and better ways

Leadership – showing the way

Our objectives

Sustainability – to ensure WA's fisheries and aquatic resources are sustainable, and to provide services based on risk to ensure *fish for the future* and support the maintenance of healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Community outcomes – to achieve an optimum balance between economic development and social amenity in accordance with a framework to achieve sustainability.

Partnerships – to promote effective strategic alliances and community stewardship.

Agency management – to deliver services on behalf of Government in accordance with the Department's statutory requirements to achieve effective and efficient use of resources that support the delivery of our strategy.

What we do

We are required by the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* to conserve fish and protect their environment. In doing so, the Act recognises that sustainable fisheries management is inextricably linked to the protection of the rich and diverse ecosystems that support healthy fish stocks and, therefore, *fish for the future*.

By agreement with the Commonwealth, our responsibilities extend seaward beyond the three nautical mile limit of the State to the 200 nautical mile limit of the Australian Fishing Zone for most fish resources and activities.

To achieve our objectives and meet our legislative requirements, we undertake:

- ecosystem-based fisheries management;
- pearling and aquaculture management;
- fisheries research and assessment, enforcement and education services;
- biosecurity management;
- licensing; and
- management of fish habitat protection areas and the Houtman Abrolhos Islands.

We are also responsible for providing fisheries management and education services to the communities at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, under Commonwealth legislation that mirrors the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Our other responsibilities include providing at-sea marine safety compliance services on behalf of the Department of Transport and implementation of the Government's shark hazard mitigation strategy.

Our stakeholders

We regard everyone who values Western Australia's extensive and diverse aquatic ecosystems as our stakeholders. Stakeholders have a role to play in ensuring fish stocks and their habitats are protected, now and into the future. We encourage stakeholders to participate in consultation about the management and use of aquatic resources to ensure sustainable and balanced outcomes for the community.

We identify the following groups as stakeholders with an interest in ensuring there will be *fish for the future*:

- the community of Western Australia;
- commercial, recreational and customary fishers;
- the pearling and aquaculture industries;
- charter fishing operators;
- fish processors and others involved in the commercial use of Western Australia's aquatic resources;
- fisheries volunteers;
- environmental groups and passive users;
- businesses and communities directly and indirectly dependent upon fishing and aquaculture activities;

- the offshore oil and gas sector; and
- other state, national and international government agencies and tertiary institutions.

We are committed to consultation with our stakeholders and to ensure efficient and effective decisions are made.

Stakeholder focus: volunteering award for fishers with disabilities champion

During the year, Ray Benetti, a long-term volunteer with Fishers with Disabilities Association Inc., was named 'Western Australian Volunteer of the Year'. Ray was awarded the honour as a result of his exemplary voluntary contribution to the disability community.

The Department maintains a close association with the Fishers with Disabilities Association, and provides annual grant funding to the organisation to assist it in providing fishing opportunities to members of the community with disabilities. We congratulate Ray for his exceptional contribution and his much deserved award.



Ray sharing a fishing experience with Matthew Vidot and (right) with Department of Fisheries Director General Heather Brayford celebrating his award. Photos courtesy of Fishers with Disabilities Association.

Legislation we administer

The Department assists the Minister for Fisheries in the administration of the following acts:

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

In accordance with the Offshore Constitutional Settlement, which is given effect by arrangements made under Part 3 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and Part 5 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (Commonwealth), Western Australia's management responsibilities extend seaward beyond the three nautical mile limit of the State to the 200 nautical mile limit of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) for most fish resources and activities.

The Offshore Constitutional Settlement also provides for some fisheries that straddle State waters and the AFZ to be managed either jointly by the Commonwealth and State, or solely by the Commonwealth.

Fisheries under Western Australia State jurisdiction

Except where specifically noted, fisheries involving the following species are managed by the Department of Fisheries to the 200 nautical mile limit of the AFZ, in accordance with State law:

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

Combined, these species comprise some 40 managed fisheries or effectively all fisheries undertaken off Western Australia, except fisheries jointly managed by the Commonwealth and Western Australia (Joint Authority Fisheries) under Western Australian legislation (two fisheries), as listed below, and fisheries that are managed

solely by the Commonwealth under Commonwealth law (six fisheries), also listed below.

Fisheries under joint Commonwealth and State jurisdiction

The following fisheries are managed by the Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority (a body comprising the State and the Commonwealth ministers) and managed in accordance with the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*:

- the Joint Authority Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery; and
- the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery.

The activities of fisheries managed by a joint authority are described separately in a report tabled in the Commonwealth and Western Australian parliaments.

Fisheries under Commonwealth jurisdiction

Fisheries undertaken in waters adjacent to Western Australia that are managed by the Commonwealth in accordance with Commonwealth legislation are:

- the Northern Prawn Fishery;
- the Southern and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery;
- the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery;
- the North-West Slope Deepwater Trawl Fishery;
- the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery; and
- recreational fishing in the waters of any Commonwealth marine park.

The year at a glance



Net results

The fishing sector and the Department continue to make significant contributions to the Western Australian community. We have highlighted below some of the year's key achievements accomplished by the Department and our stakeholders.

85%	The percentage of the community satisfied that the Department is achieving its aquatic resource management objectives. We continue to enjoy the support and confidence of Western Australians for our fisheries and aquatic resource management programs.
\$1.5 billion	The contribution to WA's Gross State Product from the commercial and recreational fishing sectors. Our fisheries continue to contribute to the Western Australian economy.
\$490 million	The value of the State's commercial fisheries and aquaculture production. These sectors continue to contribute significantly to State and regional economies.
\$80 million	The amount the Government spent on managing commercial fishing and aquaculture around the State. Government investment in commercial fishing and aquaculture continues to pay dividends in terms of jobs and economic activity.
2	The number of aquaculture zones we are engaged in establishing. The Kimberley and Mid West zones will provide 'investment-ready' platforms for aquaculture businesses and play a significant role in helping to grow the sector.
2,191	The number of commercial fishing licences we issued. Our fisheries and aquatic resources continue to be a significant employer.
15	The number of consecutive years WA's West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery has been certified 'sustainable' by the Marine Stewardship Council – a global benchmark for sustainable fisheries management. Department of Fisheries Director General Heather Brayford received a prestigious award in Brussels on behalf of the fishery in recognition of this landmark achievement.

711,000	The number of Western Australians estimated to have fished recreationally in the reporting period. Recreational fishing in Western Australia continues to have considerable social value as a popular WA lifestyle activity.
168,388	The number of recreational fishing licences we issued for specific recreational fishing activities. All revenue raised from licence fees goes back into recreational fishing management.
\$19 million	The amount the Government spent on managing recreational fishing around the State. The Government continues to invest a significant amount of human and financial resources in this ever popular pastime.
138,856	The amount of contacts our Community Education and Fisheries and Marine officers made with fishers. These officers 'in the field' help get the <i>fish for the future</i> message across to hundreds of fishers face-to-face every day.

Net gains

The Department received the following awards recognising excellence in public service and environmental resource management:

- an *Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA)*, *WS Lonnie Award* for State Records Commission Award for Excellence in Compliance Reporting;
- a *WA Spatial Excellence Award*, in the People and Community category, for the shark monitoring network map developed by the Department and ESRI Australia; and
- the *Golden Gecko Award* for Environmental Excellence for the development of safe in-water hull cleaning to reduce the risk of marine pests attaching to vessels (jointly awarded to the Department and Franmarine Underwater Services).
- *National Suicide Prevention Australia LiFE (Living is For Everyone) Award* for Excellence in Suicide Prevention.

The Department was also a finalist in the following awards:

- *Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) Awards* for Best Practice in Collaboration Across Government Agencies in the same Jurisdiction for its work with the Department of Parks and Wildlife;
- *Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) Awards* for HR Practitioner of the Year Louise Williams, Manager, Organisational Development;
- *Premier's Awards for Developing the Economy* for 'From crisis to abundance – transforming the management of the Western Rock Lobster Fishery'; and
- *Premier's Awards for Managing the Environment* for the 'Send us your (fish) skeletons' program.

Significant issues for the Department

During 2014/15, some significant issues and trends affected the management of fisheries and the aquatic environment, and are likely to have an influence in the future. These issues are outlined below.

Meeting community expectations

There is an increasing demand from the State's aquatic resource users for secure fishing rights, fair and transparent resource allocation decisions, and for more transparency around the science and policy-making that underpin resource management and allocation decisions. In response, we have developed proposed new legislation and resource harvest strategies that provide resource managers and users with a shared knowledge of resource management objectives and pathways.

Achieving global sustainability benchmarks

Demonstrating the sustainable use of WA's aquatic resources is essential to building community support for our aquatic resource management strategies and stewardship of the marine environment.

As well as reporting annually to Parliament on the sustainability of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems, we are now working with the commercial fishing sector and world-leading, independent assessors (the Marine Stewardship Council) to verify the sustainability credentials of WA fisheries. This will further assure the community we are meeting the highest global sustainability benchmarks for managing our fisheries and marine ecosystems.

Managing costs efficiently

The cost to Government of managing fisheries and aquatic ecosystems requires the development of more cost-effective, integrated, risk-based management for our own programs and those for which we have a shared responsibility, such as at-sea marine safety and marine reserve management.

Responding to environmental fluctuations

The effects of a 'marine heatwave', when water temperatures rose up to four degrees above average in the West Coast and Gascoyne bioregions in early 2011, continue to have an impact. The phenomenon continues to have adverse effects on abalone stocks near Kalbarri and in Perth, on scallops in Shark Bay and the Mid West, and blue swimmer crabs in Shark Bay and in Cockburn Sound prompting management action to

ensure the sustainability of these stocks and research programs to better understand the effects of ocean warming. [Go to our fish for the future case study](#) on page 50 for more details about our work in this area.

Building effective research partnerships

Using sound scientific methodology to obtain data and develop knowledge to support decision-making and ecosystem-based fisheries management is a challenge we continue to need to meet. Effective coordination of the State's marine research across Government is needed to ensure that research is prioritised and funded according to risk levels and community needs. We have identified fisheries and marine research priorities based on risk. We are collaborating with State and national fisheries and marine research organisations to deliver these priorities.

Developing new fish production sources

As the harvest from most wild-capture fisheries worldwide declines, aquaculture industries have the potential to increase fish production to meet the growing demand for high quality seafood. We are working closely with the aquaculture sector to identify suitable sites for aquaculture development zones, particularly for marine fish production. [Go to our aquaculture case study](#) on page 53 for more information about this work.

Performance summary

Key performance indicators (KPIs)

The outcomes of the Department's services are measured by KPIs designed to measure our effectiveness and efficiency.

[Go to the audited Key performance indicators section](#) of this annual report on page 121 for a detailed commentary on all effectiveness and efficiency measures, including comparisons with previous years.

A summary of our performance during the year is provided below.

KPI 1.1

The proportion of fish stocks identified at risk or vulnerable through exploitation. [For more details on this KPI go to page 122.](#)

Target
6%



Result
3%



KPI 1.2

The proportion of commercial fisheries where catches or effort levels are acceptable. [For more details on this KPI go to page 124.](#)

Target
95%



Result
89%



KPI 1.3

The proportion of recreational fisheries where catches or effort levels are acceptable. [For more details on this KPI see page 127.](#)

Target
80%



Result
85%



KPI 2.1

The volume of State commercial fisheries (including aquaculture) production (tonnes). [For more details on this KPI go to page 128.](#)

Target
20,500



Result
19,961



KPI 3.1

The participation rate in recreational fishing. [For more details on this KPI go to page 131.](#)

Target
33%



Result
29.6%



KPI 3.2

The satisfaction rating of the broader community and stakeholders as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving aquatic resource management objectives. [For more details on this KPI go to page 134.](#)

Community:

Target
85%



Result
84.8%



Stakeholders:

Target
75%



Result
79.9%



Service 1

Fisheries Management – average cost per hour for management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments). [For more details on this KPI go to page 137.](#)

Target
\$219

Result
\$228

**Service 2**

Enforcement and Education – average cost per hour of enforcement and education. [For more details on this KPI go to page 138.](#)

Target
\$183

Result
\$207

**Service 3**

Research and Assessment – average cost per hour of research and assessment. [For more details on this KPI go to page 138.](#)

Target
\$121

Result
\$124



Financial summary

Table 1 below provides a comparison of our financial performance against financial targets and outcomes included in the 2014/15 State Budget Papers and reflected in the Resource Agreement between the Minister for Fisheries, the Treasurer and the Director General of the Department of Fisheries.

Table 1: Comparison of our financial performance against financial targets and outcomes

	2014/15 Target \$'000	2014/15 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Notes
Total cost of services (expense limit) (details from Statement of Comprehensive Income)	89,119	98,914	9,795	Note 1
Net cost of services (details from Statement of Comprehensive Income)	54,507	63,685	9,178	Note 2
Total equity (details from Statement of Financial Position)	95,350	85,847	(9,503)	Note 3
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held (details from Statement of Cash Flows)	(1,196)	(4,296)	(3,100)	Note 4

Table 2: Comparison of approved full-time (FTE) staff level against actual FTE staff employed

	Approved	Actual	Variance	Notes
Approved FTE staff level	465	488	23	Note 5

Notes

These notes should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended June 2015. [Go to the Notes to the Financial Statements](#) on page 68.

Note 1: Total cost of services

The variance is partly due to expense items approved by the Economic Expenditure Review Committee in the 2014/15 Mid-Year Review. This includes carried forward expenditure from 2013/14 for aquaculture zones, aquatic biosecurity projects and Beacon Island remediation (\$1.8 million), externally funded service delivery (\$1.4 million) and additional Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund projects (\$1.2 million).

The remainder of the variance relates to accounting (non-cash) adjustments for salary and wages liabilities, depreciation, interest accruals and resources received free of charge.

Note 2: Net cost of services

The variance in the net cost of services results from items listed in Note 1 above, but is reduced by above target income relating to commercial and recreational access fees and interest received for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes.

Note 3: Total equity

The decrease in total equity is due partly to the reduction in cash balances (\$3.1 million) used to fund carried over recurrent and capital projects. The Department also wrote down property (\$4.3 million) in 2013-14 and marine vessels (\$1.4 million) in 2014-15 due to asset impairment.

Note 4: Net decrease in cash held

The net decrease in cash held is attributable to funding of recurrent projects carried over from 2013/14 (\$1.8 million) and the funding of the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre project from restricted cash (\$3.5 million).

Note 5: Approved full-time equivalent (FTE)

The variance in FTEs is due mainly to the employment of staff for temporary work assignments and projects which were not part of the ongoing and Approved FTE target.

How we operate



Governance

Our Corporate Executive



The Department's Corporate Executive: (left to right) Dr Lindsay Joll, Bruno Mezzatesta, Heather Brayford, Dr Rick Fletcher and Kieth Van Dongen

Heather Brayford BSc, MBA

Director General

Heather Brayford was appointed Director General of the Department in April 2015. Previously, she held the position of Deputy Director General. Heather has more than 25 years of experience in fisheries and aquatic resource management, and aquaculture management. She also held the position of Executive Director of Fisheries in the Northern Territory and is a two-term Director of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

Dr Lindsay Joll BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD

Acting Deputy Director General

Lindsay Joll has been Acting Deputy Director General since November 2014. He holds the substantive position of Director Aquatic Management and has 20 years of experience in the area of fisheries management and policy. Prior to that, he was a Senior Research Scientist in the Department's Research Division, with more than 20

years of experience in the area of invertebrate fisheries. His position includes responsibility for fisheries management programs, broader environmental management programs, aquaculture and the provision of legal, legislative drafting and governance services.

Dr Rick Fletcher BSc (Hons), PhD

Executive Director, Fisheries Research

Dr Rick Fletcher was appointed as Director, Fisheries Research, in 2006. This position is responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of our research group, which provides the information underpinning our successful natural resource management programs.

Rick has more than 30 years of experience conducting and managing research into fisheries and aquaculture-related issues across four jurisdictions in Australia and the South Pacific, including in the position of Director of Fisheries Research in New South Wales. His recent research focus has been on the development of ecosystem-based management frameworks for marine and coastal systems, for which he is the leader of a number of State, national and international initiatives.

Bruno Mezzatesta BBus MBA FCPA

Executive Director, Regional Services

Bruno Mezzatesta is responsible for our Regional Services Division, which includes community education and compliance, licensing and communications. Before this role, Bruno was Director of our Corporate Services Division. He has more than 30 years of experience in the public sector, including periods with the Office of the Auditor General and the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Kieth Van Dongen Grad. Dip. Criminal Investigation, Grad. Cert. Forensic Archaeology

Executive Director, Corporate Services

Kieth Van Dongen is responsible for our Corporate Services Division, which includes people services, information communication technology, records, finance, assets, procurement and internal audit. Before this role, Kieth was Regional Manager, Gascoyne Region. He has more than 25 years of experience in the public sector, including periods with the Office of the Public Advocate, Ministry of Justice and the Northern Territory Police Service.

Management Committee

The Management Committee is responsible for setting the Department's work agenda against identified fisheries and aquatic management priorities within a five-year plan. Taking a strategic and risk-based approach to establishing priorities, the committee's role includes setting clear objectives and allocating associated budgets, coordinating project planning, management, monitoring and reporting, and ensuring effective, efficient and accountable service delivery across the organisation.

The committee includes the Deputy Director General, our three executive directors and the Director, Aquatic Management.

Internal Audit Committee

The Internal Audit Committee maintains and manages our internal audit function on behalf of the Director General. The committee assists the Director General to identify and quantify risks to the Department in achieving our goals, and to guide the development and implementation of risk-mitigation strategies.

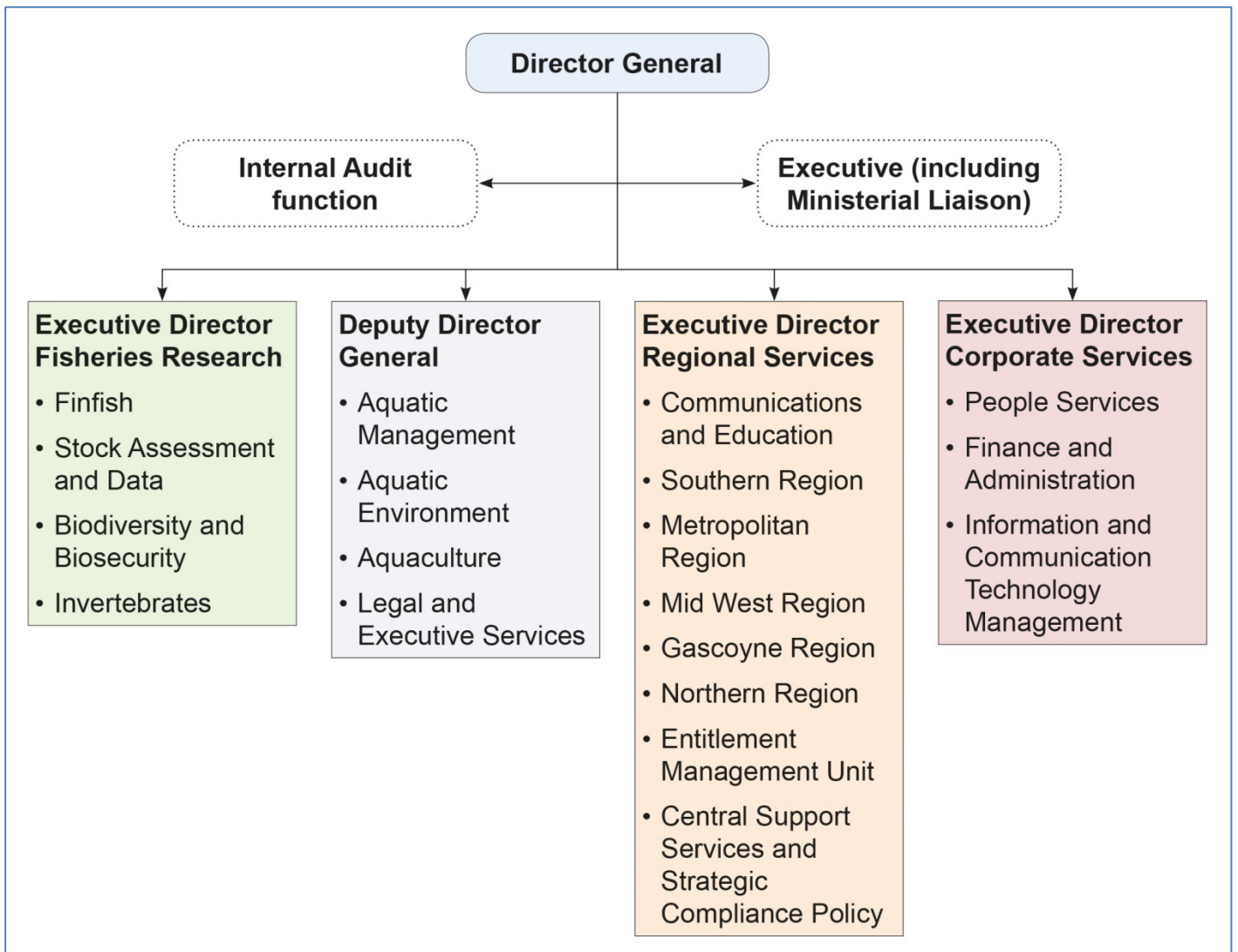
Joint Consultative Committee

The Joint Consultative Committee acts as a consultative mechanism between management and nominated 'workplace' representatives of the Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association of WA (CPSU/CSA) for the exchange of information regarding decisions that impact staff.

Occupational Safety and Health Committee

The Department has an active and engaged Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Committee made up of elected employee representatives and management representatives. The committee discusses OSH issues, policies and procedures and makes recommendations for continuous improvement in the area of staff wellbeing.

Our organisational structure



Our divisions

Aquatic Management Division

Our Aquatic Management Division works with our Research and Regional Services divisions to develop, implement and review management strategies aimed at ensuring the sustainability of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems. We carry out fisheries management through the branches below.

Our **Aquatic Management Branch** manages the State's commercial, recreational and customary fishing, the pearling industry, aquaculture, and the aquatic charter industry, as well as overseeing statewide fisheries administration. The branch also provides input to the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC), which advises the Minister for Fisheries on fish resource allocations between commercial, recreational and customary users.

Our **Aquaculture Branch** manages and regulates Western Australia's aquaculture industry. Although small by global standards, the industry has the capacity for substantial growth.

Commercially farmed species include barramundi, mussels, abalone, western rock oysters, silver perch, trout, pearl oysters, yellowtail kingfish, mulloway, marron, yabbies, ornamental species, artemia (brine shrimp used in fish hatchery diets) and algae (used in the production of beta-carotene and biofuels).

Our objectives for managing aquaculture activities are focused on sustainable economic and environmental outcomes.

Our **Aquatic Environment Branch** develops policy and procedures to protect fish and their habitats throughout WA. This includes protecting aquatic biodiversity and safeguarding the State's aquatic biosecurity.

It also provides advice for environmental impact assessments and contributes to state, Commonwealth and regional marine planning initiatives. Freshwater fish protection and management are part of its remit.

The branch works with other state, interstate and national government departments to perform its biosecurity functions.

Our **Legal and Executive Services Branch** oversees and develops the Department's legislative framework. It provides the Department with legal and strategic policy advice,

legal interpretation, litigation services and management of matters coming before the State Administrative Tribunal.

It coordinates our annual reporting and regulatory 'gate-keeping' requirements.

The branch collaborates with the State Law Publisher to maintain up-to-date versions of the Department's legislation on its website for the benefit of stakeholders and the wider community.

Regional Services Division

Our Regional Services Division is responsible for our communications, education and enforcement programs. These programs ensure fishing rules are understood and followed, helping us meet our *fish for the future* objective. The branch also provides a licensing service at regional offices.

These programs are developed and carried out by the following groups.

Our **regional officers** deliver fisheries compliance and education in recreational and commercial fisheries, the pearling and aquaculture industries, and in fish habitat protection areas and marine parks. They oversee marine safety compliance and education on behalf of the Department of Transport.

Enforcement activities carried out include marine, land and sea patrols, aerial surveillance, covert operations, mobile patrols and education initiatives. There are five regional offices – Gascoyne, Metropolitan, Mid-West, North and South, and a number of district offices. These regional operational areas are supported by our Perth-based Central Support Services and Strategic Compliance Policy sections.

Our **Entitlement Management Unit** receives information from fishers on the amount of entitlement consumed (e.g. fish caught or time spent in a fishery) and makes that information available for fisheries management purposes.

Our **Licensing and Registry Services Branch** provides and oversees licensing for commercial fishing, recreational fishing, pearling and aquaculture. It manages our licensing systems (FLAMS and Navigate) and online renewal and payment services. It maintains a register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases ([for details go to Appendix 1](#) on page 159), as required under Part 12 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Our **Communications and Education Branch** builds community knowledge, values and attitudes to promote behaviour that supports a healthy aquatic environment. The branch does this by informing the local community and visitors about developments in fisheries management, marine science and compliance to promote adherence to fishing rules and support of our *fish for the future* ethos.

One important way Fisheries engages with the community is through a range of free e-newsletters.

[Catch!](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Recreational-Fishing/Catch-E-Newsletter/Pages/default.aspx)^a, our recreational fishing newsletter, is sent to more than 70,000 subscribers every two months and provides information on a range of topics from fishing rule updates, reminders of seasonal openings and closures, to research findings on the status of popular fish stocks. The newsletter can be subscribed to on the Department's website and is offered to people purchasing or renewing a recreational fishing licence.

[Fish eNews](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Commercial-Fishing/Pages/Fish-eNews.aspx)^b provides news on the State, national and international commercial fishing industry while [Freshwater Guardian](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Sustainability-and-Environment/Aquatic-Biodiversity/Freshwater-Biodiversity/Pages/Freshwater-Guardian.aspx)^c explores WA's unique freshwater fish, the ecosystems they live in and the work and research undertaken in the freshwater environment.

Fisheries Research Division

The primary role of our Fisheries Research Division is to provide timely scientific research information and objective advice to support the management, conservation and sustainable use of the State's fish resources and aquatic environment.

Ongoing research, monitoring and assessment programs support the management of the State's major fish stocks and the marine ecosystems that underpin these resources.

The division works in collaboration with various other organisations with an interest in the maintenance of sustainable fisheries and marine ecosystems including universities, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Western Australian Marine Science Institute, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the Western Australian Museum, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Commonwealth fisheries and environment agencies, and border protection agencies.

^a <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Recreational-Fishing/Catch-E-Newsletter/Pages/default.aspx>

^b <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Commercial-Fishing/Pages/Fish-eNews.aspx>

^c <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Sustainability-and-Environment/Aquatic-Biodiversity/Freshwater-Biodiversity/Pages/Freshwater-Guardian.aspx>

The Fisheries Research Division is organised into the four branches below.

Our **Invertebrate Fisheries Branch** undertakes research to assess and monitor the crustacean, mollusc and other invertebrate stocks that constitute the State's major fisheries including rock lobsters, prawns, pearl oysters, scallops, abalone and crabs.

A key focus of their research has been the development of estimates of pre-recruitment abundance to enable catch predictions for all of these key invertebrate fisheries.

This branch has additional responsibilities for coordinating the assessments of climate effects on all of the State's fisheries plus the scheduling of the Department's flagship research vessel, *RV Naturaliste*.

Our **Finfish Fisheries Branch** undertakes research to assess and monitor the State's diverse finfish resources.

Species monitored include West Australian dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper – all indicator species for the health of the west coast demersal scalefish resource. Other indicator species monitored and assessed include tropical shallow water and deep water snappers, sharks, nearshore species such as Australian herring and estuarine species such as cobbler.

These species are harvested by commercial fishers (supplying local, national and overseas markets), the recreational fishing sector and the recreational charter sector.

Our **Biodiversity and Biosecurity Branch** provides scientific advice relating to the conservation of fish and invertebrates and the protection of the aquatic environment. The branch monitors the health of marine ecosystems including benthic (seabed and reef) habitats, finfish and invertebrates; oversees the State's aquatic biosecurity and fish pathology services; carries out freshwater research (such as native fish conservation); manages the production of trout and native fish species; and is responsible for the management of the Department's marine aquarium facilities.

Our **Stock Assessment and Data Analysis Branch** (SADA) is responsible for statistical design and analysis, population dynamics and stock assessment, data management, monitoring of fishery catch and effort, Departmental library services and recreational fishing and community surveys.

SADA collects and maintains fisheries catch-and-effort data, undertaking basic validation and preliminary analysis. The branch develops and implements databases to improve the capture and maintenance of data from the Department's extensive, long-term commercial fisheries, recreational and charter boat sectors.

This branch also organises and conducts all major recreational fishing and community and stakeholder attitude surveys, the results of which are used for some of our key performance indicators.

Corporate Services Division

Our Corporate Services Division provides a range of professional services and support systems in human resources (HR) management, finance and administration and information technology and knowledge management to assist the Department in delivering its services effectively and efficiently and to meet its statutory reporting requirements.

Our **People Services Branch** provides services across a range of strategic and functional areas. The Branch manages the Department's in-house payroll service and HR management system plus operational HR services including recruitment, job design and classification, and workforce data reporting. The Branch also delivers HR policy, strategy and program development, workforce planning, training and development services, occupational safety and wellbeing programs. In addition, it provides management advisory services covering all HR areas, including employee conduct and behaviour, industrial relations and performance management.

Our **Finance and Administration Branch** provides accounting services including the payment of invoices, receipt of payments, preparation of financial statements, bank account reconciliations, management of credit cards and maintenance of the asset register. The budget area coordinates the preparation of State budget papers, manages the interaction with Treasury, and coordinates internal budgets and management reporting processes. The administration group looks after the Department's building assets, accommodation leases, facilities management, asset maintenance, vehicle fleet management and asset investment program.

Our **Information Services Branch** delivers services to ensure that departmental decisions are based on the best information available within the Department. To this end, the Information Services Branch delivers support for the management of records

and their supporting databases, information and communications technology, and software used by the Department.

Our operations

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

- Our Fisheries Research Division operates out of our Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories in Hillarys, the Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre and at our Fish Health Section in South Perth. The Abrolhos Islands Research Institute is located at Separation Point in Geraldton.
- Our Communications and Education Branch is based at our Hillarys centre and our Regional Services Branch also runs some compliance operations from there.
- Our Marine Operations Centre and the Metropolitan Regional Office are in premises in Capo D'Orlando Drive in Fremantle.
- Our Regional Services Division has five regional offices – Broome, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Fremantle and Albany – and 15 district offices located throughout the State. We operate the Saville Kent Centre field station on the Houtman Abrolhos Islands' Rat Island.
- Our Fisheries Operations Centre in South Perth is where our Biosecurity Compliance Unit and the Rock Lobster Quota Management Unit are located.

[The 'contact us'](#)^a section on our website has addresses and contact details of all our offices.

^a <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Contact-Us/Pages/Office-Locations.aspx>

Performance management framework

The Department directly contributes to the Government's goal of 'Social and Environmental Responsibility: Ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State'. Our services are aimed at achieving 'the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources', the Government's stated "desired outcome" for the Department.

Successfully managing the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources and aquatic environment is based on a continuing interchange of information between fisheries managers, researchers and fishers. Robust legislation, targeted enforcement and community education programs play a crucial role in achieving these outcomes.

When these elements combine effectively, fisheries and their environment are usually sustainable. When they do not, fish resources and aquatic environments are often at risk.

Our services are organised to ensure the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources and the aquatic environment. We do this through the following service areas:

Service 1 – **Fisheries management** provides management, policy development, licensing and legislation related to the State's commercial and recreational fisheries, pearling, aquaculture, fish processing, charter boat industry, customary fishing and protection of aquatic ecosystems.

Service 2 – **Enforcement and education** provides statewide fisheries enforcement and community education in accordance with the provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the *Pearling Act 1990*, and at-sea marine safety compliance on behalf of the Department of Transport.

Service 3 – **Research and assessment** provides timely, high-quality scientific knowledge and advice to support the conservation and sustainable use of the State's fish resources and aquatic ecosystems.

Performance evaluation and reporting

We report on our performance through Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that contain a mix of high-level effectiveness and efficiency indicators.

Effectiveness indicators show the extent to which we achieved our goal of conserving and sustainably developing the State's aquatic resources.

Efficiency indicators are a measure of the cost of resources used in the delivery of individual services.

Measuring effectiveness presents challenges to fisheries management agencies worldwide. Put simply, it is not possible to physically count the number of fish in a wild stock fishery. Therefore, we use dynamic scientific modelling and robust reporting and assessment systems to estimate the abundance of fish and measure our effectiveness in achieving the sustainability of fish stocks and the aquatic environment. The results of this work are published annually in our *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia* (the State of the Fisheries).

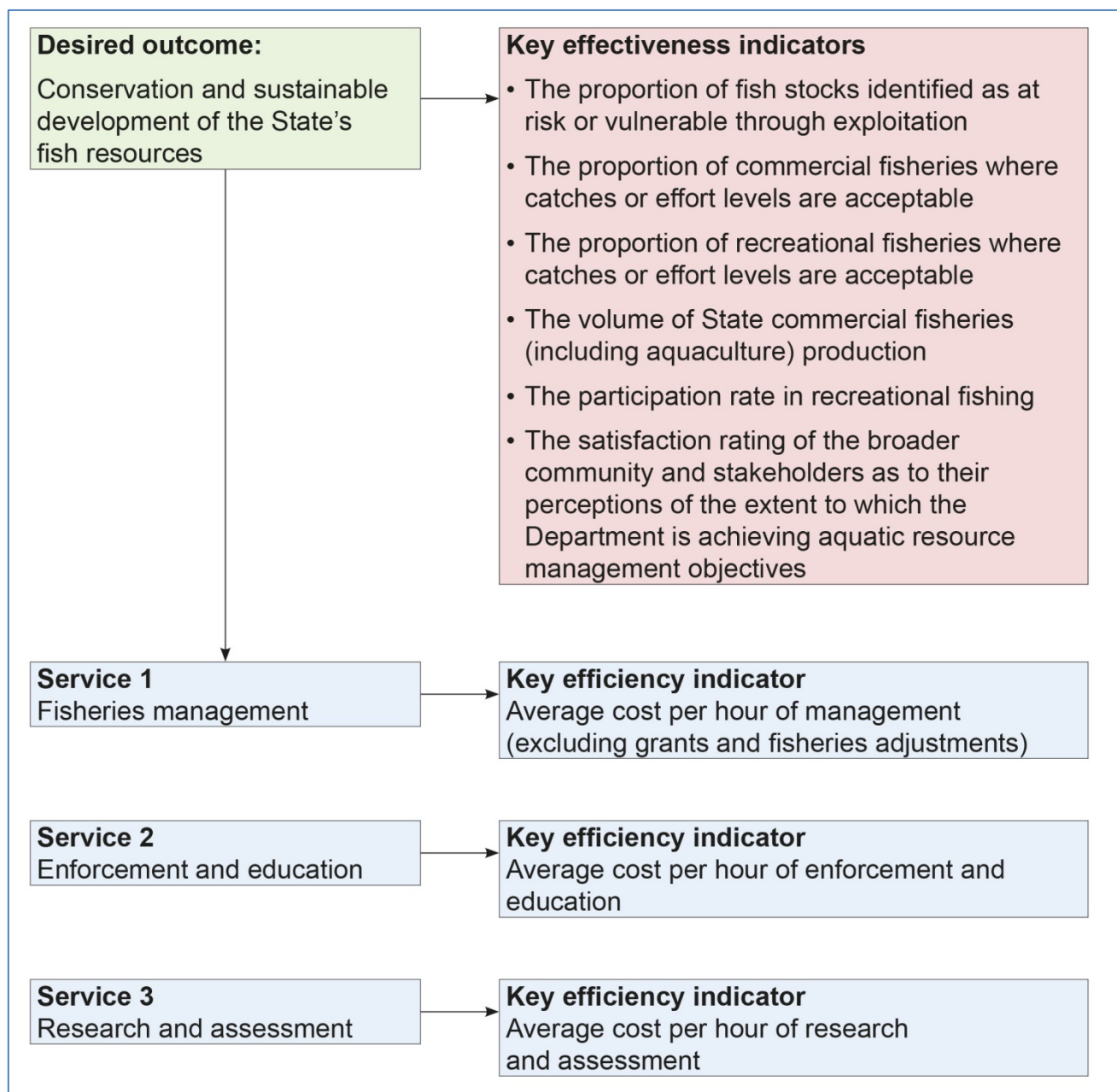
The State of the Fisheries forms a snapshot of fisheries sustainability over the preceding 12 to 18 months. We use it, in consultation with stakeholders, to review fisheries past management results. Together with current scientific observations, it informs decisions about the priorities for fisheries and environmental management, research, compliance and education in the year under review and future years. It underpins our effectiveness indicators.

The State of the Fisheries is tabled in Parliament along with our annual report. For a summary of the State of the Fisheries report [go to Appendix 1](#) on page 159.

Outcome-based management structure

Government goal

"Social and Environmental Responsibility: Ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State."



Contribution to other Government goals

During 2014/15, we also contributed to achieving the following Government goals:

Financial and economic responsibility

We continue to achieve more efficient use of the Government's marine patrol vessels by collaborating on management, compliance and research responsibilities in the marine environment with other government agencies including the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Department of Transport and the Western Australian Museum.

Stronger focus on the regions

We maintain a strong focus on the State's regional areas, where most fisheries are located. The State's fisheries make a valuable contribution to regional economies, employment, lifestyle and culture. The Department has regional offices in the Kimberley, Gascoyne, Mid-West, Peel and Great Southern regions and maintains a number of district offices from Kununurra to Esperance.

About 75 per cent of Departmental expenditure is allocated to activities of benefit to regional communities.

How we performed



Outcomes

Below we outline the environmental, economic, social and internal management outcomes achieved during 2014/15. They are presented against the objectives and strategies of our *Strategic Plan 2009-2018* that is designed to achieve the Government's 'Desired Outcome' for the Department of Fisheries: "The conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources."

Objective 1: Sustainability

Strategy: Ensure all significant impacts on fish stocks and aquatic ecosystems are understood and managed where necessary

Outcomes

- During the reporting period, our efforts primarily focused on maintaining healthy fisheries and aquatic ecosystems and recovering fish stocks that have been affected by overfishing or environmental factors, or a combination of both. For the reporting period, only the Australian Herring Fishery has been assessed as having inadequate stock levels to sustain historical catches as a result of fishing. This fishery was the subject of strong management and community engagement action during 2014/15 to begin the recovery of the stock. For more details about our work in this area, [go to our fish for the future case study](#) on 50.
- In addition, a number of fisheries have inadequate breeding stocks fully or partly attributable to adverse environmental factors. An increased mortality of adults and extremely poor recruitment (addition of fish to a stock or population as a result of reproduction, migration or growth to legal size) levels for Shark Bay crabs, Shark Bay scallops and scallops in the Abrolhos Islands region was triggered by the marine heatwave event, which began in 2011. The impact of the heatwave on these stocks is persisting with some recovery only evident for Shark Bay crabs. Consequently, these fisheries either remained closed for the past season to protect existing residual stocks (both scallop fisheries) or were only subject to minor research-based fishing activities (Shark Bay crabs).
- The 2011 marine heatwave also caused widespread mortality in the abalone stock between Moore River and Kalbarri, and this part of the fishery remained closed to fishing during 2014/15 in an effort to promote stock recovery over future years.

- The heatwave has also had an adverse effect on metropolitan abalone stocks and management action was taken in 2014-15 to assist in stock recovery.
- The Cockburn Sound crab stock is also showing signs of environmental impacts on growth and recruitment. This fishery was closed to fishing during the year to assist stock recovery. For more details about our work in this area, [go to our fish for the future case study](#) on page 50.
- In addition, the whitebait stock appears to have declined following three seasons of above average temperatures and the breeding stock is being closely monitored to determine if additional management measures are required.
- Following introduction of gear modification requirements, the number of whale entanglements in commercial rock lobster fishing gear fell from 18 in 2013 to six in 2014, highlighting the success of efforts by the Department, the WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) and fishers to address the issue of whale entanglements.

Strategy: Ensure legislation meets contemporary fisheries and aquatic resource management requirements

Outcomes

- *The Aquatic Resources Management Bill 2015* was introduced to Parliament in February 2015. It represents an innovative risk, resource and rights-based approach to aquatic resource management and when enacted will replace both the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the *Pearling Act 1990*.
- We have started preparing for new regulations and other requirements necessary before the legislation can be commenced.
- In addition, we finalised one new fishery management plan, 12 management plan amendments and 10 regulation amendments.

Strategy: Use comprehensive risk-based approaches for all fishery and aquatic resources management and planning decisions

Outcomes

- The Department's Harvest Strategy Policy was finalised in consultation with the commercial and recreational fishing sectors. Harvest strategies establish the decision rules that determine the appropriate harvest levels for all sectors to meet the ecological, economic and social objectives established for a resource. In doing this, the strategies increase certainty and transparency for all fishery

stakeholders, particularly in relation to how decisions are made in fishery management.

- Harvest strategies have been developed for fisheries progressing through Marine Stewardship Council assessment, including the Shark Bay Prawn and Exmouth Gulf Prawn fisheries, the West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery and the Peel-Harvey Fishery. Further development of fishery specific harvest strategies will be ongoing.

Objective 2: Community outcomes

Strategy: Ensure appropriate consultation and funding arrangements.

Outcomes

- The Department reviewed and finalised new funding and industry consultation service level agreements with the WAFIC and reviewed its funding agreement with Recfishwest. These arrangements provide an efficient means of consulting with key fisheries stakeholders on a wide range of issues relating to the management and use of the State's fish resources.
- In 2014/15, new and innovative projects designed to enhance the recreational fishing experience were funded from the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF). These included the release of juvenile prawns into the Swan and Canning rivers, the purchases of 'tuna tower' fish aggregation devices south of Rottnest Island, an artificial reef for deployment near Mandurah and the implementation of a snapper egg collection program in Cockburn Sound for growing out adult fish and to assess the potential for stocking in the future. More than \$6.5 million has been spent on projects of benefit to the recreational fishing sector since the inception of the RFIF in 2011.

Strategy: Share the State's fish and aquatic resources in an equitable, open, transparent and sustainable manner.

Outcome

- The Department's Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee continued its deliberations regarding community allocations for the lower west coast crab resource and the wildstock pearl oyster resource.

Strategy: Consider social and economic implications in addition to ecological outcomes in decision-making.

Outcomes

- The West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery was recognised internationally as the first fishery in the world to be certified for three consecutive five-year periods by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). This demonstrates the world-class sustainability and governance credentials of research and management with respect to this fishery.
- As a result of positive MSC pre-assessments funded by the WA Government, the Shark Bay Prawn Fishery, Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery, West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery and Peel-Harvey Fishery (both crab and finfish components) have entered a full MSC assessment process with support from the Department and relevant sector bodies.
- For the Peel-Harvey Fishery, the MSC crab assessment is including the recreational fishing component of the fishery making it a 'world first'.

Strategy: Provide a regulatory environment and supporting systems to enable growth and development of aquatic resource-based activities

Outcomes

- We introduced the Abalone Fish Eye System (AFES), which uses innovative technology to allow statutory catch return submissions to be made online and through mobile devices and to provide corresponding 'real time' entitlement information to commercial fishers in the Greenlip/Brownlip and Roe's Abalone fisheries. This is the latest instalment in the broader Fish Eye program which encompasses processes, infrastructure, security and applications to support licensing and catch and effort reporting, along with providing entitlements services to commercial fishers and fish receivers.
- Aquaculture development remains a strong strategic focus for the Government. The Kimberley Aquaculture Zone was declared at Cone Bay and procedures are being developed to enable sites within the zone to be allocated to prospective investors.
- The project to establish Western Australia's second Aquaculture Development Zone in the Mid West region is on schedule. An extensive sampling program has been completed and detailed modelling needed for strategic environmental

assessment is now underway. Subject to securing environmental approval, we anticipate the Minister for Fisheries will declare the Zone in mid-2016.

- Licensing approvals were also granted for the 'ranching' of abalone on artificial reef structures that have been placed on sandy substrate in Flinders Bay, near Augusta. For more details about the innovations in this area go to our [aquaculture case study](#) on page 53.
- Following consultation with industry, new licensing arrangements were implemented for the charter boat sector. The new licensing approach involved the deregulation of the requirement to hold a shore-based charter licence and the removal of some restrictive licence conditions, resulting in a more flexible licensing system based around the number of charter clients on a tour.

Strategy: Participate in cross-agency programs to meet Government outcomes and priorities.

Outcomes

- We worked with the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) to develop and implement the 2014-15 marine park collaborative operational plans (COPs). The COPs detail the joint annual services the departments will undertake in the areas for which they have joint responsibility such as marine park education and interpretation, patrol and enforcement, as well as research and monitoring.
- We provided fisheries compliance training to 10 DPaW staff as part of the cross-authorisation program that provides more efficient fisheries and marine park enforcement and education.
- We are working with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment to streamline fishery approval processes and to harmonise MSC and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requirements. This will result in a more streamlined process for accrediting State fisheries.
- We released an interactive shark monitoring [network research map](#)^a on the Sharksmart website which shows current and historical tagged shark detections between Perth and Esperance, as well as Statewide reported sightings. Users can click on a mapped receiver station to find out the type of shark that has been detected, when it was first and last detected plus the number of times that particular species has been detected at that station. The Department and

^a <http://www.sharksmart.com.au/research/shark-monitoring-network-research-map>

industry partner ESRI Australia were successful in winning a WA Spatial Excellence Award in the 'People and Community' category for work on this map.

Objective 3: Partnerships

Strategy: Promote sustainable management of fisheries and aquatic resources to the community.

Outcomes

- The Department's [Send us your skeletons](#)^a project encourages fishers to send the skeletons of fish caught to the Department to assist with our stock assessment research. The data collected through this program is critical for the sustainable management of some of WA's most prized finfish stocks such as Western Australian dhufish. The project was a finalist in the 2014 Premier's Awards.
- We launched our online vessel risk assessment tool, [Vessel Check](#)^b. This initiative has been planned and developed by the Department in collaboration with the shipping industry and resources sector. It enables vessel managers to assess the level of marine biosecurity risk that their vessels pose, and provides recommendations about how to mitigate the risk before they enter into Western Australian waters.

Strategy: Work with the WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) and Recfishwest as peak bodies to achieve best returns to the community.

Outcomes

- We continue to develop a shared understanding of aquatic resource management priorities with peak commercial and recreational fishing representative bodies, WAFIC and Recfishwest, through ongoing consultation.
- We have established a Stakeholder Council to provide a single forum in which WAFIC, Recfishwest and the Department can canvass and discuss aquatic resource management issues.

^a <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Recreational-Fishing/Send-Us-Your-Skeletons/Pages/default.aspx>

^b <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Sustainability-and-Environment/Aquatic-Biosecurity/Vessels-And-Ports/Pages/Vessel-Check.aspx>

Objective 4: Agency management

Strategy: Use comprehensive risk-based approaches for all agency resource management and planning decisions

Outcomes

- The Department's Management Committee has established an annual planning and priority-setting process that is informed by our risk register of organisational and ecological assets.
- We reviewed and updated our accounting manual, including the corporate credit card policies and procedures, asset management and procurement policies and procedures to ensure alignment with financial management and audit requirements. These are now available to all staff on the Department's Intranet.

Strategy: Develop and maintain a high performance culture

Outcome

- We have developed and implemented a leadership program for Tier 3 managers to support and refine the Department's management capacity in the delivery of key services and internal and external management priorities.

Case studies



Indigenous rangers join fight to combat aquatic pests



Senior Biosecurity Management Officer Marion Massam showing Indigenous rangers and federal Department of Agriculture staff how to identify aquatic pests.

We have joined forces with Indigenous ranger groups from across the Kimberley to strengthen Western Australia's frontline defences against aquatic pests.

In March 2015, members of our biosecurity team delivered workshops to more than 70 Indigenous rangers, supported by the Kimberley Land Council and the Department of Parks and Wildlife in Kununurra, Kalumburu, Bidyadanga, Beagle Bay and Dampier.

The workshops raised awareness about biosecurity issues, enabled the exchange of information and ideas on what it means to look after country, and provided a practical approach on what to do if a suspected aquatic pest is seen or found. The basis for an ongoing partnership between the Department and Indigenous ranger groups was established as a result.

Worldwide, invasive species are second only to habitat loss as the main threat to biodiversity in the environment. Aquatic pests are a significant threat to WA's oceans and waterways and can have significant negative economic, environmental, social,

cultural and human health risks. Once a pest is well established it is almost impossible to eradicate. The focus is therefore on prevention and early detection.

There are various ways that aquatic pests can arrive in WA including on vessels as biofouling, in ballast water, and attached to dive gear, fishing gear and ghost nets. In remote areas of WA, it is more likely that newly arrived pests will go unnoticed until they are well established. By that time, eradication activities are unlikely to succeed. But by involving members of remote communities as environmental custodians the opportunities for detecting aquatic pests early on is dramatically increased.

Indigenous rangers are instrumental in managing the land, waterways and protected species in the Kimberley region. Their in-depth local knowledge of the land and native environment, strong connection to country and regular patrols to remote locations puts them in the best position to notice and report anything unusual.



Yawuru, Ngarla, Nyangumarta and Kara Jarri ranger groups with Department of Fisheries biosecurity staff at the Bidyadanga workshop undertaking shore walks looking for marine pests.

During the workshops, Indigenous rangers were given practical advice on how to photograph, record, collect and report a suspected pest. This included familiarising themselves with key pest species likely to turn up in the Kimberley such as the Asian green mussel, Asian paddle crab, black-striped mussel and Mozambique tilapia. Indigenous rangers were able to apply their learning during practical shore walks and pest surveillance activities.

The workshops were overwhelmingly positive and well received with rangers eager to learn and share their enthusiasm for protecting their country. We can be confident that Indigenous rangers are now armed and ready with the necessary tools and knowledge to take action and contact us should they see anything unusual.

A particularly progressive aspect of the workshops saw Indigenous ranger groups from different agencies sitting down together and working towards the one goal of managing and protecting country for future generations.

We aim to maintain and nurture partnerships created with Indigenous ranger groups through ongoing contact, enabling the continued exchange of information and by addressing any issues or concerns.

The long-term vision is to encourage a self-directed and self-sustaining awareness program based on Indigenous cultural values, through which knowledge from Indigenous rangers is transferred to other local community members, including younger generations, about the threats posed by marine pests. In this way it is hoped that biosecurity becomes an integral part of Indigenous values and aspirations to look after and manage country.

Already, Indigenous ranger groups and their local communities are proving to be a source of knowledge and an invaluable biosecurity resource.

Taking action now to ensure *fish for the future*



A herring stock recovery will ensure there are *fish for the future* and fishers of the future.

Australian herring

In 2014/15 we continued to take action to safeguard the sustainability of the State's fisheries and aquatic environments to ensure everyone will enjoy *fish for the future*.

Extensive monitoring of Australian herring by our research scientists has revealed that, as a result of fishing pressure, the stock of this ever-popular species have declined significantly.

In December 2014, in line with our stock assessment recommendations and following extensive stakeholder consultation, the Minister for Fisheries, the Hon. Ken Baston, announced fishery management changes that effectively cut the annual catch of herring by half.

These measures included the closure of the South Coast Commercial 'G-trap' (net) Fishery and a reduction of the herring recreational fishing bag limit from 30 to 12 from 1 March 2015. In addition, a voluntary scheme was established to give herring G-trap licence holders the opportunity to exit the fishery with financial compensation.

Herring is one of WA's most popular 'bread and butter' recreational fishing species, introducing many families and their children to angling as a pastime – it provides significant social value to the community and economic value to the recreational fishing industry.

A communications program targeted at recreational fishers and the wider community was undertaken to explain the new arrangements and the reasons for them.

The program promoted the new management arrangements and new rules through:

- Content on our website, resulting in double the visits to our [herring page](#)^a and generating 3,600 hits for the main news item we published on the subject.
- Articles in *Catch!*, our recreational fishing e-newsletter, reaching more than 70,000 anglers' inboxes, along with feature-articles by our fishing ambassador, Glen Jakovich, in *The West Australian* newspaper.
- Extensive recreational fishing media coverage and advertising in eight metropolitan and regional newspapers.
- Liaising with recreational fishers at the Hillarys Boat Show and Mandurah Crab Fest using displays, information flyers and fact sheets.
- Sending an information pack to nearly 500 tackle stores and caravan parks, along with visits to nearly 40 tackle store managers to encourage them to pass on the information to their customers.

While the stock may take up to 10 years to recover, our comprehensive scientific monitoring and active community engagement has provided a solid foundation for the recovery.

Blue swimmer crabs

In a similar vein, in 2014/15 significant steps were taken to protect the sustainability of blue swimmer crab stocks.

Earlier in 2014, it was necessary to prematurely close the Cockburn Sound Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery to recreational and commercial fishing after monitoring revealed stock levels were very low. This closure remained in place for the rest of 2014/15 after further research advice in October indicated the abundance of juvenile crabs had decreased to unacceptable levels. We believe this was due to abnormally fluctuating water temperatures in the sound affecting the crabs' reproductive cycle. We continue to

^a <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Species/Australian-Herring/Pages/default.aspx>

closely monitor the crab stock and will consider re-opening the fishery when there is evidence to show that the stock has sufficiently rebuilt.

Meanwhile, over the summer months we launched a community engagement program targeting blue swimmer crab recreational fishers in the Peel-Harvey Estuary. This iconic fishery is subject to increasing fishing pressure every year, with particular compliance issues around bag and size limits.



Crabbing for 'blueys' in the Peel-Harvey – communicating the rules effectively will ensure it remains one of WA's iconic fisheries. Photo: Tourism Western Australia.

In response, our Fisheries and Marine officers and education staff liaised with 400 fishers at several popular fishing locations in the Peel-Harvey region to highlight appropriate fisher behaviour and distribute free crab gauges (provided by Recfishwest) to encourage adherence to the size limit. This activity was supported by high profile signage and English and Chinese language posters, information flyers and advertising (to take into account the significant proportion of recreational fishers who go crabbing in the estuary whose first language is Chinese).

Each of the above examples demonstrates how our research, policy, compliance, and communications and engagement programs are successfully working together to ensure there will be *fish for the future*.

Growing aquaculture production

Western Australia's extensive coastline and inland areas hold significant potential for the aquaculture production of a variety of species suited to a range of environments from the Kimberley to the south coast.

The significant commercial investment required to establish and operate aquaculture businesses fosters innovation and brings with it new skills, jobs and diversified economies to the regions.

Aquaculture Development Zones

The WA Government is supporting development of the State's aquaculture industry through initiatives such as Aquaculture Development Zones. These specially designated zones are areas of water selected for their suitability to support the aquaculture production of marine finfish and shellfish. They are 'investment-ready' platforms for developing large-scale commercial aquaculture projects with environmental approvals and management policies already in place, to allow the swift commencement of operations without the need for lengthy and expensive approval processes.

Since 2007, WA aquaculture production (excluding south sea pearls) has nearly doubled and is now worth approximately \$12.5 million to the WA economy. More recently the production of cultured abalone in land-based and marine farms has been expanding rapidly.

Innovation in abalone aquaculture

Companies like Ocean Grown Abalone Pty Ltd (OGA) are driving industry development by following business models based on new ideas, science and new technology.

OGA has an Aquaculture Licence granted by the Department of Fisheries allowing it to grow greenlip abalone on leases in Flinders Bay, off Augusta. The company has developed an innovative and cost-effective production system for abalone aquaculture. Designed by the company through an extensive research and development program, abalone grow out structures are placed in an open ocean environment that enable the animals being cultured on them to feed naturally off drifting seaweed. This innovative production system is different from most other ocean farms around the world in which suspended enclosures are used to contain the abalone, which also need supplementary feeding using artificial diets.



A diver installing an abalone grow-out structure on the ocean bed. Inset: Abalone growing on one of the installed structures. Photos courtesy of Ocean Grown Abalone.

OGA is in the process of expanding operations at its site in Flinders Bay and at full commercial scale expects to produce around 100 tonnes of abalone per year, with an approximate value of nearly \$4 million. By contrast, the entire wild greenlip abalone fishery harvested approximately 166 tonnes (whole weight) in 2013/14.

The establishment of new marine-based abalone farms will likely see production from aquaculture exceeding that from the abalone fishery within a few years. The Department of Fisheries has played a key role in the development process by establishing procedures that ensure any environmental and biosecurity risks are minimised and managed in such a way that the production method is sustainable.

The Department is also engaged in other initiatives that will identify development opportunities, minimise regulatory requirements and attract investment in the aquaculture industry in WA.



The end aquaculture product – fresh, succulent and juicy abalone. Photo courtesy of Ocean Grown Abalone.

Disclosures and legal compliance



Financial statements

Independent audit opinion of the financial statements and key performance indicators



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Parliament of Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accounts and financial statements of the Department of Fisheries.

The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2015, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service, Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service, and Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year then ended, and Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, including Administered transactions and balances.

Director General's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Director General is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Treasurer's Instructions, and for such internal control as the Director General determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Department's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Director General, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Department was unable to accurately determine employee accrued annual and long service leave balances at 30 June 2014. This caused me to qualify my audit opinion on the financial statements for that year. As the uncertainty over accuracy of the balances was not resolved during 2014-15, I was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on the Employee Benefits Provision, Accumulated Surplus and related Employee Benefits expense for the year ended 30 June 2015. Consequently, I was unable to determine whether any adjustments to these amounts were necessary.

Qualified Opinion

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Department of Fisheries at 30 June 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Report on Controls

I have audited the controls exercised by the Department of Fisheries during the year ended 30 June 2015.

Controls exercised by the Department of Fisheries are those policies and procedures established by the Director General to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions.

Director General's Responsibility for Controls

The Director General is responsible for maintaining an adequate system of internal control to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of public and other property, and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's Instructions, and other relevant written law.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the controls exercised by the Department of Fisheries based on my audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the adequacy of controls to ensure that the Department complies with the legislative provisions. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement and include an evaluation of the design and implementation of relevant controls.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the controls exercised by the Department of Fisheries are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions during the year ended 30 June 2015.

Report on the Key Performance Indicators

I have audited the key performance indicators of the Department of Fisheries for the year ended 30 June 2015.

The key performance indicators are the key effectiveness indicators and the key efficiency indicators that provide information on outcome achievement and service provision.

Director General's Responsibility for the Key Performance Indicators

The Director General is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such controls as the Director General determines necessary to ensure that the key performance indicators fairly represent indicated performance.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators based on my audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the key performance indicators. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Director General's preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and service provision.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Department of Fisheries has not been able to accurately determine the value of its employee benefits provision as at 30 June 2015 and the related employee benefits expense for the year. Therefore I am unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the cost component of the key efficiency indicators. Consequently, I am unable to determine whether the three key efficiency indicators are fairly presented.

Qualified Opinion

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the key performance indicators of the Department of Fisheries are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Department's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2015.

Independence

In conducting this audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Auditor General Act 2006 and Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, and other relevant ethical requirements.

Matters Relating to the Electronic Publication of the Audited Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Department of Fisheries for the year ended 30 June 2015 included on the Department's website. The Department's management is responsible for the integrity of the Department's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Department's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these financial statements or key performance indicators. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators to confirm the information contained in this website version of the financial statements and key performance indicators.



COLIN MURPHY
AUDITOR GENERAL
FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Perth, Western Australia
21 September 2015

Certification of financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

The accompanying financial statements of the Department of Fisheries have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the Financial Management Act 2006 from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ending 30 June 2015 and the financial position as at 30 June 2015.

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



Peter Robinson
Chief Financial Officer
18 September 2015



Heather Brayford
Director General
18 September 2015

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

	Note	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Cost of services			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	6	56,095	53,844
Supplies and services	7	23,112	23,275
Depreciation and amortisation expense	8	6,626	4,031
Finance costs	9	2,199	2,233
Accommodation expenses	10	4,620	4,107
Grants and subsidies	11	1,810	1,810
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	12	-	510
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	18	28	3
Other expenses	13	4,424	5,441
Total cost of services		98,914	95,254
Income			
Revenue			
User charges and fees	14	27,006	24,730
Grants and contributions	15	2,321	2,588
Interest revenue	16	664	260
Other revenue	17	5,238	5,106
Total revenue		35,229	32,684
Total income other than income from State Government		35,229	32,684
NET COST OF SERVICES		63,685	62,570

	Note	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Income from State Government	19		
Service appropriations		54,187	61,390
Services received free of charge		1,104	771
Royalties for Regions Fund		1,243	2,564
Grants and Contributions		505	1,304
Total Income from State Government		57,039	66,029
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(6,646)	3,459
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus/(deficit)	32	1,400	(4,315)
Total other comprehensive income		1,400	(4,315)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(5,246)	(856)

See also the 'Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service'.

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

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2015**

	Note	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000		Note	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
ASSETS				LIABILITIES			
Current assets				Current Liabilities			
Cash and cash equivalents	33	7,330	9,565	Payables	28	2,334	2,671
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	20	5,667	6,212	Borrowings	29	4,271	4,054
Receivables	21	7,083	6,764	Provisions	30	12,751	10,813
Amounts receivable for services	22	2,007	2,007	Other current liabilities	31	3,933	2,230
Other current assets	23	85	124	Total Current Liabilities		23,289	19,768
Total Current Assets		22,172	24,672				
Non-Current Assets				Non-Current Liabilities			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	20	-	1,516	Borrowings	29	29,164	32,449
Receivables	21	29,211	32,449	Provisions	30	3,013	3,603
Amounts receivable for services	22	11,862	9,928	Total Non-Current Liabilities		32,177	36,052
Property, plant and equipment	24	65,652	62,484				
Intangible assets	26	12,416	13,674	TOTAL LIABILITIES		55,466	55,820
Total Non-Current Assets		119,141	120,051				
				NET ASSETS		85,847	88,903
TOTAL ASSETS		141,313	144,723				
				EQUITY			
				Contributed equity	32	86,927	84,816
				Reserves	32	11,844	10,444
				Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	32	(12,924)	(6,357)
				TOTAL EQUITY		85,847	88,903

See also the 'Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service'.
The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES Error! Unknown document property name.
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	Contributed equity \$'000	Reserves \$'000	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2013		72,291	14,759	(9,816)	77,234
Surplus/(deficit)	32	-	-	3,459	3,459
Other comprehensive income		-	(4,315)	-	(4,315)
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	(4,315)	3,459	(856)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		12,765	-	-	12,765
Other contributions by owners		247	-	-	247
Distributions to owners		(487)	-	-	(487)
Equity transferred from Administered		-	-	-	-
Total		12,525	-	-	12,525
Balance at 30 June 2014		84,816	10,444	(6,357)	88,903
Balance at 1 July 2014		84,816	10,444	(6,357)	88,903
Surplus/(deficit)		-	-	(6,646)	(6,646)
Correction of prior period error		-	-	79	79
Other comprehensive income		-	1,400	-	1,400
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	1,400	(6,567)	(5,167)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		2,111	-	-	2,111
Other contributions by owners		-	-	-	-
Distributions to owners		-	-	-	-
Equity transferred from Administered		-	-	-	-
Total		2,111	-	-	2,111
Balance at 30 June 2015		86,927	11,844	(12,924)	85,847

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

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

	Note	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		52,253	57,474
Capital contributions		2,111	12,765
Holding account drawdowns		-	2,007
Grants and contributions		505	1,304
Royalties for Regions Fund		1,243	2,564
Net cash provided by State Government		56,112	76,114
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(54,764)	(52,910)
Supplies and services		(21,501)	(25,426)
Finance Costs		(2,285)	(2,233)
Accommodation		(4,620)	(4,275)
Grants and subsidies		(1,810)	(1,810)
GST payments on purchase		(3,699)	(4,418)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs		-	(510)
Other payments		(2,328)	(2,663)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		26,885	24,640
Grants and contributions		2,295	1,288
Interest received		664	292
Other receipts		4,850	3,663
GST receipts on sales		392	613
GST receipts from taxation authority		3,428	3,578
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	33	(52,493)	(60,171)

	Note	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FORM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Purchase of non-current assets		(8,386)	(7,556)
Receipts			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		181	183
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(8,205)	(7,373)
CASH FLOWS FORM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Repayments of borrowings		(4,054)	(463)
Receipts			
Proceeds from borrowing		986	-
Proceeds from industry		3,358	2,670
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		290	2,207
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(4,296)	10,777
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		17,293	6,516
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	33	12,997	17,293

The statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
SCHEDULE OF INCOME AND EXPENSES BY SERVICE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015 Error! Unknown document property name.

	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION		RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT		TOTAL	
	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES								
Expenses								
Employee benefits expense	8,706	11,540	29,438	26,139	17,951	16,165	56,095	53,844
Supplies and services	7,179	4,165	9,053	11,842	6,880	7,268	23,112	23,275
Depreciation and amortisation	2,453	40	2,887	2,902	1,286	1,089	6,626	4,031
Finance costs	2,199	2,233	-	-	-	-	2,199	2,233
Accommodation expenses	3,343	1,453	1,219	2,210	58	444	4,620	4,107
Grants and subsidies	1,546	1,438	36	-	228	372	1,810	1,810
FAS buybacks	-	510	-	-	-	-	-	510
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	16	-	(19)	3	31	-	28	3
Other expenses	225	2,829	3,217	1,508	982	1,104	4,424	5,441
Total cost of services	25,667	24,208	45,831	44,604	27,416	26,442	98,914	95,254
Income								
User charges and fees	7,195	3,397	15,635	11,076	4,176	10,257	27,006	24,730
Grants and contributions	174	194	241	269	1,906	2,125	2,321	2,588
Interest revenue	664	260	-	-	-	-	664	260
Other revenue	2,598	3,099	2,384	1,888	256	119	5,238	5,106
Total income other than income from State Government	10,631	6,950	18,260	13,233	6,338	12,501	35,229	32,684
NET COST OF SERVICES	15,036	17,258	27,571	31,371	21,078	13,941	63,685	62,570
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT								
Service appropriation	20,031	16,871	22,530	30,176	11,626	14,343	54,187	61,390
Resources received free of charge	409	196	459	361	236	214	1,104	771
Royalties for regions	210	-	1,033	2,564	-	-	1,243	2,564
Grants and contributions	38	98	52	135	415	1,071	505	1,304
Total income from State Government	20,688	17,165	24,074	33,236	12,277	15,628	57,039	66,029
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	5,652	(93)	(3,497)	1,865	(8,801)	1,687	(6,646)	3,459

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

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
SCHEDULE OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY SERVICE
AS AT 30 JUNE 2015**

	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION		RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT		TOTAL	
	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
ASSETS								
Current assets								
Cash and cash equivalents	2,677	1,297	3,064	4,916	1,589	3,352	7,330	9,565
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	3,500	842	1,067	3,193	1,100	2,177	5,667	6,212
Receivables	5,422	6,026	1,094	439	567	299	7,083	6,764
Amounts receivable for services	733	272	839	1,032	435	703	2,007	2,007
Other current assets	31	17	36	64	18	43	85	124
Total Current Assets	12,363	8,454	6,100	9,644	3,709	6,574	22,172	24,672
Non-current assets								
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	-	206	-	778	-	532	-	1,516
Receivables	29,211	32,449	-	-	-	-	29,211	32,449
Amounts receivable for services	4,333	1,347	4,958	5,103	2,571	3,478	11,862	9,928
Property, plant and equipment	3,235	639	38,324	38,529	24,093	23,316	65,652	62,484
Intangible assets	10,167	10,252	1,365	2,064	884	1,358	12,416	13,674
Total Non-Current Assets	46,946	44,893	44,647	46,474	27,548	28,684	119,141	120,051
Total Assets	59,309	53,347	50,747	56,118	31,257	35,258	141,313	144,723
LIABILITIES								
Current liabilities								
Payables	852	362	976	1,373	506	936	2,334	2,671
Borrowings	4,271	4,054	-	-	-	-	4,271	4,054
Provisions	4,658	2,082	5,330	4,923	2,763	3,808	12,751	10,813
Other current liabilities	1,437	852	1,644	815	852	563	3,933	2,230
Total Current Liabilities	11,218	7,350	7,950	7,111	4,121	5,307	23,289	19,768
Non-current liabilities								
Borrowings	29,164	32,449	-	-	-	-	29,164	32,449
Provisions	1,101	547	1,259	695	653	2,361	3,013	3,603
Total Non-Current Liabilities	30,265	32,996	1,259	695	653	2,361	32,177	36,052
Total Liabilities	41,483	40,346	9,209	7,806	4,774	7,668	55,466	55,820
NET ASSETS	17,826	13,001	41,538	48,312	26,483	27,590	85,847	88,903

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

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT APPROPRIATIONS AND INCOME ESTIMATES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	2015 Estimate \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Delivery of Services						
Item 65 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	53,854	53,854	-	53,854	61,057	7,203
Royalties for Region	1,147	1,243	96	1,243	2,564	1,321
Amount authorised by other statutes - <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	333	333	-	333	333	-
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	55,334	55,430	96	55,430	63,954	8,524
Capital						
Item 136 Capital appropriations	2,111	2,111	-	2,111	12,765	10,654
Other contributions by owners	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Capital	2,111	2,111	-	2,111	12,765	10,654
Administered Transactions						
Section 25 administered capital appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Administered	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	57,445	57,541	96	57,541	76,719	19,178
Details of Expense by Service						
Fisheries Management	17,960	25,667	7,707	25,667	24,208	(1,459)
Enforcement and Education	44,088	45,831	1,743	45,831	44,604	(1,227)
Research and Assessment	27,071	27,416	345	27,416	26,442	(974)
Total Cost of Services	89,119	98,914	9,795	98,914	95,254	(3,660)
Less Total Income	(34,612)	(35,229)	(617)	(35,229)	(32,684)	2,545
Net Cost of Services	54,507	63,685	9,178	63,685	62,570	(1,115)
Adjustments	827	(8,255)	(9,082)	(8,255)	1,384	9,639
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	55,334	55,430	96	55,430	63,954	8,524
Capital Expenditures						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	9,508	8,386	(1,122)	8,386	7,556	(830)
Adjustments for other funding sources	(7,397)	(6,275)	1,122	(6,275)	5,209	11,484
Capital appropriations	2,111	2,111	-	2,111	12,765	10,654
Details of Income Estimates						
Income disclosed as Administered Income	-	317	317	317	324	7
	-	317	317	317	324	7

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

Note 37 'Explanatory statement' provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2015 and between the actual results for 2014.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

1 AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

General

The Department's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015 have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The term 'Australian Accounting Standards' includes Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standard Board (AASB).

The Department has adopted any applicable new and revised Australian Accounting Standards from their operative dates.

Early adoption of standards

The Department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 *Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements*. Partial exemption permitting early adoption of AASB 2015-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Disclosures of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities has been granted. Aside from AASB 2015-7, there has been no early adoption of any other Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued or amended (but not operative) by the Department for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2015.

The Department has elected to adopt AASB 2015-7 for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2015.

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) General Statement

The Department is a not-for-profit reporting entity that prepares general purpose financial statements in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to

vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's instructions impose legislative provisions that govern the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB.

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

(b) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, except for land and buildings which have been measured at fair value.

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

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

Note 3 'Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies' discloses judgements that have been made in the process of applying the Department's accounting policies resulting in the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Note 4 'Key sources of estimation uncertainty' discloses key assumptions made concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

(c) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Department which has no 'related bodies'.

Mission

The Department's mission is "To conserve, sustainably develop and share the use of the State's aquatic resources and their ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations."

The Department is funded from revenue collected under the authority of Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Pearling Act 1990 and from Parliamentary appropriations. The Department has legislative authority to retain revenues it collects in the respective Trust Accounts administered by the Department.

Services

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

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

The services of the Department detailed below closely align with the functional organisational structure of:

- Fisheries Management;
- Enforcement and Education; and
- Research and Assessment.

A description of each service is as follows:

Fisheries Management

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

Enforcement and Education

Without the support of the community and stakeholders, the Department is unable to effectively manage the aquatic environment. To encourage this support, the Department must raise community awareness and understanding of the issues and of the need to adhere to the rules governing activities in this

environment. There also needs to be enforcement of the rules through penalties for non-compliance. The Department plans and implements education and communications programs to raise levels of awareness and understanding of fishery management objective. It also plans and instigates investigations and enforcement strategies.

Research and Assessment

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

(d) Contributed Equity

AASB Interpretation 1038 Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, to be designated by the Government (the owner) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners according to TI 955 Contribution by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity. The transfers of net assets to/from other agencies, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal.

(e) Income

Revenue recognition

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

Sale of goods

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

Provision of services

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

Interest

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

Service appropriations

Service Appropriations are recognised as revenues at fair value 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 to the bank account or credited to the 'Amounts receivable for services' (holding account) held at the Department of Treasury.

Net Appropriation Determination

The Treasurer may make a determination providing for prescribed receipts to be retained for services under the control of the Department. In accordance with the most recent determination, as quantified in the 2014-15 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$35.229 million in 2015 (\$32.684 million in 2014) from the following:

proceeds from fees and charges;

sale;

Commonwealth specific purpose grants and contributions;

Interest revenue.

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions

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

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

Where contributions recognised as revenues during the reporting period were obtained on the condition that they will be expended in a specified manner, and those conditions had yet to be made at the end of the reporting period, the amounts and nature of, and the conditions attaching to them are to be disclosed in the notes.

Where contributions recognised as revenues during the reporting period were obtained specifically for the provision of goods or services over a future period, the amounts and nature of, and the periods to which they relate are to be disclosed.

Where contributions recognised as revenues in a previous reporting period were obtained in respect of the current reporting period, the amounts and nature are to be disclosed.

Royalties for Regions funds are recognised as revenue at fair value in the period in which the Department obtains control over the funds. The Department obtains control of the funds at the time the funds are deposited into the Department's bank account.

Gains

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

(f) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are expensed when incurred.

(g) Property, Plant and Equipment and Infrastructure

Capitalisation/expensing of assets

Items of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure costing \$5,000 or more are recognised as assets and the cost of utilising assets is expensed (depreciated) over their useful lives. Items of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Assets that form a group or network of assets such as computer system, office furniture or communication network, are classified as Collective assets. These Collective assets are capitalised where their aggregate value exceeds the

capitalisation threshold, regardless of their individual cost.

Initial recognition and measurement

Property, plant and equipment and infrastructure are initially recognised at cost.

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

Subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition of an asset, the revaluation model is used for the measurement of land and buildings and historical cost for all other property, plant and equipment. Land and buildings are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation (buildings only) and accumulated impairment losses. All other items of property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

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

In the absence of market-based evidence, fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of existing use. This normally applies where buildings are specialised or where land use is restricted. Fair value for existing use assets is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, i.e. the depreciated replacement cost. Where the fair value of buildings is determined on the depreciated replacement cost basis, the gross carrying amount and the accumulated depreciation are restated proportionately. Fair value for restricted use land is determined by comparison with market evidence for land with similar approximate utility (high restricted use land) or market value of comparable unrestricted land (low restricted use land).

Land and buildings are independently valued annually by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services) and recognised annually to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from the asset's fair value at the end of the reporting period.

The most significant assumptions and judgements in estimating fair value are

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

Derecognition

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

Asset revaluation surplus

The asset revaluation surplus is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets as described in Note 24 'Property, Plant and Equipment'.

Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated using the straight line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Asset category	Life (years)
Buildings	20 to 40
Vessels	5 to 6
Communication equipment	5
Computer equipment	3
Furniture and fittings	10
Infrastructure	30
Motor vehicles	3 to 7
Office equipment	5
Other equipment	5 to 10
Plant and equipment	10

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

Land is not depreciated.

(h) Intangible Assets

Capitalisation/Expensing of assets

Acquisitions of intangible assets costing \$5,000 or more and internally generated intangible assets costing \$5,000 or more are capitalised. The cost of utilising the assets is expensed (amortised) over their useful lives.

Costs incurred below these thresholds are immediately expensed directly to the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

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

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

The expected useful lives for each class of intangible asset are:

Licences	up to 10 years
Development Costs	3 to 5 years
Software ^(a)	3 to 5 years
Website Costs	3 to 5 years

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

Licences

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

Research and Development

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

Computer Software

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

Website Costs

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

(i) Impairment of Assets

Property, plant, equipment, infrastructure and intangible assets are tested for any indication of impairment at the end of each reporting period. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated.

Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised. Where an asset measured at cost is written down to recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss. Where a previously revalued asset is written down to recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement in other comprehensive income. As the Department is a not for profit entity, unless an asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

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

Intangible assets with an indefinite useful life and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment at the end of each reporting period irrespective of whether there is any indication of impairment.

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

(j) Non-current Assets (or disposal groups) classified as held for sale

Non-current assets (or disposal groups) held for sale are recognised at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell, and are disclosed separately from other assets in the Statement of Financial Position. Assets classified as held for sale are not depreciated or amortised.

All Crown land holdings are vested in the Department by the Government. The Department of Lands (DoL) is the only agency with the power to sell Crown land. The Department transfers the Crown land and any attached buildings to DoL when the land becomes available for sale.

(k) Leases

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

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

(l) Financial Instruments

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

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

Financial instruments have been disaggregated into the following classes:

Financial Assets

- Cash and cash equivalents
- Restricted cash and cash equivalents
- Receivables
- Amounts receivable for services

Financial Liabilities

- Payables
- WATC borrowings
- Finance lease liabilities

Initial recognition and measurement of financial instruments is at fair value which normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value.

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

(m) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalent (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

(n) Accrued Salaries

Accrued salaries (refer Note 31 'Other liabilities') represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are settled

within a fortnight of the financial year end. The Department considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its net fair value.

The accrued salaries suspense account (see Note 20 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents') consists of amounts paid annually into a suspense account over a period of 10 financial years to largely meet the additional cash outflow in each eleventh year when 27 pay days occur instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

(o) Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)

The Department receives funding on an accrual basis. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (holding account receivable). The accrued amount receivable is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover leave entitlements and asset replacement.

See also Note 19 'Income from State Government' and Note 22 'Amounts receivable for services (holding account)'.

(p) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at original invoice amount less an allowance for uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment).

The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written off against the allowance account. The allowance for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that the Department will not be able to collect the debts. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days. See also Note 2(l) 'Financial Instruments' and Note 21 'Receivables'.

(q) Payables

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the Department becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as settlement is generally within 30 days. See also Note 2(l) 'Financial Instruments' and Note 28 'Payables'.

(r) Borrowings

All loans payable are initially recognised at fair value being the net proceeds

received. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(s) Provisions

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount and are recognised where there is a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at the end of each reporting period. See also Note 30 'Provisions'.

Provisions - Employee benefits

All annual leave and long service leave provisions are in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period.

Annual Leave

Annual leave that is not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the reporting period and is therefore considered to be other long-term employee benefits'. The annual leave liability is recognised and measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions, as well as the experience of employee departures and periods of service. The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

The provision for annual leave is classified as a current liability as the Department does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

Long Service Leave

Long service leave is not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the reporting period and is therefore recognised and measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions, as well as the experience of employee departures and periods of service. The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as the Department does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as non-current liabilities because the Department has an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

Sick Leave

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

Deferred Leave

The provision of deferred leave relates to Public Service employees who have entered into an agreement to self-fund an additional 12 months leave in the fifth year of the agreement. The provision recognises the value of salary set aside for employees to be used in the fifth year. This liability is measured on the same basis as annual leave. Deferred leave is reported as a current provision as employees can leave the scheme at their discretion at any time.

Purchased Leave

The provision of purchased leave relates to Public Service employees who have entered into an agreement to self-fund up to an additional 10 weeks leave per calendar year. The provision recognises the value of salary set aside for employees and is measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Superannuation

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) and other fund providers administer public sector superannuation arrangements in Western Australia in accordance with legislative requirements. Eligibility criteria for membership in particular schemes for public sector employees vary according to commencement and implementation dates.

Eligible employees contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme closed to new members since 1987, or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme also closed to new members since 1995.

Employees commencing employment prior to 16 April 2007 who were not members of either the Pension Scheme or the GSS became non-contributory members of the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS). Employees commencing employment on or after 16 April 2007 became members of the GESB Super Scheme (GESB).

From 30 March 2012, existing members of the WSS or GESB and new employees have been able to choose their preferred superannuation fund provider. The Department makes contributions to GESB or other fund provider on behalf of employees in compliance with the Commonwealth Government's Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992. Contributions to these accumulation schemes extinguish the Department's liability for superannuation charges in respect of employees who are not members of the Pension Scheme or GSS.

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

The Department has no liabilities under the Pension Scheme or the GSS. The liabilities for the unfunded Pension Scheme and the unfunded GSS transfer benefits attributable to members who transferred from the Pension Scheme, are assumed by the Treasurer. All other GSS obligations are funded by concurrent contributions made by the Department to the GESB.

The GESB makes all benefit payments in respect of the Pension Scheme and GSS, and is recouped from the Treasurer for the employer's share.

**Provisions - Other
Employment On-Costs**

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses' and are not included as part of the Department's 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs' provision. See notes 13 'Other Expenses' and 30 'Provisions'.

(t) Superannuation Expense

The superannuation expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income comprises of employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the WSS, the GESB, or other superannuation funds. The employer contribution paid to the GESB in respect of the GSS is paid back into the Consolidated Account by the GESB.

(u) Assets and services received free of charge or for nominal cost

Assets or services received free of charge or for nominal cost that the department would otherwise purchase if not donated, are recognised as income at the fair value of the assets or services where they can be reliably measured. A corresponding expense is recognised for services received. Receipts of assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position. Assets or services received from other State Government agencies are separately disclosed under Income from State Government in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

(v) Jointly controlled operations

The Department has interests in joint arrangements that are joint operations. A joint arrangement is a contractual arrangement whereby two or more parties undertake an economic activity that is subject to joint control. A joint operation involves the use of assets and other resources of the operators rather than the establishment of a separate entity. The Department recognises its interests in the joint operations by recognising the assets it controls and the liabilities that it incurs in respect of the joint arrangements. The Department also recognises the expenses that it incurs and its share of the income that it earns from the sale of goods or services by the joint operations.

(w) Comparative Figures

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

(x) Access Fees - Major Commercial Fisheries

The Department and the commercial fishing industry entered into an agreement in 1995 that provided for the Department to recover the costs associated with the management of major commercial fisheries. The costs were recovered through the annual fee charged for access to the fishery concerned.

Effective 1 July 2010 the use of cost recovery as the mechanism for setting access fees was discontinued. Access fees are now levied as a percentage of the gross value of production of each fishery.

3 JUDGEMENTS MADE BY MANAGEMENT IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements about the application of accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements. The Department evaluates these judgements regularly.

Operating lease commitments

The Department has entered into a number of leases for buildings for branch office accommodation. Some of these leases relate to buildings of a temporary nature and it has been determined that the lessor retains substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. Accordingly, these leases have been classified as operating leases.

4 KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

These include:

- Estimating the useful life and residual values of key assets;
- Estimating depreciated replacement cost; and
- Estimating future salary rates, salary inflation, expected future payments, retention rates and discount rates for long service leave.

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

During the year the Department adopted a voluntary change in accounting policy (refer to Note 2g-2h).

Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard:

The Department has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards effective, or adopted, for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2014 that impacted on the Department:

Int 21 – Levies

This Interpretation clarifies the circumstances under which a liability to pay a government levy imposed should be recognised. There is no financial impact for the Department at reporting date.

AASB 10 – Consolidated Financial Statements

This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes AASB 127 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements and Int 112 Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities, introducing a number of changes to accounting standards.

The adoption of the new Standard has no financial impact for the Department as it does not impact accounting for related bodies and the Department has no interest in other entities.

AASB 11 – Joint Arrangements

This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes AASB 131 Interests in Joint Ventures, introduces new principles for determining the type of joint arrangement that exists, which are more aligned to the actual rights and obligations of the parties to the arrangement.

There is no financial impact for the Department as the new standard continues to require the recognition of the Department's share of assets and share of liabilities for the unincorporated joint operation.

AASB 12 – Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities

This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes disclosure requirements in AASB 127 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements, AASB 128 Investments in Associates and AASB 131 Interests in Joint Ventures. There is no financial impact.

AASB 127 – Separate Financial Statements

This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes AASB 127 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements removing the consolidation requirements of the earlier standard whilst retaining accounting and disclosure requirements for the preparation of separate financial statements. There is no financial impact.

AASB 128 – Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures

This Standard supersedes AASB 128 Investments in Associates, introducing a number of clarifications for the accounting treatments of changed ownership interest.

The adoption of the new Standard has no financial impact for the Department as it does not hold investments in associates and joint ventures.

AASB 1031 – Materiality

This Standard supersedes AASB 1031 (February 2010), removing Australian guidance on materiality not available in IFRSs and refers to guidance on materiality in other Australian pronouncements. There is no financial impact.

AASB 1055 – Budgetary Reporting

This Standard requires specific budgetary disclosures in the financial statements of not-for-profit entities within the General Government Sector. The Department will be required to disclose additional budgetary information and explanations of major variances between actual and budgeted amounts, though there is no financial impact.

AASB 2011-7 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Consolidation and Joint Arrangements Standards [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 101, 107, 112, 118, 121, 124, 132, 133, 136, 138, 139, 1023 and 1038 and Int 5, 9, 16 and 17]

This Standard gives effect to consequential changes arising from the issue of AASB 10, AASB 11, AASB 127 Separate Financial Statements and AASB 128 Investments in Associates and Joint ventures.

There is no financial impact for the Department.

AASB 2012-3 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities [AASB 132]

This Standard adds application guidance to AASB 132 to address inconsistencies identified in applying some of the offsetting criteria, including clarifying the meaning of 'currently has a legally enforceable right of set-off' and that some gross settlement systems may be considered equivalent to net settlement.

The Department does not routinely hold financial assets and financial liabilities that it intends to settle on a net basis, therefore there is no financial impact.

AASB 2013-3 - Amendments to AASB 136 – Recoverable amount disclosures for non-financial assets

This Standard introduces editorial and disclosure changes. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2013-8 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities – Control and Structured Entities [AASB 10, 12 and 1049]

The amendments, issued in October 2013, provide significant guidance in determining whether a not-for-profit entity controls another entity when financial returns are not a key attribute of the investor's relationship. The Standard has no financial impact in its own right, rather the impact results from the adoption of the amended AASB 10.

AASB 2013-9 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments

Part B of this omnibus Standard makes amendments to other Standards arising from the deletion of references to AASB 1031 in other Standards for periods beginning on or after 1 January 2014. It has no financial impact.

AASB 2014-1 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards

Part A of this Standard consists primarily of clarifications to Accounting Standards and has no financial impact for the Department.

Part B of this Standard has no financial impact as the Department contributes to schemes that are either defined contribution plans, or deemed to be defined contribution plans.

Part C of this Standard has no financial impact as it removes references to

AASB 1031 Materiality from a number of Accounting Standards.

AASB 2015-7 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Disclosures of Non-for-Profit Public Sector Entities

This Standard relieves not-for-profit public sector entities from the reporting burden associated with various disclosures required by AASB 13 for assets within the scope of AASB 116 that are held primarily for their current service potential rather than to generate future net cash inflows. It has no financial impact.

The adoption of this new standard has no financial impact for the Department.

Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

The Department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 *Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements* or by an exemption from TI 1101. By virtue of a limited exemption, the Department has early adopted AASB 2015-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Disclosures of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities. Where applicable, the Department plans to apply the following Australian Accounting Standards from their application date.

	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after		
AASB 9 – Financial Instruments	1 Jan 2018	<p>This Standard supersedes AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>The mandatory application date of this Standard is currently 1 January 2018 after being amended by AASB 2012-6, AASB 2013-9 and AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	<p>Part C of this omnibus Standard defers the application of AASB 9 to 1 January 2017 (Part C). The application date of AASB 9 was subsequently deferred to 1 January 2018 by AASB 2014-1. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of AASB.</p>
AASB 15 – Revenue from Contracts with Customers	1 Jan 2017	<p>This Standard establishes the principles that the Department shall apply to report useful information to users of financial statements about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from a contract with a customer. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	<p>AASB 2014-1 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards</p> <p>Part E of this Standard makes amendments to AASB 9 and consequential amendments to other Standards. It has not yet been assessed by the Department to determine the application or potential impact of the Standard.</p>
AASB 2010-7 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010) [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 120, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 139, 1023 and 1038 and Int 2, 5, 10, 12, 19 & 127]	1 Jan 2018	<p>This Standard makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 9 in December 2010.</p> <p>The mandatory application date of this Standard has been amended by AASB 2012-6 and AASB 2014-1 to 1 January 2018. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	<p>AASB 2014-3 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations (AASB 1 & 11)</p> <p>The Department establishes Joint Operations in pursuit of its objectives and does not routinely acquire interests in Joint Operations. Therefore, there is no financial impact on application of the Standard.</p>
AASB 2013-9 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments	1 Jan 2015		<p>AASB 2014-4 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 & 138]</p> <p>The adoption of the new Standard has no financial impact for the Department as depreciation and amortisation is not determined by reference to revenue generation, but by reference to consumption of future economic benefits.</p>
			<p>AASB 2014-5 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15</p> <p>This Standard gives effect to the consequential amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) arising from the issuance of AASB 15. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>
			<p>AASB 2014-7 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014)</p> <p>This Standard gives effect to the consequential amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) arising from the issuance of AASB 9 (December 2014). The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>

<p>AASB 2014-8 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014) – Application of AASB 9 (December 2009) and AASB 9 (December 2010) [AASB 9 (2009 & 2010)]</p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i> (December 2009) and AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i> (December 2010), arising from the issuance of AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i> in December 2014. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	<p>1 Jan 2015</p>	<p>AASB 2015-2 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101 [AASB 7, 101, 134 & 1049]</p> <p>This Standard amends AASB 101 to provide clarification regarding the disclosure requirements in AASB 101. Specifically, the Standard proposes narrow-focus amendments to address some of the concern expressed about existing presentation and disclosure requirements and to ensure entities are able to use judgement when applying a Standard in determining what information to disclose in their financial statements. There is no financial impact.</p>	<p>1 Jan 2016</p>
<p>AASB 2014-9 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements [AASB 1, 127 & 128]</p> <p>This Standard amends AASB 127, and consequentially amends AASB 1 and AASB 128, to allow entities to use the equity method of accounting for investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates in their separate financial statements. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	<p>1 Jan 2016</p>	<p>AASB 2015-3 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality</p> <p>This Standard completes the withdrawal of references to AASB 1031 in all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, allowing that Standard to effectively be withdrawn. There is no financial impact.</p>	<p>1 Jul 2015</p>
<p>AASB 2014-10 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture [AASB 10 & 128]</p> <p>This Standard amends AASB 10 and AASB 128 to address an inconsistency between the requirements in AASB 10 and those in AASB 128 (August 2011), in dealing with the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	<p>1 Jan 2016</p>	<p>AASB 2015-6 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, 124 & 1049]</p> <p>The amendments extend the scope of AASB 124 to include application by not-for-profit public sector entities. Implementation guidance is included to assist application of the Standard by not-for-profit public sector entities. The Department has not yet determined the application of the Standard, though there is no financial impact.</p>	<p>1 Jul 2016</p>
<p>AASB 2015-1 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012-2014 Cycle [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 110, 119, 121, 133, 134, 137 & 140]</p> <p>The amendments arise from the issuance of International Financial Reporting Standard Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2012-2014 Cycle in September 2014, and editorial corrections. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	<p>1 Jan 2016</p>		

Note 6: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Wages and salaries ^(a)	48,947	46,809
Superannuation - defined contribution plans ^(b)	4,634	4,352
Other related expenses ^(c)	2,514	2,683
	<u>56,095</u>	<u>53,844</u>

(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefit tax component, leave entitlements including superannuation contribution component

(b) Defined contribution plans include West State, Gold State and GESB and other eligible funds.

(c) Includes the value of fringe benefit to the employees plus the fringe benefits tax component.

Employment on-costs expenses, such as workers' compensation insurance, are included at Note 13 'Other expenses'. The employment on costs liability is included at Note 30 'Provisions'.

Note 7: SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Communications	1,254	1,456
Freight & Mail	251	277
Contractors & Consultants	8,963	8,029
Payments to stakeholder groups ^(a)	2,555	2,766
Service Level Agreement ^(b)	101	183
Consumables	3,208	2,920
Minor equipment acquisitions	90	371
Travel	1,218	1,192
Advertising	499	430
Insurance	1,096	862
Other lease rentals	1,813	2,243
Licence Fees & Registration	873	797
Catering	50	68
Other	1,141	1,681
	<u>23,112</u>	<u>23,275</u>

(a) The legislation governing fisheries management and common law principles associated with "property rights" impose obligations on fisheries managers to consult with affected individuals. The provision of these funds allows the recipient to act as a single point for consultation. Given this the arrangement is a fee for service rather than grant.

(b) Payments to the Department of Finance Shared Services for corporate services under a service level agreement.

Note 8: DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION EXPENSE

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Depreciation		
Buildings	1,112	1,221
Marine Vessels	1,429	898
Communications	30	29
Computing Hardware	887	919
Furniture Fixtures & Fittings	248	149
Office Equipment	64	54
Plant & Machinery	127	107
Motor Vehicles	255	304
Other Equipment	133	104
Infrastructure - Maritime	164	142
Total Depreciation	<u>4,449</u>	<u>3,927</u>
Amortisation		
Computing Software	2,177	104
Leased patrol vessel	-	-
Total amortisation	<u>2,177</u>	<u>104</u>
Total Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	<u>6,626</u>	<u>4,031</u>

Note 9: FINANCE COSTS

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
WATC Borrowing Charges	2,197	2,227
Lease Charges	2	6
	<u>2,199</u>	<u>2,233</u>

Note 10: ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Lease rentals	2,846	2,597
Property Cleaning	316	305
Repairs & Maintenance	1,414	1,073
Resources Received Free of Charge	44	132
	<u>4,620</u>	<u>4,107</u>

Note 11: GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Recurrent		
Research grants	1,810	1,760
Other	-	50
	<u>1,810</u>	<u>1,810</u>

Note 12: FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEME BUYBACK

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	-	510
	<u>-</u>	<u>510</u>

Note 13: OTHER EXPENSES

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Act of Grace payment	-	190
Purchase of Managed Fishery Licence	-	1,640
Repairs and Maintenance	2,659	2,778
Impairment	986	-
Other expenses ^(a)	779	833
	4,424	5,441

(a) Includes workers' compensation insurance on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability is included at Note 30 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

Note 14: USER CHARGES AND FEES

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Access fees ^(a)	17,908	15,732
Application fees	1,194	1,619
Recreational Licence fees	7,543	6,978
Fees for service	2	1
Regulatory fees	214	221
Other	145	179
	27,006	24,730

(a) The Department and the commercial fishing industry entered into an agreement in 1995 that provided for the Department to recover the costs associated with the management of major commercial fisheries. The costs were recovered through the annual fee charged for access to the fishery concerned.

Note 15: GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
State Natural Resource Management (NRM) Office	440	523
Australian Seafood Cooperative Research Centre	15	136
Paspaley Pearl Co Pty Ltd	-	221
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	1,230	984
Dampier Port Authority	-	179
Curtin University	-	100
Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research	285	170
Murdoch University	100	-
Other	251	275
	2,321	2,588

Note 16: INTEREST REVENUE

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Fisheries Research and Development Account	-	182
Recreational Fishing Account	664	78
	664	260

Note 17: OTHER REVENUE

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Rental revenue	596	644
Diesel Fuel Rebate	299	239
Insurance Recoveries	247	214
Indian Ocean Territories	818	757
WATC Borrowing Charges	2,274	2,592
Employee FBT contribution	63	54
Recoups	145	136
Others	796	470
	5,238	5,106

Note 18: NET GAIN/(LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets</i>		
Property, plant and equipment	96	45
<i>Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed</i>		
Property, plant and equipment	<u>(124)</u>	<u>(48)</u>
Net gain/(loss)	<u>(28)</u>	<u>(3)</u>

Note 19: INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Appropriation received during the year:		
Service appropriation ^(a)	54,187	61,390

(a) Service appropriations fund the net cost of services delivered. Appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the budgeted depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.

Services Received Free of Charge from other State government agencies during the period

Services Received Free of Charge ^(b)	1,104	771
Department of Attorney General	326	359
Western Australian Land Information Authority	532	179
Department of Finance	<u>246</u>	<u>233</u>
	<u>1,104</u>	<u>771</u>

(b) Assets or Services received free of charge or for nominal cost are recognised as revenue at fair value of the assets and/or services that can be reliably measured and which would have been purchased if they were not donated. Contributions of assets or services in the nature of contributions by owners are recognised direct to equity.

Royalties for Regions Fund

Regional Community Services Account ^(c)	1,243	2,564
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(c) This is a sub-fund within the over-arching 'Royalties for Regions Fund'. The recurrent funds are committed to projects and programs in WA regional areas.

Grants and Contributions

Department of Premier and Cabinet	500	1,300
Department of Transport	5	4
	<u>505</u>	<u>1,304</u>

Note 20: RESTRICTED CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account ^(a)	1,062	417
Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre ^(b)	-	3,000
RFIF Recreational Fishing Initiatives Funds	1,884	1,726
Research Grants	772	761
Royalties for Regions	433	308
Salaries suspense account ^(c)	1,516	-
	<u>5,667</u>	<u>6,212</u>
Non-current		
Salaries suspense account ^(c)	-	1,516
	<u>5,667</u>	<u>7,728</u>

(a) Monies held in the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account are only available for use as prescribed by the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987.

(b) Monies are only to be used for the refurbishment of Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre.

(c) Amount held in suspense account is only to be used for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years.

Note 21: RECEIVABLES

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Receivables	972	883
Less: Allowance for impairment of receivables	(6)	(6)
GST receivable	669	742
	<u>1,635</u>	<u>1,619</u>
Other debtors ^(a)	5,448	5,145
Total current	<u>7,083</u>	<u>6,764</u>
Non-Current		
Other debtors ^(a)	29,211	32,449
Total non-current	<u>29,211</u>	<u>32,449</u>
Total receivables	<u>36,294</u>	<u>39,213</u>

Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:

Balance at start of period	6	6
Doubtful debts expense	-	-
Amounts written off during the period	-	-
Amounts recovered during the period	-	-
Balance at the end of the period	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

(a) The 'Other Debtors' relates to an advance made to industry. The Department does not hold any collateral or other credit enhancements as security for receivables.

See also Note 2(p) 'Receivables' and Note 38 'Financial Instruments'

Note 22: AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR SERVICES (HOLDING ACCOUNT)

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Current	2,007	2,007
Non-current	11,862	9,928
	<u>13,869</u>	<u>11,935</u>

Represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

See Note 2(o) 'Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)'.

Note 23: OTHER ASSETS

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Prepayments		
Licence and rentals	-	42
Accrued Income		
Accrued Interest	85	82
	<u>85</u>	<u>124</u>

Note 24: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2015	2014		2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
LAND			MOTOR VEHICLES		
Land at fair value ⁽ⁱ⁾	6,967	6,745	At cost	1,638	1,806
	6,967	6,745	Accumulated depreciation	(1,011)	(1,008)
				627	798
BUILDINGS			WORKS OF ART		
At fair value ⁽ⁱ⁾	36,494	36,428	At cost	97	97
Accumulated depreciation	-	-		97	97
	36,494	36,428	OTHER EQUIPMENT		
			At cost	1,156	1,020
MARINE VESSELS			Accumulated depreciation	(622)	(494)
At cost	15,660	18,238		534	526
Accumulated depreciation	(8,184)	(8,650)	INFRASTRUCTURE - MARITIME		
	7,476	9,588	At cost	5,246	4,753
			Accumulated depreciation	(1,667)	(1,503)
COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT				3,579	3,250
At cost	735	629	CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS		
Accumulated depreciation	(582)	(551)	Buildings ⁽ⁱ⁾	5,329	1,481
	153	78	Maritime	-	-
COMPUTER HARDWARE			Marine vessel	539	-
At cost	3,814	3,213		5,868	1,481
Accumulated depreciation	(2,919)	(2,033)	Total Property, Plant and Equipment	65,652	62,484
	895	1,180			
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS					
At cost	3,070	2,353			
Accumulated depreciation	(1,150)	(942)			
	1,920	1,411			
OFFICE EQUIPMENT					
At cost	624	481			
Accumulated depreciation	(374)	(310)			
	250	171			
PLANT AND MACHINERY					
At cost	2,137	1,954			
Accumulated depreciation	(1,345)	(1,223)			
	792	731			

(i) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2014 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2015 and recognised at 30 June 2015. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: **\$2,242,900** (2014: \$2,242,900) and buildings: **\$3,305,000** (2014: \$3,045,000). For the remaining balance, fair value of land and buildings was determined on the basis of depreciated replacement cost. See Note 2(g) 'Property, Plant and Equipment and Infrastructure'.

Note 24: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the reporting period are set out below:

		Carrying amount at start of year	Additions	Disposal	Transfers In/Out	Transfers from WIP	Revaluation	Impairment	Depreciation for the year	Carrying amount at end of year
2015		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1.	Land	6,745	-	-	-	-	222	-	-	6,967
2.	Buildings	36,428	-	-	-	-	1,178	-	(1,112)	36,494
3.	Marine Vessels	9,588	333	(30)	-	-	-	(986)	(1,429)	7,476
4.	Communication Equipment	78	106	-	(1)	-	-	-	(30)	153
5.	Computer Hardware	1,180	602	-	-	-	-	-	(887)	895
6.	Furniture Fixtures & Fittings	1,411	16	(68)	-	809	-	-	(248)	1,920
7.	Office Equipment	171	143	-	-	-	-	-	(64)	250
8.	Plant & Machinery	731	199	(11)	-	-	-	-	(127)	792
9.	Vehicles	798	97	(13)	-	-	-	-	(255)	627
10.	Works of Art	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
11.	Other Equipment	526	97	(2)	(5)	51	-	-	(133)	534
12.	Infrastructure - Maritime	3,250	383	-	-	110	-	-	(164)	3,579
13.	Work in progress		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Buildings	1,481	4,818	-	-	(970)	-	-	-	5,329
	Maritime	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Boating	-	539	-	-	-	-	-	-	539
		62,484	7,333	(124)	(6)	-	1,400	(986)	(4,449)	65,652

Note 24: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

2014	Carrying amount at start of year \$'000	Additions \$'000	Disposal \$'000	NCA held for sale \$'000	Transfers In/Out \$'000	Transfers from WIP \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Depreciation for the year \$'000	Carrying amount at end of year \$'000
1. Land	7,240	247	(487)	-	-	-	(255)	-	6,745
2. Buildings	39,038	-	-	-	2,317	354	(4,060)	(1,221)	36,428
3. Marine Vessels	10,299	83	(60)	-	-	164	-	(898)	9,588
4. Communications Equipment	78	29	-	-	-	-	-	(29)	78
5. Computer Hardware	1,961	138	-	-	-	-	-	(919)	1,180
6. Furniture Fixtures & Fittings	3,521	180	-	-	(2,317)	176	-	(149)	1,411
7. Office Equipment	176	49	-	-	-	-	-	(54)	171
8. Plant & Machinery	655	80	(33)	-	-	136	-	(107)	731
9. Vehicles	1,015	211	(127)	-	-	3	-	(304)	798
10. Works of Art	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
11. Other Equipment	222	414	(6)	-	-	-	-	(104)	526
12. Infrastructure - Maritime	2,921	-	-	-	-	471	-	(142)	3,250
13. Work in progress									
Buildings	1,060	1,561	-	-	-	(1,140)	-	-	1,481
Maritime	-	90	-	-	-	(90)	-	-	-
Boating	18	56	-	-	-	(74)	-	-	-
	68,301	3,138	(713)	-	-	-	(4,315)	(3,927)	62,484

Note 25: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Assets measured at fair value:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value at end of period
2015	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land (Note 24)	-	2,243	4,724	6,967
Buildings (Note 24)	-	3,305	33,189	36,494
	-	5,548	37,913	43,461
2014	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land (Note 24)	-	2,243	4,502	6,745
Buildings (Note 24)	-	3,045	33,383	36,428
	-	5,288	37,885	43,173

There are no transfers between Level 1, 2 or 3 during the period.

Valuation techniques to derive Level 2 fair values

Level 2 fair values of Land and Buildings (Office Accommodation) are derived using the market approach. Market evidence of sales prices of comparable land and buildings (office accommodation) in close proximity is used to determine price per square metre.

Fair Value Measurement using unobservable inputs (Level 3)

2015	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000
Fair value at start of period	4,502	33,384
Additions	-	-
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive income	222	835
Transfers (from/(to) Level 2)	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation expense	-	(1,030)
Fair value at end of period	4,724	33,189

2014	\$'000	\$'000
Fair value at start of period	4,507	31,421
Additions	-	2,596
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive income	(5)	388
Transfers (from/(to) Level 2)	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation expense	-	(1,021)
Fair value at end of period	4,502	33,384

Valuation processes

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period. Transfers in and out of a fair value level are recognised on the date of the event or change in circumstances that caused the transfer. Transfers are generally limited to assets newly classified as non-current assets held for sale as Treasurer's instructions require valuations of land, buildings and infrastructure to be categorised within Level 3 where the valuations will utilise significant Level 3 inputs on a recurring basis.

Fair value for existing use specialised buildings is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, i.e. the depreciated replacement cost. Depreciated replacement cost is the current replacement cost of an asset less accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired economic benefit, or obsolescence, and optimisation (where applicable) of the asset. Current replacement cost is generally determined by reference to the market observable replacement cost of a substitute asset of comparable utility and the gross project size specifications.

Fair value for restricted use land is based on market value, by either using market evidence of sales of comparable land that is unrestricted less restoration costs to return the site to a vacant and marketable condition (low restricted use land), or, comparison with market evidence for land with low level utility (high restricted use land).

Significant Level 3 inputs used by the Department are derived and evaluated as follows:

Historical cost per square metre floor area (m²)

The costs of constructing specialised buildings with similar utility are extracted from financial records of the Department, then indexed by movements in CPI.

Consumed economic benefit/obsolescence of asset

These are estimated by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services).

Note 25: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)

Selection of land with restricted utility

Fair value for restricted use land is determined by comparison with market evidence for land with low level utility. Relevant comparators of land with low level utility are selected by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services).

Basis of Valuation

In the absence of market-based evidence, due to the specialised nature of some non-financial assets, these assets are valued at Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy on an existing use basis. The existing use basis recognises that restrictions or limitations have been placed on their use and disposal when they are not determined to be surplus to requirements. These restrictions are imposed by virtue of the assets being held to deliver a specific community service.

Information about significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) in fair value measurements

Description	Fair value 2015 \$'000	Fair value 2014 \$'000	Valuation techniques	Unobservable inputs
Land	\$4,724	\$4,502	Market approach	Selection of land with similar approximate utility
Buildings	\$33,189	\$33,384	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Consumed economic benefit/obsolescence of asset
				Historical cost per square metre floor area (square metre)

Reconciliations of the opening and closing balances are provided in Note 24.

Note 26: INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
COMPUTER SOFTWARE		
At cost	15,625	1,397
Accumulated amortisation	<u>(3,209)</u>	<u>(1,032)</u>
	<u>12,416</u>	<u>365</u>
CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS		
Computer Software	-	13,309
	<u>-</u>	<u>13,309</u>
Total Intangible Assets	<u>12,416</u>	<u>13,674</u>

Reconciliations:	Carrying amount at start of year \$'000	Additions \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Transfers from WIP \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Depreciation for the year \$'000	Carrying amount at end of year \$'000
2015							
Computer Software	365	919	-	13,309	-	(2,177)	12,416
Work in progress							
Computer Software	13,309	-	-	(13,309)	-	-	-
	<u>13,674</u>	<u>919</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,177)</u>	<u>12,416</u>
2014							
Computer Software	468	-	-	-	-	(103)	365
Work in progress							
Computer Software	8,927	4,382	-	-	-	-	13,309
	<u>9,395</u>	<u>4,382</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(103)</u>	<u>13,674</u>

Note 27: IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

An impairment assessment of the Department's assets has been carried out as at 30 June 2015. This resulted in the carrying amounts of some marine vessels being written down to their market values with an impairment loss of \$985,547 recognised in full in the current year in Other Expenses (refer to Note 13).

There are no indications of impairment of any other property, plant and equipment, infrastructure or intangible assets at 30 June 2015.

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

There are no surplus assets held for sales or written off as at 30 June 2015. Therefore, no surplus assets at 30 June 2015 have been reclassified as assets held for sales or written off.

Note 28: PAYABLES

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Trade payables	2,334	2,671
	<u>2,334</u>	<u>2,671</u>

See also Note 2(q) 'Payables' and Note 38 'Financial Instruments'.

Note 29: BORROWINGS

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Borrowings from Western Australian Treasury Corporation	4,271	4,054
	<u>4,271</u>	<u>4,054</u>
Non-current		
Borrowings from Western Australian Treasury Corporation	29,164	32,449
	<u>29,164</u>	<u>32,449</u>

Note 30: PROVISIONS

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Employee benefits provision		
Purchased leave	(9)	27
Deferred leave	-	-
Annual Leave ^(a)	5,502	5,728
Long service leave ^(b)	7,128	5,010
	<u>12,621</u>	<u>10,765</u>
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	130	48
	<u>130</u>	<u>48</u>
	<u>12,751</u>	<u>10,813</u>
Non-current		
Employee benefits provision		
Long service leave ^(b)	2,985	3,587
	<u>2,985</u>	<u>3,587</u>
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	28	16
	<u>28</u>	<u>16</u>
	<u>3,013</u>	<u>3,603</u>

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

Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	3,152	3,282
More than 12 months after the reporting period	2,350	2,446

(b) Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	2,753	5,010
More than 12 months after the reporting period	7,361	3,587
	10,114	8,597

(c) The settlement of annual and long service leave gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments. The associated expense, apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost), is included in Note 13 'Other Expenses'.

Movements in other provisions

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

Employment on-cost provisions

Carrying amount at start of period	64	-
Additional provisions recognised	94	64
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefit	-	-
Carrying amount at the end of the period	158	64

The superannuation on-costs are included in the annual and long service leave provisions.

Note 31: OTHER LIABILITIES

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Accrued salaries	1,509	1,261
Superannuation accrued	152	131
Accrued FBT	-	167
Accrued WATC charges	696	611
Accrued Employee Claims	-	5
Other	1,576	55
	3,933	2,230

Note 32: EQUITY

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

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		
Balance at start of period	(6,357)	(10,066)
Prior period adjustment	79	250
Transfer from Asset Revaluation Reserve		-
	(6,278)	(9,816)
Result for the period	(6,646)	3,459
Balance at end of period	(12,924)	(6,357)
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY		
Balance at start of period	84,816	72,291
Contributions by owners		
Capital appropriation ^(a)	2,111	12,765
Other contributions by owners		
Royalties for Regional Fund - South-West Recreational Fishing	-	-
Enhancement Structure Pilot Program Net assets transferred from Government	-	247
Total contribution by owners	86,927	85,303

Distributions to owners

Net assets transferred to Government	-	(487)
Equity transferred from Administered	-	-
Total distribution to owners	-	(487)
Balance at end of period	86,927	84,816

(a) TI 955 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities* designates capital appropriations as contributions by owners in accordance with AASB Interpretation 1038 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities*.

RESERVES**Asset Revaluation Surplus:**

Balance at start of period	10,444	14,759
Transfer to Accumulated Surplus/Deficit	-	-
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	222	(255)
Buildings	1,178	(4,060)
Plant, Equipment and Vehicle	-	-
Balance at end of period ^(b)	11,844	10,444

(b) The asset revaluation surplus is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets, as described in accounting policy Note 2(g) 'Property, Plant and Equipment and Infrastructure'.

Total Equity at end of period	85,847	88,903
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Note 33: NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**Reconciliation of cash**

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:

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	7,330	9,565
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (refer to Note 20)	5,667	7,728
	12,997	17,293

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

Net cost of services	(63,685)	(62,570)
Non-Cash Items		
Depreciation and amortisation expense (Note 8 'Depreciation and amortisation expense')	6,626	4,031
Doubtful Debt expense	-	-
Services received free of charge (Note 19 'Income from State Government')	1,104	771
(Gain)/loss on disposal of PPE (Note 18 'Net gain/loss on disposal of non-current assets')	(181)	3
Employment on-costs (Note 13 'other expenses')	-	-
Impairment expense	986	-
Adjustment for finance activities	(996)	(2,482)
(Increase)/Decrease in Assets		
Accounts receivable - General ^(a)	912	(321)
Prepayments	42	(5)
Accrued Income	(3)	32
Increase/(Decrease) in Liabilities		
Accrued salaries	248	330
Superannuation Accrued	21	55
FBT Accrued	(167)	63
Other Liabilities	1,521	(216)
Liability for employee entitlements	1,343	545
Accounts payable - General	(337)	(153)
Net GST receipts/(payments) ^(b)	-	(45)
Change in GST in receivables/payables ^(c)	73	(209)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(52,493)	(60,171)

(a) Note that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) receivable/payable in respect of

GST and the receivable/payable in respect of the sale/purchase of non-current assets are not included in these items as they do not form part of the reconciling items.

(b) This is the net GST paid/received, i.e. cash transactions.

(c) This reverses out the GST in receivables and payables.

Note 34: COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

The commitments below are inclusive of GST where relevant.

(a) Capital Expenditure Commitments

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

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Within 1 year	1,196	3,977
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	513	-
Later than 5 year	-	-
	1,709	3,977

(b) Non-cancellable operating lease commitments

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

Within 1 year	6,568	4,424
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	6,019	8,595
Later than 5 year	4,295	6,374
	16,882	19,393

The Department has entered into a property lease which is a non-cancellable lease with a five year term, with rent payable monthly in advance. Contingent rent provisions within the lease agreement require that the minimum lease payments shall be increased by 4% CPI per annum.

Note 35: EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There are no significant events occurring after the reporting date that require disclosure or adjustment to the financial statements.

Note 36: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

The following contingent liabilities are additional to the liabilities included in the financial statements.

Contaminated sites

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

The Department has previously reported a suspected contaminated site at the Albany Aquaculture Park to DER. This has been classified by DER as requiring further investigation.

The Department is unable to assess the likely outcome of the classification process until the contamination sites auditor completes an assessment, and accordingly, it is not practicable to estimate the potential financial effect or to identify the uncertainties relating to the amount or timing of any outflows.

Negotiations in progress

The Department is negotiating the settlement of claims for compensation under Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997 that may affect its administered financial position. The maximum financial effect is \$6,550,000.

Note 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Major variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2015 and between the actual results for 2014 and 2015 are shown below. Major variances are considered to be those greater than 10% or \$10 million.

	Variance note	Original budget 2015	Actual 2015	Actual 2014	Variance Estimate and actual	Variance Actual for 2015 and 2014
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Cost of services						
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense		55,077	56,095	53,844	1,018	2,251
Supplies and services	1	14,272	23,112	23,275	8,840	(163)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	2, A	5,326	6,626	4,031	1,300	2,595
Finance costs	3	1,918	2,199	2,233	281	(34)
Accommodation expenses	4, A(i)	3,266	4,620	4,107	1,354	513
Grants and subsidies	5	530	1,810	1,810	1,280	-
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	6, B	500	-	510	(500)	(510)
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	6(i), B(i)	-	28	3	28	25
Other expenses	7, C	8,230	4,424	5,441	(3,806)	(1,017)
Total cost of services		89,119	98,914	95,254	9,795	3,660

NOTE 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

	Variance note	Original budget 2015 \$'000	Actual 2015 \$'000	Actual 2014 \$'000	Variance Estimate and actual \$'000	Variance Actual for 2015 and 2014 \$'000
Income						
Revenue						
User charges and fees		25,844	27,006	24,730	1,162	2,276
Grants and contributions	D	2,541	2,321	2,588	(220)	(267)
Interest revenue	8, E	1,918	664	260	(1,254)	404
Other revenue	9	4,309	5,238	5,106	929	132
Total revenue		34,612	35,229	32,684	617	2,545
Total income other than income from State Government						
		34,612	35,229	32,684	617	2,545
NET COST OF SERVICES						
		54,507	63,685	62,570	9,178	1,115
Income from State Government						
Service appropriations	F	54,187	54,187	61,390	-	(7,203)
Services received free of charge	10, G	780	1,104	771	324	333
Royalties for Regions Fund	H	1,147	1,243	2,564	96	(1,321)
Grants and Contributions	11, I	-	505	1,304	505	(799)
Total Income from State Government		56,114	57,039	66,029	925	(8,990)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD)						
		1,607	(6,646)	3,459	(8,253)	(10,105)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Changes in asset revaluation surplus/(DEFICIT)	12, J	-	1,400	(4,315)	1,400	5,715
Total other comprehensive income		-	1,400	(4,315)	1,400	5,715

NOTE 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

					Variance	Variance
	Variance	Original budget	Actual	Actual	Estimate and	Actual for 2015
	note	2015	2015	2014	actual	and 2014
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION						
ASSETS						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	13, K	5,350	7,330	9,565	1,980	(2,235)
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	14	2,457	5,667	6,212	3,210	(545)
Receivables	15	1,011	7,083	6,764	6,072	319
Amounts receivable for services		2,007	2,007	2,007	-	-
Other current assets	16, L	9,822	85	124	(9,737)	(39)
Total Current Assets		20,647	22,172	24,672	1,525	(2,500)
Non-Current Assets						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	17, L(i)	1,779	-	1,516	(1,779)	(1,516)
Receivables	18, M	23,730	29,211	32,449	5,481	(3,238)
Amounts receivable for services	N	11,863	11,862	9,928	(1)	1,934
Property, plant and equipment	19	83,473	65,652	62,484	(17,821)	3,168
Intangible assets	O	11,250	12,416	13,674	1,166	(1,258)
Total Non-Current Assets		132,095	119,141	120,051	(12,954)	(910)
TOTAL ASSETS		152,742	141,313	144,723	(11,429)	(3,410)

NOTE 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

	Variance note	Original budget 2015 \$'000	Actual 2015 \$'000	Actual 2014 \$'000	Variance Estimate and actual \$'000	Variance Actual for 2015 and 2014 \$'000
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Payables	20, P	3,481	2,334	2,671	(1,147)	(337)
Borrowings	21	8,891	4,271	4,054	(4,620)	217
Provisions	22, Q	9,495	12,751	10,813	3,256	1,938
Other current liabilities	23, R	8,715	3,933	2,230	(4,782)	1,703
Total Current Liabilities		30,582	23,289	19,768	(7,293)	3,521
Non-Current Liabilities						
Borrowings	24, S	23,730	29,164	32,449	5,434	(3,285)
Provisions	T	3,080	3,013	3,603	(67)	(590)
Total Non-Current Liabilities		26,810	32,177	36,052	5,367	(3,875)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		57,392	55,466	55,820	(1,926)	(354)
NET ASSETS		95,350	85,847	88,903	(9,503)	(3,056)
EQUITY						
Contributed equity		86,522	86,927	84,816	405	2,111
Reserves	25, U	15,343	11,844	10,444	(3,499)	1,400
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	26, V	(6,515)	(12,924)	(6,357)	(6,409)	(6,567)
TOTAL EQUITY		95,350	85,847	88,903	(9,503)	(3,056)

NOTE 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

				Variance	Variance	
	Variance	Original budget	Actual	Actual	Estimate and	Actual for 2015
	note	2015	2015	2014	actual	and 2014
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS						
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriation		50,246	52,253	57,474	2,007	(5,221)
Capital contributions	W	2,111	2,111	12,765	-	(10,654)
Holding account drawdown	26(i), W(i)	2,007	-	2,007	(2,007)	(2,007)
Royalties for Regions Fund	X	1,225	1,243	2,564	18	(1,321)
Grants and contributions	27, Y	-	505	1,304	505	(799)
Net cash provided by State Government		55,589	56,112	76,114	523	(20,002)
Utilised as follows:						
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Employee benefits		(55,077)	(54,764)	(52,910)	313	(1,854)
Supplies and services	28, Z	(12,846)	(21,501)	(25,426)	(8,655)	3,925
Finance Costs	29	(4,051)	(2,285)	(2,233)	1,766	(52)
Accommodation	30	(3,266)	(4,620)	(4,275)	(1,354)	(345)
Grants and subsidies	31	(530)	(1,810)	(1,810)	(1,280)	-
GST payments on purchases	AA	(3,533)	(3,699)	(4,418)	(166)	719
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs	32, AB	(500)	-	(510)	500	510
Other payments	33, AC	(7,605)	(2,328)	(2,663)	5,277	335
Receipts						
User charges and fees		25,843	26,885	24,640	1,042	2,245
Grants and contributions	AD	2,541	2,295	1,288	(246)	1,007
Interest received	34, AE	1,983	664	292	(1,319)	372
Other receipts	35, AF	4,116	4,850	3,663	734	1,187
GST receipts on sales	36, AG	581	392	613	(189)	(221)
GST receipts from taxation authority		3,533	3,428	3,578	(105)	(150)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(48,811)	(52,493)	(60,171)	(3,682)	7,678

NOTE 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

	Variance note	Original budget 2015 \$'000	Actual 2015 \$'000	Actual 2014 \$'000	Variance Estimate and actual \$'000	Variance Actual for 2015 and 2014 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Purchase of non-current assets	37	(9,508)	(8,386)	(7,556)	1,122	(830)
Receipts						
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets	38	1,534	181	183	(1,353)	(2)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(7,974)	(8,205)	(7,373)	(231)	(832)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Repayments of borrowings	AH	(4,051)	(4,054)	(463)	(3)	(3,591)
Receipts						
Proceeds from borrowing	39, AI	-	986	-	986	986
Proceeds from industry	40, AJ	4,051	3,358	2,670	(693)	688
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		-	290	2,207	290	(1,917)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(1,196)	(4,296)	10,777	(3,100)	(15,073)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		10,782	17,293	6,516	6,511	10,777
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD		9,586	12,997	17,293	3,411	(4,296)

Major variance Narratives

Variances between estimate and actual

- 1) Actual exceeded budget due to carryover expenditure from 2014 and reclassification of Peek body expenditure from other expenses.
- 2) Increased actual depreciation charges, against the budget expenditure is due to increased rate of amortisation of intangible assets along with a revision of the residual value of some vessels, resulting in increased depreciation.
- 3) Finance costs were higher during the year against budget due to higher borrowings.
- 4) Variance is due to a one-off cleaning cost of the Beacon Island site and a substantial increase in lease rental in 2015 as a result of CPI adjustments and market reviews.
- 5) Actual grants were higher than originally budgeted for by \$1.2m. The variance was due budgeting lower than anticipated.
- 6) There were no Fisheries Adjustments Scheme Buybacks during the year.
- 6i) Variance is due to the Department's policy of not budgeting for a loss on disposals of assets.
- 7) Lower 2015 actual expenditure due to Peek body expenditure, which has been classified as Supplies and Services.

Note 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

- 8) Actual 2015 interest revenue was lower than budget as a result of reclassifying the WATC interest revenue to other revenue.
- 9) See item 8 above.
- 10) The increase of services received free of charge is due to an increase in valuation services from the Western Land Information Authority for 2015.
- 11) Actual variances are due to reclassification to Income from State Government category.
- 12) Land and building asset revaluation increments were recognised during 2015, against decrements in the prior year. Revaluation increments or decrements were not included in the 2015 Budget.
- 13) The cash balance is higher at year end mainly due to underspending in Capital Works.
- 14) 2015 Actual compared to Budget 2015 restricted cash was higher due to the reclassification of the provision for the 27th payroll from non-current to current and a higher cash balance at year end for the Fisheries Schemes Trust Account.
- 15) The estimate compared to the 2015 actual variance is due to reclassification from Other Current Assets, which is predominantly with respect to the current portion of industry funding.
- 16) The estimate compared to the 2015 actual variance is due to reclassification to Receivables, which is predominantly with respect to the current portion of industry funding.
- 17) See Item 14 above.
- 18) Actuals is higher than budget primarily due to additional WATC loan facilities drawn down during the year.
- 19) Balance at 2015 is lower due to lower capital expenditure, impairment of property and marine vessels and increased depreciation.
- 20) Actual payables are lower than prior year due to a lower number of supplier invoices awaiting payment at June 2015.
- 21) Actual current borrowings were lower than the 2015 Budget, due to incorrect budget split between current and non-current.
- 22) Increase in Provisions from previous year was primarily due to an increase in the valuation for Long Service Leave liabilities.
- 23) Actual other current liabilities were lower than the 2015 Budget, due to incorrect budget setting.
- 24) Actual current borrowings were higher than the 2015 Budget, due to incorrect budget split between current and non-current. The variance year-on-year is with respect to industry borrowings (WATC - VFAS).
- 25) Variances are due to revaluations on land during the current year.
- 26) Budget for 2015 was set in light of the 2013-14 positive outcomes that were also expected for 2014-15.
- 26(i) Variance is the result of capital appropriations not being required in the current year as anticipated and as per the prior year.
- 27) Actual grant receipts were higher against a budget, due to a reallocation during the current year specifically to a separate line under "grants and contributions from State Government".
- 28) Actual expenditure is higher than budget, partially due to incorrect budget classification under Other Payments.
- 29) Finance costs are lower against budget due to higher budgeted current borrowings and with new facilities arising later in the financial year.
- 30) See Item 4 above.
- 31) Grant & subsidy were higher than originally budgeted for by \$1.2m. The variance was due budgeting lower than anticipated.
- 32) There were no Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs during 2015.
- 33) Other Payments actual is lower than the budget due to a more accurate payment allocation against specific expenditure categories.
- 34) Actual 2015 interest revenue was lower than budget as a result of reclassifying the WATC interest revenue to other receipts.
- 35) See Item 34 above.

Note 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

- 36) GST Receipts on sales are lower against budget due to lower taxable supplies during the year.
- 37) Purchase of non-current assets is lower than budget and was in line with operational requirement during the year.
- 38) Receipts from sale of non-current physical assets are less than budget due to fewer high value assets being sold than anticipated.
- 39) The proceeds from borrowings for the current year were not anticipated, as such were not budgeted.
- 40) Industry receipt is lower against budget due to some late payments from stakeholders as at 30 June 2015.

Variances between actual results for 2015 and 2014

- A) Increased 2015 actual depreciation charges against the 2014 year actual expenditure due to increased rate of amortisation of intangible assets along with a revision of the residual value of some vessels, resulting in increased depreciation.
- A(i) Variance is due to a one-off cleaning cost of the Beacon Island site.
- B) There were no Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks during the year.
- B(i) Variance against prior year is due to a residual net book value of fitouts disposed of during the current year.
- C) Lower 2015 actual expenditure due to an absence of buy back scheme related to Managed Fishery.
- D) 2015 actual grants & contributions were lower compared to the 2014 year due to reduced third party research grants being received.
- E) Actual 2015 interest was higher against 2014 actual, due higher bank balances held during the year and additional interest received from new industry advances issued during the period along with an interest accrual in the current year.
- F) Lower Service Appropriation received during 2015 compared to the prior year, which was predominantly due to Aquatic Biosecurity Funding.
- G) The increase of services received free of charge is due to an increase in valuation services from the Western Land Information Authority for 2015.
- H) Royalties for Region Funds were lower than prior year due to the completion of Cape Marine Park project in 2014.
- I) Actual variances are due to reclassification to Income from State Government category.
- J) Land and building asset revaluation increments were recognised during 2015, against decrements in the prior year.
- K) The cash balance is lower compared to the prior year due mainly to lower appropriation income for 2015.
- L) Variance is due to the absence of prepaid licences as at 30 June 2015.
- L(i) Variance against prior year is the result of the reclassification of the 27th payroll from non-current to current for 2015.
- M) Variance against 2014 actuals is lower due to a direct correlation against borrowings from the Western Australian Treasury Corporation.
- N) 2015 Actual is higher than the prior year, due to capital appropriation that was undrawn during the current year with respect to asset replacements.
- O) Lower 2015 balance due to standard amortisation during the year.
- P) Actual payables are lower than prior year due to a lower number of supplier invoices awaiting payment at June 2015. Accruals were higher in the current year (refer Note R below).
- Q) \$1.9m increase in Provisions from previous year due mainly to an increase in the valuation for Long Service Leave liabilities.
- R) Other current liabilities were higher than prior year, due to a higher accrual in general expenditure at 30 June 2015. Refer Note P.
- S) Actual non-current borrowings variance year-on-year is with respect to industry borrowings (WATC - VFAS).
- T) Non-current provisions are lower than the prior year, due to a lower non-current component of Long Service Leave liabilities at 30 June 2015.
- U) Variances are due to revaluations on land during the current year.
- V) Variances are an outcome of the Income Statement variances provided with an aggregate of the specific line analysis above.

NOTE 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

W) Lower capital contributed compared to the prior year due to lower fixed asset acquisitions.

W(i) See Item26(i).

X) Royalties for Region Funds were lower than prior year due to the completion of Cape Marine Park Project in 2014.

Y) Actual grant receipts were lower in the current year against the prior year due to prior year funding for Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre, which was not in place in 2015.

Z) Actual expenditure is lower compared to the prior year due to reduced operational expenditure requirements.

AA) GST payments is lower than the prior year as a result of less credible acquisitions.

AB) There were no Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs during 2015.

AC) Other payments actual is lower than the prior year due to a more accurate payment allocation against specific expenditure categories.

AD) Actual grant receipts were higher in the current year against the prior year due to third party consulting project activity undertaken during 2015.

AE) Interest received is higher than the prior year, due to higher cash balances held throughout the year.

AF) Other Receipts actual is higher than the prior year due to greater industry proceeds being received for the repayment of the WATC borrowings during the year.

AG) GST Receipts on sales are lower against the prior year and the budget and are direct result of lower taxable supplies during the year.

AH) Repayment of borrowings is higher than 2014, due to WATC loans being repaid in cash, as opposed to being capitalised as new facilities as in the prior year.

AI) The variance compared to the prior year is with respect to additional borrowings undertaken.

AJ) Proceeds from industry were higher during the current year, compared to 2014, as a direct result of the WATC loan repayments required during this year.

Note 38: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Financial risk management objectives and policies

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

Credit Risk

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

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any allowance for impairment as shown in the table at Note 38(c) 'Financial instruments disclosures' and Note 21 'Receivables'.

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

Allowance for impairment of financial assets is calculated based on objective evidence such as observable data in client credit ratings. For financial assets that are either past due or impaired, refer to Note 38(c) 'Financial instruments disclosures'.

Liquidity Risk

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

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates will affect the Department's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The Department does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks. The Department's exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates relates primarily to the long-term debt obligations.

All borrowings are due to the Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC) and are repayable at fixed rates with varying maturities. Other than as detailed in the interest rate sensitivity analysis table at Note 38(c), the Department is not exposed to interest rate risk because apart from minor amounts of restricted cash, all other cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash are non-interest bearing and have no borrowings other than the Treasurer's advance (non-interest bearing), WATC borrowings and finance leases (fixed interest rate).

Note 38: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

(b) Categories of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of the financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting date are as follows.

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,330	9,565
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	5,667	7,728
Loans and receivables ^(a)	49,579	50,488
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	39,651	41,210

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

(c) Financial Instrument Disclosures

The following table details the Department's maximum exposure to credit risk and the ageing analysis of financial assets. The Department's maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period is the carrying amount of financial assets as shown below. The table discloses the ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired and impaired financial assets. The table is based on information provided to senior management of the Department.

Note 38: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

Ageing analysis of financial assets

	Carrying Amount \$'000	Not past due and not impaired \$'000	Past due but not impaired			
			Up to 1 month \$'000	Up to 1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000
2015						
Cash and cash equivalents	7,330	7,330	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	5,667	5,667	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	1,051	832	104	35	-	80
Loans and Advances	34,659	34,659	-	-	-	-
Amounts Receivable for Services	13,869	13,869	-	-	-	-
	62,576	62,357	104	35	-	80
2014						
Cash and cash equivalents	9,565	9,565	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7,728	7,728	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	959	481	191	49	198	40
Loans and Advances	37,594	37,594	-	-	-	-
Amounts Receivable for Services	11,935	11,935	-	-	-	-
	67,781	67,303	191	49	198	40

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

Note 38: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

Liquidity risk and interest rate risk exposure

The following table details the Department's interest rate exposure and the contractual maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities. The maturity analysis section includes interest and principal cash flows. The interest rate exposure section analyses only the carrying amounts of each item.

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Carrying Amount \$'000	Interest Rate Exposure		Nominal Amount \$'000	Maturity Dates				
			Fixed Interest Rate \$'000	Non- Interest Bearing \$'000		Up to 1 month \$'000	Up to 1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000
2015										
Financial Assets										
Cash and cash equivalents		7,330	-	7,330	7,330	7,330	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2.84	5,667	4,151	1,516	5,667	4,151	-	1,516	-	-
Receivables ^(a)		1,051	-	1,051	1,051	1,051	-	-	-	-
Loans and Advances		34,659	-	34,659	34,659	696	528	4,271	21,878	7,286
Amounts Receivable for Services		13,869	-	13,869	13,869	-	-	2,007	11,862	-
		62,576	4,151	58,425	62,576	13,228	528	7,794	33,740	7,286
Financial Liabilities										
Payables		5,520	-	5,520	5,520	5,520	-	-	-	-
WATC borrowings	5.76	34,131	34,131	-	34,131	696	-	4,271	21,878	7,286
Financial lease liabilities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		39,651	34,131	5,520	39,651	6,216	-	4,271	21,878	7,286

Note 38: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Carrying Amount \$'000	Interest Rate Exposure		Nominal Amount \$'000	Maturity Dates				
			Fixed Interest Rate \$'000	Non- Interest Bearing \$'000		Up to 1 month \$'000	Up to 1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000
2014										
Financial Assets										
Cash and cash equivalents		9,565	-	9,565	9,565	9,565	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2.82	7,728	-	7,728	7,728	6,212	-	-	1,516	-
Receivables ^(a)		959	-	959	959	959	-	-	-	-
Loans and Advances		37,594	-	37,594	37,594	-	-	5,145	20,183	12,266
Amounts Receivable for Services		11,935	-	11,935	11,935	-	-	2,007	9,928	-
		67,781	-	67,781	67,781	16,736	-	7,152	31,627	12,266
Financial Liabilities										
Payables		4,707	-	4,707	4,707	4,707	-	-	-	-
WATC borrowings	6.17	36,503	36,503	-	36,503	-	-	4,054	20,183	12,266
Financial lease liabilities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		41,210	36,503	4,707	41,210	4,707	-	4,054	20,183	12,266

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

Note 38: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table represents a summary of the interest rate sensitivity of the Department's financial assets and liabilities at the end of the reporting period on the surplus for the period and equity for a 1% change in interest rates. It is assumed that the change in interest rates is held constant throughout the reporting period.

	Carrying Amount \$'000	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000	Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000
2015					
Financial Liabilities					
Loans and Advances	34,131	(341)	(341)	341	341
Total Increase/(Decrease)	34,131	(341)	(341)	341	341
	Carrying Amount \$'000	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000	Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000
2014					
Financial Liabilities					
Loans and Advances	36,503	(365)	(365)	365	365
Total Increase/(Decrease)	36,503	(365)	(365)	365	365

Fair Values

All financial assets and liabilities recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, whether they are carried at cost of fair value, are recognised at amounts that represent a reasonable approximation of fair value unless otherwise stated in the applicable notes.

Note 39: REMUNERATION OF SENIOR OFFICERS

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
The number of senior officers whose total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year fall within the following bands are:		
\$130,001 - 140,000	1	-
\$170,001 - 180,000	-	-
\$180,001 - 190,000	1	1
\$190,001 - 200,000	-	-
\$200,001 - 210,000	-	-
\$210,001 - 220,000	-	2
\$220,001 - 230,000	2	1
\$330,001 - 340,000	1	-
\$380,001 - 390,000	-	1
Base remuneration and superannuation	1,145	1,094
Annual leave and long service leave accruals	(132)	12
Other benefits	95	111
Total remuneration of senior officers	1,108	1,217

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

Note 40: REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Auditing the accounts, controls, financial statements and performance indicators	160	144

The expense is included in Note 7 'Supplies and Services'.

Note 41: RELATED BODIES

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

Note 42: AFFILIATED BODIES

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

Note 43: SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Write-Offs		
During the financial year, debts due to the State were written off under the authority of:		
The Accountable Officer	-	-
	-	-
During the financial year these assets were written off the Department's asset register under the authority of:		
The Accountable Officer	7	4
Less: Recovery by Insurance	-	-
	7	4

Act of Grace Payments

During the financial year, there is an act of grace payment made under the authority of:

The Minister	-	190
	-	190

Note 44: JOINTLY CONTROLLED OPERATION

<u>Name of Operation</u>	<u>Output Interest (%)</u>
Fremantle Marine Operations	50

The following represents the Department's 50% ownership interest in the Fremantle Marine Operations with the Department of Transport.

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Non-current assets	-	-
Property, plant and equipment	3,989	3,828
Infrastructure	112	123
	4,101	3,951

Note 45: JOINTLY CONTROLLED ASSETS

<u>Name of Operation</u>	<u>Output Interest (%)</u>
Mandurah Marine Operations Centre	50%

The Department has a shared ownership of crown land with Department of Water and the following amount represents the 50% ownership of the crown land, which is included in the financial statements.

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Non-current assets		
Land	810	805
	810	805

Note 46: SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNTS

2014		2015
\$'000		\$'000

Fisheries Research and Development Account

3,942	Balance at start of period	15,147
	Receipts	
52,785	Contribution from Consolidated Account	43,947
-	Royalties for Regions	1,243
16,042	Fisheries Access Fees	18,269
1,618	Application Fees	1,193
2,592	Grants and Contributions	2,826
7,890	Other Receipts	7,590
292	Interest	664
81,219		75,732
	Payments	
70,014	Contributions to Fisheries WA operations	80,364
70,014		80,364
15,147	Balance at end of period	10,515

The Fisheries Research and Development Account, which was established under the Fisheries Act 1905 (repealed), was continued under the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA 1994). The purpose of the Account is to hold funds in accordance with section 238 of the FRMA 1994 which may be used and applied by the Minister in such manner and in such proportion as the Minister thinks fit for all or any of the purposes prescribed by section 238(5) of the FRMA 1994 and section 37(3), 41 and 55(4) and (5) of the Pearling Act 1990. All revenue and expenditure relating to commercial fishing, fish and fish habitat protection, pearling and aquaculture services is transacted through this account. AFMA Account and Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account no longer exist in 2011-12. The balances of the two funds were transferred to Fisheries Research and Development Account in 2011-12.

Recreational Fishing Account

2,127	Balance at start of period	1,729
Receipts		
18,961	Contribution from Consolidated Account	11,021
-	Contribution by owner ^(a)	-
6,980	Recreational Fishing Licences	7,543
2,564	Royalties for Regions - recurrent	-
-	Interest Revenue	-
147	Other Receipts	200
28,652		18,764
Payments		
29,050	Expenditure on recreational fishing related activities	19,073
29,050		19,073
1,729	Balance at end of period	1,420

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

(a) This is the capital component of the Royalties for Regions funding for the South-West. Recreational Fishing Enhancement Structure Pilot Program and is formally designated as contribution by owner and will form part of the contributed equity of the Department.

Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account

447	Balance at start of period	417
Receipts		
-	WATC loan receipts	-
	Repayments from Industry for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes	5,258
2,670		
500	Specific State contributions to fisheries adjustment	500
3,170		5,758
Payments		
	Loan repayment, Interests and guarantee fees to WACT for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes	5,113
2,690		
510	Unit buy back State Scheme	-
3,200		5,113
417	Balance at end of period	1,062

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.

Fisheries Private Monies Trust Account

75	Balance at start of period	75
Receipts		
25	Proceeds from the sale of seized fish	1
25		1
Payments		
25	Monies paid	16
25		16
75	Balance at end of period	60

The purpose of this account is to hold moneys seized and proceeds from the sale of seized fish pursuant to the Fisheries Act 1905 pending prosecution action.

The Fisheries Act 1905 has been repealed and replaced by the FRMA 1994.

Fish Farm Bond Deposits Trust Account

94	Balance at start of period	81
Receipts		
2	Interests	2
-	Bond Monies	-
2		2
Payments		
2	Distribution of interests	2
13	Refund of Bond Monies	3
15		5
81	Balance at end of period	78

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.

Note 47: CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

2014		2015
\$'000		\$'000
98	Balance at start of period	16
Income		
-	Application fees and Recreational Boat Licences	-
757	Payments from the Commonwealth	818
2	Other	2
759		820
Expenditure		
257	Salaries	265
280	Travel & Accommodation	260
23	Administration	1
281	On-costs	291
841		817
16	Balance at end of period	19

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

Note 48: DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTERED INCOME AND EXPENSES BY SERVICE

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<u>Income</u>		
For Transfer:		
User charges and fees	317	324
Income from State Government	-	-
Total administered income	317	324
COST OF SERVICE		
<u>Expenses</u>		
Transfer to Consolidated Account	317	324
Other expenses	-	-
Total administered expenses	317	324

Note 49: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTERED ITEMS

	Variance note	Original budget 2015 \$'000	Actual 2015 \$'000	Actual 2014 \$'000	Variance Estimate and actual \$'000	Variance Actual for 2015 and 2014 \$'000
<u>Income</u>						
For Transfer:						
User charges and fees	A	-	317	324	317	(7)
Income from State Government		-	-	-	-	-
Total administered income		-	317	324	317	(7)
COST OF SERVICE						
<u>Expenses</u>						
Transfer to Consolidated Account	A	-	317	324	317	(7)
Other expenses		-	-	-	-	-
Total administered expenses		-	317	324	317	(7)

Variances between actual 2015 and budget 2015

A) Administered income and expenditure was omitted from the budget submission.

Note 50: ADMINISTERED ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY SERVICE

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents	44	146
Receivables	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Administered Current Assets	44	146
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Administered Non-Current Assets	-	-
TOTAL ADMINISISTERED ASSETS	44	146
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Payables	-	-
Other	44	16
Total Administered Current Assets	44	16
<u>Non-Current Liabilities</u>		
Other	-	-
Total Administered Non-Current Liabilities	-	-
TOTAL ADMINISISTERED LIABILITIES	44	16

Key performance indicators

Certification of performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2015

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 2015.



Heather Brayford

Accountable Authority

18 September 2015

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

For 2014/15, the proportion of fish stocks identified as being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation is 3%.

Annual stock assessments of the fisheries that are subject to management are undertaken by the Department. 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. Performance is measured as the proportion of fisheries (for which there is sufficient data) in which the breeding stocks of each target or indicator species are being maintained at sustainable levels given the fishing effort and normal environmental conditions; or they are recovering from a depleted state at an appropriate rate following management intervention. The Department's 2014/15 Budget Papers state that the target for the proportion of fisheries with breeding stocks at risk from fishing is less than 6%.

For the 2014/15 performance review, 38 fisheries have been reviewed, which is the same as for 2013/14.

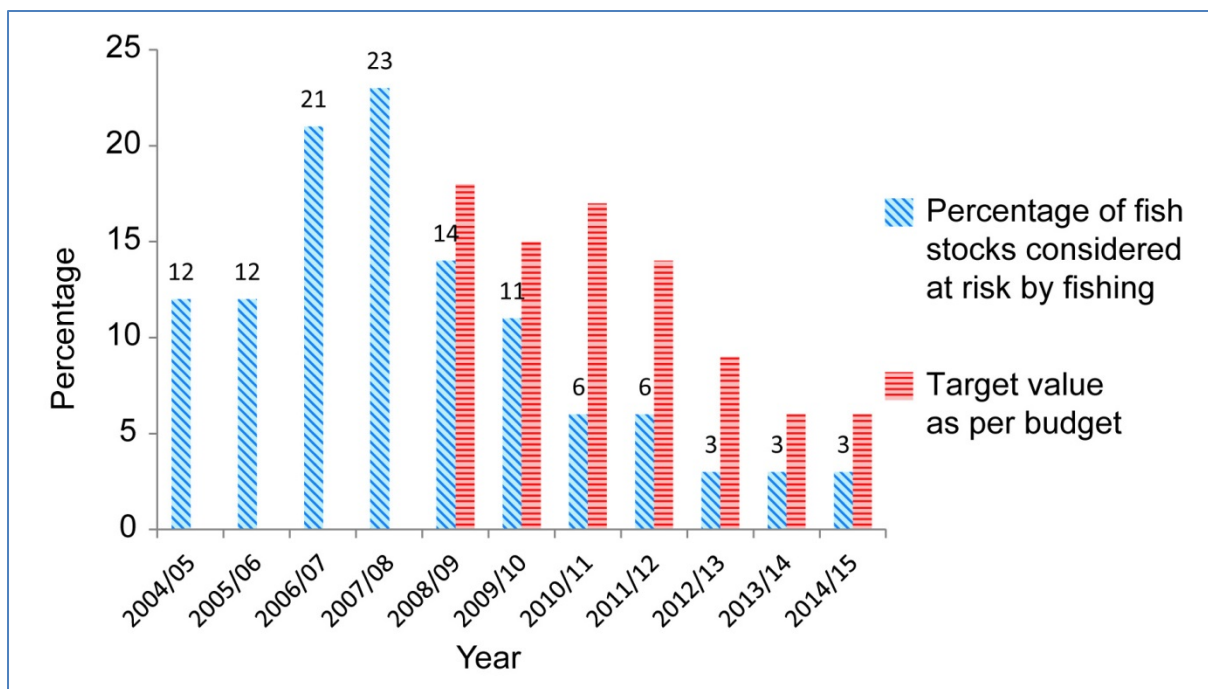
For the 38 fisheries reviewed, the breeding stock assessments are available for the major species taken in 36 (95%) of these fisheries. For the other two fisheries, insufficient data were available on the target species to make a critical assessment. In situations where unmonitored stocks are assessed as having the potential to become overfished, they are given priority for new research and/or management.

Within the group of 36 assessed fisheries, 29 were considered to have adequate breeding stock levels and a further two fisheries – the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery (WCDSF) and Shark Bay Crab Fishery – had breeding stocks considered to be recovering at acceptable rates (86% of fisheries). The WCDSF targets relatively long-lived species so its recovery is expected to take a number of years to complete. The management actions taken for the Shark Bay Crab Fishery includes a conservative Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) being imposed

^a [Go to Appendix 1](#) of this Annual Report for information supporting this Key Performance Indicator.

since the resumption of commercial fishing to enable the recovery of this stock from the impact of the heatwave event four years ago.

Of the remaining 14% of fisheries, only the Australian Herring Fishery has been assessed as having stock levels that are not considered at sustainable levels, given usual fishing effort and current environmental conditions. A further four fisheries were also assessed as having inadequate breeding stocks solely because of the negative impacts of environmental influences, not as a result of fishing. The increased mortality of adults and extremely poor recruitment levels for scallops in Shark Bay and the Abrolhos Islands region, which was initiated during the marine heatwave that began in 2011, has continued with limited recovery in parts of Shark Bay.



KPI figure 1: The proportion (%) of commercial fisheries in which breeding stocks of the major target species are both assessed and considered to be at risk due to fishing^a.

Consequently, these scallop fisheries remained closed during the reporting period. The stock of crabs in Cockburn Sound is again showing signs of environmental impact on its growth and recruitment, as is the case for the West Coast Beach Bait

^a Note: Four other fisheries (12%) were also considered to have inadequate breeding stocks in 2014/15, but this was because of unusual environmental factors, not as a result of fishing.

Fishery. Therefore, while a total of 14% of fisheries have stock levels that are not considered adequate, only the stocks in one fishery (or 3% of those assessed) are considered inadequate mostly as a result of exploitation. Revised management arrangements are progressing to deal with this issue (KPI figure 1).

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

For 2014/15, the proportion of commercial fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved is 89%.

This indicator provides an assessment of the success of the Department's management plans and regulatory activities in keeping fish catches at appropriate levels (including those in a recovery phase). This involves assessing the actual catch or effort against a target catch or effort range that has been determined for each of the major commercial fisheries by the Department. The Department's 2014/15 Budget Papers state that the target is 95%.

For effort-managed fisheries in WA, each management plan seeks to directly control the amount of fishing effort applied to stocks, with the level of catch taken providing an indication of the plan's effectiveness. Where the plan is operating effectively, the catch by the fishery should fall within a projected range. The extent of this range reflects the degree to which normal environmental variations affect the recruitment of juveniles to the stock, which cannot be 'controlled' by the management plan. Additional considerations include market conditions, fleet rationalisation or other factors that may result in ongoing changes to the amount of effort expended in a fishery, which will, in turn, influence the appropriateness of acceptable catch ranges for certain fisheries.

For quota-managed fisheries, the management arrangements' success is determined by the majority of the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) being achieved with the catch taken using an acceptable amount of fishing effort. If unusually large effort is needed to take the TACC, or the industry fails to achieve the TACC by a significant margin, this may indicate that the abundance of the stock is

^a [Go to Appendix 1](#) of this Annual Report for information supporting this Key Performance Indicator.

significantly lower than anticipated. For these reasons, an appropriate range of fishing effort to take the TACC has also been incorporated for assessing the performance of quota-managed fisheries.

The major commercial fisheries that have target catch or effort ranges account for most of the commercial value of WA's landed catch. Comparisons between the actual catches (or effort) with the target ranges have been undertaken for 29 of the 38 fisheries [referred to in the 'Stock status and catch ranges for major commercial fisheries' in Appendix 1](#) on page 159, which is one more than used last year.

There are still a relatively high number of fisheries not assessed. This is due to a combination of ongoing environmental issues affecting stocks in some regions (see previous page) and poor economic conditions for some fisheries. These factors meant a number of fisheries were either closed or did not have sufficient catch levels during this reporting period.

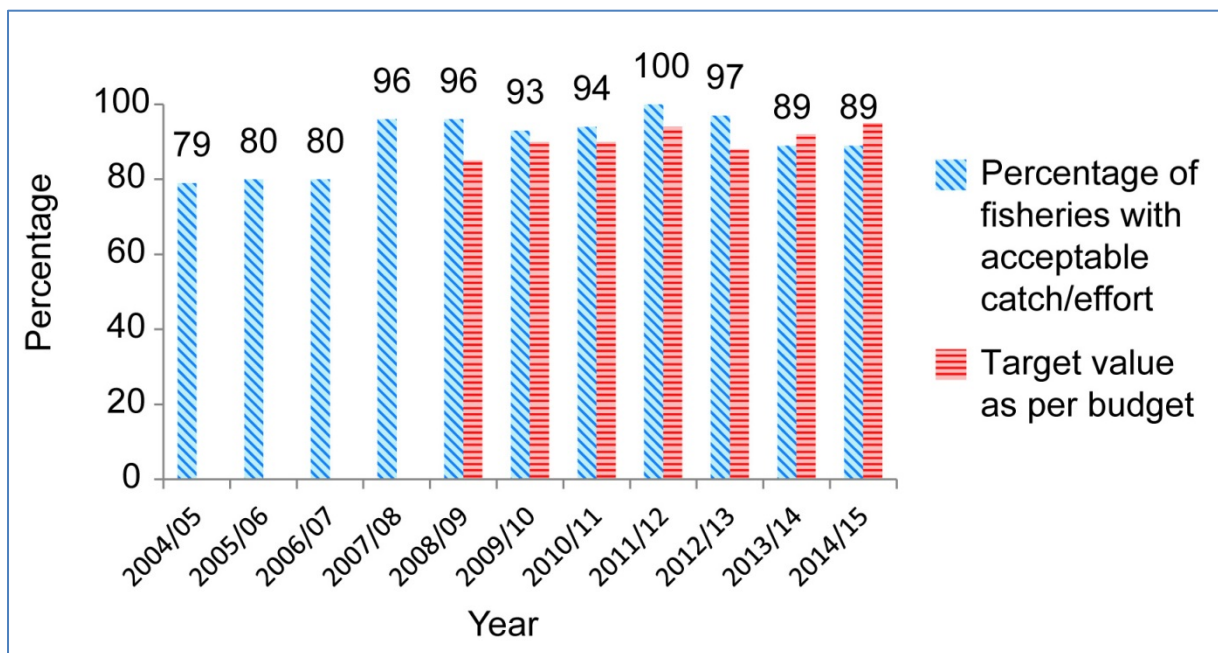
Three fisheries (Cockburn Sound Crabs, Shark Bay Scallops, Abrolhos Islands and Mid West (Scallops) Trawl), which were all affected by unusual environmental conditions, continue to have their recruitment impacted with the scallop fisheries' catches again set to zero (0) and with only very limited fishing for Cockburn Sound crabs occurring. The setting of zero or very limited catches in these fisheries highlights the significant management interventions we have made to recover and rebuild these stocks. These stocks are being closely monitored by the Department to allow the fisheries to re-open when stocks have rebuilt to the level to support sustainable fishing.

Of the 29 fisheries where 'target ranges' were available and a material level of fishing was undertaken in 2013/14, eleven were catch-quota managed with 18 subject to effort control management.

Ten of these 11 individually transferable quota (ITQ) managed fisheries operated within their target effort/catch ranges or were acceptably below the effort range (Roe's abalone, pearl oysters, purse seine fisheries). The South Coast Greenlip/Brownlip Abalone Fishery had an effort level that exceeded the acceptable level and a reduction in TACC will occur in the 2015 season.

In the 18 effort-controlled fisheries, 10 were within, one was acceptably above and six were acceptably below their target catch ranges. The catch of snapper in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery was unacceptably above the range for this species in some management areas, although the overall fishery catch was within the range. As a result, management arrangements for this fishery have now been adjusted. The West Coast Beach Bait Fishery catch was still well below historical levels, prompting a review of its status.

In summary, 26 of the 29 commercial fisheries assessed (89%) were considered to have met their performance criteria, or were affected by factors outside the purview of the management plan/arrangements (KPI figure 2), which is close to the target level of 95%.



KPI figure 2: The proportion (%) of commercial fisheries in which the catch or effort reported is acceptable relevant to the target management range being applied.

1.3 The proportion of recreational fisheries in which catches or effort levels are acceptable^a

For 2014/15, the proportion of recreational fisheries in which acceptable catches are achieved is 85%.

This indicator provides an assessment of the success of our management plans and regulatory activities in keeping fish catches by this sector at appropriate levels. This includes both stock sustainability (including stocks in a recovery phase) and our ability to meet integrated fisheries management (IFM) objectives. For shared fisheries (those that have a material – or significant – recreational and commercial catch level), IFM determines the appropriate catch allocations to each sector with this process being progressively phased in over the next ten years.

The Department is beginning to determine explicit target catch or effort ranges for each of the major recreational fisheries in conjunction with any IFM-based allocation decisions. This is only the second time this indicator has been measured and the Department's 2014/15 Budget Papers state that the target is 80%.

For the purposes of this indicator, 19 fisheries or stocks have been identified as having a material recreational catch share. Over time, the indicator may need to expand to include reference to fisheries or stocks for which there are other material sectoral shares (e.g. customary fishing). Of these 19, only seven currently have explicit catch ranges developed and another six have implicit ranges that can be used to assess acceptability. Of these 13 stocks or fisheries, 11 had catch levels that were within an acceptable catch range.

The continuing low levels of recreational catch for the West Coast Abalone Fishery indicate there may be concerns for the reef platform part of this stock following the marine heatwave. In addition, the recreational catch of one demersal scalefish species, in the northern section of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery, may be too high and we are therefore considering making management adjustments.

^a [Go to Appendix 1](#) of this Annual Report for information supporting this Key Performance Indicator.

Consequently, the percentage of recreational fisheries with acceptable catch levels was 85%, which exceeds the target level of 80%. This has improved from last year when the percentage of recreational fisheries with acceptable catch levels was 77%.

2.1 The volume of State commercial fisheries (including aquaculture) production

For 2014/15, the volume of State commercial fishing (including aquaculture) production is 19,961 tonnes.

We aim to manage the State's fisheries in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. This performance indicator deals with the production component of the 'triple bottom line' approach. Sustainably managed commercial fisheries provide benefits to the State as a result of significant local and export earnings from fish and fish products. Commercial fisheries that are not managed sustainably will suffer reduced production, as less fish products will be available to the catching sectors.

The production from WA's commercial, pearling and aquaculture sectors is published annually by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), based on data supplied by industry to our Research Division. Information for the years 2011/12 to 2013/14 in broad groupings is provided in Table 1 below. The 2014/15 Budget Papers state that the target for production is 20,500 tonnes, which represents a production level that is stable or increasing.

The overall tonnage of commercially caught crustaceans in 2013/14 was again up compared to 2012/13, mostly due to an increase in the western rock lobster TACC.

The production of the mollusc fisheries in 2013/14 declined from the previous year but still remained above the low level of 2011/2012 when the Abrolhos Islands and Shark Bay Scallop Trawl Fisheries were first closed following the impacts on these stocks from adverse environmental conditions.

The finfish catch is generated from a large number of separate fisheries and stocks. The annual finfish production in 2013/14 decreased again from that in 2012/13 due to declines across a number of fisheries.

The increased production in the 'Other' category reflects the resumption of fishing for beche-de mer.

Total aquaculture production declined in 2012/13 from the levels in the previous two years. While abalone production increased substantially, this was offset by reductions in the marine finfish and mussel sectors. The mussel losses were primarily due to poor spat settlement and predation.

In summary, the overall tonnage of production in 2013/14 was similar to the last two years, which have been in the order of 20,000 tonnes. The WA commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors will continue to be affected by a combination of significant external influences on markets and from the impacts of natural fluctuations in the abundances of key species, and the increasing adoption of strategies to optimise economic returns rather than catch levels.

KPI table 1: Western Australian fisheries production – years 2011/12 to 2013/14

	2011/12 ^a t	2012/13 ^a t	2013/14 ^b t
Crustaceans	8,452	8,832	9,525
Molluscs	674	868	802
Fish	9,179	9,149	8,612
Other^c	43	13	56
Pearling^{d, e}	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Aquaculture^f	1,598	1,522	966
TOTAL PRODUCTION	19,946	20,384	19,961

Tonnage values are calculated from the Catch and Effort Statistics (CAES) data supplied by fishers on a monthly/trip basis, or quota returns supplied on a daily basis.

^a Figures have not been adjusted to account for late production returns and validation of databases, so may differ slightly from values published elsewhere.

^b Figures current as at end of financial year.

^c Miscellaneous invertebrates, e.g. beche-de-mer and sea urchins, previously reported under molluscs.

^d Pearl oyster products other than pearls are included under molluscs.

^e Pearl production is not based on volume therefore production figures are no longer reported.

^f Excludes hatchery production plus algae production for beta-carotene; western rock oyster and abalone aquaculture production due to confidentiality (single operators).

Sources: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES); Department of Fisheries, Western Australia

Community outcomes

We aim to manage the State's fisheries in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. Sustainably-managed fisheries and aquatic environments provide benefits to the State by providing a range of recreational opportunities and experiences to the community from snorkelling and looking at fish in their natural environment to 'catching a feed' for the family. Effectiveness indicators associated with community outcomes are:

- The participation rate in recreational fishing; and
- The satisfaction rating of the broader community and stakeholders as to their perceptions of the extent to which we are achieving aquatic resources management objectives.

The information used to assess our performance against these effectiveness indicators is derived from an annual telephone-based community survey and a biennial telephone-based stakeholder survey. These surveys are conducted in order to:

- measure the level of recall and awareness of our informational and promotional activities;
- assess the understanding and satisfaction of the Western Australian community and fisheries stakeholders of our management strategies across commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, aquaculture/pearling, and fish and fish habitat protection; and
- to examine the key aspects of fishing and appreciation of the aquatic environment by the Western Australian community.

The results from these surveys are used to monitor, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of our programs, activities and functions.

An external research company contracted by the Department conducted the 2015 Community Survey in May 2015. Survey respondents were asked about their experiences and views for the 12-month period prior to their interview date (i.e. June

2014 to May 2015). Of a total of 5004 in-scope respondents (WA residents aged 18 years and older), 701 interviews were completed representing a response rate of 14%.

The 701 interviews comprised:

- 542 respondents from major cities;
- 62 respondents from inner regional areas; and
- 97 respondents from outer regional/remote/very remote areas or who were migratory residents.

This sample was weighted to reflect the population based on March 2015 census population statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), with the survey providing estimates for the 2014/15 financial year.

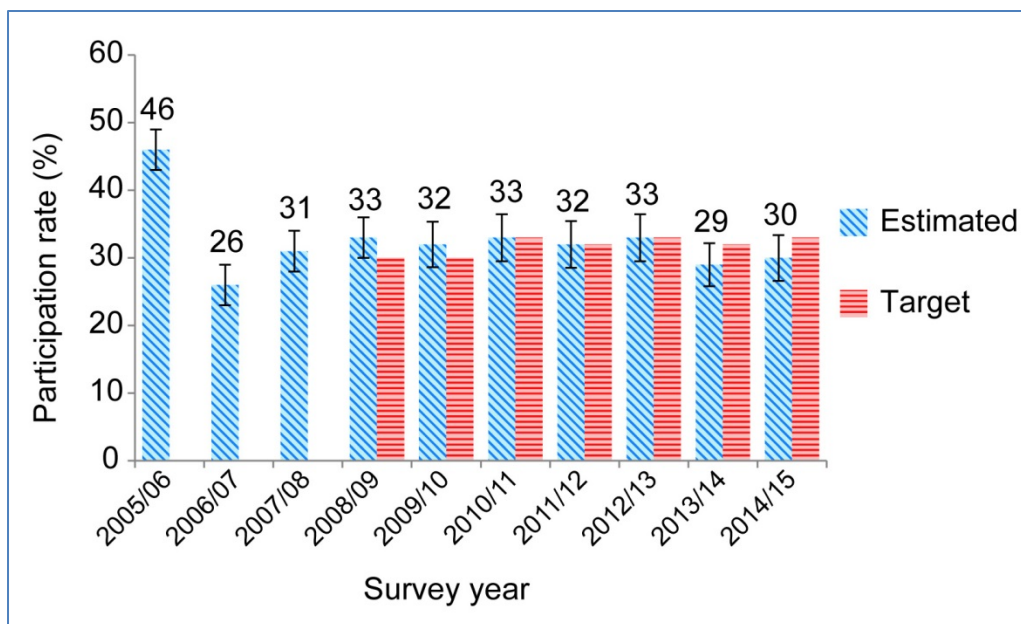
An external research company contracted by the Department also conducted the 2015 Stakeholder Survey in May 2015. Stakeholders were identified by senior Departmental staff in the Aquatic Management, Aquaculture and Aquatic Environment Branches. A total of 540 individuals were contacted for the survey, with a total of 160 interviews completed representing a response rate of 29.6 %. In order to provide a balanced view across all stakeholder groups, forty interviews were conducted with each stakeholder group, i.e. commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, the aquatic environment and aquaculture and pearling.

3.1 Participation rate in recreational fisheries

For 2014/15, the participation rate in recreational fishing is 29.6% of the population, approximately 711,000 people

The level of participation in recreational fisheries and frequency that respondents participate in recreational fishing is a measure of the utilisation of this community resource. Recreational fisheries also provide social and economic benefits for the community. These may include social benefits, such as spending time with family or friends and/or economic benefits, such as the sale of tackle, boats and other gear, and economic support for boating and tourism industries based on fishing.

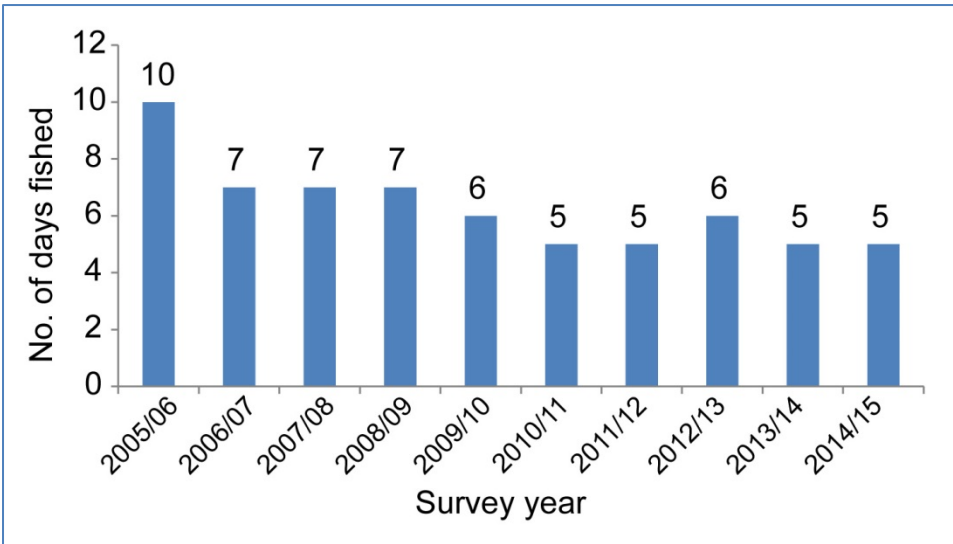
The Department's 2014/15 Budget Papers state that the target participation rate in recreational fisheries in Western Australia is 33%. Based on survey data, the 2014/15 participation-rate was estimated as 29.6% (95% CI [26.2%, 33.0%]) of the population. This participation rate is similar to the participation rate reported in recent years (i.e. ~ 30-33%; see KPI Figure 3). Based on the estimated residential population of Western Australia aged four and older at 30 June 2014 (ABS 2014)^a, the number of people in Western Australia who participated in recreational fishing at least once in the previous 12-month period was approximately 711,000 (95 % CI [630,000, 792,000]). This is assuming that persons age four or younger did not fish and that the participation rate was constant for the population five years of age and older.



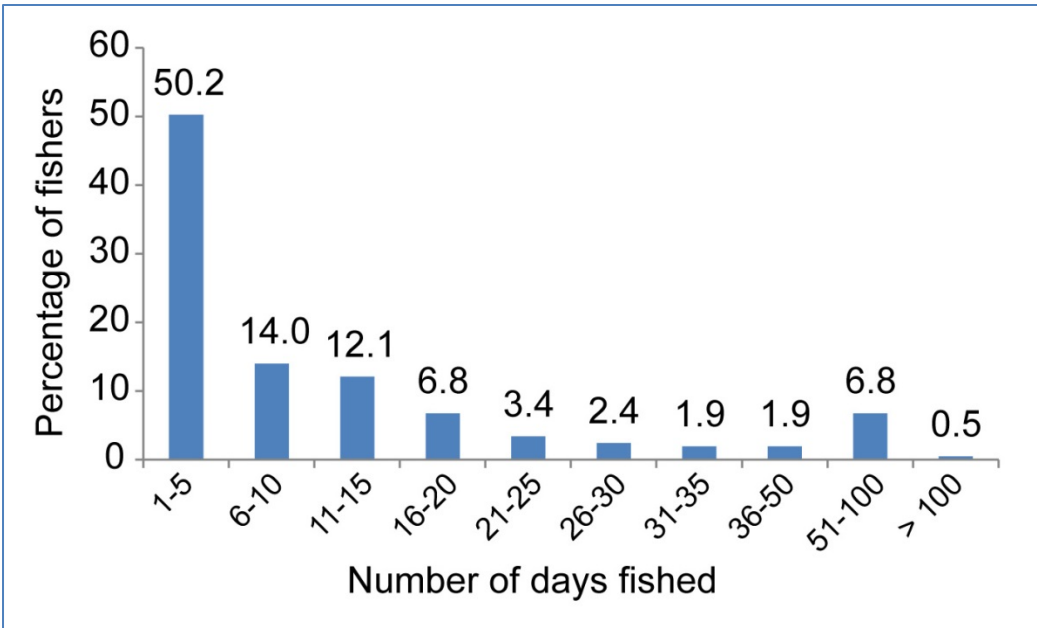
KPI figure 3: Estimated (+ 95% CI;) and target participation rate of Western Australian residents in recreational fisheries from 2005/06 through 2014/15.

The number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last 12-month period ranged from one to 220 days. The median number of days fished by recreational fishers over the 2014/15 financial year was five days (see KPI figure 4), and the mean number of days fished was 14 days; half (50.2%) of all recreational fishers fished between one and five days over the 12-month period (See KPI figure 5).

^a [Australian Demographic Statistics, Sept. 2014: Estimated resident population, by age and sex - at 30 June 2014.](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3101.0Sep%202014) <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3101.0Sep%202014>

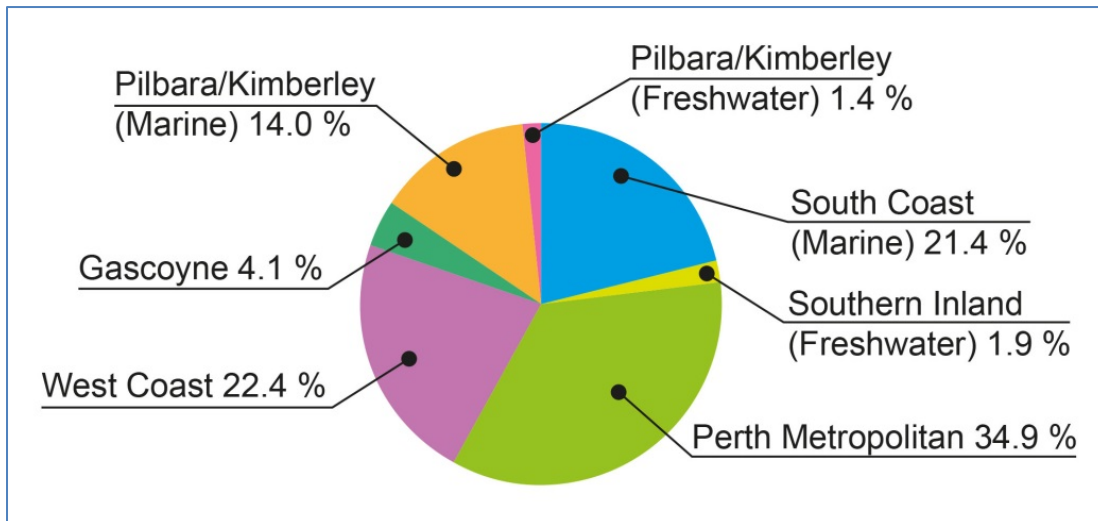


KPI figure 4: Median number of days fished by recreational fishers in Western Australia from 2005/06 through 2014/15.



KPI figure 5: Distribution of total number of days fished by recreational fishers in Western Australia in 2014/15.

The Perth metropolitan area from Yanchep to Mandurah was the most popular area for recreational fishing in the State, with 34.9% of the total effort occurring in this region (see KPI Figure 6). The west coast region (excluding the Perth metropolitan area) was the next most popular area for recreational fishing in the State with 22.4% of effort, followed by the south coast marine region (21.4%), Pilbara/Kimberley marine region (14.0%), Gascoyne region (4.1%), Southern Inland freshwater regions (1.9%), and Pilbara /Kimberley freshwater regions (1.4%).



KPI figure 6: Regional distribution of recreational fishing effort throughout Western Australia in 2014/15.

3.2 Satisfaction rating of broader community and stakeholders as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department is achieving aquatic resources management objectives.

Broader community satisfaction rating

For 2014/15, the satisfaction rating of the broader community as to the extent to which the Department is achieving aquatic resource management objectives is 84.8%.

This effectiveness indicator reports on the satisfaction rating of the broader community and stakeholders as to their perceptions of the extent to which we are achieving aquatic resource management objectives. In order to assess this indicator, community and stakeholder satisfaction is measured across four key management areas: commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, aquaculture/pearling and protection of fish habitat.

As part of the community and stakeholder surveys, respondents were asked to rate the Department in their management across each of these four areas. Rating options included “very poor”, “poor”, “good” or “very good”. Note that only respondents that were aware the Department was responsible for a management area were asked to rate our performance for that management area as part of the community survey. All stakeholder respondents were asked about each management area, regardless of their primary interest area.

For both the community and stakeholder assessments, satisfaction rates are calculated for each management area as the proportion of respondents who rated our management of that particular area as “good” or “very good”. The overall satisfaction rate is an average of the satisfaction ratings across these four management areas. Note that responses of “can’t say” and “neither” were excluded from the calculation of the satisfaction rates.

The Department’s 2014/15 Budget Papers state that the target overall satisfaction rating by the broader community is 85%. Based on survey data, the Department was given an overall satisfaction rate of 84.8% (95% CI [81.1%, 88.5%]) by the Western Australian community across these four management areas in 2014/15. This rate is similar to those reported for recent years (see KPI figure 7). The 2014/15 satisfaction rates for each management area are provided in KPI table 2.

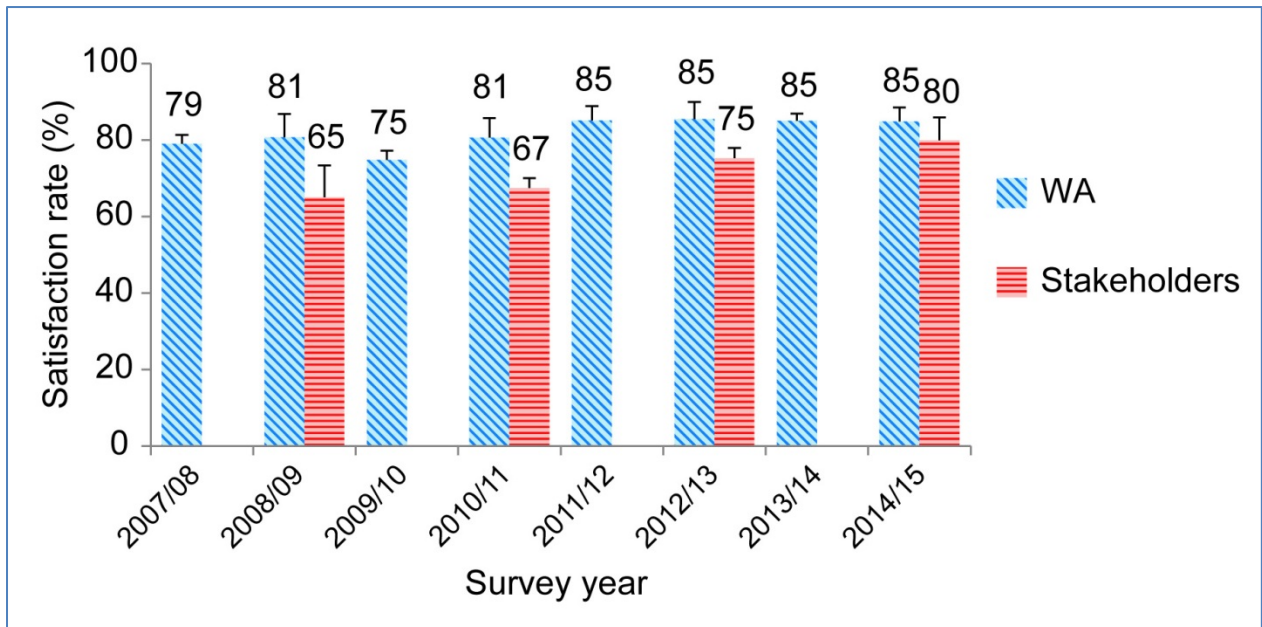
KPI table 2: Satisfaction rate of the Western Australian community across key fisheries management areas in 2014/15.

Key Fisheries Management Areas	Number of Respondents	Satisfaction Rate
Commercial Fisheries	222	80.2 %
Recreational Fisheries	261	87.8 %
Aquaculture and Pearling	173	83.2 %
Fish Habitat Protection	124	88.1 %
Overall		84.8 %

Stakeholder Satisfaction Rating

For 2014/15, the satisfaction rating of our stakeholders as to the extent to which the Department is achieving aquatic resource management objectives is 79.9%.

The Department’s 2014/15 Budget Papers state that the target overall satisfaction rating by our stakeholders is 75%. The 2015 Stakeholder Survey indicated a 79.9% (95% CI ± [73.9%, 85.9%]) overall satisfaction rate across the four management areas (see KPI figure 7). As for previous years, the satisfaction rating of stakeholders was lower than the satisfaction rating of the broader community; however, the satisfaction rate in 2014/15 was an improvement on the value of 75.3% from 2012/13. The next stakeholder survey will be conducted in 2017.



KPI figure 7: Estimated overall satisfaction rate (+ 95% CI) of the broader Western Australian community and Departmental stakeholders (from 2007/08 through 2014/15).

Key efficiency indicators

The Department's efficiency indicators have been calculated by dividing the total service cost in a functional area by the hours delivered in that functional area.

The measures enable analysis of variance in costs from year-to-year and provide a benchmark for comparison against like service delivery.

The key efficiency indicators provide information on the average cost per hour of service required to deliver services and outcomes, and include all costs associated with the specific service. To report the total cost of service and hourly rate, department-wide corporate overheads, executive and divisional support expenses are distributed across services and incorporated into key efficiency indicators based on the total direct hours delivered by each service.

Grants, fisheries adjustments and payments to stakeholder groups are excluded from key efficiency indicators (as appropriate) where these expenses are not considered to be a cost of service delivery.

In calculating the efficiency indicator targets, it is assumed that the Department will operate at full capacity (i.e. all full-time equivalent positions occupied) for the full year. This is not normally the case and consequently the target cost per hour is

normally less than the actual cost. This fact is demonstrated in the closer alignment between the actual results from one year to the next.

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

Service 1: Fisheries Management

Service description:

Fisheries management includes licensing, the development of policy and procedural frameworks for the management of the State's fisheries, aquaculture and the aquatic environment including legislation and management plans, consultation with fishing industry stakeholders and the community.

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

KPI table 3: Service 1 – Fisheries Management

	Actual 2011/12	Actual 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Target 2014/15	Actual 2014/15
Average cost per hour of management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments)	\$167	\$192	\$187	\$219	\$228

Explanation of significant variances between 2014/15 target and 2014/15 actual

The 2014/15 actual average cost per hour was higher than the target 2014/15 partially due to increased depreciation of capitalised computer software during the year.

Explanation of significant variances between 2014/15 actual and 2013/14 actual

The 2014/15 actual average cost per hour versus the actual 2013/14 reflects increased operating costs partially due to increase depreciation from capitalised computer software from during the year.

Service 2: Enforcement and Education

Service description:

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

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

KPI table 4: Service 2 – Enforcement and Education

	Actual 2011/12	Actual 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Target 2014/15	Actual 2014/15
Average cost per hour of enforcement and education	N/A	N/A	\$197	\$183	\$207

With effect from the 2013-14 reporting period, the Under Treasurer approved the abolishment of the Marine Safety Service and the amalgamation of the Compliance and Education Service and the Marine Safety Service into the Enforcement and Education Service. As a result, only 2013/14 figures are comparable, and figures prior to 2013/14 have been excluded from Table 4.

Explanation of significant variances between 2014/15 target and 2014/15 actual

The 2014/15 actual average cost per hour versus the target 2014/15 reflects the marginal increase in operating costs of services and suppliers during the year.

Explanation of significant variances between 2014/15 actual and 2013/14 actual

The 2014/15 actual average cost per hour versus the actual 2013/14 reflects the marginal increase in operating costs of services and suppliers during the year.

Service 3: Research and Assessment

Service description:

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

Efficiency in Service 3 is described as the average cost per hour for research and assessment services as outlined in the following table.

KPI table 5: Service 3 – Research and Assessment

	Actual 2011/12	Actual 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Target 2014/15	Actual 2014/15
Average cost per hour of research and assessment	\$130	\$119	\$133	\$121	\$124

Explanation of significant variances between 2014/15 target and 2014/15 actual

The 2014/15 actual average cost per hour was in line with the 2014/15 target.

Explanation of significant variances between 2014/15 actual and 2013/14 actual

The 2014/15 actual average cost per hour was marginally lower than the prior year primarily due to reduced shark mitigation research being undertaken during the year.

Ministerial directives

No ministerial directives were received during the year.

Capital works program

Capital works undertaken during the year focused on a number of building, infrastructure and information technology projects to enable us to meet our corporate and operational needs in regional and metropolitan locations, as outlined in the table below.

Table 3: Capital works program 2014/15

Asset class	Planned Expenditure \$'000	Actual Expenditure^a \$'000
Information systems	\$2,269	\$1,441
Plant and equipment	\$912	\$424
Buildings and infrastructure	\$7,347	\$5,116
Vessels	\$1,216	\$923
TOTAL	\$11,744	\$7,904

Information systems

The 2014/15 actual expenditure related mainly to final implementation costs for the Fish Eye licensing and entitlement management system, and implementation of Corporate Services payroll and finance systems following the decommissioning of the Office of Shared Services.

Expenditure on Fish Eye licensing entitlement management system and the implementation of Corporate Services payroll and finance systems was lower than planned expenditure.

Buildings and infrastructure

The Department made a final payment of \$3.5 million towards the major refurbishment of the Watermans Bay Facility under the Indian Ocean Marine

^a Expenditure reported on a cash basis.

Research Centre Project. The Department also allocated \$1.1 million for the construction of a storage facility in Broome.

Expenditure was lower than planned due to the Karratha Storage Facility and the replacement of public jetties on East Wallabi and Beacon Islands being delayed until 2015/16.

Vessels

The capital program for 2014/15 funded the continuing maintenance of a variety of vessels to support the Department's enforcement, education and research services.

Pricing policy for services provided

We receive a large proportion of our revenue from commercial access fees. Commercial access to fish resources is determined to reflect an appropriate payment to the community for access to that resource. Other regulatory fees and charges related to commercial fishing, aquaculture and recreational fishing are set in accordance with government policy and the level of cost recovery is based on the nature of the transaction.

In 2014, we reviewed how we price licence and application fees under the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* to ensure the correct cost attribution to these fees. We have used this formula for the 2014/15 financial year.

Charges for goods and services are determined in accordance with *Costing and Pricing Government Services: Guidelines for Use by Agencies in the Western Australian Public Sector* published by the Department of Treasury.

Governance disclosures

Contracts with senior officers

At the date of reporting, other than normal contracts of employment, no senior officers, or firms of which senior officers are members, or entities in which senior officers have substantial interests, had any interests in existing or proposed contracts with the Department of Fisheries.

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 assists the Minister in the administration of legislation under five State Acts of Parliament.

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*.

Other legislation

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

- *Animal Welfare Act 2002*
- *Auditor General Act 2006*
- *Competition and Consumer Act 2010^a*
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003*
- *Credit Act 1984*
- *Disability Services Act 1993*
- *Electronic Transactions Act 2011*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999**
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- *Financial Management Act 2006*
- *Firearms Act 1973*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1992*

^a Commonwealth legislation

- *Government Employees' Housing Act 1964*
- *Government Financial Responsibility Act 2000*
- *Industrial Relations Act 1979*
- *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*
- *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999^a*
- *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*
- *Occupiers' Liability Act 1985*
- *Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972*
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2003*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*
- *Spent Convictions Act 1988*
- *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004*
- *State Records Act 2000*
- *State Superannuation Act 2000*
- *State Supply Commission Act 1991*
- *State Trading Concerns Act 1916*
- *Volunteers and Food and Other Donors (Protection from Liability) Act 2002*
- *Western Australian Marine Act 1982*
- *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*
- *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004.*

^a Commonwealth legislation

Board and committee remuneration

Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee

Function: To identify and advise the Minister on issues relating to the Abrolhos Islands and their management and funding priorities and other matters as requested by the Minister.

Table 4: Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of Membership	Gross/actual remuneration
Chair	Peter Driscoll	per annum	12 Mar 2012 – 31 Dec 2014	\$5,875
Member	Bruce Donaldson	per meeting	12 Mar 2012 – 31 Dec 2014	Nil
Member	Simon Glossop	per meeting	12 Mar 2012 – 31 Dec 2014	Nil
Member	Andrew Basile	per meeting	12 Mar 2012 – 31 Dec 2014	Nil
TOTAL				\$5,875

Aquatic Advisory Committee

Function: To provide advice to the Minister for Fisheries and the Director General of the Department of Fisheries regarding high level strategic issues associated with the management of the State's fish and aquatic resources and the strategic management of Western Australian fisheries.

Table 5: Aquatic Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of Membership	Gross/actual remuneration
Chair	Robert Fisher	per annum	28 Feb 2014 – 28 Feb 2015	\$26,189
Member	Bruce Donaldson	per meeting	28 Feb 2014 – 28 Feb 2015	\$540
Member	Heather Brayford	N/A	28 Feb 2014 – 28 Feb 2015	Nil

Member	Craig Leatt-Hayter	per meeting	28 Feb 2014 – 28 Feb 2015	Nil
Member	Hamish Ch'ng	per meeting	28 Feb 2014 – 28 Feb 2015	\$540
Member	Russell Barnett	per meeting	28 Feb 2014 – 28 Feb 2015	Nil
Member	Ian Taylor	per meeting	28 Feb 2014 – 28 Feb 2015	\$540
Member	Terry Mouchemore	per meeting	28 Feb 2014 – 28 Feb 2015	Nil
TOTAL				\$27,809

Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee

Function: To advise the Minister for Fisheries on fish resource allocation issues between sectors and make recommendations to the Minister on optimal resource use.

Table 6: Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of Membership	Gross/actual remuneration
Chair	Ian Longson	per annum	30 Nov 2013 – 30 Nov 2016	\$18,541
Member	Norman Halse	per annum	30 Nov 2013 – 30 Nov 2016	\$11,124
Member	Stephen Lodge	per annum	30 Nov 2013 – 30 Nov 2016	\$11,124
Member	Elizabeth Woods	N/A	30 Nov 2013 – 30 Nov 2016	Nil
Member	Director of Aquatic Management, Department of Fisheries (<i>ex officio</i>)	N/A	30 Nov 2013 – 30 Nov 2016	Nil
TOTAL				\$40,789

South Coast Herring G-Trap Fishery Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

Function: To make recommendations to the Minister with respect to the desirability of the establishment and implementation of a Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme for the South Coast Herring G-Trap Fishery.

Table 7: South Coast Herring G-Trap Fishery Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of Membership	Gross/actual remuneration
Chair	Ross Donald	per meeting	9 Feb 2015 – 31 Jan 2017	\$540
Member	Katherine Webber	per meeting	9 Feb 2015 – 31 Jan 2017	\$350
Member	Peter Nicol	per meeting	9 Feb 2015 – 31 Jan 2017	\$350
Member	Bruno Mezzatesta	N/A	9 Feb 2015 – 31 Jan 2017	Nil
TOTAL				\$1,240

Other legal requirements

Advertising and sponsorship

In compliance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Department reports on expenditure incurred during the financial year in relation to advertising agencies, market research organisations, polling organisations, direct mail organisations and media advertising organisations.

Table 8: Expenditure on advertising for the 2014/15 financial year

	Agency	Purpose	\$ (Excl GST)
Expenditure with advertising agencies	Marketforce	Advertising campaign for Shark Hazard Awareness	130,319
Expenditure with market research agencies	Roy Morgan Research	Public Perceptions Survey, WA Stakeholder Survey and 2015 Community Survey	49,774
Expenditure with media advertising agencies	Adcorp Australia	Information notices, staff recruitment and tender advertisements	61,214
Expenditure with polling agencies	None	Not applicable	Nil
Expenditure with Direct mail agencies	None	Not applicable	Nil
Total			\$241,307

Disability access and inclusion plan

The Department's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) outlines our strategies to provide an accessible and inclusive environment for our staff and visitors with disabilities.

These strategies work towards a number of access and inclusion outcomes, which are outlined in the *Disability Services Act 1993*. They are:

Outcome one:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and attend any events organised by, the Department.

We interpret 'an accessible and inclusive community' as one in which all functions, facilities and services are equally open, available and accessible to everyone in the community, including people with disabilities, providing them with the same opportunities, rights and responsibilities enjoyed by other members of the community. We are committed to:

- working in partnership with community groups and other public authorities to assist people with disabilities through improved access to information, services and facilities;
- ensuring that our staff, volunteers, agents and contractors are aware of the requirements of the *Disability Services Act 1993*;
- providing information about our services and functions on request in formats that meet the needs of people with disabilities; and
- developing a process to promote DAIP initiatives across the Department.

Outcome two:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to enter our buildings and use other Department facilities.

Our capital works program addresses access by people with disabilities to the Department's buildings and facilities. We are committed to:

- ensuring that the design and construction of the Department's buildings and facilities comply with the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and *the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Access to Premises Standards*;
- ensuring we have appropriate signage for people with disabilities;
- conducting audits to identify access barriers to premises; and
- implementing work health and safety emergency evacuation procedures.

Outcome three:

People with disabilities receive information from the Department in a format that will enable them to readily access it. We are committed to:

- improving community awareness by providing information in appropriate alternative formats;
- ensuring staff know how to obtain information in other formats when necessary and can advise people with disabilities or their carers;
- investigating and facilitating the use of interpreters to improve the accessibility of our meetings and events for people with a hearing impairment; and
- ensuring the Department's information, including the website, meets accessibility standards.

Outcome four:

People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from our staff as other people. We are committed to:

- improving staff awareness of disability and access issues and improving skills to provide a good service to people with disabilities;
- improving awareness of new and existing staff about disability and access issues; and
- generating and sustaining staff awareness of disability and access issues.

Outcome five:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to complain to us. We are committed to:

- ensuring that current grievance mechanisms are accessible for people with disabilities; and
- providing training to new and existing customer service staff on handling complaints from people with disabilities.

Outcome six:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation. We are committed to:

- improving community awareness about consultation processes; and

- monitoring of the DAIP to ensure implementation and satisfactory outcomes.

Outcome seven:

People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment with a public authority.

We review inclusive recruitment practices and support employees with disabilities.

We are committed to:

- ensuring all recruitment policies, procedures, templates, language and formats are inclusive of people with disabilities; and
- ensuring all documents relating to recruitment are made available promptly in alternative formats upon request.

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

During 2014/15, seven compliance matters arose regarding public sector standards and ethical codes within the Department. Three of these matters were carried over to 2015/16, three were not treated as disciplinary processes and one was not substantiated.

Improvement actions implemented have included training of employees, increased performance monitoring, updating of policies, reprimands and increased oversight of expenditure.

The following activities have been undertaken, or are in place, to support compliance with the public sector standard and ethical codes:

- Workplace conflict training was developed and provided with 52.8% of staff attending training sessions.
- A range of fact sheets, flowcharts, policies and procedures have been developed to help all employees navigate their way through the different options available to resolve an issue.
- Workplace Grievance Officers (WGOs) are available to employees as a neutral and confidential first point of contact for those who wish to raise a grievance in the workplace. WGOs are departmental employees who have volunteered and have the Department's support in their role.

- Conduct and behaviour policy and procedures, conflict of interest and grievance management advisory documents are available for all employees to access on our Intranet.
- A learning approach to managing conduct and responding appropriately when adverse behaviour is identified.

Recordkeeping

This year's recordkeeping program saw significant milestones achieved in changing the Department from a paper-based records management environment to managing our records electronically. Most noteworthy were:

- the tendering, awarding and implementation of information capture software for integration with our recordkeeping system and the installation of 15 scanners of recordkeeping quality across the Department;
- the Electronic Documents and Records Management System (EDRMS) upgrade from TRIM 7.3 to HPRM 8.1;
- an overhaul of the recordkeeping training program; and
- for the fifth year running we have doubled the number of documents registered into the recordkeeping system.

In early 2015, the implementation of information capture software and scanners saw the establishment of a powerful 'back-scanning' program, with the objective of electronically storing large volumes of our records. This year's back-scanning program captured more than 80,000 forms in our recordkeeping system, ensuring these records are managed compliantly and are accessible as required.

Our regional recordkeeping improvement program continued from last year's success, with visits made to 13 regional and district offices. The week-long program at each site involves onsite evaluation of recordkeeping processes and recordkeeping training from Knowledge Management staff. The focus is on streamlining recordkeeping practices while ensuring compliance with the State Records Commission standards, auditing onsite holdings and providing hands-on training for all staff.

Improvements included:

- the installation of 10 new barcode readers in regional offices and the implementation of a statewide hardcopy record inventory and tracking program using regular barcode scanning;
- building staff analysis skills to help reduce backlogs and ‘information silos’;
- identification and metadata mapping of forms and digitisation requirements for future back-scanning projects;
- further reviews of regional holdings and storage conditions; and
- all staff receiving training on improved procedures for the capture and storage of records.

The overhaul of recordkeeping training and awareness at the Department resulted in 19 quick reference guides published on our intranet and the development of 10 new training modules. These modules range from basic to advanced courses and are designed to cater for staff with different levels of recordkeeping experience. In addition to the face-to-face training, most staff have completed an online recordkeeping awareness course. Training effectiveness is regularly reviewed through reporting on users trained, together with statistical reporting of branch-based individual registration of documents within the recordkeeping system.

During the 2014/2015 year HPRM/TRIM usage across the Department has increased 121% following:

- phase two of the regional training program;
- the forms digitisation project; and
- continued positive uptake of HPRM across business areas.

Table 9: Records capture in the Electronic Documents and Records Management System (EDRMS)

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Documents created in EDRMS	7,203	18,642	42,502	107,111	237,248
Folders created in EDRMS	4,825	5,377	7,386	7,705	12,769
Storage Boxes created in EDRMS	749	590	986	376	596

Recordkeeping in the Department is set to improve further in 2015/16 with the implementation of new scanning policies and procedures, further progression of clear record management strategies, continuation of the Regional Training Program and additional investment in up-skilling our staff.

Table 10: Recordkeeping training

Training sessions	Total staff trained in 2014/15
Hands on TRIM/HPRM Training	436
Induction Training (online and face-to-face) 2014/2015	42
Ministerial and Public Enquiries Workflow Training 2014/2015	75
Online Recordkeeping Awareness Training 2014/2015	Number enrolled 2014/15: 27 (84% 2014/15) Total completed 505 (96% of enrolments)

Public interest disclosures

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* requires the Department to:

- facilitate disclosure of public interest information;
- provide protection to those who make disclosures; and
- provide protection for those who are the subject of a disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, the Department has duly appointed public interest disclosure officers and has published internal policies and procedures related to its obligations. No public interest disclosures were received during 2014/15.

Government policy requirements

Substantive equality

We are committed to communicating and engaging effectively and appropriately with our culturally diverse stakeholders. Examples of ways we have done this include:

- [a language page](#)^a on our website that allows visitors to translate content on the site into more than 30 languages;
- multilingual community events, run by our educational officers, to promote recreational fishing rules among people whose first language is not English – a recent example was a multilingual fishing information event we held in Albany for migrants new to the region;
- legislative recognition of the customary fishing rights of Indigenous fishers exempting them from having to hold recreational fishing licences;
- production of a number of multilingual publications including our crab fishing brochure for the west coast region in Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Malay (Bahasa) and Bahasa Melayu;
- contribution to a monthly recreational fishing column in *The Life*, a Chinese community newspaper;
- a concerted campaign to engage with recreational crab fishers in the Peel-Harvey Estuary whose first language is not English, including through multilingual publicity materials, community newspaper advertising and advertising on a Chinese community website. For more details on this campaign, [go to our fish for the future case study](#) on page 50;
- Indigenous ranger workshops regarding biosecurity to assist with identification of harmful aquatic organisms;
- support for Fishers with Disabilities, a not-for-profit organisation which seeks to provide fishing opportunities for people with disabilities in WA. For more details on Fishers with Disabilities, [go to our stakeholder focus](#) section on page 9.

^a <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Pages/Languages.aspx>

Occupational health, safety and injury management

We have an occupational safety and health (OSH) policy that outlines our commitment to health and safety. This policy includes an OSH commitment statement, which is reviewed annually, endorsed by the Director General and reflects the Corporate Executive's commitment to health and safety.

We have an OSH committee made up of OSH representatives and corporate management members. There are two OSH sub-committees – the Dive Control Group and the Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness Group.

Our wellness program promotes health awareness among employees through various activities throughout the year. Future efforts of the wellness program will be aligned to resilience and integrating mental health best practices into all aspects of wellness activities, policies and programs.

In 2014, our injury management procedure was updated to incorporate provisions for mental illness and for the management of injuries sustained outside of work. As a result, the Department initiates face-to-face meetings with an injured employee, their supervisor and the return to work coordinator, to better assist an employee who has recovered or is recovering from injury to return to work.

As a result of a desktop audit in 2012, improvements to our occupational safety and health management system were identified. As a result, 22 procedures have been reviewed and updated in the past two years.

Table 11: The Department's *OSH Improvement Plan 2015-2018* aims to achieve the following five safety key performance indicators:

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	Actual 2013/14	Goal 2014/15	Result June 2015
1. OSH online supervisor training	All managers and supervisors within the Department have completed this training.	78%	90%	96%
2. Safety agenda item	All Department team/area meetings include safety as an agenda item to be discussed and documented in the minutes.	44%	90%	61%
3. Hazard, Accident and Incident Report (HAIR) forms	All HAIR forms are completed accurately and a copy arrives with the OSH team in People Services Branch within 10 working days of initiation.	53%	75%	60%
4. Workers' compensation return to work plans	Ensure that all workers' compensation claims that need a return to work plan are completed, followed and signed off when the employee returns if on restricted duties.	42%	75%	89%
5. Return of employee to work within three months of injury/illness	When an employee suffers an injury/illness and it is classed as a 'Lost Time Injury', ensure that the rehabilitation team (e.g. supervisors, practitioners, rehabilitation consultants and the OSH team) work together to prioritise getting the employee back to full-time duties within three months after their injury/illness.	—	75%	100%

Table 12: Occupational safety and health injury management performance against key indicators

Measure	Actual results		Results against target	
	2012/13	2014/15	Target	Comment on Results
Number of Fatalities	0%	0%	0%	Target achieved
Lost time injury incidence rate	0.67%	0.82%	< 10%	Target achieved
Lost time injury severity rate	33%	0%	< 10%	Target achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work:				
within 13 weeks	67%	100%	> 80%	Target achieved
within 26 weeks	33%	NA		
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	60%	96%	> 80%	Target achieved

Note: Calculations in the above table are consistent with the requirements of the Public Sector Commission (PSC) Circular 2012-05 and the *Code of Practice: Occupational Safety and Health in the Western Australian Public Sector: 2007*

Appendices



Appendix 1 – Stock status and catch ranges for major fisheries

A summary of the sustainability status for individual fisheries under management is provided in the table below. The term 'sustainable' is given to those fisheries where the breeding stocks are considered adequate as well as to fisheries in which breeding stocks are recovering. Fisheries assessed as 'inadequate' or 'environmentally limited' include those fisheries where additional actions need to be taken or confirmation is required to ensure the breeding stocks are either adequate or are now recovering. The term 'overfished' is only given to those fisheries that are inadequate due to exploitation (i.e. overfishing) that have been identified but for which definitive management actions have yet to be fully implemented.

More detailed information on the management status and future directions of commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries and aquaculture industries can be viewed in the *Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia* (State of the fisheries).

Key:

Sustainable
Additional actions have been undertaken
Stocks are inadequate
Stocks are inadequate due to environmental conditions
Not assessed

Stock status and catch ranges for major commercial fisheries**West Coast Bioregion**

West Coast Rock Lobster – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	5,859 (quota management)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	5,943 (includes 2% for drip loss)
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
A Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) of 5,859 t was set for the 2014 season. Due to the conservative nature of the TACC, egg production is at record high levels.	

Roe's Abalone – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	87 (quota management) (530-640 days)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	48.5 (328 days)
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Catch was less than the quota in Area 2 (62% caught), Area 5 (21% caught), Area 6 (10% caught) due to economic reasons (low value of catch) and high cost of accessing these areas. Area 8 still closed due to catastrophic mortality following a marine heat wave.	

Octopus – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	50-250
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	204
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Fishery in development phase. Target range to be reviewed following completion of initial stock assessments.	

Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl – Stocks are inadequate due to environmental conditions	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Environmentally limited
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	95-1,830 (set to 0 for this year)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	0
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed
The fishery was not opened due to annual survey indicating low scallop abundance with a catch prediction below the target level for fishing. This has resulted from continued effects of low recruitment due to the extreme environmental conditions of early 2011. The low recruitment has resulted in a very low spawning stock despite no fishing activity.	

Cockburn Sound Crab – Stocks are inadequate due to environmental conditions	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Environmentally limited
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Under revision
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	25
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed
Stock levels continued to decline during the 2013/14 season with the 2013/14 egg	

production and juvenile indices both below their limits. The commercial fishing season therefore closed early.

Estuarine Finfish (West Coast) – Not assessed

Stock assessment complete	No
Breeding stock assessment	Not assessed
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	75-220 (Peel-Harvey only)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	130 (Peel-Harvey only)
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Catches of west coast estuarine finfish have been stable since 2000.	

West Coast Beach Bait and South West Beach Seine – Stocks are inadequate due to environmental conditions

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Environmentally limited
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	60-275 (whitebait only)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	12 (whitebait only)
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	No
Annual whitebait catch has fluctuated in response to normal environmental variations but the recent catch declines have followed exceptionally warm ocean temperatures. Catch has now been below acceptable range since 2012/13 and management intervention may be required.	

West Coast Purse Seine – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	0-3,000 (quota management)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	1,065 (scaly mackerel and pilchard combined)
Season reported ¹	2014

Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Catch levels, which cover the managed fishery and the northern and southern developmental zones, are the highest since the mid-2000s due to increased effort.	

West Coast Demersal Scalefish – Additional actions have been undertaken

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Recovering
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	< 450 (demersal suite)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	395
Season reported ¹	2013/14 or 2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	No

While the total catch of the demersal suite by all commercial fisheries was within acceptable levels, the temperate demersal gillnet and demersal longline fishery catches were too high. The West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Fishery catch of pink snapper in the Mid West and Kalbarri areas was also too high. Management action has been taken.

Gascoyne Coast Bioregion

Shark Bay Prawn – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	1,350-2,150
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	1,907
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes

Western king and brown tiger prawn annual landings were both within the target ranges.

Exmouth Gulf Prawn – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	771-1,276

Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	463
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
<p>The catches of brown tiger, king and endeavour prawns were all below their target ranges, but this was due to reduced effort to maintain the spawning stock within target levels.</p>	

Shark Bay Scallop – Stocks are inadequate due to environmental conditions	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Environmentally limited
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	1,250-3,000 (fishery closed this year)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	0
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed
<p>No fishing occurred. There was ongoing low recruitment and stock abundance due to the continued influence of the extreme environmental conditions. Some recovery was observed in Denham Sound while northern Shark Bay was still below the target levels despite no retention of scallops for the last three years.</p>	

Shark Bay Crabs – Additional actions have been undertaken	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Recovering
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	400 (quota management)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	371 (175 trap and 196 trawl)
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
<p>Partial recovery of the stock observed during 2013 enabled commercial fishing to recommence but with a conservative TACC. Increased levels of recruitment and spawning biomass were observed during 2014.</p>	

Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	235-335
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	212
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes

Total catch remained below the target range due to a further reduction in effort (lowest on record) and low catches of sea mullet and tailor. Catches of whiting and yellowfin bream were above the 10-year average.

West Coast Deep Sea Crab – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	140 (quota management; crystal crabs 55,000 - 105,000 standardised potlifts)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	140 (crystal crabs 60,669 standardised potlifts)
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes

The effort is within the target effort range, with the standardised catch rate of legal crabs at one of the highest levels in a decade.

Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish (pink snapper) – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	277 (quota management) (380-540 days)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	240 (364 days) plus 30 recreational catch
Season reported ¹	2014

Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Spawning biomass close to target level. Catch rate remains well above the threshold level.	

North Coast Bioregion

Onslow Prawn – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	60-180
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Negligible
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed
Minimal fishing occurred in 2014.	

Nickol Bay Prawn – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	90-300
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	211
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
The total annual landings of banana prawns were within the target catch range and slightly above the predicted range.	

Broome Prawn – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	55-260
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	0
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed

No commercial prawn fishing occurred in this fishery for 2014.

Kimberley Prawn – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	240-500
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	287
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes

Banana prawns were within the catch prediction and the target range (230-350 t). Endeavour prawns were within the range and brown tiger prawns were slightly below.

Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	32-45 (barramundi)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	44
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes

The catch of barramundi is within the target catch range and the catch rate is at the highest level since 1990.

Northern Demersal Scalefish – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Under revision
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Total 1,111 (goldband 499, red emperor 132)
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed

Total catch is above the upper limit across the fishery due to an increase in catch in Zone B. Catches of goldband snapper and red emperor were both within the acceptable catch range. Full assessments are in progress.

Pilbara Fish Trawl – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Under revision
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	1,105 t and 591 days
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed
Reduced catch due to ongoing reductions in effort quota. Full assessment and review of catch range scheduled over the next 12 months.	

Pilbara Demersal Trap and Line – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	400-600 (trap) 50-115 (line)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	268 t and 208 days (trap) 40 t and 195 days (line)
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Trap and line catch were lower than the target catch ranges due to reduced effort in the fishery in 2014.	

Mackerel – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	246-410 (quota management, Spanish mackerel)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	322
Season reported ¹	2014

Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Catches were higher than previous year but remain within the acceptable range for the fishery.	

Northern Shark – Not assessed	
Stock assessment complete	No
Breeding stock assessment	Not assessed
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	< 20 (sandbar)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	0
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed
No fishing continued this year.	

Pearl Oyster – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	754,800 oysters (quota management, 14,071-20,551 dive hours)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	627,634 oysters (12,976 dive hours)
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Quota this year also included 75,000 large mother-of-pearl oysters. Only part of the Zone 1 quota (115,000 shell) was fished and some culture shell quota was not fished for economic reasons. Catch rate indices were above threshold levels.	

Sea Cucumber – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Sandfish 20-100, redfish 40-150
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Sandfish 40, redfish 48, black teatfish 5

Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Fishing recommenced in 2014 after a one-year hiatus. New vessels fished the existing licenses in 2014.	

South Cost Bioregion

South Coast Crustacean – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	50 – 80 (southern rock lobster)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	46 (southern rock lobster)
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Catch of southern rock lobster was below target range but with a proportional decline in targeted effort the catch rate remained in the target region. Catch and catch rates of deep sea crabs (secondary target species) is currently being assessed.	

Abalone (Greenlip/Brownlip) – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	201.5 (quota management) (907 – 1,339 days, 3,440 – 5,270 hours)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	193 (1,578 days, 6,581 hours)
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	No
Effort range (in days) exceeded due to lower abundance. TAC reduced by 30% in the Area 2 and 10% in the Area 3 fishery for 2015. Effort ranges have been reviewed and are now expressed as hours from 2014.	

Estuarine Finfish (South Coast) – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	200 – 500

Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	190 (finfish) 39 (crab)
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Stock levels of key species are considered adequate. Crabs have replaced some finfish catches in recent years.	

WA Salmon – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	1,200 – 2,800
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	364
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Recent catches continue to be low relative to historic levels, due to low effort from limited market demand. A review of the target catch range needs to be undertaken.	

Australian Herring – Inadequate	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Inadequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Under revision
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	151
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed
Formal stock assessment completed in late 2012. Historically low commercial catch reflects poor recent recruitment and low stock abundance. The acceptable catch range is under revision.	

Albany/King George Sound Purse Seine – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	2,683 (quota management)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	885

Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Effort and catches both lower than in 2012/13.	

Bremer Bay Purse Seine – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	1,500 (quota management)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Not reportable – less than three licences operated
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Effort and catches both slightly higher than in 2012/13.	

Esperance Purse Seine – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	1,500 (quota management)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Not reportable – less than three licences operated
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Effort and catches both slightly higher than in 2012/13.	

Southern and West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Longline – Additional actions have been undertaken	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Gummy and whiskery sharks: adequate. Dusky and sandbar sharks: recovering
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	725-1,095 (key species only)
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	841 (key species only)

Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Total catch within target range. Dusky catch slightly below its target range due to decline in effective effort. Catch rate similar to previous year. Whiskery catch maintained below historical target range due to reductions in effort and the intended effects of the seasonal closure.	

Lake Argyle Catfish – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	93 – 180
Catch (tonnes) for season reported ¹	Not reportable – less than three licences operated.
Season reported ¹	2014
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
The catch was below the target range due to low effort in the fishery.	

¹ Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available.

Stock status and catch ranges for major recreational fisheries

Note: Acceptable recreational catch levels will be further developed as the Integrated Fisheries Management principles are implemented. For those species/resources mainly caught from boats, setting of acceptable catches will be informed by the results from the biennial integrated boat fishing surveys.

West Coast Bioregion

West Coast Rock Lobster – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range (TARC) in tonnes (days)	388 (TARC)
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	200-298 t

Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Recreational catch is likely to increase in next few years due to strong recruitment pulse entering the fishery.	

Roe's Abalone – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range (TARC) in tonnes (days)	40 (TARC Roe's metro zone only)
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	15-25 t (Area 7 only)
Season reported ¹	2013
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	No
Declines in legal size, density and spawning biomass in recent years, including environmental effects, will require a review of the Total Allowable Recreational Catch (TARC).	

West Coast Crabs – Stocks are inadequate due to environmental conditions	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Environmentally limited
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Not developed
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	50-66 t (boat only)
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed
High level of shore-based fishing will require an additional index of this catch to be developed. Low spawning stock in some locations due to environmental reasons may require management changes.	

Nearshore and Estuarine – Inadequate (Australian Herring)	
Stock assessment complete	Yes

Breeding stock assessment	Inadequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Not developed
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	69-87 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed
High level of shore-based fishing will require an additional index of this catch to be developed. Status of herring stock has required a change to the bag limit.	

West Coast Demersal Scalefish – Additional actions have been undertaken

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Recovering
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	250 t (key species only)
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	139-166 t (boat only, top 15 species) including 30 t snapper, 20 t baldchin groper and 81 t dhufish.
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
The overall recreational/charter catch of the resource is at an acceptable level. The catches of West Australian dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper in the West Coast Bioregion were also at acceptable levels.	

Gascoyne Coast Bioregion

Gascoyne Demersal – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Not formal (under development)
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	86-110 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	No

Overall catch of the resource is considered to be sustainable, but fishing mortality for spangled emperor in northern areas is considered too high and is currently being reviewed.

Inner Shark Bay Demersal (Snapper) – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	12 EG, 12 DS, 3.8 FE
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	4-5 EG, 6-7 DS, 1-2 FE (boat only)
Season reported ¹	2010
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes

The Eastern Gulf (EG) and Denham Sound (DS) breeding stock are well above the target abundance level. The Freycinet Estuary (FE) breeding stock is recovering and is above the limit level. Biomass assessments are currently being updated.

North Coast Bioregion

North Coast Nearshore and Estuarine – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Not formal
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	11-19 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes

Current catch levels are not considered to pose any stock issues.

Northern Demersal Scalefish – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Not formal

Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	48-64 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Current catch levels are not considered to pose any stock issues.	

North Coast Pelagic (Mackerel) – Sustainable

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Not formal
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	22-37 t (boat only)
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Current catch levels are not considered to pose any stock issues.	

North Coast Crab – Not assessed

Stock assessment complete	No
Breeding stock assessment	Not assessed
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	8-13 t (boat only)
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed

South Coast Bioregion

South Coast Crustaceans – Not assessed

Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Not assessed
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Not formal
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	Insufficient data

Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed
Catch likely to be minor.	

Abalone (Greenlip/Brownlip) – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Not formal
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	8 t
Season reported ¹	2007
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Current catch levels are not considered to pose any stock issues.	

South Coast Estuarine – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Not formal
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	19-27 t (boat only, top 10 species/groupings)
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Current catch levels are not considered to pose any stock issues.	

South Coast Nearshore – Not assessed	
Stock assessment complete	No
Breeding stock assessment	Not assessed
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Not developed
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	
Season reported ¹	2013/14

Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed
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South Coast Demersal Scalefish	
Stock assessment complete	No
Breeding stock assessment	Not assessed
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	Not developed
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	31-38 t (boat only, top 10 species/groupings)
Season reported ¹	2013/14
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed
The stock assessment for this suite is underway. This will determine if current levels of fishing are appropriate.	

Southern Inland Bioregion

Marron – Sustainable	
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Target catch (and effort) range in tonnes (days)	96,000-136,000
Kept catch range (95% confidence intervals, tonnes or numbers) for season reported ¹	60,000-82,000
Season reported ¹	2015
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Yes
Stocks are considered adequate, however target catch needs to be reviewed due to changes in environmental conditions affecting habitat availability (e.g. rainfall patterns).	

¹ Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available.

Appendix 2 – State Register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases

The State Register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases is available to the public on application to the Registrar and payment of appropriate fees – see section 125 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA).

One aquaculture lease has been granted during the reporting period.

At 30 June 2015, the following items were recorded on the State Register:

- 168,388 recreational fishing licences. (Note: Although details of recreational licences are recorded on the State Register, the Registrar is prohibited from making these available for public search – see section 125(6) of the FRMA).
- 392 aquaculture licences.
- 6,119 commercial authorisations.

Licensed recreational fishing activities consisted of the activities listed below:

Recreational fishing licensed activities

Recreational Fishing from Boat	138,191
Rock Lobster	46,895
Abalone	16,429
Marron	12,053
Net Fishing	16,618
South West Fresh Water Angling	10,835

The commercial authorisations on the State Register consisted of the following:

Interim managed fishery permits

Pilbara Fish Trawl	11
Shark Bay Crab	5
West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Long Line	17
West Coast Demersal Scalefish	60

West Coast Estuarine	13
TOTAL	106

Managed fishery licences

Abalone	49
Abrolhos Mid West Trawl	10
Broome Prawn	5
Cockburn Crab	12
Cockburn Fish Net	1
Cockburn Line and Pot	13
Cockburn Mussel	1
Esperance Rock Lobster	8
Exmouth Prawn	15
Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish	47
Kimberley Gill Net and Barramundi	5
Kimberley Prawn	121
Mackerel	48
Marine Aquarium Fish Corporate	1
Marine Aquarium Fish Individual	11
Nickol Bay Prawn	14
Northern Demersal	15
Onslow Prawn	30
Pilbara Trap	6
Shark Bay Beach Seine	10
Shark Bay Prawn	18
Shark Bay Scallop	29
South Coast Estuarine	25
South Coast Purse Seine	32
South Coast Salmon	18

South West Coast Salmon	6
South West Trawl	10
Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline	55
Specimen Shell	31
Warnbro Crab	1
West Coast Beach Bait Fish	1
West Coast Purse Seine	12
Windy Harbour /Augusta Rock Lobster	2
West Coast Rock Lobster	599
West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean	7
TOTAL	1,268

Other licences

Commercial Fishing Licence	2,191
Fish Processing Permits (land)	108
Fish Processing Permits (sea)	96
Fishing Boat Licence	1,335
Fishing Tour Operators Licence	206
Restricted Fishing Tour	24
Permit to Construct a Fish Processing Establishment	757
Rock Lobster Pot Licence	28
TOTAL	4,745

Fees to access the State Register and obtain copies of entries in, and extracts from, the register are prescribed in Schedule 1 Part 1 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*

Transactions on the register

Extracts	626
Searches	0

Notation of security interest	190
Removal of security interest	41
Variation of security interest	13
TOTAL	106

The Registrar recorded 18 convictions against 13 authorisations in the relevant period, pursuant to the statutory obligation under section 224 (1) of the FRMA.

There was one authorisation suspended (under section 224 (2) of the FRMA) as a result of the recording of three convictions within 10 years against the authorisation.

The Registrar provided 17 certificates under section 212 of the FRMA for the purposes of proceedings for offences under the FRMA.

State Register of exemptions 2014/15

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2436	1/07/2017	Haydn Webb	To take fish for bait, namely mullet and sand whiting, for commercial purposes within one nautical mile of North Turtle Island.
2437	30/04/2016	Samuel Robinson	Collection of benthic macroinvertebrates from locations as shown in the exemption.
2438	30/06/2015	Susan Kueh	Collection of catfish from Harding, Ord, Fitzroy and Fortescue rivers.
2439	30/06/2016	Gayani Thilakarathna	Collection of sea urchin <i>Centrostephanus tenuispinus</i> from Hall Bank and Minden Reef, Perth metropolitan coast.
2440	14/11/2014	West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence Holders	To enable holders of West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery licences to be exempt from certain whale entanglement mitigation measures (i.e. depth to rope length restrictions, weighted rope, pot retrieval restrictions) when fishing with a pot line and float rig having a combined total length of less than or equal to 27.4 metres.
2441	25/02/2015	Derek Dapp	Collection of sharks from between Pebble Beach and Learmonth.
2442	30/04/2015	Alan Cottingham	Collection of cultured and wild black bream (<i>Acanthopagrus butcheri</i>) from Blackwood

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			River and Hardy Inlet up to Warner Glen Road for the eggs and larvae sampling and Alexandra Bridge for the seine and gill netting.
2443	31/07/2017	Paul Merendino	To explore and/or develop the Pilbara Developmental Crab Fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.
2444	01/03/2015	Joel Williams	Collection of eggs and larvae from ten sites in the Swan-Canning River estuary.
2445	30/09/2015	Ben Saunders	Collection of southern calamari (<i>Sepioteuthis australis</i>) eggs and adults, western king prawns (<i>Melicertus latisulcatus</i>) and Western school prawns (<i>Metapenaeus dalli</i>), bait fish (Families Clupeidae and Engraulidae), and zooplankton from coastal areas from Fremantle to Rockingham, in particular, South and North Mole, Owen Anchorage, Cape Peron, Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound and the Swan River.
2446	11/08/2017	Rick Roberts	Collection of live invertebrates from Rockingham, Cockburn Sound, North and South Mole.
2447	01/01/2015	Aaron Schofield	Possession of crystal crabs of less than legal length with the numbers and dates applicable to be specified in writing by an officer of the Department of

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			Fisheries Research Division from the waters of the West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery.
2448	05/09/2014	Justine Arnold	Collection of marine molluscs from eight dives at each of the Wallabi Group, the Easter Group and the Pelsaert Group.
2449	31/07/2016	Various persons, as listed in the exemption, undertaking research on behalf of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), The University of Western Australia (UWA) and Bardi Jawi Rangers	Collection of finfish and crustaceans from Sunday and Tallon islands in the Kimberley.
2450	30/04/2015	Belinda Robson	Collection of aquatic invertebrates from Millstream and the adjacent reach of the Fortescue River.
2451	25/08/2015	Malcolm Lindsay	Collection of finfish and invertebrates inhabiting seagrass beds in Roebuck Bay.
2452	31/12/2016	Daniel Yeoh	Collection of estuarine fish fauna from Walpole-Nornalup Estuary, including the Frankland, Walpole and Deep rivers.
2453	23/07/2015	Ben K. Jones	Collection of seagrasses and the fauna inhabiting them from eight sites in waters less than five metres deep off Jurien

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			Bay.
2454	31/10/2014	Persons acting under the authority of a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery licence	Taking, possessing, consigning and selling setose western rock lobster for commercial purposes.
2455	31/08/2017	Western Australian Museum (WAM)	Collection of multiple phyla, including molluscs, crustaceans, soft corals, hard corals, other cnidarian, sponges, bryozoans, ascidians, marine worms, echinoderms and some minor phyla from Carnarvon to King George River.
2456	31/03/2015	Belinda Robson	Collection of aquatic invertebrates from wetlands in the southern metropolitan area.
2457	31/01/2015	Danny Wimpres	To tag and release pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) from various locations in Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound for research purposes.
2458	31/01/2015	Ryan Thipthorp	To tag and release pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) from various locations in Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound, for research purposes.
2459	09/10/2014	Scott Munro	Collection of <i>Crustose coralline</i> red algae, <i>Lithophyllum insipidum</i> from North Mole, Fremantle.
2460	08/10/2014	Scott Munro	Collection of <i>Cladophora</i> sp. from Heron Point, Peel Harvey Estuary and Birchmont.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2461	30/09/2017	Trevor Charles Price	To allow the use of commercial fishing by set nets up to 2½ hours after sunrise in the waters of the Hardy Inlet Estuarine Fishery as required in order to minimise the mortality of unwanted fish.
2462	10/10/2014	Scott Munro	Collection of <i>Ulva australis</i> and <i>Rhodomenia sonderi</i> from North Mole, Fremantle.
2463	31/07/2016	Various persons, as listed in the exemption, undertaking research on behalf of CSIRO, UWA and Bardi Jawi Rangers	Collection of finfish and crustaceans from Sunday and Tallon islands, Kimberley.
2464	03/10/2014	Sam Koncurat	To set 130 commercial rock lobster pots to soak from adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters off Jurien, including the closed area specified in the exemption.
2465	03/10/2014	B. Lenzo and B. Guarino	To set 160 commercial rock lobster pots to soak from adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters off Fremantle.
2466	03/10/2014	Sam Koncurat and Troy Simmons	To set 130 commercial rock lobster pots to soak from adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters off Jurien, including the closed area specified in the exemption.
2467	03/10/2017	Ben Byrne	Collection of marine finfish

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			larvae at pre-settlement stage from Geraldton, in the vicinity of the following locations 28° 46' 02.4" S 114° 36' 15.6" E, 28° 47' 45.89" S 114° 35' 58.78" E and 28° 45' 31.7" S 114° 36' 11.8" E.
2468	31/05/2017	Chenae Tuckett	Collection of hard corals (Order Scleractinia) from localities between Esperance and Ningaloo Reef, extending out to the Abrolhos Islands.
2469	31/05/2017	Chenae Tuckett	Collection of hard corals (Order Scleractinia) from localities between Esperance and Ningaloo Reef extending out to the Abrolhos Islands.
2470	28/09/2014	All Saints College	For All Saints College to conduct introductory recreational fishing lessons to their year seven students as part of their outdoor learning program.
2471	02/10/2015	Neil Loneragan	Collection of fish from locations in the Swan-Canning Estuary as shown in Attachment 1
2472	31/03/2015	Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)	Collection of coral samples from Scott Reef and Seringapatam Reef.
2473	Indefinitely	Miles Parsons of Curtin University	Research.
2474	Indefinitely	UWA	Research.
2475	28/02/2017	BMT Oceanica Pty Ltd	Research.
2476	03/10/2014	Dr Jonathan Werry	Shark research.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2477	31/12/2014	Challenger Institute of Technology	Collection of pink snapper eggs for cultivation and restocking.
2478	31/10/2015	UWA	Research – seagrass.
2479	03/11/2014	Matthew and Sydney Fong	Research – demersal scalefish.
2480	03/11/2014	Bruce Cockman	Research – breeding stock at Abrolhos Islands.
2481	03/11/2014	Karl and Kjell Stokke	Research – breeding stock.
2482	03/11/2014	Matthew George Kalajzich	Research – breeding stock.
2483	31/12/2019	Australian Limnological Services Pty Ltd	Research – environment protection – Water Corporation and Department of Water in the South-west.
2484	03/03/2015	Curtin University of Technology	Research – rock lobster – Augusta, Perth, and Shark Bay.
2485	30/07/2016	CSIRO	Research – trochus, <i>Tetus niloticus</i> – Rowley Shoals, Ashmore and Scott reefs.
2486	31/12/2015	Murdoch University	Research – western rock blackfish (<i>Girella tephraeops</i>) and Zebrafish (<i>Girella zebra</i>).
2487	16/10/2017	Murdoch University	Collection of fish from the water column, artificial surfaces, dredge spoil and seabed sediment within the Bunbury Port Authority's inner and outer harbours.
2488	30/09/2015	Caroline Aylott, Catherine Field and Alex Leonard	Collection of crab specimens suspected of being the following marine pest crab species: <i>Callinectes sapidus</i> ,

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			<i>Carcinourscorpious rotundicauda</i> , <i>Carcinus maenas</i> , <i>Charybdis japonica</i> , <i>Eriocheir sinensi</i> , <i>Eriocheir</i> spp., <i>Hemigrapsus sanguineus</i> , <i>Hemigrapsus takanoi/p</i> while fulfilling the requirements of the marine pest monitoring design for Esperance Port.
2489	30/09/2015	Garry Wilson	Collection of crab specimens suspected of being the following marine pest crab species: <i>Callinectes sapidus</i> , <i>Carcinourscorpious rotundicauda</i> , <i>Carcinus maenas</i> , <i>Charybdis japonica</i> , <i>Eriocheir sinensi</i> , <i>Eriocheir</i> spp., <i>Hemigrapsus sanguineus</i> , <i>Hemigrapsus takanoi/p</i> while fulfilling the requirements of the marine pest monitoring design (early warning system program) for Bandy Creek Marina.
2490	15/11/2015	Jane Chambers	Collection of aquatic invertebrates, submerged aquatic plants, macroalgae, benthic microalgae and phytoplankton from Vasse Lagoon and Wonnerup Lagoon.
2491	01/11/2016	Richard Evans	Collection of fish, coral, seagrass, mangrove and sponge from the specified number of sites within 50 km of the GPS locations shown in

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			the exemption.
2492	01/05/2015	Peter Cook	Collection of Gilgies, <i>Cherax quinquecarinatus</i> , or Koonac, <i>Cherax preissii</i> , <i>C. plebejus</i> or <i>C. glaber</i> , from Yakamia Creek, Albany.
2493	01/03/2015	Gaia McNell	Collection of phytoplankton, macroalgae and macrophytes from five sites directly in front of the Vasse floodgates and five sites upstream of the gates.
2494	30/06/2015	Sven Gustauer	Collection of goldband snapper (<i>Pristipomoides multidentis</i>), red emperor (<i>Lutjanus sebae</i>), rankin cod (<i>Epinephelus multinotatus</i>) and saddletail snapper (<i>Lutjanus malabaricus</i>) from the waters of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery.
2495	30/03/2015	Stephen Beatty	Collection of fish from Blackadder Creek.
2496	30/12/2017	Kelli O'Neill	Collection of freshwater fish and crayfish from all rivers in Western Australia, apart from the Rangelands region, primarily the South West.
2497	15/12/2015	Julian Finn	Collection of cephalopods from between Eucla and Derby, excluding all marine national parks, reserves and protection zones.
2498	3/11/2015	Fremantle Octopus Pty Ltd	To explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology for commercial

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			purposes.
2499	3/11/2015	J & E MacDonald	To explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.
2500	3/11/2015	Trevor Wheatcroft	To explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.
2501	3/11/2015	RL and MA Alexander	To explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.
2502	3/11/2015	Esperance Octopus Fishery Pty Ltd	To explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.
2503	01/06/2016	Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Managed Fishery licence holders and West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery permit holders	To allow nomination of the Managed Fishery Licence or Interim Managed Fishery Permit under which the boat is operating at times other than the two hours before the commencement of a fishing trip.
2504	31/12/2015	BMT Oceanica Pty Ltd	For BMT Oceanica Pty Ltd to sample benthic in-fauna to gauge the effects of synthetic-based drilling mud on the environment.
2505	30/06/2015	Sven Gustauer	Collection of goldband snapper (<i>Pristipomoides multidens</i>), red emperor (<i>Lutjanus sebae</i>), rankin cod (<i>Epinephelus multinotatus</i>)

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			and saddletail snapper (<i>Lutjanus malabaricus</i>) from the waters of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery.
2506	10/02/2016	Beverly Oh Zhaolan	Collection of sharks and fish from Coral Bay, Mangrove Bay, Pelican Point, Bundegi and Tantabiddi.
2507	30/04/2015	Jan Tebben	Collection of coral colonies from Coral Bay.
2508	31/12/2014	Challenger Institute of Technology	Catch, tag and release of pink snapper by line and the take of fertilised fish eggs (targeting pink snapper eggs) using towed bongo (plankton) nets in Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound.
2509	14/01/2016	West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery licence holders	To allow the holders of a Managed Fishery Licence (MFL), and persons acting on their behalf, to operate in the Fishery when the usual entitlement on the licence is less than 600 units.
2510	30/06/2016	Oliver Berry	Collection of sea snail, sea grass and coral from the intertidal areas of the Lacapede Islands.
2511	31/01/2016	Fiona Taukulis	To enable MWH Global to undertake the collection of fish and other freshwater species to obtain fish diversity information as part of an overarching study on the value

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			of the aquatic ecology of Ophthalmia Dam. The study is being conducted on behalf of BHP Billiton Iron Ore.
2512	31/12/2017	Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery licence holders	To allow continued commercial nearshore net fishing in waters north of Long Point at Shark Bay and south of Red Bluff.
2513	12/01/2015	Charlotte Birkmanis	Collection of fish from Winderabandi to Gnoraloo including inside sanctuary zones, Ningaloo Marine Park.
2514	28/02/2015	West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery licence holders	To enable MFL holders to use the number of pots they could operate with on 14 January 2015 in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery pending processing of transfer applications during the transition between licensing periods.
2515	14/12/2017	South West Trawl Managed Fishery licence holders	To assess the operational and economic efficiencies of specific fishing gear within the South West Trawl Managed Fishery for commercial purposes.
2516	30/04/2015	Terrestrial Ecosystems	To use a hand-hauled seine net to collect fish fauna found in the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary Wetlands as part of a remodelling of the wetland that will lead to a decreased nutrient input into the adjoining Swan River at Bayswater.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2517	31/03/2016	Marine Aquarium Fish Managed Fishery licence holders	To allow Marine Aquarium Fish Managed Fishery licence holders to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - commercially fish for invertebrates, seagrass and algae; and - have the capacity to be the nominated operator of more than one licence.
2518	30/06/2015	Abacus Fisheries Company Pty Ltd	To take up to two tonnes of shark from Shark Bay for the purpose of a research project being undertaken by Curtin University (CRC 2014/704 - Waste transformation methods for value added products for the catering market).
2519	31/12/2016	Shark Bay Prawn and Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery licence holders	To facilitate the assessment of operational and economic efficiencies of various fishing gear and gear configurations within the Shark Bay Prawn and Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fisheries.
2520	30/06/2015	Russell Adams of Department of Fisheries	For the purpose of determining the presence and extent of non-endemic species.
2521	31/12/2016	MG Kailis Pty Ltd	To improve the overall operational efficiency of the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery fleet for commercial purposes through the development of fishing technology.
2522	29/02/2016	Rachael Goetze and Paul Mackey	Collection of crab specimens suspected of being the

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			following marine pest crab species: <i>Callinectes sapidus</i> , <i>Carcinourscorpious rotundicauda</i> , <i>Carcinus maenas</i> , <i>Charybdis japonica</i> , <i>Eriocheir sinensi</i> , <i>Eriocheir</i> spp., <i>Hemigrapsus sanguineus</i> , <i>Hemigrapsus takanoi/penicillatus</i> from the Port of Albany.
2523	19/02/2016	Wayne Young, Dan Pedersen, Belinda Parker, Nicole Boland, Nicole Wylie and Candace Willison	Collection of crab specimens suspected of being the following marine pest crab species: <i>Callinectes sapidus</i> , <i>Carcinourscorpious rotundicauda</i> , <i>Carcinus maenas</i> , <i>Charybdis japonica</i> , <i>Eriocheir sinensi</i> , <i>Eriocheir</i> spp., <i>Hemigrapsus sanguineus</i> , <i>Hemigrapsus takanoi/p</i> from Dampier and Port Hedland ports.
2524	14/01/2016	Various West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery licence holders	To be in possession of, and set according to instructions from Fisheries Research staff, two modified rock lobster pots (in addition to their unit holdings). One modified to increase its catch of undersize lobsters and another to increase pot efficiency.
2525	31/12/2015	Peter Coulson	Collection of redlip morwong, magpie perch and dusky morwong from coastal marine waters from Lancelin to the WA/SA border.
2526	30/06/2017	Department of Fisheries	For the purposes of enabling

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			the personnel of the Department of Parks and Wildlife to undertake research and monitoring projects to support adaptive management of the State's marine parks and reserves and aquatic environment, and to conserve marine fauna across Western Australia.
2527	30/06/2017	Department of Fisheries	For the purposes of enabling the research personnel of the Department of Fisheries to undertake aquatic science research projects to provide scientific knowledge for the sustainable management and development of the State's fish resources and the protection of fish habitats.
2528	08/05/2015	Torsten Struck	Collection of <i>Stygocapitella subterranea</i> , a small annelid worm, from sediment samples from Sarge Bay beach and Gnarabup Beach.
2529	31/01/2016	Andrew Joseph and Tracey Lee Basile	To allow Basile to collect various coral genera at the Abrolhos Islands for broodstock purposes.
2530	29/02/2016	Denis Doak, Adam Van Der Beek and Rebecca James of Fremantle Port Authority	Collection of crab specimens suspected of being the following marine pest crab species: <i>Callinectes sapidus</i> , <i>Carcinourscorpious rotundicauda</i> , <i>Carcinus maenas</i> , <i>Charybdis japonica</i> , <i>Eriocheir sinensi</i> , Eriocheir

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			spp., <i>Hemigrapsus sanguineus</i> , <i>Hemigrapsus takanoi/penicillatus</i> from Fremantle Port.
2531	31/12/2016	Arthur John Wheatland	To allow Wheatland to conduct research and development on live rock aquaculture at the Abrolhos Islands.
2532	31/12/2016	Shane Darren Bonney	To allow Bonney to conduct research and development on live rock aquaculture at the Abrolhos Islands.
2533	01/02/2018	Jan Hemmi	Collection of fiddler crabs from coastal areas between Perth and Derby, excluding marine parks.
2534	30/06/2015	Miles Parsons	Collection of fish from waters of the North Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery
2535	30/01/2015	Southern Ports Authority	To provide for the optimal passage of ships and to assist in safe navigation through the channels of the Bunbury Ports Outer Harbour area.
2536	31/12/2015	Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd	For ERM Australia PTY LTD to sample benthic in-fauna for the environmental analyses.
2537	31/01/2018	Tracy Brothers	Collection of finfish and molluscs (excluding Cephalopods) species from Oyster Harbour – Emu Point and Lower King Bridge, Kalgan River – Ski Club and Princess Royal Harbour.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2538	31/12/2015	URS Australia Pty Ltd	For URS Australia Pty Ltd to conduct intertidal invertebrate community sampling along the beaches of North Fremantle, to determine if there is any effect from limited petrochemical seepage from onshore oil tanks.
2539	27/02/2015	Mike van Keulen	Collection of seagrasses, macroalgae, benthic macroinvertebrates and fish from Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, adjacent to Garden Island causeway and Mangles Bay.
2540	20/03/2017	Rick Roberts	Collection of fish from the Swan River in the vicinity of the Shelley Traffic Bridge.
2541	30/04/2016	James Tweedley	Collection of fish from the Deadwater and Wonnerup Inlet in the Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary.
2542	16/02/2018	Joshua van Lier	Collection of seaweed-associated reef fish from Ningaloo Reef, south of Coral Bay.
2543	22/04/2015	Caroline Kerr	Collection of fish from the Swan River between Belmont Racecourse and Garvey Park.
2544	28/02/2017	South Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery licence holders and the South Coast Licensed Fisherman's Association (Inc).	To allow the commercial take of blue swimmer crabs.
2545	18/02/2018	Kimberley Prawn	To address inconsistencies in

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
		Managed Fishery licence holders	the Kimberley Prawn Management Plan and improve economic performance for commercial purposes.
2546	29/02/2016	Shenae Blakiston, Chris Rawson and Alex Hickling	Collection of adult rock oysters from south of the river mouth, Kalbarri.
2547	30/04/2015	Various persons, as listed in the exemption, undertaking research on behalf of AIMS, WAM, CSIRO and Curtin University	Collection of all benthic invertebrate taxa from the Camden Sound Marine Park.
2548	29/02/2016	Various persons, as listed in the exemption, undertaking research on behalf of Murdoch University	Collection of tropical coral reef fish from between five and 20 km south of Coral Bay.
2549	31/03/2017	Verena Schoepf	Collection of corals from the locations along the WA coast as listed in the exemption.
2550	31/08/2017	Various persons, as listed in the exemption, undertaking research on behalf of WAM	Collection of multiple phyla, including fish, molluscs, crustaceans, soft corals, hard corals, other cnidarian, sponges, bryozoans, ascidians, marine worms, echinoderms and some minor phyla from Carnarvon to King George River.
2551	31/12/2015	Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery licence holders	To permit the retention of demersal scalefish taken in prawn trawl nets by authorised operators in the waters of the Shark Bay Prawn Managed

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			Fishery for the 2015 fishing season.
2552	29/02/2020	Patrick Roy Stubberfield	To allow the removal and sale of redfin perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>) from privately owned dams in Western Australia using a vessel with no Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence.
2553	31/12/2015	Eso Australia Resources Pty Ltd	For Eso Australia Resources Pty Ltd to conduct geotechnical surveys to determine seafloor properties in WA-1-R.
2554	02/06/2015	Lynnath Beckley	Collection of zooplankton including invertebrates from the Perth Canyon.
2555	01/01/2016	Drew Wassman	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division in determining the age structure of crabs.
2556	01/01/2016	Drew Wassman	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division in determining the complete size range of crabs present in the various water depths and areas of the fishery.
2557	01/01/2016	Aaron Schofield	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division in determining the age structure of crabs.
2558	31/08/2015	Leah Beesley	Collect, record and release fish from Canning River (upstream of the Kent St Weir).

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2559	07/03/2018	Various persons, as listed in the exemption, undertaking research on behalf of University of Western Australia	Collection of algae from the locations shown in Table 2.
2560	11/03/2020	Aquatic Resource Management Pty Ltd	To exempt persons acting on behalf of Aquatic Resource Management Pty Ltd from Section 82(2)(c) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> so that they may process marron and/or rainbow trout externally sourced only from the holders of a current licence that authorises the aquaculture of marron and/or rainbow trout.
2561	13/03/2016	Peter Manifis	To receive donated fish from the contestants of the 2015 GAMEX tournament for use in the 5,000 Meals Project.
2562	01/12/2016	Shanta Barley	To catch, tag and release fish from the Rowley Shoals and the Scott Reefs.
2563	30/06/2015	Various persons, as listed in the exemption, undertaking research on behalf of UWA, AIMS, Florida International University, James Cook University, Murdoch University and Ocearch	Collection of sharks and fish from the locations listed in the exemption.
2564	31/03/2017	Recreational Fishing from Boat licence holders	For the purpose of allowing up to a maximum of six octopus trigger traps to be used for

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			recreational fishing for octopus by the holder of a Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence.
2565	30/03/2018	Various persons, as listed in the exemption, undertaking research on behalf of AIMS and WAM	Collection of hard and soft corals from Scott Reef and other emergent reefs in the Oceanic Shoals and various submerged shoals across the North West Shelf and Timor Sea, including Echuca Shoal, Vulcan Shoal and Barracouta Shoal.
2566	14/11/2015	West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery licence holders and registered Rock Lobster receivers	Taking, possession, consigning and selling setose western rock lobster from the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.
2567	15/12/2015	Julian Finn	Collection of cephalopods from between Eucla and Derby.
2568	31/03/2018	Specimen Shell Managed Fishery licence holders	To allow current Specimen Shell MFL holders to fish for specimen shell using up to two fishing boats of any size and up to two nominated divers who are not endorsed on the MFL to fish for specimen shell along with fishing for dead specimens of the genus <i>Haliotis</i> except for <i>Haliotis roei</i> , <i>H. laevigata</i> and <i>H. conicopora</i> and fishing for specimen shells of the genus <i>Pecten</i> while long-term management arrangements can be developed.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2569	31/03/2018	Durack Institute of Technology (Durack)	To enable Durack to collect aquaculture broodstock.
2570	03/11/2015	RL and MA Alexander	To explore and/or develop the Octopus Fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.
2571	03/11/2015	Fremantle Octopus Pty Ltd	To explore and/or develop the Octopus Fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.
2572	31/10/2015	James Tweedley	Collection of fish from the Swan-Canning Estuary.
2573	30/06/2018	Durack Institute of Technology	Educational programs for training Durack Institute for Technology (TAFE) students in commercial fishing practices.
2574	12/05/2015	Renae Hovey	Collection of mussels and oysters, sessile invertebrates and algae from Oyster Harbour and Princess Royal Harbour, Albany.
2575	30/04/2016	Jonathan Bilton	To undertake aquaculture trials at a land-based site in Albany for a commercial purpose.
2576	08/04/2018	MG Kailis Pty Ltd	To gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks within the boundaries of the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery under a controlled management regime.
2577	31/12/2015	Fishing Tour Operators licence holders	To allow Fishing Tour Operators to have a boat limit of 20 mud crabs, where there

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			are more than 10 people on board, with a corresponding allowance of 20 drop nets on the primary boat.
2578	01/04/2018	West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery permit holders	To allow the storage and transport of filleted demersal scalefish onboard, and landing of filleted demersal scalefish from boats fishing in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery.
2579	01/11/2015	Bianca Dekker	Collection of water samples and phytoplankton from the Swan-Canning Estuary.
2580	31/12/2017	Victor and Marie Filippou	To enable the holder of fishing boat licence number 2103 or persons acting on their behalf to use fish traps to take finfish.
2581	15/11/2015	Sam Koncurat	To record all possible interactions between whales and rock lobster pots that contain pingers and pots that contain no pingers from the waters of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery.
2582	28/02/2017	South Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery licence holders and the South Coast Licensed Fisherman's Association (Inc).	To allow the commercial take of blue swimmer crabs.
2583	29/06/2015	A Raptis & Sons Pty Ltd	To enable persons acting on behalf of A Raptis & Sons Pty Ltd to process (cook, pack and freeze) prawns caught during 2015 Kimberley Prawn

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			Managed Fishery season aboard the vessel <i>Territory Pearl</i> .
2584	31/12/2015	Dr Muhammad Azmi Abdul Wahab	Collection of sponges, ascidians, cnidarians, bryozoans, echinoderms and molluscs from Mandurah to Lancelin, Shark Bay, Ningaloo Reef, Exmouth Gulf and the Wheatstone dredging project near Onslow.
2585	30/09/2015	Peter Cook	Collection of Gilgies, <i>Cherax quinquecarinatus</i> , or Koonac, <i>Cherax preissii</i> , <i>C. plebejus</i> or <i>C. glaber</i> , from Yakamia Creek, Albany.
2586	30/04/2018	Kimberley Training Institute	To enable Kimberley Training Institute to collect aquaculture broodstock.
2587	3/11/2015	J & E MacDonald	To explore and/or develop the Octopus Fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.
2588	3/11/2015	RL & MA Alexander	To explore and/or develop the Octopus Fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.
2589	3/11/2015	Fremantle Octopus Pty Ltd	To explore and/or develop the Octopus Fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.
2590	14/05/2018	Tasmanian Seafoods Pty Ltd, RB Lowden Pty Ltd, Shine Year Fisheries (Aust) Pty Ltd	To allow those with the relevant licence endorsement to commercially fish for shark in the northern and southern zones of the WA Northern

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			Coast Shark Fishery while arrangements for the fishery are further considered and finalised.
2591	05/05/2015	Craig Astbury	Surveying and collection of samples to identify invasive marine species from the water column, natural and artificial hard and soft substrates including soft sediments, pylons, berth walls and shorelines within the Mid West Ports Authority's (MWPA) area of jurisdiction and adjacent coastal waters in Geraldton for a one-year period.
2592	13/05/2018	BMT Oceanica Pty Ltd	Surveying and collection of samples to identify invasive marine species throughout the state of Western Australia, on infrastructure and vessels, within ports, marinas and harbours.
2593	31/05/2018	Christopher Cornwall	Collection of coralline algae and calcified seaweed from Dampier Peninsula, Scott Reef, Coral Bay, Jurien Bay, reefs around North Beach, Rottnest Island, Garden Island, Cape Peron, Hamelin Bay and Bremer Bay.
2594	01/06/2016	Various employees of CITIC Pacific-Cape Preston Port	Collection of marine pest crab species, as detailed in Schedule 4 Condition 4 from CITIC Pacific-Cape Preston Port.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2595	01/06/2016	Veronica Mair, HSE Officer, Broome Port Authority	Collection of marine pest crab species, as detailed in Schedule 4, Condition 4 from Kimberly Ports Authority – Broome Port Services.
2596	01/07/2016	Various employees of Rio Tinto - Cape Lambert Port	Collection of marine pest crab species, as detailed in Schedule 4, Condition 4 from Rio Tinto - Cape Lambert Port.
2597	14/11/2015	The nominated master of authorised boat, LFB F22, operating under Managed Fishery License WCLL 1634	To be in the possession of, and setting within the Sea Lion Exclusion Zone, 60 pots with internal partitions fitted as shown in the exemption.
2598	01/06/2016	Monica Medina	Collection of small coral fragments from Ningaloo Marine Park.
2599	14/07/2015	Mike van Keulen	Collection of macroalgae, benthic invertebrates and coral from Ningaloo Marine Park.
2600	30/04/2020	Nominated Divers, Greenlip Abalone Managed Fishery licence holders	To allow nominated divers named on Abalone Managed Fishery licences (which authorise the taking of greenlip abalone) to take, have in their possession, sell and consign greenlip abalone (<i>H. laevigata</i>) of less than 140 mm shell length from the waters of the Abalone Managed Fishery.
2601	09/06/2017	Bamford Consulting Ecologists	For the purpose of educational and community awareness programs.
2602	10/07/2015	Kerry Trayler	Collection of black bream from Middle Swan Estuary, Upper Swan Estuary and Canning

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
			Estuary (above and below Riverton Bridge).
2603	31/12/2015	Susan Kueh	Collection of catfish from Harding, Ord, Fitzroy and Fortescue Rivers.
2604	31/12/2017	Jentel Investments Pty Ltd	To allow Jentel to conduct research and development on coral aquaculture at the Abrolhos Islands.
2605	31/12/2017	Jentel Investments Pty Ltd	To enable Jentel to collect aquaculture broodstock.
2606	28/08/2015	Ian McKernan	Collection of various aquatic invertebrates from local lakes within 30 km of Jurien Bay.
2607	31/07/2015	Dr Craig Lawrence of the Department of Fisheries	Collection of freshwater fish from Goodga River, Angove River, Hay River, Kent River, Blackwood River and other rivers adjacent to, and between, the above catchments.
2608	20/03/2016	Luciana Cerqueira Ferreira	Collection of sharks and fish from Ningaloo Marine Park, Shark Bay Marine Park, Rowley Shoals Marine Park, including Clerke and Imperieuse reefs, the Abrolhos Islands and between Yanchep and Fremantle.