



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fisheries

Department of Fisheries

Annual Report to Parliament

2015/16



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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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Cover image of Peel Harvey Estuary crab fishers and image of rock lobster fisherman on page 70 courtesy of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

Illustrations © R.Swainston/anima.net.au

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Welcome to our 2015/16 Annual Report

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the Department, its operations and its performance over the past financial year (ending 30 June 2016). For a brief summary of our achievements over 2015/16, [go to our year at a glance section](#) on page 13. More detailed information on the agency's operations and performance can be found in the following sections:

- [Go to our Department overview](#) on page 8
- [Go to How we operate](#) on page 25
- [Go to How we performed](#) on page 42
- [Go to Disclosures and legal compliance](#) on page 70
- [Go to the Appendices \(including the status of fisheries and aquatic resources table\)](#) on page 175

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 – 2015/16 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 – 2015/16 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 Joe Francis, MLA Minister for Fisheries

Sir,

In accordance with section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and section 263 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA), I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Department of Fisheries for the financial year ending 30 June 2016.

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 2015/2016*.



Heather Brayford

Director General

Executive summary

The year in review was both challenging and rewarding as the Department worked with key stakeholders to ensure the continuing sustainability of the State's aquatic resources in accordance with the provisions of our governing legislation and the objectives of the Department's *Strategic Plan 2016-2020*. [View the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 \(PDF, 547 KB\)](#)¹ on our website.

Once again we achieved an outstanding result in fisheries management, with 95 per cent of the State's commercial fisheries assessed as not at risk from fishing for the period in review. The challenge for us is to maintain this level of performance and ensure management actions for stocks assessed as inadequate – whether through fishing or environmental pressures – result in their recovery as soon as possible.

It is encouraging to note the enthusiasm with which the fishing sector has embraced the opportunity to achieve Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification for their fisheries. The MSC provides the most independent, comprehensive and respected fishery certification system in the world. Since the Government provided \$14.5 million in 2012 to fund the State's commercial fisheries to undergo MSC assessment, five fisheries have achieved full MSC certification (including 16 years' continuous certification of the western rock lobster fishery), a further four fisheries have entered the full assessment process this year, and all of the State's commercial fisheries have completed MSC pre-assessments – a pre-requisite to commencing full MSC assessment.

The MSC program has also driven change within the Department. We are committed to the development of transparent resource harvest strategies that have clear, set trigger points for management intervention to ensure fisheries remain sustainable. This approach provides the fishing sector with a high degree of certainty about future management actions when and if the need arises.

It is worth noting that MSC assessments are not just concerned with the sustainability of the target species in a fishery – they also assess the impacts of fishing on non-target species and the wider ecosystem. So, you don't pass the MSC test just because the target species stock levels are OK. For example, for the

¹ http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Documents/corporate_publications/strategic_plan_2016-2020.pdf

western rock lobster fishery to gain accreditation, sea lion exclusion devices were introduced to prevent sea lions from entering and being caught in lobster pots. Similarly, the Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf trawl fisheries were required to improve their bycatch monitoring programs to gain full MSC accreditation. [Go to our MSC case study](#) on page 59 for more details about our work in this area.

Our efforts in working with industry to demonstrate the sustainability of the State's fisheries were also recognised by the Commonwealth Government during the year with 18 of the State's commercial fisheries gaining 10-year approvals to export native fish species such as rock lobster, abalone, prawns, crabs and scallops. Previously, such approvals were only given for three to five years for these fisheries.

With worldwide demand for fish protein continuing to grow, and with worldwide production from wildstock fisheries having peaked in the 1990s, Western Australia's significant potential for aquaculture development was recognised during the year with the release by the Premier of the Government's Aquaculture *Statement of Commitment*. [View the Aquaculture Statement of Commitment \(PDF 477KB\)](#)² on our website. This declaration of intent has identified aquaculture as a strategically important industry to the State. We are working within Government and with the aquaculture sector to realise this potential through the identification and designation of investment-ready aquaculture zones, investment in strategic infrastructure such as a shellfish hatchery in the Albany Aquaculture Park, and continued investment in fish health capacity and capability to support industry needs.

During the year, all the water earmarked for aquaculture use in the Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone was fully allocated with the potential to lift annual barramundi production from about 8,000 tonnes to 20,000 tonnes. [View the Kimberley aquaculture zone page](#)³ on our website for more information. In addition, work is well advanced on the environmental assessment required prior to the declaration of the Mid-West aquaculture zone, scheduled for the end of 2016. [View the Mid-West Aquaculture Development Zone page](#)⁴ on our website for more

² http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Documents/Aquaculture/aquaculture_statement_of_commitment.pdf

³ <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Aquaculture/Aquaculture%20Zones/Pages/Kimberley-Aquaculture-Zone.aspx>

⁴ <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Aquaculture/Aquaculture%20Zones/Pages/Mid-West-Aquaculture-Zone.aspx>

information. A site selection process is also proposed for a potential aquaculture development zone on the south coast.

We are also supporting *Ocean Grown Abalone* and *888 Abalone* in their bids to become the State's first aquaculture businesses to receive Aquaculture Stewardship Council certification for their production systems, providing confidence to the community and consumers in the sustainability and origin of their farmed abalone.

Unfortunately, we were required to respond to significant fish kill events in Cockburn Sound and the Kimberley in the year. Following reports of numerous dead and dying fish in Cockburn Sound, including prized species such as pink snapper, our investigation determined that the fish kill was likely caused by higher than normal water temperatures providing ideal conditions for the growth of microscopic algae. The algal bloom deoxygenated the water and damaged the fish's gills, depriving them of essential oxygen and ultimately leading to their suffocation and death. Similarly, a fish kill in the Kimberley was attributed to the localised effects of warmer than normal ocean temperatures. Fish stressed by these conditions become susceptible to lethal infection by naturally occurring bacteria. These events highlight the growing and significant influence of environmental factors on the State's aquatic resources.

Fortunately, only days before the Cockburn Sound fish kill event, the Challenger Institute of Technology, as part of a Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund project, had collected pink snapper eggs that had been fertilised during the species' spawning aggregation in the Sound. The eggs had been collected to determine if juvenile snapper could be hatched and reared at the institute's aquaculture facilities. Following the fish kill event, recreational fishing representative body Recfishwest launched a crowdfunding campaign that enabled about 100,000 of these juvenile snapper to be grown at the Challenger Institute and released into Warnbro and Cockburn sounds in February 2016. Well done to all involved!

The Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund, made up of recreational fishing licence fees, was also used to fund the Mandurah artificial reef, the restocking of prawns in the Swan and Canning rivers, the re-establishment of oyster habitat and its seeding with the native flat oyster in Albany's Oyster Harbour, as well as completion of the

restocking of Lake Kununurra where 550,000 barramundi have been released since 2012.

The year also saw significant progress for the *Aquatic Resources Management Bill 2015* with its passage through the Legislative Assembly. It is hoped that the legislation will be passed through Parliament by the end of 2016 – providing us with an improved and innovative framework for the management of the State's aquatic resources and aquaculture.

We are actively involved in reviewing regulations and procedures to cut red tape in the administration of the State's fisheries and aquatic resources. In line with this objective, in the last year we have extended the number of fisheries able to pay their access fees by instalment, giving licensees the opportunity to make fee payments throughout the year; we have dispensed with the tag purchasing system for recreational pink snapper fishers in Shark Bay following the recovery of pink snapper stocks ([go to our Shark Bay pink snapper case study](#) on page 64 for more details about our work in this area); and we have built some leeway into the rock lobster quota management system to reduce the likelihood of licence suspension for commercial operators in the western rock lobster fishery for minor and unintentional quota overruns. We recognise that there is more to be done in the area of red tape reduction and we plan to introduce more reforms within the Department and throughout our services on an annual basis.

The year has also seen a significant investment in the development and support of our staff. We ran an internal leadership program with 100 per cent attendance of employees at Level 7 and above. The program has seen improved agency performance in the areas of strategic planning, team building and performance management, as well as the development of strong internal networks and increased collaboration across the Department. In addition we worked to ensure the welfare of our staff through the continued support of the Mental Health Awareness Working Group with a broadened focus from suicide prevention to general mental health; promoted R U OK? Day with the theme 'Support your team, support your colleagues'; and reviewed and updated the Department's grievance management policy and procedures, and the Conduct and Behaviour Policy, Procedure and Guidelines which are available to employees online.

The achievements outlined in the Annual Report would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of the Department's staff and Corporate Executive. Thank you to all. I would also like to thank the Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Joe Francis MLA, and his office for the support and guidance provided in recent months since becoming Minister, and acknowledge the contribution of the Hon Ken Baston MLC during his tenure as Minister for Fisheries and wish him well for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Brayford', written in a cursive style.

Heather Brayford
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Department overview



About us

The Department of Fisheries' primary responsibility is to conserve, sustainably develop and share the use of Western Australia's aquatic resources and their ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations.

We do this through managing fisheries and aquatic ecosystems, assessment and monitoring of fish stocks, enforcement and education, biosecurity management and licensing commercial and recreational fishing activity, including commercial aquaculture.

A variety of complex issues impact on the sustainable management of the State's fish and aquatic resources. To meet these challenges we employ an integrated approach to the planning, priority setting and project management of our key service areas:

Fisheries management; covering policy development, licensing and legislation related to the State's commercial and recreational fisheries, pearling, aquaculture, the aquatic charter industry, customary fishing and protection of aquatic ecosystems, including safeguarding our aquatic biosecurity.

Enforcement and education; covering statewide fisheries compliance, communications and community education.

Research and assessment; providing timely, high-quality scientific knowledge and objective advice to support the management, conservation and sustainable use of the State's fish resources and aquatic environment.

These services are delivered by our four divisions, under the management of the Corporate Executive:

- Aquatic management;
- Fisheries research;
- Regional services; and
- Corporate services.

Our vision

We aspire to be recognised and respected by the WA community for our leadership in fisheries and aquatic resource management.

Our mission

To deliver sustainable management and development of the State's fisheries and aquatic resources by being responsive, resilient and results-focused.

Our values

In working with our stakeholders and our colleagues, we demonstrate:

- **Excellence in everything we do** – delivery of sustained high performance that meets or exceeds the expectations of clients.
- **Unity by working together for a common purpose** – working with a shared purpose with a culture of collaboration and support.
- **Respect through working with integrity and courtesy** – valuing each other and all contributions to the Department both internal and external.
- **Innovation by developing new ways and embracing change** – being open to challenges and working to find solutions.
- **Leadership by showing the way** – empowering and developing staff to be motivated and creative in their work.

Our objectives

- **Community and stakeholder benefits** – working together to provide value to, and to be valued by, the community and our stakeholders.
- **Sustainability** – sustainably managing WA's aquatic resources and fisheries through a risk-based, dynamic and adaptive approach; and supporting resilient aquatic resources and ecosystems by being responsive to changing conditions and management needs.
- **Management excellence** – striving for excellence through strong accountability and governance systems, and effective and efficient practices across all areas of the Department.

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.

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

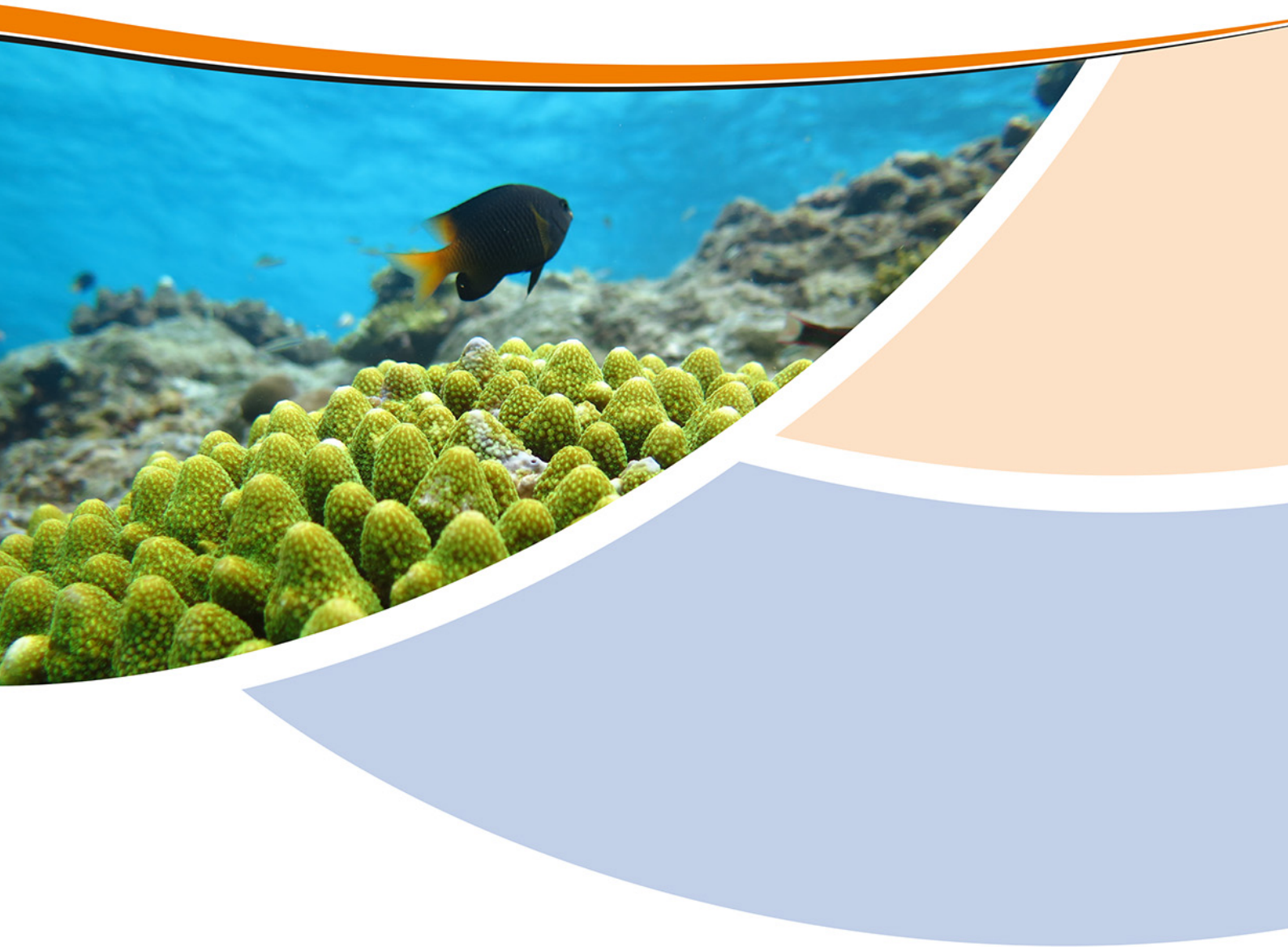
We regard anyone who values Western Australia's extensive and diverse aquatic ecosystems as our stakeholder. Stakeholders have a role to play in ensuring fish stocks and their habitats are protected, now and into the future. We encourage stakeholders to participate in consultation about the management 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.

The year at a glance



Now that's 'some fin'!

We strive to manage Western Australia's important fish resources sustainably while optimising the economic and social benefits and values of their use for the community. Just some of the benefits sustainable fisheries management bring to our community are highlighted below.

Table 1: Benefits of sustainable fisheries management to the WA community.

Amount	Benefit
86%	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.
95%	The percentage of fish stocks in Western Australia that are not at risk from fishing.
\$1.6 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.
\$569 million	The value of the State's commercial fisheries and aquaculture production. These sectors continue to contribute significantly to State and regional economies.
\$76 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.
2,179	The number of commercial fishing licences we issued. Our fisheries sector continues to be a significant employer.

Amount	Benefit
16	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.
752,000	The number of West 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.
170,094	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.
\$18 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.
94	The number of life-saving devices deployed during the year to high risk fishing areas between Carnarvon and Esperance as part of the Government's commitment of \$300,000 over three years to Recfishwest to implement its Rock Fishing Safety Strategy.
168,000	The number 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.

Stand-out achievements

Independent third-party sustainability assessment of our fisheries

We are providing support for all the State's commercial fisheries to undertake independent Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sustainability assessments to provide the community with confidence that the State's aquatic resources are being managed sustainably.

During the course of 2015/16, the last of the State's commercial fisheries completed their sustainability pre-assessments under the MSC program. In addition, a number of commercial fisheries achieved full MSC certification including the Shark Bay Prawn Fishery, Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery, West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery and Peel-Harvey Fishery (both crab and sea mullet components). This is in addition to the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, which has been re-certified three times since 2000. [Go to our MSC case study](#) on page 59 for more details about our work in this area.

Helping grow the State's aquaculture industry

In August 2015, the Government released a Statement of Commitment for the development of the aquaculture industry in WA, recognising aquaculture as a strategically important industry with significant opportunity for growth and investment.

In line with this statement, the Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone was fully allocated during the year giving Marine Produce Australia the capacity to nearly double its annual production to 15,000 tonnes of barramundi per year. Aarli Mayi Aquaculture Project Pty Ltd was also granted a licence enabling it to produce up to 5,000 tonnes of barramundi a year. We have also commenced work on the development of a marine shellfish hatchery in the Albany Aquaculture Park. The hatchery is needed to support growth of the shellfish aquaculture sector in the State.

In addition, we completed a bio-economic evaluation which showed that there is strong economic potential for commercial scale, abalone stock enhancement for greenlip abalone (*Haliotis laevis*). A four-year study on octopus aquaculture and ranching was also completed. This project enables the highest levels of stocking

density in the world to be achieved. The grow-out systems and rearing protocols have been published and are commercially ready.

World-leading white shark research

As part of the WA Government's shark mitigation program, we have completed a four-year study on the movement of tagged white sharks off WA. This study not only provided the first comprehensive set of data on the movement of white sharks, but also developed a system for real time notification of the presence of tagged sharks. The information delivered from the satellite-based shark monitoring network is now an integral part of the Sharksmart website that provides alerts on the presence of tagged sharks at key metropolitan and south-west beaches.

[Go to our Sharksmart website](http://www.sharksmart.com.au/)⁵.

Recovering an iconic WA recreational fishery

Scientific monitoring and assessment of the three pink snapper stocks (Eastern Gulf, Denham Sound and Freycinet Estuary) within the inner gulfs of Shark Bay has been undertaken since 1996 when there were significant concerns about their status.

The latest assessments have concluded that the strong management of the recreational sector, including use of a recreational total allowable catch, has succeeded in recovery of stocks to target levels. This has enabled the removal of a number of management restrictions, including the tag-based quota system, allowing more recreational fishers to access the fishery. [Go to our Shark Bay pink snapper recovery case study](#) on page 64 for more details about our work in this area

Leading the field in international aquatic biosecurity

Our biosecurity research team and the Department have been recognised as world leading in our work, with our principal biosecurity scientist invited to represent Australia as part of a global marine pest research partnership. This partnership is a quadrilateral approach (USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia) to enhancing collaboration and skill sharing to advance science and innovation in this area. Access to this type of forum provides great opportunities for the Department through access to international skills and expertise to aid in our programs.

⁵ <http://www.sharksmart.com.au/>

Transforming the way we promote *fish for the future* to the recreational fishing community

We significantly improved the way we deliver the recreational fishing rules to fishers on our website in 2015/16. [Go to our website](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au)⁶ to see the new online recreational fishing rules. The new mobile device-friendly format includes rules that apply to nearly 180 fish species and groups of species found in Western Australia. It provides a comprehensive overview of each species, including enlarged fish illustrations to help fishers identify their catch. Fishers can now use a location search on the website directing them to common species found in each bioregion, as well as highlighting any nearby marine protected areas through interactive maps. The rules are now quicker and easier to access than ever before, to help enhance the WA recreational fishing experience for thousands of fishers and helping to ensure there will be fish for the future. We continue to provide our recreational fishing rules brochure, available from tackle stores and from our offices.

⁶ <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au>

Significant issues for the Department

New legislation

The proposed new Aquatic Resources Management Act is likely to be passed by Parliament in 2016 and will provide significant opportunities for us to enhance fisheries management arrangements in Western Australia for long-term sustainability, including a focus on risk-based resource management and strengthening of access rights for the commercial and recreational sectors. The new legislation will also provide enhanced capacity for aquaculture and biosecurity management.

Third-party fishery sustainability certification

We continue to roll-out assessment of the State's commercial fisheries under the world-leading Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sustainable fishing standard. All fisheries have been pre-assessed against the MSC standard with a number of fisheries now either MSC certified or progressing to full assessment. Additional fisheries will be undergoing the full assessment program in the coming months and years.

Growing the aquaculture sector

Aquaculture represents a significant growth opportunity in Western Australia. The focus has been on the establishment of investment-ready zones, in both the Kimberley and Mid-West regions. The Kimberley zone has been fully allocated and the Mid-West zone is due for establishment in late 2016. In addition, we have enhanced environmental monitoring and management arrangements for the aquaculture sector and continue to provide important fish health services to industry.

Dealing with aquatic biosecurity threats

We continue to focus on biosecurity management and research, including the early detection and eradication of aquatic pests and diseases. We take a risk-based approach to biosecurity with resources directed to key areas and assets to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the State's valuable fisheries and aquatic habitats.

Red tape reduction

We are actively involved in identifying and eliminating unnecessary red tape for our stakeholders based on risk. Our red tape reduction program – badged as *Project Barracuda* – has had some early successes and we expect to be able to introduce a range of reforms that provide efficiency dividends for stakeholders in the commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture sectors.

Performance summary








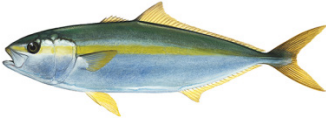
Key performance indicators (KPIs)



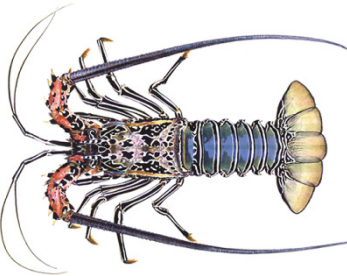
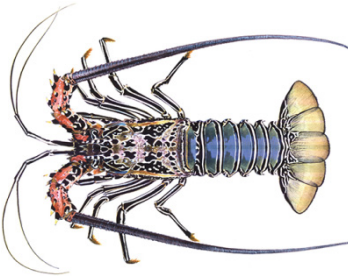






The outcomes of the Department's services are measured by KPIs designed to measure our effectiveness and efficiency.

[Go to the audited Key performance indicators section](#) of this annual report on page 134 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.

Table 2: Summary of target and results against key performance indicators and services.

Key performance indicator/Service	Target	Result
<p>KPI 1.1 The proportion of fish stocks identified at risk or vulnerable through exploitation. For more details go to page 135.</p>	3% 	5% 
<p>KPI 1.2 The proportion of commercial fisheries where catches or effort levels are acceptable. For more details go to page 138.</p>	95% 	90% 
<p>KPI 1.3 The proportion of recreational fisheries where catches or effort levels are acceptable. For more details go to page 141.</p>	80% 	100% 
<p>KPI 2.1 The volume of State commercial fisheries (including aquaculture) production (tonnes). For more details go to page 143.</p>	21,000 	20,814 

Key performance indicator/Service	Target	Result
KPI 3.1 The participation rate in recreational fishing. For more details go to page 147.	30%	31.1%
		
KPI 3.2 The satisfaction rating of the broader community as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department of Fisheries is achieving aquatic resource management objectives. For more details go to page 152.	85%	85.9%
		
Service 1 Fisheries Management – average cost per hour for management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments). For more details go to page 155.	\$193	\$174
		
Service 2 Enforcement and Education – average cost per hour of enforcement and education. For more details go to page 156.	\$198	\$140
		
Service 3 Research and Assessment – average cost per hour of research and assessment. For more details go to page 157.	\$110	\$104
		

Financial summary

Table 3 below provides a comparison of our financial performance against financial targets and outcomes included in the 2015/16 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 3: Comparison of our financial performance against financial targets and outcomes

	2015/16 Target \$'000	2015/16 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Notes
Total cost of services (expense limit) (details from Statement of Comprehensive Income)	86,851	91,646	4,795	Note 1
Net cost of services (details from Statement of Comprehensive Income)	51,218	54,786	3,568	Note 2
Total equity (details from Statement of Financial Position)	88,333	81,562	(6,771)	Note 3
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held (details from Statement of Cash Flows)	(2,221)	(7,775)	(5,554)	Note 4

Table 4: Comparison of approved full-time (FTE) staff level against actual FTE staff employed

	Approved	Actual	Variance	Notes
Approved FTE staff level	453	470	17	Note 5

Notes

These notes should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended June 2016. [Go to the Notes to the Financial Statements](#) on page 82.

Note 1: Total cost of services

Higher actual total cost of services compared to the target is primarily due to; a net increases in supply and services costs (\$3.3 million), which included increased peak

body payments; higher accommodation costs (\$1.4 million); marginally higher employee benefits attributed mostly to increased employee entitlement provisions (\$1.1 million) offset by other net favourable expenditure variances, including depreciation (under budget \$1.5 million).

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 other external revenue, offset partially against reduced general interest income.

Note 3: Total equity

The decrease in total equity (\$6.8 million) against target is due partly to cash incurred expenditure being higher than anticipated, per the Note 1 (total cost of services, above) resulting in a reduction in cash balances (\$4.4 million) used to fund carried over recurrent and capital projects. Significant non-cash expenditure also contributed to a reduction in total equity through employee provisions for leave entitlements (\$0.8 million) and a land and building asset revaluation decrement (\$0.6 million) during the year.

Note 4: Net decrease in cash held

The net decrease in cash held (\$5.6 million) is attributed to significantly higher than planned cash outflows from operating acting activities, including; employee benefits (\$2 million); accommodation (\$1.4 million); supplies, services and other costs (\$2.8 million, GST inclusive). This higher actual operating expenditure is partially offset by lower than planned investment in non-current assets.

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 was not part of the ongoing and Approved FTE target.

How we operate



Governance

Our Corporate Executive



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

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 30 years' 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.

Darren Foster BA, Grad. Dip. Arts (History)

Deputy Director General

Darren Foster was appointed Deputy Director General in November 2015, with responsibility for aquaculture, aquatic management, legal services, environment and

biosecurity. Prior to joining the Department, Darren was Director of Strategic Policy and Planning in the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority. He has had a 30-year career as a senior policy and strategy adviser in Commonwealth, State and local governments.

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' 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 Research of Fisheries 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' 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' 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 our four 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

Figure 1: The Department of Fisheries organisational structure.

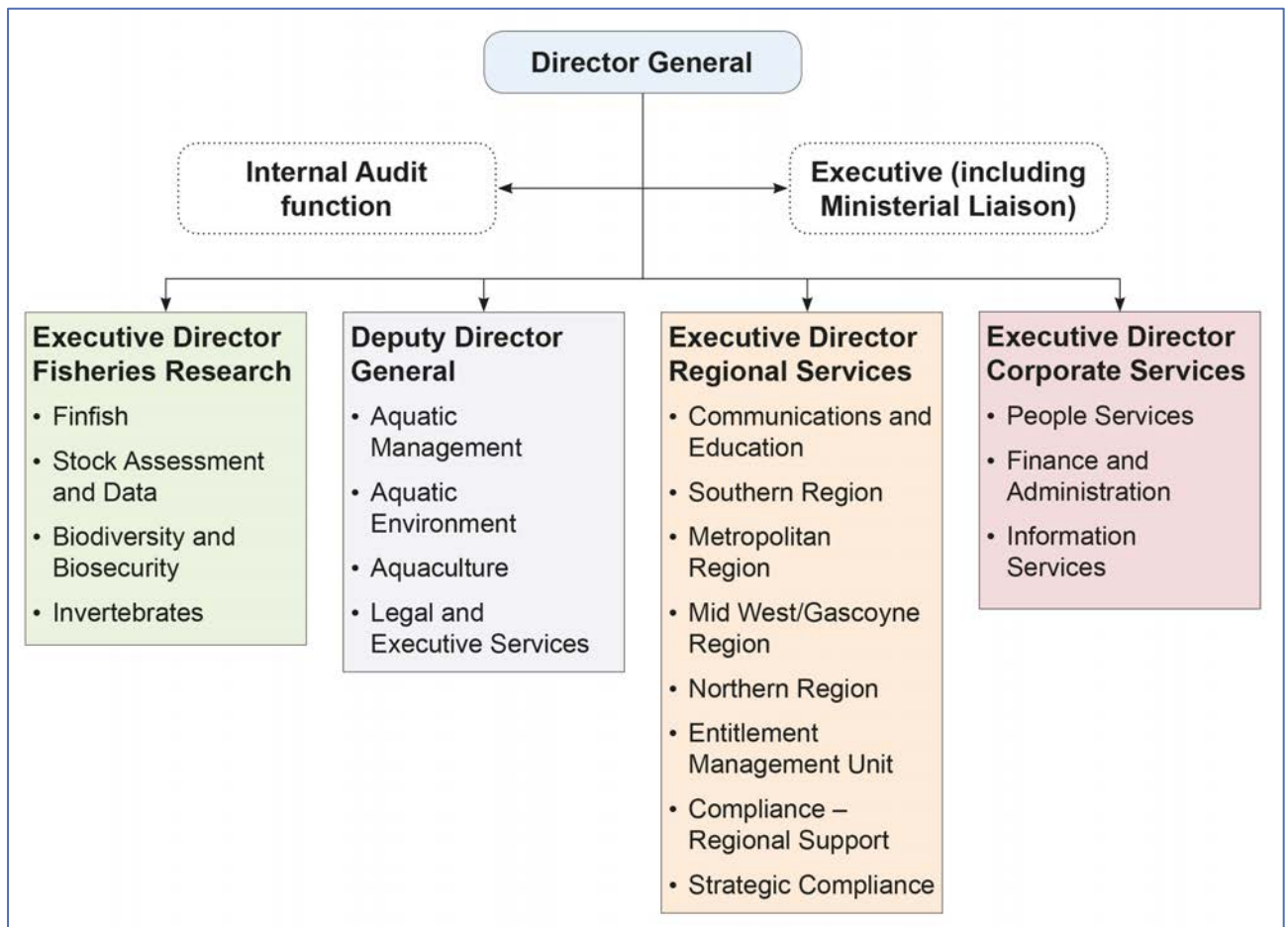


Figure 1 above illustrates our organisational structure. The Director General (with the Executive) has responsibility for overseeing the Department’s strategic direction and performance in line with our desired outcome: The conservation and sustainable development of the State’s fish resources. The Department’s Internal Audit function and Corporate Executive (including Ministerial Liaison), led by the Director General, further ensures the desired outcome is collectively achieved by the Department’s four key divisions:

1. **Research** – overseen by the Executive Director Research and includes the Finfish, Stock Assessment and Data, Biosecurity and Biodiversity, and Invertebrates branches.

2. **Aquatic Management Division** – overseen by the Deputy Director General and includes the Aquatic Management, Aquatic Environment, Aquaculture, and Legal and Executive Services branches.
3. **Regional Services Division** – overseen by Executive Director Regional Services and includes the Communications and Education, Southern Region, Metropolitan Region, Mid-West/Gascoyne Region, Northern Region, Entitlement Management Unit, Central Support Services and Strategic Compliance Policy branches.
4. **Corporate Services** – overseen by the Executive Director Corporate Services and includes the People Services, Finance and Administration, and Information Services branches.

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, land and marine-based 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 and is now showing signs of 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 in line with a focused, integrated development plan.

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, enforcement and licensing programs. These programs ensure fishing rules are understood and followed, helping us meet our *fish for the future* objective. These programs are developed and carried out through the branches below.

Our **Regional Services Branch** delivers fisheries compliance and education in recreational and commercial fisheries, the pearling and aquaculture industries, and in fish habitat protection areas and marine parks.

Statewide biosecurity, shark hazard response and fish kill response is delivered regionally and through the support of the Central Support Services.

The Regional Services Division also supports marine safety initiatives through marine safety, compliance and education on behalf of the Department of Transport.

Enforcement activities carried out by the branch include marine, land and sea patrols, aerial surveillance, covert operations, high profile mobile patrols and education initiatives, and intelligence driven operations. The branch has five regional offices – Gascoyne, Metropolitan, Mid-West, North and South, and a number of district offices and metropolitan specialist units. These regional operational areas are supported by our Perth-based Central Support Services, Strategic Policy and Shark

Response Unit sections. The branch also provides a licensing service at regional offices.

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, as required under Part 12 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*. [Go to a summary of the register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases](#) in Appendix 2 on page 198.

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 we engage with the community is through a range of free e-newsletters.

Catch!, our recreational fishing newsletter, is sent to more than 85,000 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 is open to all subscribers and is directly offered to people purchasing or renewing a recreational fishing licence on our website. View [Catch!](#)⁷ on our website.

Fish eNews provides news on the State, national and international commercial fishing industry anyone involved, or interested, in the WA fishing and seafood industries, while *Freshwater Guardian* explores WA's unique freshwater fish, the ecosystems they live in and the work and research undertaken in the freshwater environment. [View details on Fish eNews](#)⁸ and [Freshwater Guardian](#)⁹ on our website.

⁷ <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Recreational-Fishing/Catch-E-Newsletter/Pages/default.aspx>

⁸ <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Commercial-Fishing/Pages/Fish-eNews.aspx>

⁹ <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Sustainability-and-Environment/Aquatic-Biodiversity/Freshwater-Biodiversity/Pages/Freshwater-Guardian.aspx>

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), Australian Institute of Marine Science, Western Australian Museum, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Commonwealth fisheries and environment agencies, and border protection agencies.

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.

Our **Finfish Fisheries Branch** undertakes research to assess and monitor the State's diverse finfish resources. Some of the 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 managed recreational charter fishing 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); undertakes the production of trout and native fish species; and manages our 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 the Department's extensive data from 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.

Dedicated staff from our SADA and Biodiversity and Biosecurity branches also support and help coordinate the compilation of information and inputs needed to support the submissions required to meet Marine Stewardship Council pre-assessment and full assessment criteria.

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 meeting its statutory reporting requirements.

Our **People Services Branch** provides services across a range of strategic and transactional functional areas. We manage our own in-house payroll service and HR management system plus operational HR services including recruitment, job design and classification, and workforce data reporting. The branch delivers HR policy,

strategy and program development, workforce planning, training and development services, occupational safety and wellbeing programs. The People Services Branch also 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.

The **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.
- 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 four regional offices – Broome, 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. The Abrolhos Islands Research Institute is located at Separation Point in Geraldton.

- Our Fisheries Operations Centre in South Perth is where our Biosecurity Compliance Unit and the Rock Lobster Quota Management Unit is located.

The Watermans Bay Marine Centre has been refurbished as part of a collaborative project with the Australian Institute of Marine Science, CSIRO and the Oceans Institute at the University of Western Australia. It opened in 2015, forming part of the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre and will bring together more than 240 researchers carrying out projects in oceanography, fisheries and marine ecology, technologies, engineering and law.

Addresses and contact details for all our offices can be found on our website in the 'Contact us' section. [Go to the 'Contact us' section](#)¹⁰ on our website.

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 environments are usually sustainable. If they do not, fish resources and aquatic environments can be put at significant risk.

¹⁰ <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Contact-Us/Pages/default.aspx>

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 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 in fisheries management presents challenges to fisheries management agencies worldwide as there is no simple way 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 Status Reports). [View the Status Reports](#)¹¹ on our website.

The Status report 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.

The Status Reports is tabled in Parliament along with our Annual Report. [Go to the Stock status and catch ranges for major fisheries](#) in Appendix 1 on page 176 for a summary from the Status Reports' fisheries sustainability results for 2015/16.

¹¹ <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Publications/Pages/State-of-the-Fisheries-report.aspx>

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."

Objectives	Key performance indicators
"Conservation and development of the State's fish resources"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of fish stocks identified as at risk or vulnerable through exploitation. • The proportion of commercial fisheries where catches or effort levels is acceptable. • The proportion of recreational fisheries where catches or effort levels is acceptable. • The volume of State commercial fisheries (including aquaculture) production. • The participation rate in recreational fishing. • The satisfaction rating of the broader community and stakeholders as to their perceptions of the extent to which the Department is achieving aquatic resource management objectives.
Fisheries management	The average cost per hour of management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments)
Enforcement and education	The average cost per hour of enforcement and education
Research and assessment	The average cost per hour or research and assessment

Table 3: How the Department's outcome-based management structure works.

Table 3 above illustrates the Government's Outcome Based Managed Framework for the Department of Fisheries. The Department's "Desired Outcome" for "the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources" sits under the Government 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. Key indicators are a measure of our

effectiveness in achieving the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources. They also measure the efficiency of the delivery of our services by the average cost per hour of our fisheries management, enforcement and education and research and assessment services that we deliver on behalf of the community.

Contribution to other Government goals

During 2015/16, 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, south metropolitan 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 2015/16. They are presented against the objectives and strategies of our *Strategic Plan 2016-2020*, which 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: Community and stakeholder benefits

Working together to provide value to, and to be valued by, the community and stakeholders.

Strategy 1.1 Promote sustainable management of aquatic resources and ecosystems to the community.

- We are actively promoting and implementing systems to provide the community with confidence that the State's aquatic resources are being managed sustainably. As part of this process we are providing support for all the State's commercial fisheries to undertake independent Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sustainability assessments and we are in the process of developing harvest strategies for all of our managed fisheries. [Go to our MSC case study](#) on page 59 for more details about our work in this area.
- During the course of 2015/16, the last of the State's commercial fisheries completed their sustainability pre-assessments under the MSC program.
- In addition, a number of commercial fisheries achieved full MSC certification during the year including the Shark Bay Prawn Fishery, Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery, West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery and Peel-Harvey crab and sea mullet fisheries. This is in addition to the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, which has been re-certified three times since 2000.
- The following fisheries entered the full MSC assessment during 2015/16: The Pearl Oyster Fishery, Pilbara Trap Managed Fishery, Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery and Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery. MSC crab certification for the Peel-Harvey Crab Fishery includes

both the commercial and recreational fishing components, making the certification of this fishery a 'world first'.

- The WA Government has funded two Western Australian aquaculture abalone enterprises to be pre-assessed under the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) standard. The ASC is an independent not for profit organisation with the goal of providing the world's leading certification and labelling program for responsibly farmed seafood. The ASC certifies aquaculture ventures by providing third-party independent science-based assessments based on the ASC standard. The standard currently covers 12 species groups including abalone. The results of the pre-assessments for the abalone enterprises should be available in mid to late 2016. We continue to work with the ASC and aquaculture industry in respect of progressing a standard for barramundi, a key aquaculture sector in WA.
- We have successfully submitted a series of strategic publications to international peer-reviewed journals that outline the methods we have developed for the Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) assessment and management approaches we now use within WA. Having these methods accepted within international journals is an essential component needed to underpin the third party assessment of our fisheries management to meet the rigorous MSC criteria and processes. These approaches will also be integral to progress the new resource-based approach that will be applied to implement the new Aquatic Resources Management Act.

Strategy 1.2 Ensure appropriate consultation and funding arrangements with stakeholders.

- We maintained our funding and service level agreements with the WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) and Recfishwest, which continue to provide benefits for the Department, our key stakeholders and the wider community.

Strategy 1.3 Provide frameworks and supporting systems to enable growth and development of fisheries and aquaculture resources.

- In August 2015, the Government released a Statement of Commitment for the development of the aquaculture industry in WA, recognising aquaculture

as a strategically important industry with significant opportunity for growth and investment.

- The Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone was fully allocated during 2016 giving Marine produce Australia the capacity to nearly double its annual production to 15,000 tonnes of barramundi per year. Aarli Mayi Aquaculture Project Pty Ltd was also granted a licence enabling it to produce up to 5,000 tonnes of barramundi a year.
- We have commenced work on the development of a marine shellfish hatchery in the Albany Aquaculture Park. The hatchery is needed to support growth of the shellfish aquaculture sector in the State.
- Our aquaculture research focused on scallop breeding as part of a scallop re-seeding project. A 'Development Atlas' was produced to document the gonadal development stages of scallops (male and female). This atlas is now in use with industry and helps determine the development stages of scallops at different times of the year at different locations. This information is useful for both aquaculture production of scallops and seeding (marine ranching) of scallops to support the wild fishery in potentially overcoming periods of low recruitment due to changing environmental conditions.
- We completed a bio-economic evaluation which showed that there is strong economic potential for commercial scale, abalone stock enhancement for greenlip abalone (*Haliotis laevis*). The hatchery-reared abalone were able to significantly increase the stock density in the areas where they were released and grew to a size that enables their entry into the commercial fishery. This provided a greater understanding of the carrying capacity of abalone habitat and the ecological processes that influence wild abalone fisheries.
- A four-year study on octopus aquaculture and ranching was completed. This project discovered new handling systems and protocols that significantly reduced the level of cannibalism and escapes enabling the highest levels of stocking density in the world to be achieved. The grow-out systems and rearing protocols have been published and are commercially ready.

Strategy 1.4 Work with national, state and regional partners, and with stakeholders to achieve Government outcomes and priorities.

- 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. We host regular forums with WAFIC and Recfishwest to encourage ongoing communication and updates of key issues with our stakeholders.
- We established a stakeholder-based working group consisting of representatives of the commercial and recreational fishing sectors, WAFIC and Recfishwest to ensure that the interests of both sectors were considered during the development of a formal harvest strategy for the Gascoyne demersal scalefish resource.
- We negotiated and signed a new four-year Service Delivery Arrangement with the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, for fisheries services to the Indian Ocean Territories, including the commencement of a fisheries compliance program.
- In 2015, our collaboration with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment resulted in 18 fisheries being granted 10-year approvals (until 2025) under the List of Exempt Native Specimens (LENS) legislation within the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This has significantly reduced the resourcing needed by the Department to maintain environmental accreditation for these State fisheries, a clear reduction in 'red tape'.
- Our biosecurity research team working with WA industry members and international partners in Singapore have recently completed a biological review of the Asian green mussel. This species was previously highlighted as a key risk to Australia. Our work has significantly increased our knowledge of this species and the risk it poses. The team also provides key data for management agencies to better manage any interceptions or incursions.

- The freshwater research team discovered that an endemic fish species (*Galaxias occidentalis*), now almost extinct in the metropolitan area, controls mosquito-borne disease by consuming mosquito larvae. This has potential benefits for local health authorities in areas where mosquitoes pose a significant health risk.

Strategy 1.5 Have regard for social and economic considerations in addition to ecological outcomes in decision making.

- We significantly improved the way we deliver the recreational fishing rules to fishers on our website. [View the improved recreational fishing rules format](#)¹² on our website. The new mobile device-friendly format, which complements Recfishwest’s fishing app, includes rules that apply to nearly 180 fish species and groups of species found in Western Australia. It provides a comprehensive overview of each species, including enlarged fish illustrations to help fishers identify their catch. Fishers can now use a location search on the website directing them to common species found in each bioregion, as well as highlighting any nearby marine protected areas through interactive maps. The rules are now quicker and easier to access than ever before, to help enhance the WA recreational fishing experience for thousands of fishers and helping to ensure there will be fish for the future. We continue to provide our recreational fishing rules brochure, available from tackle stores and from our offices.

Objective 2: Sustainability

Sustainably managing WA’s aquatic resources and fisheries through a risk-based, dynamic and adaptive approach, and supporting resilient aquatic resources and ecosystems by being responsive to changing conditions and management needs.

Strategy 2.1 Ensure all significant impacts on aquatic resources and ecosystems are understood and managed according to risk.

- Since the 2010/11 marine heatwave event, a number of invertebrate fisheries in the Gascoyne and West Coast bioregions have had inadequate breeding stocks due to ongoing and residual environmental impacts. Following strong

¹²<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au>

management and actions, monitoring has found that the Denham Sound scallop stock in Shark Bay has fully recovered and some recovery is evident for the northern Shark Bay crab and scallop stocks. The Abrolhos Island scallop fishery, however, needed to remain closed to protect existing residual stocks.

- The marine heatwave also caused widespread mortality to abalone stocks in the Kalbarri region but there has been some success in the translocation of abalone and the release of hatchery-reared abalone to assist in stock recovery in this region.
- The Cockburn Sound crab stock has also been impacted by environmental conditions with the fishery remaining closed to assist stock recovery.
- Following introduction of gear modification requirements, the number of whale entanglements in commercial rock lobster fishing gear fell from 18 in 2013 to two in 2015, highlighting the success of efforts by the Department, the Western Rock Lobster Council and fishers to address the issue of whale entanglements.
- As part of the WA Government's shark mitigation program, we have completed a four-year study on the movement of tagged white sharks off WA. This study not only provided the first comprehensive set of data on the movement of white sharks, but also developed a system for real time notification of the presence of tagged sharks. The information delivered from the satellite-based shark monitoring network is now an integral part of the Sharksmart website that provides alerts on the presence of tagged sharks at key metropolitan and south-west beaches. The study was released in a report entitled, *Evaluation of passive acoustic telemetry approaches for monitoring and mitigating shark hazards off the coast of Western Australia* [View the report from the study \(PDF 3.31MB\)](#)¹³ on our website.
- The first age-based assessment of the South Coast demersal scalefish resource was completed, with funding from the State Natural Resource Management Office. The assessment focused on the demersal species of the south coast that support important recreational and commercial fisheries –

¹³ http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Documents/research_reports/frr273.pdf

Bight redfish, snapper, blue groper and blue morwong. The report is being finalised for release to support the development of appropriate management for the ongoing sustainable use of these resources.

- Scientific monitoring and assessment of the three pink snapper stocks (Eastern Gulf, Denham Sound and Freycinet Estuary) within inner Shark Bay has been undertaken since 1996 when there were significant concerns about their status. The latest assessments have concluded that the strong management of the recreational sector, including use of a recreational total allowable catch, have succeeded in recovering stocks to target levels. This has enabled the removal of a number of management restrictions, including the tag-based quota system, allowing more recreational fishers to access the fishery.
- The report from the second statewide survey of recreational boat-based fishing was released. This presented the data collected by the leading-edge, integrated survey design we have now adopted. This includes: (1) 'off site' phone/diary surveys; (2) on site, boat ramp surveys; and (3) data obtained from remote cameras. The results include both Statewide and bioregional level estimates of the numbers of each fish species captured by this sector and the numbers retained or released. These data are now being used to determine whether the catch levels by this sector are meeting sustainability and catch allocation targets.
- The West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery has adopted maximum economic yield as its management target and the fishery is now valued at close to \$400 million with the spawning stock and catch rates at record-high levels in recent years.
- Following three years of closure, the Department, in collaboration with the Shark Bay scallop industry, commenced the trial of a quota management system to manage the 2015 scallop catch, to a catch limit of 100 tonnes following recovery of stocks in Denham Sound. Licensees and the Department have formed the Shark Bay Scallop Working Group to continue developing arrangements for the trial for the 2016 season.
- We hosted the third annual marine biosecurity workshop bringing together more than 100 attendees from stakeholder groups including shipping agents,

the resource sector oil and gas companies, biofouling inspectors, university researchers, state and federal government agencies, and representatives from aquaculture and pearling industry and boating associations. The one-day workshop covered a variety of issues relating to marine biosecurity risks and mitigation actions, and involved guest presentations from industry and government, facilitated sessions on high-risk vessel scenarios, and priority settings.

- We recently completed a study on the marine biosecurity risk posed by recreational vessels. This study was the first of its kind in Australia and combined a questionnaire issued to boat owners, as well as in-water examination of vessels and marine infrastructure. The study was identified by the federal government as groundbreaking and is proposed to form the basis of a national study.
- We worked with industry stakeholders (Chevron Australia, Ports WA and Curtin University) to develop and trial new marine surveillance tools. This new program uses both passive and active surveillance measures to try to detect the first stages of any marine pest invasion. WA is leading the country in this area of next generation molecular sequencing for early detection of marine pests.
- We established and currently coordinate an Australian Marine Pest Research Network. This collaborative network now links researchers from national, state and regional governments and industry partners around the country to deliver nationally strategic applied marine pest science. This network was recently recognised by the federal government as a key to the recent national review and the future of marine pest biosecurity in Australia.
- Our biosecurity operations were concentrated within the ports, involving boarding and hull inspections of large bulk carriers and resource sector vessels. The team searches for unwanted invasive marine pests using a combination of underwater diving and use of remotely operated vehicles.
- There were a number of fish kill responses launched during this period with the more significant involving a fish kill in Cockburn Sound and another further to the north in the Kimberley region.

Strategy 2.2 Share the State's aquatic resources and ecosystems in an equitable, open, transparent and sustainable manner.

- We implemented harvest strategies for blue swimmer crabs and scalefish in the Peel-Harvey Estuary.

Strategy 2.3 Ensure legislation meets contemporary fisheries and aquatic resource management requirements.

- The *Aquatic Resources Management Bill 2015* gained passage through the Legislative Assembly and is likely to be enacted by the Parliament in 2016. The legislation will repeal the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the *Pearling Act 1990*, and provide an innovative resource risk and rights-based framework for the future management of the State's fisheries and aquaculture.
- The Octopus Interim Managed Fishery Management Plan 2015 came into effect on 24 November 2015. The new Plan provides strengthened commercial access rights to the octopus resource and rationalises the management of commercial octopus fishing into an integrated management framework.
- The Shark Bay Crab Managed Fishery Management Plan 2015 came into effect on 20 November 2015 to consolidate the management of commercial crab caught by licensees of the Shark Bay Crab (Interim), Shark Bay Prawn and Shark Bay Scallop managed fisheries based on an individual transferable quota management system.
- The Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Management Plan 2010 was amended to bring the non-pink snapper component of the fishery under an individual transferable quota management system and complement the existing individual transferable quota management system for pink snapper for the 2015/16 licensing period.
- We increased the catch quota for the West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery. In August 2015, the crystal crab quota was increased by 10 per cent following our assessment indicating the crystal crab stock was robust and capable of supporting an increase in catch. The increase is in line with the harvest strategy for the fishery implemented in June 2015 and is evidence of good management of the deep sea crustacean resource.

Objective 3: Management excellence

Striving for excellence through strong accountability and governance systems, and effective and efficient practices across all areas of the Department.

Strategy 3.1 Use risk-based approaches for all agency resource management and planning decisions.

- Our Management Committee guides our annual planning and priority setting process with reference to our risk register of organisational and ecological assets.

Strategy 3.2 Promote and maintain a high performance, agile culture with staff working together to achieve our priorities.

- We continue to support the further development of senior managers via attendance and participation in Public Sector Commission training courses and seminars.
- We completed a third year of the recordkeeping training program that reaches offices statewide, including records archiving projects in offices that saw nearly 1,000 boxes sent offsite for storage.
- From July 2015 to February 2016, we ran an internal 'Leadership Essentials Program' targeted at employees at Level 7 and above. The program covered topics such as moving from managing to leading, leading people, and leading strategy and change.
- By February, the Leadership Essentials Program had been attended by all senior managers and leaders across the Department, who provided very positive feedback. The program also led to increased strategic planning, team building and performance management compliance as well as the development of networks and increased collaboration across the Department.

Strategy 3.3 Develop and align strategy and resource management of finances, our staff, physical infrastructure, information and technology to support the delivery of Department priorities.

- Electronic catch reporting was implemented through our Fish Eye system in the commercial abalone fishery commencing on 1 April 2016.

Approximately 40 per cent of commercial abalone operators along with four processors have registered to use 'e-reporting' through this system.

- Our new storage facility in Broome securely houses vehicles, vessels and equipment for the district, critical spare parts and a back-up generator for the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park. The storage facility is located on our existing service site in the aquaculture park resulting in significant savings in leasing costs. The new facility is also considerably closer to our district office and existing boat launching facilities in Broome than the previously leased facility.

Strategy 3.4 Ensure that our greatest asset (our people) are valued and their welfare is a priority.

- Our *Plan for Our People, Workforce and Diversity Plan 2015-2018*, was developed in 2014/15 in consultation with all senior managers and Executive Directors and took into consideration the issues raised by employees in the Annual Agency Survey. In 2015/16 the plan provided a framework for ensuring our people were valued with their welfare being made a priority. Particular focus was given to the 'support' area of the report: "Our employees are safe and supported in the workplace and regional communities".
- We continued to support our Mental Health Awareness Working Group with a broadened focus from suicide prevention to general mental health.
- RUOK? Day was promoted in 2015 with the theme 'Support your team, support your colleagues'.
- We were awarded a Silver Worksafe Accreditation following the 2015 Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) audit and an OSH improvement plan is currently under development which will detail high-risk priorities that need addressing.
- Our grievance management policy and procedures have been reviewed and updated, and are available for employees on our Intranet.
- The conduct and behaviour policy, procedure and guidelines have been updated and are available for employees on our Intranet.

Case studies



Good COPs – working in partnership for a sustainable aquatic environment



Shark Bay, a World Heritage Area, in all its breathtaking beauty – the jointly managed marine park will help keep it that way. Photo: Andrea Izzotti

Western Australia's bountiful marine parks span 25,000 square kilometres of State waters and include two World Heritage areas at Ningaloo and Shark Bay. Once the additional proposed Kimberley marine parks have been established this will increase to over 40,000 square kilometres, or more than 40 per cent of all State coastal waters.

Marine parks are designed to protect the environment from development and pollution, while permitting commercial and recreational activities that are consistent with their conservation values.

They help to conserve biodiversity and create a healthy, resilient ecosystem where people can enjoy and learn about the spectacular marine life in Western Australia.

Tourism can be boosted by the creation of marine parks, with local businesses also benefitting from the increased number of visitors.

When used in conjunction with good fisheries management, marine parks are powerful tools that contribute to a healthy and sustainable marine environment. With this objective, the State's marine parks are carefully managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) with the support of the Department of Fisheries. In 2015/16, we significantly stepped up our collaboration with Parks and Wildlife to safeguard the future of our marine park system for the people of Western Australia.

Much of this work has focused on the development of annual collaborative operational plans (COPs) for each marine park. COPs are an integrated strategy for the delivery of effective marine park management by coordinating cross-agency activities in education, compliance, research and monitoring.

COPs allow the two agencies to effectively plan and develop innovative collaborative strategies to enhance stakeholder engagement, improve service delivery to local communities, avoid duplication of activities and maximise efficiencies across government. For example, due to the remote offshore location of the Rowley Shoals Marine Park, sea patrols are undertaken jointly. This allows both agencies to meet their patrol objectives, whether undertaking fisheries compliance checks (Fisheries) or mooring maintenance and wildlife monitoring (Parks and Wildlife), while maximising efficiencies, sharing resources and cutting costs.

Working together to achieve the very best use of human and other resources in this way is ensuring the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars to secure our valuable marine environment and aquatic resources for the future for everyone to enjoy.

Some examples of collaborative activities undertaken during 2015/16 included:

Joint development of educational materials – we produced a number of co-branded brochures, signage and community newsletters (such as *Ngari Tales* – [view this publication on our website](#)¹⁴ and *Kimberley Tides* – [view this publication on the](#)

¹⁴ <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Sustainability-and-Environment/Aquatic-Biodiversity/Marine-Protected-Areas/Pages/Ngari-Capes.aspx>

[Parks and Wildlife's website](#)¹⁵ that deliver our shared government messages – 'Parks for people', 'Know your zones' and 'Fish for the future'. Maximising efficiencies and government resources in this way provides effective shared use of education budgets for this area (approximately \$50,000) allowing more opportunities to run educational programs and further enhance community engagement.

Joint staffing at community events – we jointly attended a wide range of events to provide public information on marine park and fisheries and aquatic resource management, ensuring both agencies are communicating clear and consistent messages to the public. Such events included the Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival in Exmouth, the Indian Ocean Festival in Jurien Bay, the Wonderfully Wild School Holiday Program in Monkey Mia and the Busselton Rural Show in the South West Capes.



A Department of Fisheries and DPaW jointly-run marine park information booth at a community event at Broome's Cable Beach.

Collaborative patrol and enforcement work plans – each year we review compliance priorities and strategies to ensure our patrols are planned to provide for the best possible compliance coverage across the marine parks. In 2015/16 we participated in over 140 joint patrols across the State. Our Fisheries and Marine Officers and Parks and Wildlife Marine Rangers enforce regulations prohibiting illegal

¹⁵ <https://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/lalang-garramcamden-sound> (click on the 'Downloads and Resources' tab)

fishing, environmental damage, pollution, illegal collection of flora and fauna, and more. To maximise efficiencies across Government and enhance the protection of our marine parks, compliance staff are cross-authorised wherever possible, meaning they have the authority to monitor and enforce the legislation of both agencies.

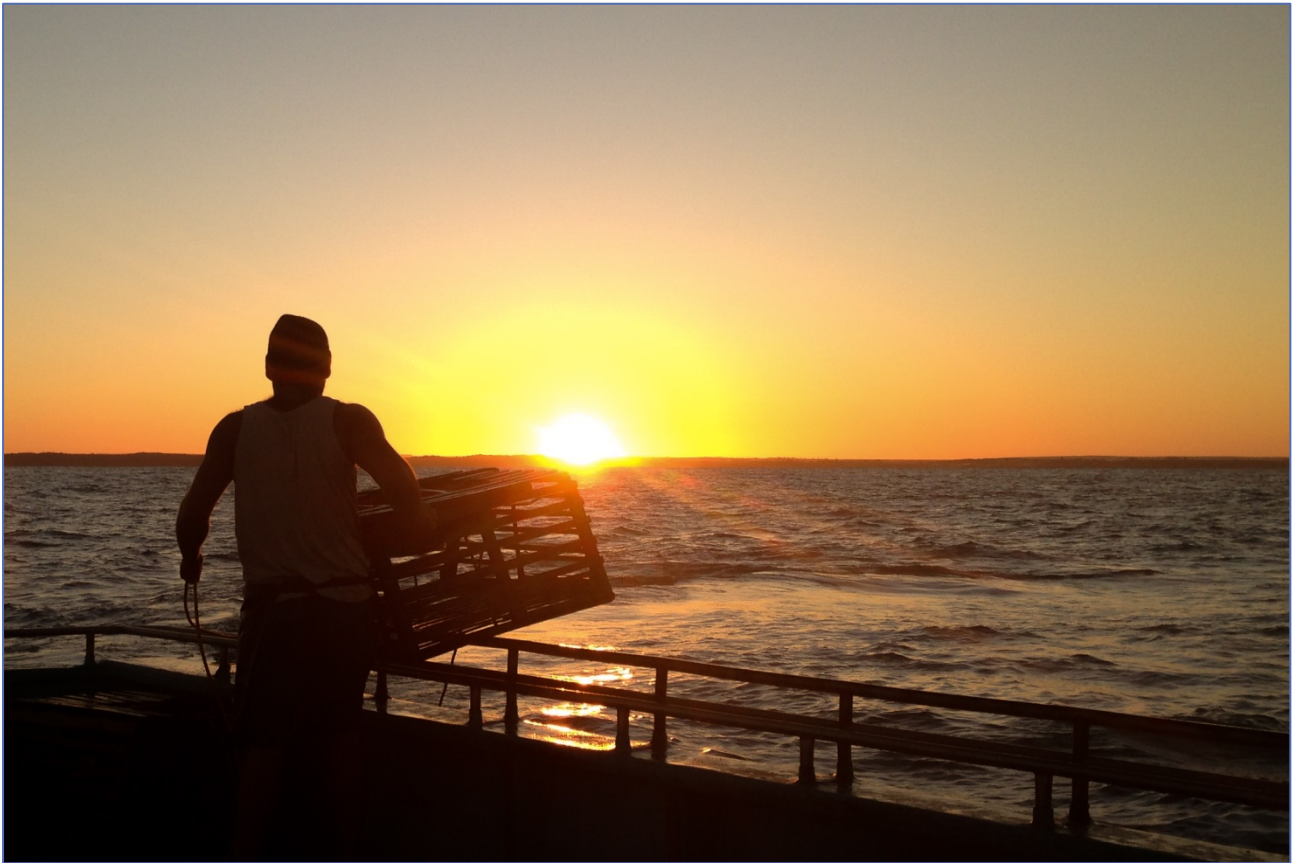


Eyes on the prize – a Department of Fisheries patrol unit surveying the waters around Warroora Station in the Ningaloo Marine Park, which we oversee in partnership with the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Complementary science – our research and monitoring programs are planned to avoid duplication of sampling and collection activities, and ensure information relevant to both agencies is shared. We focus on finfish and invertebrate research and monitoring fishing activity, while Parks and Wildlife focuses on social and biological research to improve our knowledge of species, habitats and key ecological processes and pressures. Combined, this information helps to inform future management of our marine parks.

In November 2015, the Department of Fisheries and Parks and Wildlife were recognised as a finalist for the 2015 Premier’s Awards in the category of ‘Improving Government’, with a specific focus on our collaborative operational planning process. Earlier in the year, the agencies were also shortlisted in the category of ‘Best Practice in Collaboration Across Government Agencies in the Same Jurisdiction’ for the Institute of Public Administration Awards.

MSC – building consumer confidence in WA seafood’s sustainability credentials



A new dawn for WA fisheries – the rigorous MSC certification process WA fisheries are undergoing is giving consumers renewed confidence that our seafood produce is sourced sustainably.

In 2012, the Western Australian Government committed \$14.5 million for the State's wild commercial fisheries to be assessed against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sustainable fisheries standard. The MSC standard is internationally recognised as the most prestigious fisheries environmental sustainability accreditation.

The global picture

MSC-certified fisheries are continually monitored and must complete annual surveillance audits and be re-assessed every five years. More than 615 improvements to fishing practices and environmental management have been delivered globally by MSC-certified fisheries since 2000. Around the globe there are now 285 MSC-certified fisheries and they land 10 per cent of all wild-caught seafood.

Certification can assist in maintaining current and new market access and/or a competitive advantage for WA seafood products. This is taking place in the context of retail trends driven by increasing consumer awareness and demand for certified ecologically sustainable seafood.

The state of play in WA

All of WA's commercial fisheries have been pre-assessed and the full assessment of fisheries began in late 2014. Three commercial fisheries passed full assessment in 2015/16, and in addition MSC has certified its first recreational fishery – the Peel-Harvey estuarine blue swimmer crab fishery. It is likely a further commercial fishery will be certified later this year and at least three in 2017.



The Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf prawn fisheries received full MSC certification in October. Photo courtesy of MSC.

The first fishery ever to be certified by MSC, the Western Australian rock lobster fishery in 2000, has already reached several key milestones in achieving MSC re-certification.

A rigorous and comprehensive assessment process

The MSC standard is based on three principles and 28 performance indicators. The first principle measures the health of the target fishery using performance indicators to assess the sustainability of the target fishery. The fishing harvest strategy/rebuild strategy and associated harvest control rules and the stock assessment process are also included in these performance indicators.

The second principle measures the environmental impact of fishing with performance indicators gauging the biological status and management of the retained species (other than the target) and bycatch species, as well as interaction with threatened, protected or endangered species, the habitat and the ecosystem.

The third principle measures the governance and specific management for the fishery with performance indicators focusing on the legislation and fishing rights, consultation processes and short and long-term management objectives. The indicators also focus on the decision-making process, the compliance/enforcement regime, and the monitoring and management performance evaluation

This third-party sustainability certification program is strategically important to the future of WA fisheries. Independent certification against the most respected global fisheries environmental standard provides the WA public with the assurance that their commercial fisheries are managed sustainably for the benefit of current and future generations.

Call a CAB

MSC sets the environmental standard but does not undertake the assessments. Agencies independent of the MSC and the Department of Fisheries, called Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs), use teams of experts to assess the fisheries against the rigorous MSC standard. This process provides an independent, science-based and transparent assessment approach. Nine contracts have been signed with CABs for the full assessment of priority Western Australian fisheries.

In WA, the assessments are being undertaken in two stages. All commercial fisheries have been pre-assessed by CABs against the MSC standard, identifying

any gaps between the fisheries' current performance and the MSC 'well-managed fishery' standard.

Government funding for priority fisheries seeking full assessment

Fisheries licensees can seek Government funding for full assessment if they scored well in the pre-assessment and are considered a priority fishery for WA. Although the pre-assessments were mandatory, entry to full certification is voluntary. At least 75 per cent of licensees in a fishery need to be in favour for the certification assessment to be undertaken.

Once a fishery passes full assessment, MSC certification will be issued. Certification is for five years at which time the fishery undergoes a full re-assessment. In the intervening five years between re-certification, the CAB undertakes annual surveillance audits on the fishery. The surveillance audits primarily focus on any conditions the assessment/re-assessment has identified requiring improvement over the five-year validation of the certification.

The Government funds provide for all commercial fisheries to be pre-assessed, approved fisheries to be funded to full assessment and for the first surveillance audit. Industry must fund the other four surveillance audits and, based on a business case, decide whether or not to enter re-certification.

How we support the program

To assist in the CABs' assessments, we provide extensive documentation and other information to support the assessment process. We administer the project funding and administration, and monitor the performance of the assessments and the CAB activity. Along with the fishing industry, we also provide expertise to assist fisheries that have been certified but with conditions requiring fishery improvements.

We also work collaboratively with MSC in respect of the standard. Currently we are involved in a collaborative project with MSC to develop standards particularly relevant to tropical fisheries where a range of target species occur. We are about to trial the standard on several WA fisheries later this year.

Government funding for third-party certification also extended to aquaculture ventures. Two aquaculture enterprises have been pre-assessed against the Aquaculture Stewardship Council Standard and scored well.

Third party sustainability certification has been recognised by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment. Last year WA became the first State to secure extensions for Wildlife Trade Operation approval from five to ten years for a number of our fisheries. The Minister for the Environment, in making his decision, noted that the WA MSC assessment project was a factor in his decision to extend the approval.

Future growth of certification in WA fisheries is an important goal of the program. The objective is that all commercial fisheries that are ready for it and are priority fisheries for WA should enter full assessment. The program also promotes the advantages of MSC to encourage a high level of 'buy in' from licensees. We will continue to work with the fishing industry and MSC to inform and increase awareness within the WA public of the current and future benefits of sustainability certification, as well as reassuring them fisheries practices and management are sustainable and well managed. A third goal of the program is to continue collaborative work with the MSC to ensure standards are rigorous and are relevant to WA fisheries and fisheries management.

Back in the pink – recovering the Shark Bay pink snapper fishery



Catch and release – a pink snapper is returned to Shark Bay in mint condition.

Shark Bay, a World Heritage Area, is renowned for its pink snapper fishery. In the 1990s, the first scientific assessments of pink snapper stocks in the area revealed they were being intensively overfished in the inner gulfs, mostly by recreational fishers. This triggered a major, long-term recovery program involving two decades of intensive scientific monitoring of the stocks and strong fishery management measures.

In 2015/16, the recovery program's objective was finally met; the full recovery of the pink snapper stocks in the inner gulfs, which in January 2016 resulted in the recreational fishing rules being modified to allow more fishers the opportunity to access this classic WA fishery.

It marked the culmination of three decades of collective, focused effort by the Department, recreational fishers and the WA community, and has provided many lessons for the future in successful fishery management. In this case study we look

at the background to the recovery story and how it has culminated in a valuable outcome for recreational fishers and the wider WA community in 2015/16.

The pink snapper of Shark Bay's inner gulfs

Stocks of pink snapper in Denham Sound, Freycinet Estuary and the Eastern Gulf are genetically separate from each other and the wide-ranging ocean stock – this means they do not mix or interbreed with other pink snapper stocks.

The Shark Bay pink snapper populations are also very small by comparison with ocean fisheries elsewhere in Australia and New Zealand, and the sustainable annual take from these stocks is tens of tonnes rather than hundreds or thousands.

Pink snapper are long-lived and slow growing. In the inner gulfs they take four to five years to reach maturity but grow to very large sizes, reaching over a metre in length and 10 kilograms in weight, making them a very attractive proposition to recreational fishers. The larger specimens can be more than 30 years old. For these reasons, and given the area's high conservation value, pink snapper stocks in Shark Bay require careful management.

Fishery on the brink

With increases in fishing technology and more accessible roads into Shark Bay, the recreational fishing pink snapper catch from the inner gulfs rose from an estimated 40 tonnes of snapper in 1983 to an estimated 100-plus tonnes in 1995. These catch levels were far too high, seriously threatening the sustainability of the inner gulf pink snapper stocks.

By 1997, the science was showing that the Eastern Gulf pink snapper stock had collapsed: the spawning stock was down to less than 10 per cent of its estimated original size. There were signs that Freycinet Estuary and Denham Sound stocks were heading the same way. Urgent action was needed with a commitment to a long-term monitoring and management program to save the fishery.

Cutting-edge science

Obtaining extensive, good quality scientific information was the key to developing a management plan that could recover the inner gulf stocks. Our researchers adopted the 'daily egg production method' to estimate the size of snapper breeding stocks. At

peak spawning times, nets are used to collect plankton containing pink snapper eggs, allowing researchers to estimate average pink snapper egg production in the area surveyed. This is combined with information on spawning fish collected during the plankton surveys to estimate the total weight (biomass) of the spawning stock.



Net gains – using ‘bongo’ nets to collect pink snapper eggs as part of plankton surveys in Shark Bay.

The fish samples are also used to provide age structure information on the pink snapper stocks – rather like a fish ‘census’. Combining all this information, our researchers can use mathematical models to estimate the size of the pink snapper stocks and determine their sustainability status.

The road to recovery

After commercial line-fishing for pink snapper was stopped in the inner gulfs in 1996, the recreational fishing rules were also changed including reduced recreational pink snapper daily bag limits, an increased minimum size limit and the introduction of a 'slot' limit (both minimum and maximum size limits).

Protecting big fish as well as the smaller fish was important because as they grow larger, females produce more eggs each year and become an increasingly valuable part of the breeding stock. Research has shown that a 40 centimetre female can release 100,000 eggs in a single spawning, while a larger fish of 70 centimetres can release 300,000 to 500,000 eggs at a time – which will add up to millions of eggs being produced over the entire season.



Spawning of a new era – a sample jar containing pink snapper eggs collected in a plankton survey.

The Eastern Gulf was completely closed to fishing in 1998 to 2003 to allow the stock to rebuild and further changes were introduced in 2000, including a six-week spawning closure in Freycinet Estuary. In 2002, a total allowable catch (TAC) was set for each pink snapper stock with recreational fishers allowed to take 75 per cent

of the catch. This was the first time a TAC had been set in a mostly recreational fishery in Australia.

Spawning closures remained in place in the Eastern Gulf and Freycinet Estuary, and in Freycinet Estuary a tag system was introduced to limit the annual combined catch to below five tonnes a year. Recreational fishers could apply through a lottery system for a limited number of tags, entitling them to take two legal-size pink snapper a year from Freycinet Estuary.

A community-backed recovery

The whole community has worked with us to help the inner gulfs' pink snapper stocks recover and remain sustainable with a comprehensive management and education program playing a key role.

In 2002, prior to the re-opening of the Eastern Gulf snapper fishery, a community-based consultative group was formed to review the ongoing research, advise the Minister for Fisheries and develop management strategies to secure the future of the fishery. Comprised of representatives from local government, commercial fishers, charter operators, Recfishwest and local tourism, the group met every three years up until 2014 and once more in 2015.

With the support and cooperation of recreational and commercial fishers, catches have been kept within the set TACs since 2003 – another key factor in a strong recovery.

The recovery and its rewards

The three inner gulf pink snapper stocks have all now recovered to above the target levels agreed to when the recovery program was first developed. As a result, the Shark Bay pink snapper recreational fishing rules have been reviewed and modified with the previous 70 centimetre maximum size limit being dropped in early 2016, giving more fishers the opportunity to take a trophy-size 'pinkie'.

In addition, the Freycinet Estuary tag-based system has been replaced by a five-kilogram possession limit for finfish fillets, or one day's bag limit of whole fish, in a newly designated Freycinet Estuary Management Zone, which is being managed as a 'low take' area.

This management approach is designed to provide high-quality recreational fishing experiences in a 'wild' and unspoilt environment, with the emphasis on enjoying catching and eating fresh fish.

Fish for the future in Shark Bay

The Shark Bay pink snapper recovery story is a great example of how, with time, sound fisheries management based on high-quality scientific research, and with strong community support, can restore a valuable aquatic resource back to good health.

One of the principle values of this particular resource is that it offers recreational fishers the opportunity to catch trophy-size pink snapper in a unique setting. Yet, it is the setting that makes these stocks particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

That is why it is essential that we continue with our comprehensive monitoring program of the inner gulf pink snapper stocks and continue to work closely with recreational fishers, encouraging responsible stewardship of the resource and their fishery. In addition, we continue to develop innovative new methods to assess catch rates in the inner gulfs to ensure the stocks will remain sustainable.

Adopting these approaches should ensure many more WA recreational fishers can enjoy this exceptional resource for many generations to come.

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 2016, 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.

Opinion

In my opinion, 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 2016 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.

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 for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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 audit opinion.

Page 1 of 3

7th Floor Albert Facey House 489 Wellington Street Perth MAIL TO: Perth BC PO Box 8489 Perth WA 6849 TEL: 08 6557 7500 FAX: 08 6557 7600

Report on Controls

I have audited the controls exercised by the Department of Fisheries during the year ended 30 June 2016.

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.

Opinion

In my opinion, in all material respects, 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 2016.

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 for the Audit of Controls

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.

Report on the Key Performance Indicators

I have audited the key performance indicators of the Department of Fisheries for the year ended 30 June 2016.

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

Opinion

In my opinion, in all material respects, 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 2016.

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 for the Audit of Key Performance Indicators

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.

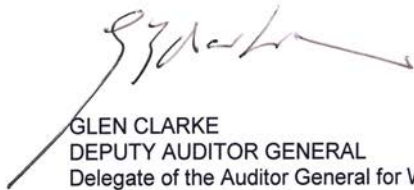
I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting the above audits, 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 2016 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.



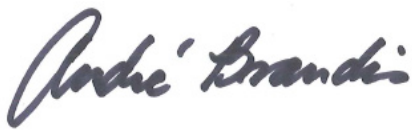
GLEN CLARKE
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia

20 September 2016

Certification of financial statements ended for the year ended 30 June 2016

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 2016 and the financial position as at 30 June 2016.

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.



André Brender-A-Brandis
Chief Financial Officer
19 September 2016



Heather Brayford
Director General
19 September 2016

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Cost of services			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	6	55,453	56,095
Supplies and services	7	20,291	23,112
Depreciation and amortisation expense	8	5,337	6,626
Finance costs	9	1,962	2,199
Accommodation expenses	10	4,717	4,620
Grants and subsidies	11	1,797	1,810
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	12	63	-
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	18	19	28
Other expenses	13	2,007	4,424
Total cost of services		91,646	98,914
Income			
Revenue			
User charges and fees	14	30,444	27,006
Grants and contributions	15	1,656	2,321
Interest revenue	16	204	664
Other revenue	17	4,556	5,238
Total revenue		36,860	35,229
Total income other than income from State Government		36,860	35,229
NET COST OF SERVICES		54,786	63,685
Income from State Government	19		
Service appropriations		49,161	54,187
Services received free of charge		863	1,104
Royalties for Regions Fund		930	1,243
Grants and Contributions		75	505
Total Income from State Government		51,029	57,039
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(3,757)	(6,646)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus/(deficit)	32	(612)	1,400
Total other comprehensive income		(612)	1,400
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(4,369)	(5,246)

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 2016**

	Note	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	33	1,513	7,330
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	20	3,709	5,667
Receivables	21	6,191	7,083
Amounts receivable for services	22	1,778	2,007
Other current assets	23	492	85
Total Current Assets		13,683	22,172
Non-Current Assets			
Receivables	21	25,605	29,211
Amounts receivable for services	22	16,561	11,862
Property, plant and equipment	24	63,393	65,652
Intangible assets	26	11,990	12,416
Total Non-Current Assets		117,549	119,141
TOTAL ASSETS		131,232	141,313
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	28	1,631	2,334
Borrowings	29	4,523	4,271
Provisions	30	13,611	12,751
Other current liabilities	31	1,384	3,933
Total Current Liabilities		21,149	23,289
Non-Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	29	25,605	29,164
Provisions	30	2,916	3,013
Total Non-Current Liabilities		28,521	32,177
TOTAL LIABILITIES		49,670	55,466
NET ASSETS		81,562	85,847
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	32	87,181	86,927
Reserves	32	11,232	11,844
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	32	(16,851)	(12,924)
TOTAL EQUITY		81,562	85,847

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
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	Contributed equity \$'000	Reserves \$'000	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2014	32	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
Balance at 1 July 2015		86,927	11,844	(12,924)	85,847
Surplus/(deficit)		-	-	(3,757)	(3,757)
Correction of prior period error		-	-	(170)	(170)
Other comprehensive income		-	(612)	-	(612)
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	(612)	(3,927)	(4,539)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		210	-	-	210
Other contributions by owners		44	-	-	44
Distributions to owners		-	-	-	-
Equity transferred from Administered		-	-	-	-
Total		254	-	-	254
Balance at 30 June 2016		87,181	11,232	(16,851)	81,562

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 2016**

	Note	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		42,558	52,253
Capital contributions		210	2,111
Holding account drawdowns		2,007	-
Grants and contributions		75	505
Royalties for Regions Fund		930	1,243
Net cash provided by State Government		45,780	56,112
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(56,315)	(54,764)
Supplies and services		(23,066)	(21,501)
Finance Costs		(2,019)	(2,285)
Accommodation		(4,717)	(4,620)
Grants and subsidies		(1,797)	(1,810)
GST payments on purchase		(2,856)	(3,699)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs		(63)	-
Other payments		(1,377)	(2,328)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		30,386	26,885
Grants and contributions		1,656	2,295
Interest received		204	664
Other receipts		6,088	4,850
GST receipts on sales		483	392
GST receipts from taxation authority		2,906	3,428
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	33	(50,487)	(52,493)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Purchase of non-current assets		(3,285)	(8,386)
Receipts			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		61	181
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(3,224)	(8,205)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Repayments of borrowings		(4,271)	(4,054)
Receipts			
Proceeds from borrowing		964	986
Proceeds from industry		3,463	3,358
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		156	290
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(7,775)	(4,296)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		12,997	17,293
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	33	5,222	12,997

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 2016**

COST OF SERVICES	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION		RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT		TOTAL	
	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Expenses								
Employee benefits expense	9,551	8,706	28,552	29,438	17,350	17,951	55,453	56,095
Supplies and services	7,817	7,179	6,726	9,053	5,748	6,880	20,291	23,112
Depreciation and amortisation	1,976	2,453	2,325	2,887	1,036	1,286	5,337	6,626
Finance costs	1,962	2,199	-	-	-	-	1,962	2,199
Accommodation expenses	2,236	2,190	1,593	1,560	888	870	4,717	4,620
Grants and subsidies	1,795	1,546	-	36	2	228	1,797	1,810
FAS buybacks	63	-	-	-	-	-	63	-
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	-	16	18	(19)	1	31	19	28
Other expenses	19	225	1,628	3,217	360	982	2,007	4,424
Total cost of services	25,419	24,514	40,842	46,172	25,385	28,228	91,646	98,914
Income								
User charges and fees	6,618	7,195	15,176	15,635	8,650	4,176	30,444	27,006
Grants and contributions	236	174	542	241	878	1,906	1,656	2,321
Interest revenue	44	664	102	-	58	-	204	664
Other revenue	1,532	2,598	2,067	2,384	957	256	4,556	5,238
Total income other than income from State Government	8,430	10,631	17,887	18,260	10,543	6,338	36,860	35,229
NET COST OF SERVICES	16,989	13,883	22,955	27,912	14,842	21,890	54,786	63,685
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT								
Service appropriation	15,302	20,031	20,881	22,530	12,978	11,626	49,161	54,187
Resources received free of charge	188	409	430	459	245	236	863	1,104
Royalties for regions	277	210	596	1,033	57	-	930	1,243
Grants and contributions	-	38	-	52	75	415	75	505
Total income from State Government	15,767	20,688	21,907	24,074	13,355	12,277	51,029	57,039
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(1,222)	6,805	(1,048)	(3,838)	(1,487)	(9,613)	(3,757)	(6,646)

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 2016**

	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION		RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT		TOTAL	
	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
ASSETS								
Current assets								
Cash and cash equivalents	596	2,677	621	3,064	296	1,589	1,513	7,330
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,676	3,500	658	1,067	375	1,100	3,709	5,667
Receivables	5,146	5,422	708	1,094	337	567	6,191	7,083
Amounts receivable for services	701	733	730	839	347	435	1,778	2,007
Other current assets	194	31	202	36	96	18	492	85
Total Current Assets	9,313	12,363	2,919	6,100	1,451	3,709	13,683	22,172
Non-current assets								
Receivables	25,605	29,211	-	-	-	-	25,605	29,211
Amounts receivable for services	6,527	4,333	6,800	4,958	3,234	2,571	16,561	11,862
Property, plant and equipment	3,278	3,235	36,936	38,324	23,179	24,093	63,393	65,652
Intangible assets	9,744	10,167	1,591	1,365	655	884	11,990	12,416
Total Non-Current Assets	45,154	46,946	45,327	44,647	27,068	27,548	117,549	119,141
Total Assets	54,467	59,309	48,246	50,747	28,519	31,257	131,232	141,313
LIABILITIES								
Current liabilities								
Payables	643	852	670	976	318	506	1,631	2,334
Borrowings	4,523	4,271	-	-	-	-	4,523	4,271
Provisions	5,364	4,658	5,588	5,330	2,659	2,763	13,611	12,751
Other current liabilities	546	1,437	568	1,644	270	852	1,384	3,933
Total Current Liabilities	11,076	11,218	6,826	7,950	3,247	4,121	21,149	23,289
Non-current liabilities								
Borrowings	25,605	29,164	-	-	-	-	25,605	29,164
Provisions	1,149	1,101	1,197	1,259	570	653	2,916	3,013
Total Non-Current Liabilities	26,754	30,265	1,197	1,259	570	653	28,521	32,177
Total Liabilities	37,830	41,483	8,023	9,209	3,817	4,774	49,670	55,466
NET ASSETS	16,637	17,826	40,223	41,538	24,702	26,483	81,562	85,847

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 2016**

	2016 Estimate \$'000	2016 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	2016 Actual \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Delivery of Services						
Item 65 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	48,818	48,818	-	48,818	53,854	5,036
Royalties for Region	1,193	930	(263)	930	1,243	313
Amount authorised by other statutes - <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	343	343	-	343	333	(10)
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	50,354	50,091	(263)	50,091	55,430	5,339
Capital						
Item 136 Capital appropriations	210	210	-	210	2,111	1,901
Other contributions by owners	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Capital	210	210	-	210	2,111	1,901
Administered Transactions						
Section 25 administered capital appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Administered	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	50,564	50,301	(263)	50,301	57,541	7,240
Details of Expense by Service						
Fisheries Management	21,313	25,419	4,106	25,419	24,514	(905)
Enforcement and Education	42,883	40,842	(2,041)	40,842	46,172	5,330
Research and Assessment	22,655	25,385	2,730	25,385	28,228	2,843
Total Cost of Services	86,851	91,646	4,795	91,646	98,914	7,268
Less Total Income	(35,633)	(36,860)	(1,227)	(36,860)	(35,229)	1,631
Net Cost of Services	51,218	54,786	3,568	54,786	63,685	8,899
Adjustments	(864)	(4,695)	(3,831)	(4,695)	(8,255)	(3,560)
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	50,354	50,091	(263)	50,091	55,430	5,339
Capital Expenditures						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	-	3,285	3,285	3,285	8,386	5,101
Adjustments for other funding sources	-	(3,075)	(3,075)	(3,075)	(6,275)	(3,200)
Capital appropriations	-	210	210	210	2,111	1,901
Details of Income Estimates						
Income disclosed as Administered Income	-	313	313	313	317	4
	-	313	313	313	317	4

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 2016 and between the actual results for 2015.

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

1 AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

General

The Department's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016 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 2016.

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."

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 2015-16 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$36.860 million in 2016 (\$35.229 million in 2015) 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 10 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 GESBS, 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

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

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 2015 that impacted on the Department:

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

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.

AASB 2014-8 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards

This Standard makes amendments to AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* (December 2009) and AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* (December 2010), arising from the issuance of AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* in December 2014. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of AASB 9.

AASB 2015-3 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality

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.

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**

This Standard supersedes AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.

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.

AASB 15 – Revenue from Contracts with Customers **1 Jan 2018**

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.

AASB 16 - Leases **1 Jan 2019**

This Standard introduces a single lessee accounting model and requires a lessee to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is of low value. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.

AASB 1057 - Application of Australian Accounting Standards **1 Jan 2016**

This Standard lists the application paragraphs for each other Standard (and interpretation), grouped where they are the same. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2014-3 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations (AASB 1 & 11) **1 Jan 2016**

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.

AASB 2014-4 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 & 138] **1 Jan 2016**

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.

AASB 2014-5 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15 **1 Jan 2018**

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.

AASB 2014-7 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014) **1 Jan 2018**

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.

AASB 2014-9 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements [AASB 1, 127 & 128] 1 Jan 2016

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.

AASB 2015-2 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101 [AASB 7, 101, 134 & 1049] 1 Jan 2016

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 concerns 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.

AASB 2015-6 –Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, 124 & 1049] 1 Jul 2016

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.

AASB 2015-8 –Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of AASB15 1 Jul 2017

This Standard amends the mandatory effective date (application date) of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* so that AASB 15 is required to be applied for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 instead of 1 January 2017. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of AASB 15.

AASB 2016-2 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 107 1 Jan 2017

This Standard amends AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows (August 2015) to require disclosures that enable users of financial statements to evaluate changes in liabilities arising from financing activities, including both changes arising from cash flows and non-cash changes. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2016-4 - Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Recoverable Amount of Non-Cash-Generating Specialised Assets of Not-for-Profit Entities 1 Jan 2017

This Standard clarifies that the recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement. The Authority has not yet determined the application or the potential impact.

Note 6: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Wages and salaries ^(a)	48,404	48,947
Superannuation - defined contribution plans ^(b)	4,667	4,634
Other related expenses ^(c)	2,382	2,514
	55,453	56,095

(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

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Communications	949	1,254
Freight & Mail	237	251
Contractors & Consultants	8,190	8,963
Payments to stakeholder groups ^(a)	1,752	2,555
Service Level Agreement ^(b)	-	101
Consumables	2,659	3,208
Minor equipment acquisitions	208	90
Travel	1,572	1,218
Advertising	452	499
Insurance	970	1,096
Other lease rentals	1,743	1,813
Licence Fees & Registration	678	873
Catering	43	50
Other	838	1,141
	20,291	23,112

(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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
<u>Depreciation</u>		
Buildings	1,307	1,112
Marine Vessels	1,051	1,429
Communications	58	30
Computing Hardware	533	887
Furniture Fixtures & Fittings	233	248
Office Equipment	105	64
Plant & Machinery	143	127
Motor Vehicles	191	255
Other Equipment	170	133
Infrastructure - Maritime	178	164
Total Depreciation	<u>3,969</u>	<u>4,449</u>
<u>Amortisation</u>		
Computing Software	1,368	2,177
Total amortisation	<u>1,368</u>	<u>2,177</u>
Total Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	<u>5,337</u>	<u>6,626</u>

Note 9: FINANCE COSTS

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
WATC Borrowing Charges	1,962	2,197
Lease Charges	-	2
	<u>1,962</u>	<u>2,199</u>

Note 10: ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Lease rentals	3,336	2,890
Property Cleaning	251	316
Repairs & Maintenance	1,130	1,414
	<u>4,717</u>	<u>4,620</u>

Note 11: GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Recurrent		
Research grants	1,720	1,810
Other	77	-
	<u>1,797</u>	<u>1,810</u>

Note 12: FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEME BUYBACK

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	63	-
	<u>63</u>	<u>-</u>

Note 13: OTHER EXPENSES

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Repairs and Maintenance	1,895	2,659
Impairment	-	986
Other expenses ^(a)	112	779
	<u>2,007</u>	<u>4,424</u>

(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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Access fees ^(a)	21,084	17,908
Application fees	1,447	1,194
Recreational Licence fees	7,661	7,543
Fees for service	7	2
Regulatory fees	187	214
Other	58	145
	<u>30,444</u>	<u>27,006</u>

(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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
State Natural Resource Management (NRM) Office	-	440
Australian Seafood Cooperative Research Centre	-	15
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	627	1,230
Pilbara Development Commission	278	-
Curtin University	200	-
Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research	264	285
Murdoch University	-	100
Other	287	251
	<u>1,656</u>	<u>2,321</u>

Note 16: INTEREST REVENUE

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Recreational Fishing Account	204	664
	<u>204</u>	<u>664</u>

Note 17: OTHER REVENUE

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Rental revenue	605	596
Diesel Fuel Rebate	313	299
Insurance Recoveries	252	247
Indian Ocean Territories	839	818
WATC Borrowing Charges	1,818	2,274
Employee FBT contribution	68	63
Recoups	301	145
Others	360	796
	4,556	5,238

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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
<i>Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets</i>		
Property, plant and equipment	61	96
<i>Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed</i>		
Property, plant and equipment	(80)	(124)
Net gain/(loss)	(19)	(28)

Note 19: INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Appropriation received during the year:		
Service appropriation ^(a)	49,161	54,187

(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)	863	1,104
Department of Attorney General	326	326
Western Australian Land Information Authority	291	532
Department of Finance	242	246
Department of Agriculture and Food	4	-
	863	1,104

(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.

Note 19: INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT (CONTINUED)

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Royalties for Regions Fund		
Regional Community Services Account ^(c)	930	1,243

(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
Department of Transport	2	5
Department of the Environment	73	-
	75	505

Note 20: RESTRICTED CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account ^(a)	631	1,062
RFIF Recreational Fishing Initiatives Funds	2,045	1,884
Research Grants	375	772
Royalties for Regions	658	433
Salaries suspense account ^(b)	-	1,516
	3,709	5,667
Non-current		
Salaries suspense account ^(b)	-	-
	3,709	5,667

(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) 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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Current		
Receivables	480	972
Less: Allowance for impairment of receivables	(6)	(6)
GST receivable	360	669
	<u>834</u>	<u>1,635</u>
Other debtors ^(a)	<u>5,357</u>	<u>5,448</u>
Total current	<u>6,191</u>	<u>7,083</u>
Non-Current		
Other debtors ^(a)	<u>25,605</u>	<u>29,211</u>
Total non-current	<u>25,605</u>	<u>29,211</u>
Total receivables	<u>31,796</u>	<u>36,294</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)

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Current	1,778	2,007
Non-current	<u>16,561</u>	<u>11,862</u>
	<u>18,339</u>	<u>13,869</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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Prepayments		
Licence and rentals	440	-
Accrued Income		
Accrued Interest	<u>52</u>	<u>85</u>
	<u>492</u>	<u>85</u>

Note 24: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
LAND		
Land at fair value ⁽ⁱ⁾	6,530	6,967
	<u>6,530</u>	<u>6,967</u>
BUILDINGS		
At fair value ⁽ⁱ⁾	40,324	36,494
Accumulated depreciation	-	-
	<u>40,324</u>	<u>36,494</u>
MARINE VESSELS		
At cost	17,299	15,660
Accumulated depreciation	(10,523)	(8,184)
	<u>6,776</u>	<u>7,476</u>
COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT		
At cost	730	735
Accumulated depreciation	(624)	(582)
	<u>106</u>	<u>153</u>
COMPUTER HARDWARE		
At cost	3,682	3,814
Accumulated depreciation	(3,190)	(2,919)
	<u>492</u>	<u>895</u>
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS		
At cost	3,173	3,070
Accumulated depreciation	(1,384)	(1,150)
	<u>1,789</u>	<u>1,920</u>
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
At cost	703	624
Accumulated depreciation	(464)	(374)
	<u>239</u>	<u>250</u>
PLANT AND MACHINERY		
At cost	2,000	2,137
Accumulated depreciation	(1,275)	(1,345)
	<u>725</u>	<u>792</u>
MOTOR VEHICLES		
At cost	1,525	1,638
Accumulated depreciation	(956)	(1,011)
	<u>569</u>	<u>627</u>
WORKS OF ART		
At cost	97	97
	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>

Note 24: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
OTHER EQUIPMENT		
At cost	1,370	1,156
Accumulated depreciation	(735)	(622)
	<u>635</u>	<u>534</u>
INFRASTRUCTURE - MARITIME		
At cost	5,511	5,246
Accumulated depreciation	(1,845)	(1,667)
	<u>3,666</u>	<u>3,579</u>
CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS		
Buildings ⁽ⁱ⁾	473	5,329
Maritime ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	-	-
Marine vessel	972	539
	<u>1,445</u>	<u>5,868</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>63,393</u>	<u>65,652</u>

(i) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2015 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2016 and recognised at 30 June 2016. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$1,988,900 (2015: \$2,242,900) and buildings: \$3,063,000 (2015: \$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'.

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
2016	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1. Land	6,967	-	-	-	-	(437)	-	-	6,530
2. Buildings	36,494	-	-	-	5,312	(175)	-	(1,307)	40,324
3. Marine Vessels Communication	7,476	195	-	-	156	-	-	(1,051)	6,776
4. Equipment	153	11	-	-	-	-	-	(58)	106
5. Computer Hardware Furniture Fixtures & Fittings	895	130	-	-	-	-	-	(533)	492
6. Office Equipment	1,920	91	-	-	11	-	-	(233)	1,789
7. Plant & Machinery	250	98	(4)	-	-	-	-	(105)	239
8. Vehicles	792	93	(38)	21	-	-	-	(143)	725
9. Works of Art	627	159	(35)	-	9	-	-	(191)	569
10. Other Equipment Infrastructure -	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
11. Maritime	534	274	(3)	-	-	-	-	(170)	635
12. Work in progress	3,579	138	-	(21)	148	-	-	(178)	3,666
Buildings	5,329	615	-	-	(5,471)	-	-	-	473
Boating	539	598	-	-	(165)	-	-	-	972
	65,652	2,402	(80)	-	-	(612)	-	(3,969)	63,393

Note 24: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

		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
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2015										
1.	Land	6,745	-	-	-	-	222	-	-	6,967
2.	Buildings	36,428	-	-	-	-	1,178	-	(1,112)	36,494
3.	Marine Vessels Communications	9,588	333	(30)	-	-	-	(986)	(1,429)	7,476
4.	Equipment	78	106	-	(1)	-	-	-	(30)	153
5.	Computer Hardware Furniture Fixtures & Fittings	1,180	602	-	-	-	-	-	(887)	895
6.		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 Infrastructure -	526	97	(2)	(5)	51	-	-	(133)	534
12.	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 25: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Assets measured at fair value:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value at end of period
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2016				
Land (note 24)	-	1,989	4,541	6,530
Buildings (note 24)	-	3,063	37,261	40,324
	-	5,052	41,802	46,854
2015				
Land (note 24)	-	2,243	4,724	6,967
Buildings (note 24)	-	3,305	33,189	36,494
	-	5,548	37,913	43,461

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)	Land	Buildings
	\$'000	\$'000
2016		
Fair value at start of period	4,724	33,189
Additions	-	5,312
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other	(437)	(175)
Comprehensive income	-	-
Transfers (from/(to) Level 2)	254	242
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation expense	-	(1,307)
Fair value at end of period	4,541	37,261
2015		
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

Note 25: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)

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).

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 2016 \$'000	Fair value 2015 \$'000	Valuation techniques	Unobservable inputs
Land	\$4,541	\$4,724	Market approach	Selection of land with similar approximate utility
Buildings	\$37,261	\$33,189	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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
COMPUTER SOFTWARE		
At cost	16,386	15,625
Accumulated amortisation	(4,577)	(3,209)
	<u>11,809</u>	<u>12,416</u>
CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS		
Computer Software	181	-
	<u>181</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Intangible Assets	<u>11,990</u>	<u>12,416</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
2016							
Computer Software	12,416	718	-	42	-	(1,368)	11,808
Work in progress							
Computer Software	-	224	-	(42)	-	-	182
	<u>12,416</u>	<u>942</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,368)</u>	<u>11,990</u>
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>

Note 27: IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

An impairment assessment of the Department's assets was carried out as part of the Departmental-wide Asset Stocktake during 2015-16. There are no indications of impairment of any property, plant and equipment, infrastructure or intangible assets at 30 June 2016.

There are no indications of impairment of any other property, plant and equipment, infrastructure or intangible assets at 30 June 2016.

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 2016. Therefore, no surplus assets at 30 June 2016 have been reclassified as assets held for sales or written-off.

Note 28: PAYABLES

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Current		
Trade payables	1,631	2,334
	<u>1,631</u>	<u>2,334</u>

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

Note 29: BORROWINGS

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Current		
Borrowings from Western Australian Treasury Corporation	4,523	4,271
	<u>4,523</u>	<u>4,271</u>
Non-current		
Borrowings from Western Australian Treasury Corporation	25,605	29,164
	<u>25,605</u>	<u>29,164</u>

Note 30: PROVISIONS

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
<i>Employee benefits provision</i>		
Purchased leave	11	(9)
Deferred leave	37	-
Annual Leave ^(a)	5,964	5,502
Long service leave ^(b)	7,465	7,128
	<u>13,477</u>	<u>12,621</u>
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	134	130
	<u>134</u>	<u>130</u>
	<u>13,611</u>	<u>12,751</u>
Non-current		
<i>Employee benefits provision</i>		
Long service leave ^(b)	2,887	2,985
	<u>2,887</u>	<u>2,985</u>
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	29	28
	<u>29</u>	<u>28</u>
	<u>2,916</u>	<u>3,013</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	3,622	3,152
More than 12 months after the reporting period	2,342	2,350
	<u>5,964</u>	<u>5,502</u>

(b) Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after 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	2,675	2,753
More than 12 months after the reporting period	7,677	7,361
	<u>10,352</u>	<u>10,114</u>

(c) The settlement of annual and long service leave gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments. The associated expense, apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost), is included in Note 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	158	64
Additional provisions recognised	5	94
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefit	-	-
Carrying amount at the end of the period	<u>163</u>	<u>158</u>

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

Note 31: OTHER LIABILITIES

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Current		
Accrued salaries	-	1,509
Superannuation accrued	-	152
Accrued FBT	75	-
Accrued WATC charges	933	696
Accrued Employee Claims	54	-
Other	322	1,576
	<u>1,384</u>	<u>3,933</u>

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.

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		
Balance at start of period	(12,924)	(6,357)
Prior period adjustment	(170)	79
Transfer from Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	-
	<u>(13,094)</u>	<u>(6,278)</u>
Result for the period	(3,757)	(6,646)
Balance at end of period	<u>(16,851)</u>	<u>(12,924)</u>
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY		
Balance at start of period	86,927	84,816
Contributions by owners		
Capital appropriation ^(a)	210	2,111
Other contributions by owners		
Other contributions	44	-
Total contribution by owners	<u>87,181</u>	<u>86,927</u>
Distributions to owners		
Net assets transferred to Government	-	-
Equity transferred from Administered	-	-
Total distribution to owners	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at end of period	<u>87,181</u>	<u>86,927</u>

(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*.

Note 32: EQUITY (CONTINUED)

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
RESERVES		
Asset Revaluation Surplus:		
Balance at start of period	11,844	10,444
Transfer to Accumulated Surplus/Deficit	-	-
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	(437)	222
Buildings	(175)	1,178
Plant, Equipment and Vehicle	-	-
Balance at end of period ^(b)	11,232	11,844

(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	81,562	85,847
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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:

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	1,513	7,330
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (refer to Note 20)	3,709	5,667
	5,222	12,997

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

Net cost of services	(54,786)	(63,685)
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Note 33: NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Non-Cash Items		
Depreciation and amortisation expense (Note 8 'Depreciation and amortisation expense')	5,337	6,626
Services received free of charge (Note 19 'Income from State Government')	863	1,104
(Gain)/loss on disposal of PPE (Note 18 'Net gain/loss on disposal of non-current assets')	19	(181)
Impairment expense	-	986
Adjustment for finance activities	-	(996)
(Increase)/Decrease in Assets		
Accounts receivable - General ^(a)	519	912
Prepayments	(355)	42
Accrued Income	182	(3)
Increase/(Decrease) in Liabilities		
Accrued salaries	(1,509)	248
Superannuation Accrued	(152)	21
FBT Accrued	75	(167)
Other Liabilities	(1,076)	1,521
Liability for employee entitlements	817	1,343
Accounts payable - General	(703)	(337)
Change in GST in receivables/(payables) ^(b)	282	73
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(50,487)	(52,493)

(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 reverses out the net GST in receivables and payables.

Note 34: COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

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	6,741	6,568
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	5,251	6,019
Later than 5 year	4,329	4,295
	<u>16,321</u>	<u>16,882</u>

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.

Although there is no contract as at 30 June 2016, the Department has entered into a property lease commitment of \$10.3 million, effective from 1 July 2017 to 25 September 2022.

The commitments below are inclusive of GST where relevant.

Capital Expenditure Commitments

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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Within 1 year	1,067	1,196
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	531	513
Later than 5 year	-	-
	<u>1,598</u>	<u>1,709</u>

Note 35: EVENTS 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.

The Department in consultation with the relevant authorities has developed a Site Management Plan in accordance with the 'Assessment and Management of contaminated sites (Contaminated Sites guidelines) 2014' under provisions of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003.

Negotiations in progress

The Department is negotiating on behalf of the Minister for Fisheries the settlement of amounts of compensation payable under Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997. The maximum financial effect is \$6,550,000.

Note 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Major variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2016 and between the actual results for 2015 and 2016 are shown below. Major variances are considered to be those compared to the estimate or prior year actual for a line item, which are generally greater than;

- 5% and \$1,737,000 for the Statements of Comprehensive Income and Cash Flows; and
- 5% and \$2,626,000 for the Statement of Financial Position.

	Variance note	Original budget 2016	Actual 2016	Actual 2015	Variance Estimate and actual	Variance Actual for 2016 and 2015
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cost of services						
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense		54,350	55,453	56,095	1,103	(642)
Supplies and services	1, A	10,000	20,291	23,112	10,291	(2,821)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		6,869	5,337	6,626	(1,532)	(1,289)
Finance costs		1,733	1,962	2,199	229	(237)
Accommodation expenses		3,296	4,717	4,620	1,421	97
Grants and subsidies		1,127	1,797	1,810	670	(13)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks		500	63	-	(437)	63
Loss on disposal of non-current assets		-	19	28	19	(9)
Other expenses	2, B	8,976	2,007	4,424	(6,969)	(2,417)
Total cost of services		86,851	91,646	98,914	4,795	(7,268)

Note 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

	Variance note	Original budget 2016 \$'000	Actual 2016 \$'000	Actual 2015 \$'000	Variance Estimate and actual \$'000	Variance Actual for 2016 and 2015 \$'000
Income						
Revenue						
User charges and fees	C	29,161	30,444	27,006	1,283	3,438
Grants and contributions		2,633	1,656	2,321	(977)	(665)
Interest revenue		1,733	204	664	(1,529)	(460)
Other revenue	3	2,106	4,556	5,238	2,450	(682)
Total revenue		35,633	36,860	35,229	1,227	1,631
Total income other than income from State Government		35,633	36,860	35,229	1,227	1,631
NET COST OF SERVICES		51,218	54,786	63,685	3,568	(8,899)
Income from State Government						
Service appropriations	D	49,161	49,161	54,187	-	(5,026)
Services received free of charge		796	863	1,104	67	(241)
Royalties for Regions Fund		1,193	930	1,243	(263)	(313)
Grants and Contributions		-	75	505	75	(430)
Total Income from State Government		51,150	51,029	57,039	(121)	(6,010)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD)		(68)	(3,757)	(6,646)	(3,689)	2,889
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Changes in asset revaluation surplus/(deficit)	E	-	(612)	1,400	(612)	(2,012)
Total other comprehensive income		-	(612)	1,400	(612)	(2,012)

Note 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

	Variance note	Original budget 2016 \$'000	Actual 2016 \$'000	Actual 2015 \$'000	Variance Estimate and actual \$'000	Variance Actual for 2016 and 2015 \$'000
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION						
ASSETS						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	4, F	5,374	1,513	7,330	(3,861)	(5,817)
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		3,070	3,709	5,667	639	(1,958)
Receivables	5	1,540	6,191	7,083	4,651	(892)
Amounts receivable for services		2,007	1,778	2,007	(229)	(229)
Other current assets	6	5,536	492	85	(5,044)	407
Total Current Assets		17,527	13,683	22,172	(3,844)	(8,489)
Non-Current Assets						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		-	-	-	-	-
Receivables	G	24,666	25,605	29,211	939	(3,606)
Amounts receivable for services	H	16,332	16,561	11,862	229	4,699
Property, plant and equipment	7	73,410	63,393	65,652	(10,017)	(2,259)
Intangible assets		11,274	11,990	12,416	716	(426)
Total Non-Current Assets		125,682	117,549	119,141	(8,133)	(1,592)
TOTAL ASSETS		143,209	131,232	141,313	(11,977)	(10,081)

Note 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

	Variance note	Original budget 2016 \$'000	Actual 2016 \$'000	Actual 2015 \$'000	Variance Estimate and actual \$'000	Variance Actual for 2016 and 2015 \$'000
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Payables		2,544	1,631	2,334	(913)	(703)
Borrowings		4,503	4,523	4,271	20	252
Provisions	8	10,814	13,611	12,751	2,797	860
Other current liabilities	9	8,746	1,384	3,933	(7,362)	(2,549)
Total Current Liabilities		26,607	21,149	23,289	(5,458)	(2,140)
Non-Current Liabilities						
Borrowings	I	24,666	25,605	29,164	939	(3,559)
Provisions		3,603	2,916	3,013	(687)	(97)
Total Non-Current Liabilities		28,269	28,521	32,177	252	(3,656)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		54,876	49,670	55,466	(5,206)	(5,796)
NET ASSETS		88,333	81,562	85,847	(6,771)	(4,285)
EQUITY						
Contributed equity		86,545	87,181	86,927	636	254
Reserves		11,028	11,232	11,844	204	(612)
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	10, J	(9,240)	(16,851)	(12,924)	(7,611)	(3,927)
TOTAL EQUITY		88,333	81,562	85,847	(6,771)	(4,285)

Note 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

	Variance note	Original budget 2016 \$'000	Actual 2016 \$'000	Actual 2015 \$'000	Variance Estimate and actual \$'000	Variance Actual for 2016 and 2015 \$'000
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS						
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriation	K	42,684	42,558	52,253	(126)	(9,695)
Capital contributions	L	210	210	2,111	-	(1,901)
Holding account drawdown	M	2,007	2,007	-	-	2,007
Royalties for Regions Fund		1,242	930	1,243	(312)	(313)
Grants and contributions		-	75	505	75	(430)
Net cash provided by State Government		46,143	45,780	56,112	(363)	(10,332)
Utilised as follows:						
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Employee benefits		(54,350)	(56,315)	(54,764)	(1,965)	(1,551)
Supplies and services	11	(8,359)	(23,066)	(21,501)	(14,707)	(1,565)
Finance Costs	12	(4,269)	(2,019)	(2,285)	2,250	266
Accommodation		(3,296)	(4,717)	(4,620)	(1,421)	(97)
Grants and subsidies		(1,127)	(1,797)	(1,810)	(670)	13
GST payments on purchases		(3,267)	(2,856)	(3,699)	411	843
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme buy-backs		(500)	(63)	-	437	(63)
Other payments	13	(8,118)	(1,377)	(2,328)	6,741	951
Receipts						
User charges and fees		29,161	30,386	26,885	1,225	3,501
Grants and contributions		2,633	1,656	2,295	(977)	(639)
Interest received		1,769	204	664	(1,565)	(460)
Other receipts	14	1,756	6,088	4,850	4,332	1,238
GST receipts on sales		581	483	392	(98)	91
GST receipts from taxation authority		3,267	2,906	3,428	(361)	(522)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(44,119)	(50,487)	(52,493)	(6,368)	2,006

Note 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

	Variance note	Original budget 2015 \$'000	Actual 2016 \$'000	Actual 2015 \$'000	Variance Estimate and actual \$'000	Variance Actual for 2016 and 2015 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Purchase of non-current assets	N	(4,579)	(3,285)	(8,386)	1,294	5,101
Receipts						
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		334	61	181	(273)	(120)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(4,245)	(3,224)	(8,205)	1,021	4,981
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Repayments of borrowings		(4,269)	(4,271)	(4,054)	(2)	(217)
Receipts						
Proceeds from borrowing			964	986	964	(22)
Proceeds from industry		4,269	3,463	3,358	(806)	105
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		-	156	290	156	(134)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(2,221)	(7,775)	(4,296)	(5,554)	(3,479)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	15, O	10,666	12,997	17,293	2,331	(4,296)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD		8,445	5,222	12,997	(3,223)	(7,775)

Note 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Major variance Narratives

Variances between estimate and actual

- 1) 2016 actual was significantly higher than budget, due to actual expenditure reallocation from Other Expenses, along with increased peak body payments to Industry and increased Grants and Subsidies 2016.
- 2) 2016 budget was significantly higher than actual, due to actual expenditure reallocation to Supplies and Services.
- 3) Other revenue budget is lower than actual due to reclassifying of some grants from 'Grants and Contributions' along with actual WATC borrowing costs being reclassified to other revenue (as actual expenditure) and being greater than anticipated.
- 4) 2016 Cash balances were lower due to total cash expenditure exceeding the budget significantly in Employee Benefits and Supplies and Services including increased payments to peak industry bodies.
- 5) Actual 2016 receivables are primarily higher than budget, as these include WATC Industry receivable loans. In the Budget these have been included under Other Current Assets.
- 6) Budget Other Current Assets are higher than actual as this includes WATC Industry receivable loans. Refer to Receivables note, due to the actual balance reclassification.
- 7) Property, Plant and Equipment is lower than budget due to capital expenditure being lower than anticipated along with a revaluation decrement during the year.
- 8) Actual employee entitlements were not taken during the year at the anticipated rate. The budget had planned for no change in this provision however the result is an increase of entitlements.
- 9) Actual Other Current Liabilities are lower than budget, primarily due to a reduction of accrued salaries and an emphasis on managing and reducing liabilities prior to year-end.
- 10) The Actual Accumulated deficit exceeds the budget estimate, due to unplanned expenditure exceedances primarily for supplies and services.
- 11) Cash outflows for Supplies and Services in the 2016 budget was significantly lower than actual, due to actual expenditure reallocation from Other Payments along with increased actual expenditure, including Peak Body payments against budget.
- 12) Budgeted Finance Costs were higher than actual due to postponement of some repayments and a restructure of the repayment schedule.
- 13) 2016 budget was significantly higher than actual, due to actual expenditure reallocation to Supplies and Services from Other Payments. Refer to Cash Flow: Supplies and Services note above.
- 14) Other Cash Receipts budget is lower than actual due to reclassifying some actual grants from 'Grants and contributions' to Other Receipts, along with actual Other Receipts including WATC interest received.
- 15) Closing Budgeted Cash and Cash Equivalent balances are higher than the actual 2016 year end, primarily due to lower budgeted operating activities.

Note 37: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Variances between actual results for 2016 and 2015

- A) 2016 actual was lower than prior year actual due to Agency expenditure review savings, resulting in lower consumables and external contractors and consultants. The net expenditure reduction is offset against increased peak body payments in 2016.
- B) 2016 actual is lower than prior year partially due to Agency expenditure Review Savings along with an absence of impairment expense in the prior year and reduced repairs in the current year.
- C) User Charges and Fees are higher in the current year due to increased commercial access fees, which have been recalculated based on 2013/14 three year rolling catch estimates.
- D) Service appropriations were lower in 2016 due to Government efficiency and dividend savings, Agency Expenditure Review savings and decreased appropriation for specific project funding.
- E) Asset Revaluations on land and buildings resulted in a 2016 deficit, against a prior year revaluation increment.
- F) Actual 2016 Cash balances were lower than the prior year due to reduced appropriation against comparable operating expenditure.
- G) The Receivable current year balance has reduced from the prior year primarily due to Industry repaying borrowing facilities.
- H) 2016 non-current Receivables have increased from the prior year due to the net Asset Replacement Holding Account transfers for future asset replacement.
- I) Actual 2016 non-current Borrowings have reduced from the prior year due to repayment of WATC Industry loans.
- J) The 2016 Accumulated Deficit increased from the comparative year. The comparative year had higher Net Cost of Service, offset by higher total income from State Government.
- K) Cash proceed for Service appropriations were lower in 2016 due to Government efficiency and dividend savings, Agency Expenditure Review Savings and decreased appropriation for specific project funding.
- L) Actual cash proceeds from capital contributions were lower than the prior year. Cash proceeds for the ongoing asset replacement program were drawn from the holding account instead.
- M) Actual cash proceeds from the Holding Account were higher than the prior year to fund ongoing asset replacements.
- N) Property, Plant and Equipment cash expenditure is lower than budget due to reduced capital appropriation for 2015/16 along with capital expenditure being lower than anticipated for the year.
- O) Actual closing Cash and Cash Equivalent balances are lower at 2016 year end, compared to the actual prior year primarily due to higher net cash used in operating activities and reduced net cash proceeds from State Government, resulting in a net cash balance reduction.

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).

(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.

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,513	7,330
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	3,709	5,667
Loans and receivables ^(a)	49,827	49,579
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	34,019	39,651

(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
2016						
Cash and cash equivalents	1,513	1,513	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	3,709	3,709	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	526	417	101	1	-	7
Loans and Advances	30,962	30,962	-	-	-	-
Amounts Receivable for Services	18,339	18,339	-	-	-	-
	55,049	54,940	101	1	-	7
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

(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
2016										
Financial Assets										
Cash and cash equivalents	-	1,513	-	1,513	1,513	1,513	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2.27	3,709	3,709	-	3,709	3,709	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	-	526	-	526	526	526	-	-	-	-
Loans and Advances	-	30,962	-	30,962	30,962	834	-	4,523	23,655	1,950
Amounts Receivable for Services	-	18,339	-	18,339	18,339	-	-	2,007	16,332	-
		55,049	3,709	51,340	55,049	6,582	-	6,530	39,987	1,950
Financial Liabilities										
Payables	-	2,958	-	2,958	2,958	2,958	-	-	-	-
WATC borrowings	5.42	31,061	31,061	-	31,061	933	-	4,523	23,655	1,950
Financial lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		34,019	31,061	2,958	34,019	3,891	-	4,523	23,655	1,950

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
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

(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
2016					
Financial Liabilities					
Loans and Advances	31,061	(311)	(311)	311	311
Total Increase/(Decrease)	31,061	(311)	(311)	311	311

	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

Fair Values

All financial assets and liabilities recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, whether they are carried at cost or 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

	2016	2015
	\$'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
\$140,001 - 150,000	1	-
\$170,001 - 180,000	-	-
\$180,001 - 190,000	-	1
\$190,001 - 200,000	-	-
\$200,001 - 210,000	1	-
\$210,001 - 220,000	2	-
\$220,001 - 230,000	-	2
\$330,001 - 340,000	-	1
\$380,001 - 390,000	1	-
Base remuneration and superannuation	1,059	1,145
Annual leave and long service leave accruals	(6)	(132)
Other benefits	84	95
Total remuneration of senior officers	1,137	1,108

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:

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Auditing the accounts, controls, financial statements and performance indicators	165	160

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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'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	15	7
Less: Recovery by Insurance	-	-
	15	7

Act of Grace Payments

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

The Minister	-	-
	-	-

Note 44: JOINTLY CONTROLLED OPERATION

Name of Operation	Output Interest (%)
Fremantle Marine Operations	50

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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Non-current assets	-	-
Property, plant and equipment	3,931	3,989
Infrastructure	101	112
	4,032	4,101

Note 45: JOINTLY CONTROLLED ASSETS

Name of Operation	Output Interest (%)
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.

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Non-current assets		
Land	705	810
	705	810

Note 46: SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNTS

2015 \$'000		2016 \$'000
<u>Fisheries Research and Development Account</u>		
15,147	Balance at start of period	10,515
Receipts		
43,947	Contribution from Consolidated Account	33,664
1,243	Royalties for Regions	855
18,269	Fisheries Access Fees	21,278
1,193	Application Fees	1,447
2,826	Grants and Contributions	1,731
7,590	Other Receipts	9,237
664	Interest	157
<u>75,732</u>		<u>68,369</u>
Payments		
<u>80,364</u>	Contributions to Fisheries WA operations	<u>76,338</u>
80,364		76,338
<u>10,515</u>	Balance at end of period	<u>2,546</u>

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.

Note 46: SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

2015
\$'000

2016
\$'000

Recreational Fishing Account

1,729	Balance at start of period	1,420
	Receipts	
11,021	Contribution from Consolidated Account	11,111
-	Contribution by owner ^(a)	-
7,543	Recreational Fishing Licences	7,661
-	Royalties for Regions - recurrent	75
200	Other Receipts	47
18,764		18,894
	Payments	
19,073	Expenditure on recreational fishing related activities	18,269
19,073		18,269
1,420	Balance at end of period	2,045

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

417	Balance at start of period	1,062
	Receipts	
5,258	Repayments from Industry for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes	4,667
500	Specific State contributions to fisheries adjustment	-
5,758		4,667
	Payments	
5,113	Loan repayment, Interests and guarantee fees to WATC for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes	5,035
-	Unit buy back State Scheme	63
5,113		5,098
1,062	Balance at end of period	631

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.

Note 47: CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

2015		2016
\$'000		\$'000
16	Balance at start of period	19
	Income	
-	Application fees and Recreational Boat Licences	-
818	Payments from the Commonwealth	839
2	Other	6
820		845
	Expenditure	
265	Salaries	294
260	Travel & Accommodation	246
1	Administration	-
291	On-costs	322
817		862
19	Balance at end of period	2

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

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Income		
For Transfer:		
User charges and fees	313	317
Income from State Government	-	-
Total administered income	313	317
COST OF SERVICE		
Expenses		
Transfer to Consolidated Account	313	317
Other expenses	-	-
Total administered expenses	313	317

Note 49: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTERED ITEMS

	Variance note	Original budget 2016 \$'000	Actual 2016 \$'000	Actual 2015 \$'000	Variance Estimate and actual \$'000	Variance Actual for 2016 and 2015 \$'000
Income						
For Transfer:						
User charges and fees	A	-	313	317	(313)	(4)
Income from State Government		-	-	-	-	-
Total administered income		-	313	317	(313)	(4)
COST OF SERVICE						
Expenses						
Transfer to Consolidated Account	A	-	313	317	(313)	(4)
Other expenses		-	-	-	-	-
Total administered expenses		-	313	317	(313)	(4)

Variances between actual 2016 and budget 2016

A) Increased infringements resulted in increased fines during the year, compared to the budget.

Note 50: ADMINISTERED ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY SERVICE

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents	3	44
Receivables	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Administered Current Assets	3	44
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Administered Non-Current Assets	-	-
TOTAL ADMINISTERED ASSETS	3	44
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Payables	-	-
Other	3	44
Total Administered Current Assets	3	44
<u>Non-Current Liabilities</u>		
Other	-	-
Total Administered Non-Current Liabilities	-	-
TOTAL ADMINISTERED LIABILITIES	3	44

Key performance indicators 2015/16

Certification of performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2016

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 2016.



Heather Brayford

Accountable Authority

19 September 2016

1.1 The proportion of fish stocks identified as being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation¹⁶

For 2015/16, the proportion of fish stocks identified as being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation is 5%.

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 and recreational fisheries (full details of which are in the companion publication, *Status reports of the fisheries and aquatic resources 2015/16*).

Performance is measured as the proportion of fisheries (with sufficient data) where the breeding stocks of each of their target or indicator species are at sustainable levels given current fishing effort and normal environmental conditions; or they are recovering from a depleted state at an appropriate rate following management intervention. The Department's 2015/16 Budget Papers state that the target for the proportion of fisheries with breeding stocks at risk from fishing is to be less than 3%.

For the 2015/16 performance review, 39 fisheries have been reviewed, which includes two recreational-only fisheries. For the 39 fisheries reviewed, breeding stock assessments for the major species are available for 38 (97%) of these fisheries. The fishery where there was insufficient data to make a critical assessment on the target species has not operated for more than five years.

Within the group of 38 assessed fisheries, 31 were considered to have adequate breeding stock levels and a further three fisheries (the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery [WCDSF]; the Shark Bay Crab Fishery and the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery) had breeding stocks considered to be recovering at acceptable rates (collectively 90% of fisheries).

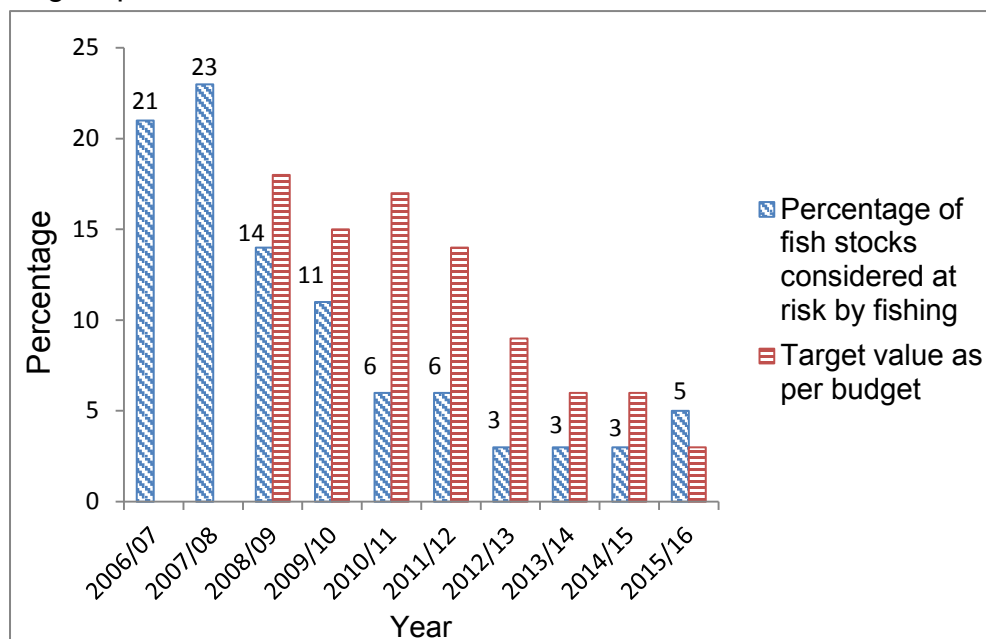
The WCDSF targets relatively long-lived species so its recovery is expected to take a number of years to complete. The management actions taken in Shark Bay,

¹⁶ [Go to Appendix 1](#) of this Annual Report for information supporting this Key Performance Indicator.

combined with the conservative Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) limits now imposed, are enabling the recovery of both the scallop and crab stocks from the impact of the heat-wave event five years ago. Of the remaining 10% of fisheries, only two fisheries have been assessed as having some stocks at levels inadequate to maintain usual effort levels (garfish in the West Coast Nearshore Fishery and cobbler within Wilson Inlet in the South Coast Nearshore Fishery). A further two fisheries were also assessed as having inadequate breeding stocks solely resulting from the negative impacts of environmental influences, not fishing.

The poor recruitment levels observed for scallops in the Abrolhos Islands region since the 2011 marine heat-wave have continued with the fishery still remaining closed. Similarly, with environmental factors still having an impact on the growth of crabs in Cockburn Sound and the stock's recruitment, this fishery has also remaining closed. Therefore, while a total of 10% of fisheries have stock levels that are not considered adequate, only stocks in two fisheries (or 5% of those assessed) are considered inadequate largely as a result of exploitation with revised management arrangements needed to deal with these issues (KPI figure 1).

KPI figure 1: The proportion (%) of fisheries in which breeding stocks of the major target species are both assessed and considered to be at risk due to fishing.¹⁷



¹⁷ Note: Two other fisheries (5%) were also considered to have inadequate breeding stocks in 2015/16 but this was generated by unusual environmental factors, not fishing.

The graph above illustrates the yearly percentage of fish stocks considered at risk by fishing since 2006/07 against the yearly target value as per budget – although the target value has only been set annually since 2008/09. It shows the proportion of commercial fisheries (expressed as a percentage) in which catch or effort is acceptable relevant to the target management range being applied. Between 2006/07 and 2015/16 the percentage of acceptable fisheries was consistently high at approximately 80% or higher. In 2015/16, 95% of fisheries have acceptable breeding stock levels, with only 5% of fisheries at risk due to fishing, which was slightly higher than the target value of 3%.

These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

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

Year	Percentage of fish stocks considered at risk by fishing (%)	Target value as per budget (%)
2006/07	21	Not applicable
2007/08	23	Not applicable
2008/09	14	18
2009/10	11	15
2010/11	6	17
2011/12	6	14
2012/13	3	9
2013/14	3	6
2014/15	3	6
2015/16	5	3

1.2 The proportion of commercial fisheries where acceptable catchers (or effort levels) are achieved¹⁸

For 2015/16, the proportion of commercial fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved is 90%.

This indicator provides an assessment of the success of the Department's commercial management plans and regulatory activities in keeping fish catches at appropriate levels (including those in a recovery phase). For most of the commercial fisheries in WA, each management plan seeks to directly control the amount of fishing effort applied to stocks, with the level of catch taken providing an indication of the effectiveness of the plan. Where the plan is operating effectively, the catch by the fishery should fall within a projected range. The extent of this range reflects the degree to which normal environmental variations affect the recruitment of juveniles to the stock which cannot be 'controlled' by the management plan. 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.

A target catch or effort range has been determined for each of the major commercial fisheries (see the 'Stock Status and Catch Ranges for Major Fisheries' section of the Annual Report) by the Department's Science and Resource Assessment Division. The Department's 2015/16 Budget Papers state that the target is ninety five percent (95%).

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

¹⁸ [Go to Appendix 1](#) of this Annual Report for information supporting this Key Performance Indicator.

incorporated for assessing the performance of quota-managed fisheries (see 'Stock Status and Catch Ranges for Major Fisheries' section of the Annual Report).

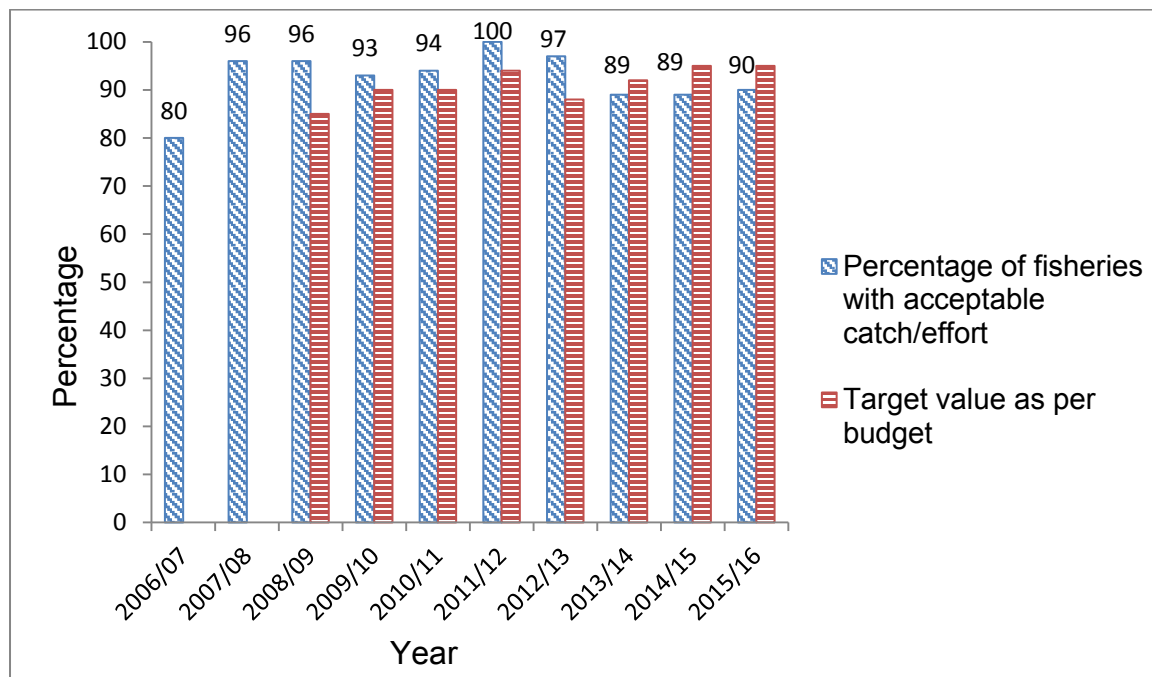
The major commercial fisheries which have target catch or effort ranges account for most of the commercial value of WA's landed catch. Comparisons between the actual catches (or effort) with the target ranges have been undertaken for 29 of the 37 commercial fisheries referred to in 'Stock Status and Catch Ranges for Major Fisheries'. There is still a relatively high number of fisheries not assessed which is due to a combination of ongoing environmentally induced stock issues in some regions (see above) and poor economic conditions for some fisheries which meant a number of fisheries were either closed or did not have material levels of catches during this reporting period. This includes two fisheries (Cockburn Sound crabs, Abrolhos Islands and mid-west (scallops) trawl) affected by unusual environmental conditions continue to have their recruitment impacted to the extent that the scallop fisheries were again set to zero (0) catches. The setting of zero or very limited catches in these fisheries highlights the significant management interventions of the Department to facilitate recovery and rebuilding of these stocks. These stocks continue to be closely monitored to allow the fisheries to reopen when stocks have rebuilt to levels that support sustainable fishing.

Of the 29 fisheries where 'target ranges' were available and a material level of fishing was undertaken in the relevant reporting period, 11 were catch-quota managed with 18 subject to effort control management.

Nine (9) of the 11 Individually Transferable Quota (ITQ) managed fisheries operated within their target effort/catch ranges or were acceptably below the effort range (e.g. 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 2016 season and the decline in catch rate for Shark Bay snapper has triggered a review. In the 18 effort-controlled fisheries, 10 were within or acceptably above (1) or below (6) their target catch ranges. For effort controlled fisheries, the current catch level of cobbler in Wilson Inlet is too high and discussions with licence holders regarding suitable adjustments to management have already been initiated.

In summary, 26 of the 29 commercial fisheries assessed (90%) were considered to have met their performance criteria, or were affected by factors outside the purview of the management plan/arrangements. This figure is close to the target level of 95% (Figure 2).

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.



The graph above illustrates the proportion of commercial fisheries in which the catch or effort reported is acceptable relevant to the target management range being applied since 2005/06 against the yearly target value as per budget – although this value has only been set annually since 2008/09. It shows the proportion of fish stocks (expressed as a percentage) considered at risk from fishing between 2006/07 and 2015/16 in addition to their target value throughout the same time period. The percentage of fish stocks considered to be at risk decreased through time and in 2015/16, 5% of fish stocks were considered to be at risk. The target value of these fisheries also decreased through time, down to 3% in 2015/16.

These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

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

Year	Percentage of fisheries with acceptable catch/effort	Target value as per budget
2006/07	80	Not applicable
2007/08	96	Not applicable
2008/09	96	85
2009/10	93	90
2010/11	94	90
2011/12	100	94
2012/13	97	88
2013/14	89	92
2014/15	89	95
2015/16	90	95

1.3 The proportion of recreational fisheries in which catches or effort levels are acceptable¹⁹

For 2015/16, the proportion of recreational fisheries in which acceptable catches are achieved is 100%

This indicator provides an assessment of the success of the Department's management plans and regulatory activities in keeping fish catches by the recreational sector at appropriate levels for both stock sustainability (including those in a recovery phase) and to meet integrated fisheries management objectives.

Previously, WA's aquatic resources were shared mainly on an implicit basis, with no explicit setting of catch shares within an overall total allowable catch or corresponding total allowable effort. The Department is now implementing an Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) approach where the aggregate effects on WA's aquatic resources by all fishing sectors are taken into account. This involves the use of a framework in which decisions on optimum resource use are determined (i.e. allocation and re-allocation of fish resources) and implemented within a total sustainable catch for each fishery or fished stock. IFM is being progressively phased

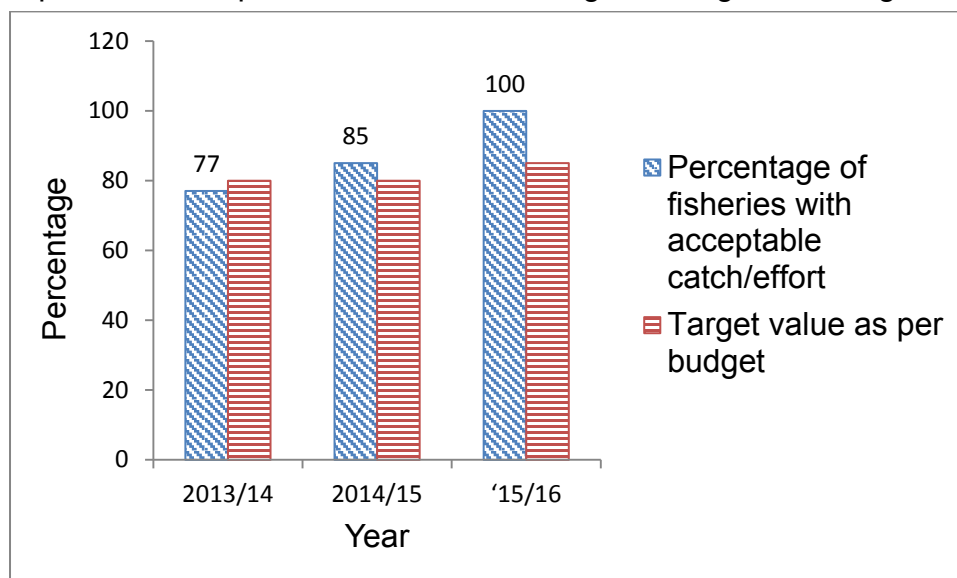
¹⁹ [Go to Appendix 1](#) of this Annual Report for information supporting this Key Performance Indicator.

in and it is anticipated it will take around 10 years to bring the majority of the State's shared fisheries under this new framework.

The Department is beginning to determine an annual tolerance catch or effort range for each of the major recreational fisheries.²⁰ This indicator has only been measured since 2013/14 and the Department's 2015/16 Budget Papers state that the target is 80%.

For the purposes of this indicator, 13 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 13, only five currently have explicit catch tolerance ranges developed and another eight have implicit ranges that can be used to assess acceptability. Of these 13 stocks or fisheries, all had catch levels that were within an acceptable catch range. Consequently the percentage of recreational fisheries with acceptable catch levels was 100%, which exceeds the target level of 80%. This has improved from last year where the percentage of recreational fisheries with acceptable catch levels was 85% (KPI figure 3).

KPI figure 3: The proportion (%) of recreational fisheries in which the catch or effort reported is acceptable relevant to the target management range being applied.



These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

²⁰ [Go to Appendix 1](#) of this Annual Report for information supporting this Key Performance Indicator.

KPI table 3: The proportion (%) of recreational fisheries in which the catch or effort reported is acceptable relevant to the target management range being applied.

Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Percentage of fisheries with acceptable catch/effort	77	85	100
Target value as per budget	80	80	80

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

For 2015/16, the volume of State commercial fishing (including aquaculture) production is 20,814 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 2012/13 to 2014/15 in broad groupings is provided in KPI table 4 below.

The 2015/16 Budget Papers state that the target for production is 21,000 tonnes, which represents a production level that is increasing slowly.

The overall tonnage of commercially caught crustaceans in 2014/15 was again up compared to 2013/14, mostly due to increases in the invertebrate trawl fisheries.

The production of the mollusc fisheries in 2014/15 increased from the previous year given increases in octopus catches and the partial re-opening of the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery. This still remains below historical levels due to the continued closure of the Abrolhos Islands Trawl Fishery and closures to parts of the Abalone Fishery 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 2014/15 continued to fluctuate around the 9,000 tonnes level as it has for the past five or more years with minor changes occurring across a number of fisheries.

The change in production in the 'Other' category reflects a swap in the species targeted by the fishery for beche-de mer during the season reported.

Total aquaculture production increased marginally in 2014/15. While finfish and yabbie production increased, this was offset by further reductions in mussels primarily again due to issues with spat settlement and predation.

In summary, the overall tonnage of production in 2014/15 was similar to recent years which have all 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 maximise catch levels.

KPI table 4: Western Australian fisheries production – years 2012/13 to 2014/15.

	2012/13 ²¹ t	2013/14 ²¹ t	2014/15 ²² t
Crustaceans	8,832	9,525	9,825
Molluscs	868	802	991
Fish	9,149	8,612	8,947
Other ²³	13	56	37
Pearling ^{24, 25}	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Aquaculture ²⁶	1,522	966	1014
Total production	20,384	19,961	20,814

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.

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

²¹ Figures have not been adjusted to account for late production returns and validation of databases, so may differ slightly from values published elsewhere.

²² Figures current as at end of financial year.

²³ Miscellaneous invertebrates, e.g. beche-de-mer and sea urchins.

²⁴ Pearl oyster products other than pearls are included under molluscs.

²⁵ Pearl production is not based on volume therefore production figures are no longer reported.

²⁶ Excludes hatchery production plus algae production for beta-carotene; western rock oyster and abalone aquaculture production due to confidentiality (single operators).

- 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 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 the Department's programs, activities and functions.

An external research company contracted by the Department conducted the 2016 community survey in April 2016. Survey respondents were about asked their experiences and views for the 12-month period prior to their interview date (i.e. March 2015 to April 2016). Of a total of 3,826 in-scope respondents (Western Australian residents aged 18 years and older), 749 interviews were completed representing a response rate of 20%.

The 749 interviews comprised:

- 573 respondents from major cities;
- 76 respondents from inner regional areas; and
- 100 respondents from outer regional/remote/very remote areas or who were migratory residents.

This sample was weighted to reflect the population based on March 2016 census population statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), with the survey providing estimates for the 2015/16 financial year.

3.1 Participation rate in recreational fisheries

For 2015/16, the participation rate in recreational fishing is 31.1% of the population, approximately 752,000 people

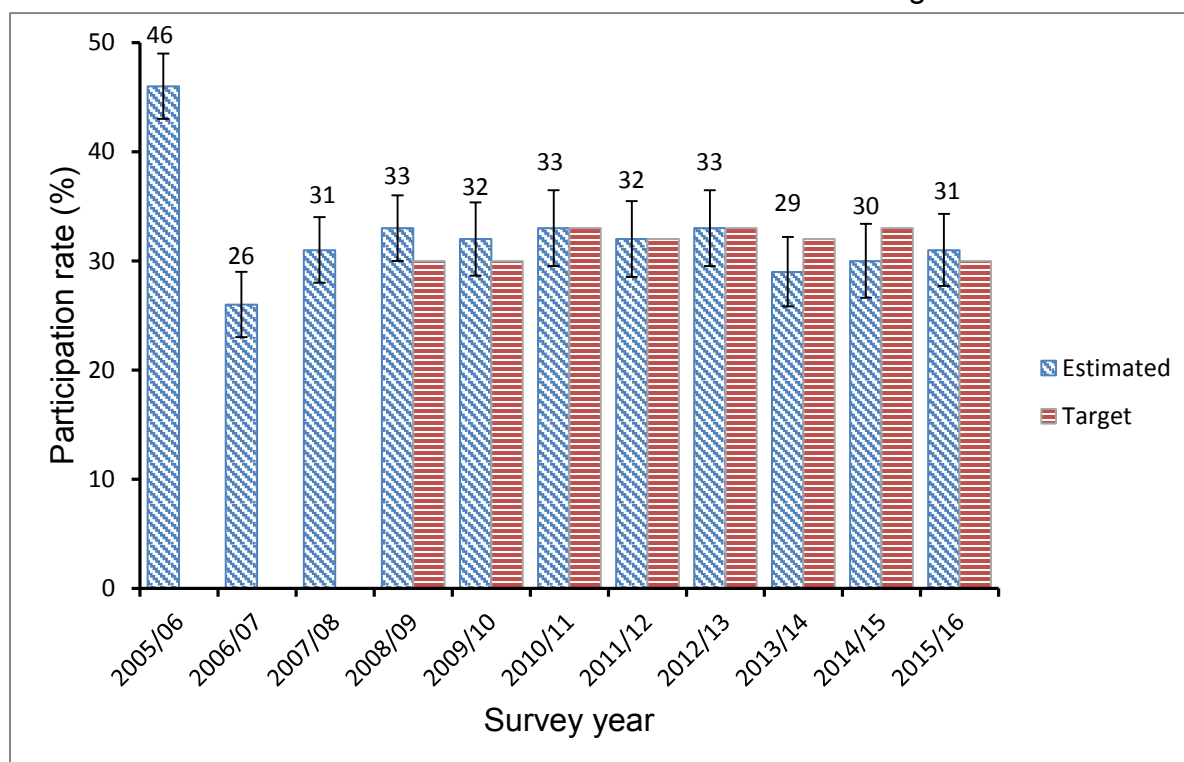
The level of participation in recreational fisheries and frequency that respondents participate in recreational fishing is a measure of the utilisation of this community resource. Recreational fisheries also provide social and economic benefits for the community. These may include social benefits, such 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 2015/16 Budget Papers state that the target participation rate in recreational fisheries in Western Australia is 30%. Based on survey data, the 2015/16 participation rate was estimated as 31.1% (95% CI [27.8%, 34.4%]) of the population. This participation rate is similar to the participation rate reported in recent years (i.e. ~ 30-33%, see KPI figure 4). Based on the estimated residential population of Western Australia aged four and older at 30 September 2015 (ABS 2015)²⁷, the number of people in Western Australia who participated in recreational fishing at least once in the previous 12-month period was approximately 752,000 (95% CI [671,000, 832,000]). This is assuming that persons age five or younger did not fish and that the participation rate was constant for the population five years of age and older.

²⁷ [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(ABS\) \(2015\). 3101.0 - Australian Demographic Statistics, Sep 2015](http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/0/3E724DA2725412D0CA257FDA001D5F26?OpenDocument)

<http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/0/3E724DA2725412D0CA257FDA001D5F26?OpenDocument>

KPI figure 4: Estimated (+ 95% CI;) and target participation rate of Western Australian residents in recreational fisheries from 2005/06 through 2015/16.



The graph above illustrates the yearly estimated participation rate of Western Australian residents in recreational fisheries from 2005/06 through to 2015/16 against the annual target participation rate – although this rate has only been set since 2008/09.

These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

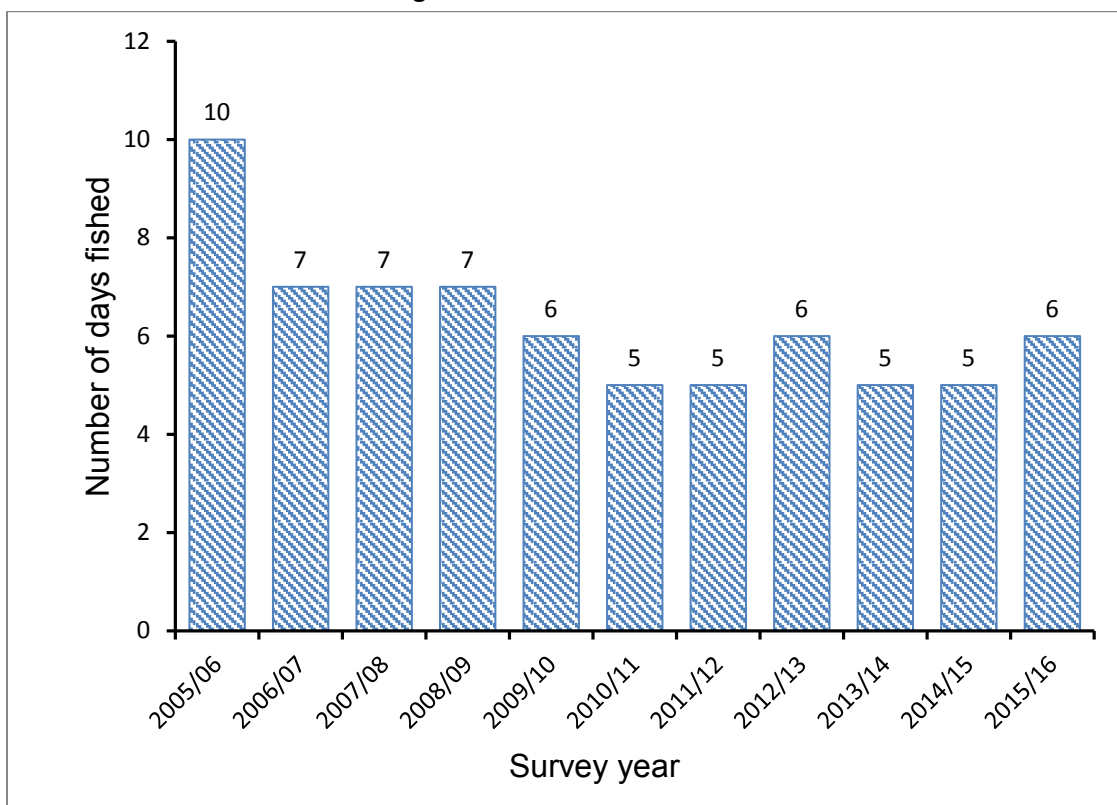
KPI table 5: Estimated (+ 95% CI;) and target participation rate of Western Australian residents in recreational fisheries from 2005/06 through 2015/16.

Year	Estimated participation rate	Target participation rate
2005/06	46	Not applicable
2006/07	26	Not applicable
2007/08	31	Not applicable
2008/09	33	30
2009/10	32	30
2010/11	32	33
2011/12	32	32
2012/13	33	32

Year	Estimated participation rate	Target participation rate
2013/14	29	32
2014/15	30	33
2015/16	31	30

The number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last 12-month period ranged from one to 200 days. The median number of days fished by recreational fishers over the 2015/16 financial year was six days (KPI figure 5) and the mean number of days fished was 16 days; nearly half (47.3 %) of all recreational fishers fished between one and five days over the 12-month period (KPI figure 6).

KPI figure 5: Median number of days fished by recreational fishers in Western Australia from 2005/06 through 2015/16.



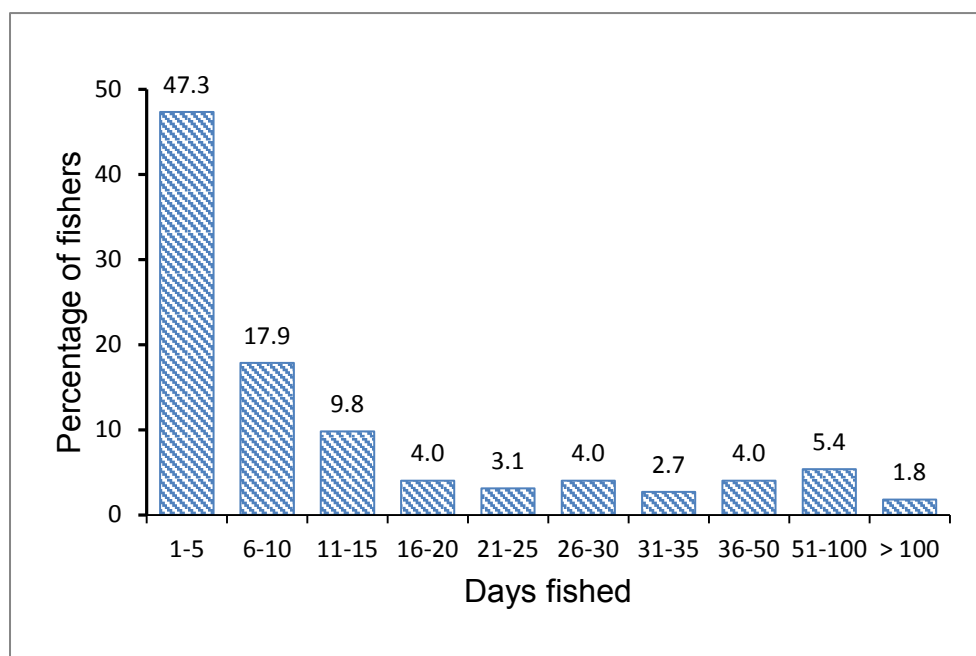
The graph above illustrates the yearly median number of days fished in Western Australia from 2005/06 through to 2015/16. The median number of days fished in 2015/16 (six days) was consistent with the last five years.

These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

KPI table 6: Median number of days fished by recreational fishers in Western Australia from 2005/06 through 2015/16.

Year	Median days fished
2005/06	10
2006/07	7
2007/08	7
2008/09	7
2009/10	6
2010/11	5
2011/12	5
2012/13	6
2013/14	5
2014/15	5
2015/16	6

KPI figure 6: Distribution of total number of days fished by recreational fishers in Western Australia in 2015/16.



The graph above illustrates the number of days fished (expressed as a percentage) in Western Australia in 2015/16. Nearly half (47%) of fishers went fishing between one and five days a year.

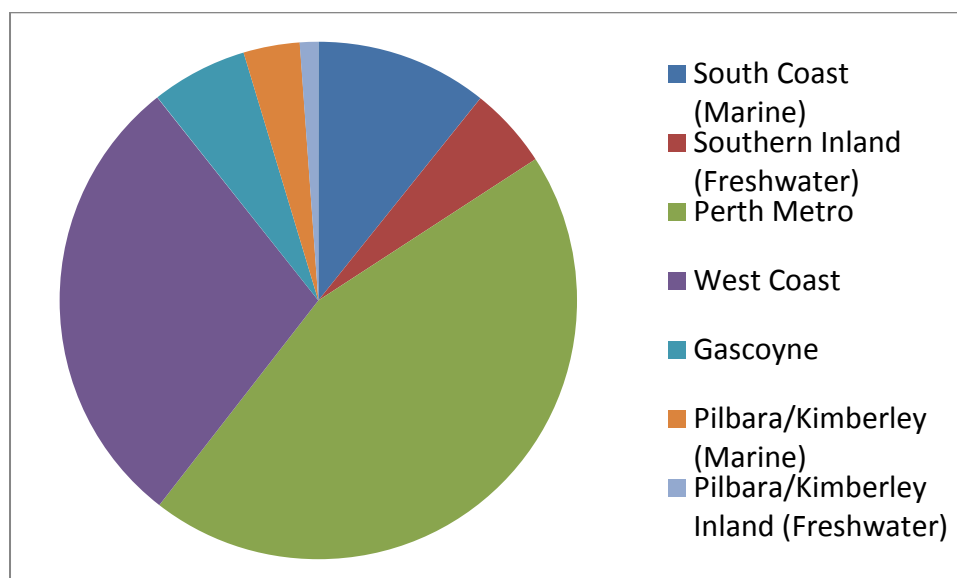
These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

KPI table 7: Distribution of total number of days fished by recreational fishers in Western Australia in 2015/16.

Days fished during 2015/16	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-50	51-100	>100
Percentage of fishers	47%	18%	10%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	5%	2%

The Perth metropolitan area from Yancheep to Mandurah was the most popular area for recreational fishing in the State, with 44.7% of the total effort occurring in this region (KPI figure 7). The West Coast region (excluding the Perth Metropolitan area) was the next most popular area for recreational fishing in the State with 28.8% of effort, followed by the South Coast marine region (10.8%), the Gascoyne region (6.0%), the Southern Inland freshwater regions (5.1%), the Pilbara/Kimberley marine region (3.5%), and Pilbara/Kimberley freshwater regions (1.2%).

KPI figure 7: Regional distribution of recreational fishing effort throughout Western Australia in 2015/16.



The graph above illustrates the regional distribution of recreational fishing effort throughout Western Australia in 2015/16. Over 70% of all fishing effort occurred in the West Coast and the Perth Metro.

These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

KPI table 8: Regional distribution of recreational fishing effort throughout Western Australia in 2015/16.

Location	Percentage of fishing effort
South Coast (Marine)	10.8%
Southern Inland	5.1%
Perth Metro	44.7%
West Coast	28.8%
Gascoyne	6.0%
Pilbara/Kimberley (Marine)	3.5%
Pilbara/Kimberley Inland (Freshwater)	1.2%

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.

For 2015/16, the satisfaction rating of the broader community as to the extent to which the Department is achieving aquatic resource management objectives is 85.9%.

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 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.

Satisfaction rates are calculated for each management area as the proportion of respondents who ranked our management of that particular area as “good” or “very

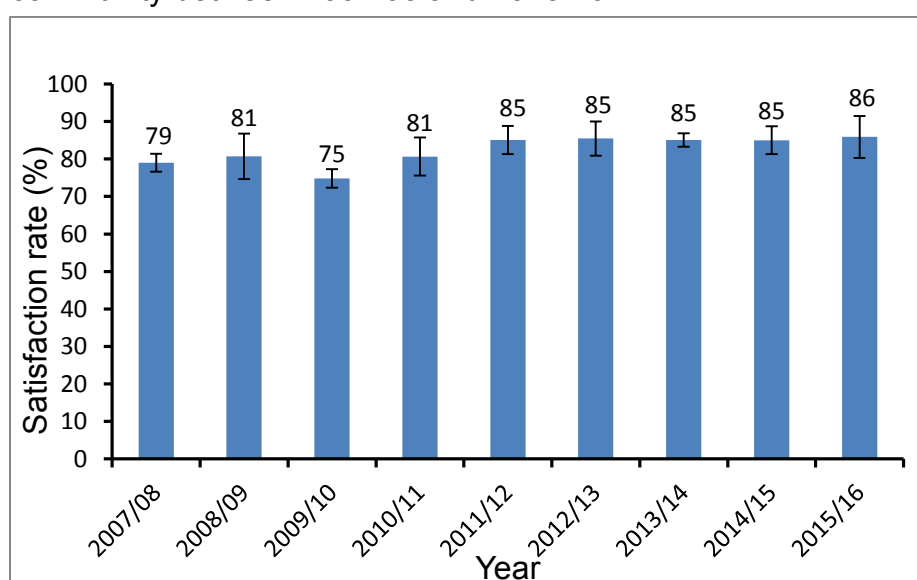
good”. The overall satisfaction rate is an average of the satisfaction ratings across these four management areas. Note that responses of “can’t say” and “neither” were excluded from the calculation of the satisfaction rates.

The Department’s 2015/16 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 85.9% (95% CI [80.3%, 91.5%]) by the Western Australian community across these four management areas in 2015/16. This rate is similar to those reported for recent years (KPI figure 8). The 2015/16 satisfaction rates for each management area are provided in KPI table 8.

KPI table 9: Satisfaction rate of the Western Australian community across key fisheries management areas in 2015/16.

Key fisheries management areas	Number of respondents	Satisfaction rate
Commercial Fisheries	236	86.2 %
Recreational Fisheries	267	87.1 %
Aquaculture and Pearling	129	92.0 %
Fish Habitat Protection	161	78.2 %
Overall		85.9 %

KPI figure 8: Estimated satisfaction rate (± 95 % CI) of the Western Australian community between 2007/08 and 2015/16.



These data are reproduced in a table below for people using assistive technologies to read this report.

KPI table 10: Estimated satisfaction rate (\pm 95 % CI) of the Western Australian community between 2007/08 and 2015/16.

Year	'07/08	'08/09	'09/10	'10/11	'11/12	'12/13	'13/14	'14/15	'15/16
Mean	79	81	75	81	85	85	85	85	86

The information used to assess stakeholder satisfaction rates are collected via biennial surveys (most recently in 2014/15) of ~ 160 representatives from commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, aquaculture and pearling, and the environment. Similarly to the community survey, respondents are asked to rate the Department across the four management areas. The most recent stakeholder survey (2014/15) indicated a 79.9% (95% CI [73.9%, 85.9%]) overall satisfaction rate across the four management areas which was an improvement on the value of 75.3% from the 2012/13 survey. The next stakeholder survey will be conducted in 2017.

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.

Actual 2012/13 to 2014/15 and 2015/16 target average costs per hour have been revised due to a change in the calculation methodology and are aligned to the methodology applied for 2015/16 actual costs to ensure comparability.

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 10: Service 1 – Fisheries management

	Actual 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Actual 2014/15	Target 2015/16	Actual 2015/16
Average cost per hour of management (excluding grants and fisheries adjustments)	\$166	\$161	\$196	\$193	\$174

2015/16 Commentary

The 2015/16 financial year was consistent with the previous year's operations, resulting in similar Total Cost of Services outcomes. Due to increased 2015/16 grants and fisheries adjustment schemes payment this resulted in a lower 2015/16 actual service cost against the prior year actual service cost.

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 11: Service 2 – Enforcement and Education

	Actual 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Actual 2014/15	Target 2015/16	Actual 2015/16
Average cost per hour of enforcement and education	N/A	\$170	\$179	\$198	\$140

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 figures from 2013/14 figures and after are comparable, and figures prior to 2013/14 have been excluded from Table 11.

2015/16 Commentary

Reduced expenditure in employee benefits due to unfilled vacancies, combined with expenditure savings in travel, consumables and professional services related accounts, resulted in a considerable reduction in the Total Cost of Services for the Enforcement and Education Service for 2015/16. Consequentially the resulting cost per hour was considerably lower against the 2015/16 target.

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 12: Service 3 – Research and Assessment

	Actual 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Actual 2014/15	Target 2015/16	Actual 2015/16
Average cost per hour of research and assessment	\$103	\$115	\$107	\$110	\$104

2015/16 Commentary

The 2015/16 financial year was consistent with the previous year's operations, resulting in similar Total Cost of Services outcomes. The subsequent variance in cost per hour to target for 2015/16 was less than 10%.

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 5: Capital works program 2015/16

Asset class	Planned Expenditure \$'000	Actual Expenditure²⁸ \$'000
Information systems	\$1,978	\$1,613
Plant and equipment	\$1,404	\$1,331
Buildings and infrastructure	\$2,149	\$1,372
Vessels	\$ 895	\$425
TOTAL	\$6,426	\$4,741

Information systems

The 2015/16 actual expenditure related mainly to final implementation costs for the Fish Eye Licensing and Entitlement Management System, upgrades to the Electronic Document Recording and Management System, and implementation of an upgrade to Corporate Services finance systems.

Expenditure on Fish Eye Licensing Entitlement Management System and the implementation of Corporate Services finance systems was lower than planned.

Buildings and infrastructure

The Broome Storage Facility was completed and the costs were brought to account.

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 2016/17.

²⁸ Expenditure reported on a cash basis.

Vessels

The capital program for 2015/16 funded the continuing maintenance of a variety of vessels to support our enforcement, education and research services. Major replacements of larger vessels have been postponed.

Pricing policy for services provided

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

We recently 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 2015/16 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 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).

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 Australian 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), and fisheries that are managed solely by the Commonwealth under Commonwealth law (six fisheries), as listed below.

Fisheries under joint Commonwealth-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, east of Koolan Island.

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.

Other legislation

In the performance of our functions, we comply with the following written laws:

- *Animal Welfare Act 2002*
- *Auditor General Act 2006*
- *Competition and Consumer Act 2010**
- *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*
- *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**
- *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.*

* Commonwealth legislation

Corporate Credit Cards

Personal Use – Financial Reporting

During the year ended 30 June 2016 expenditure was incurred on the Department's purchasing cards for personal use, and details are as follows:

Table 6: Details of expenditure incurred on the Department's purchasing cards for personal use

Reporting requirement:	Total amount for 2015/16
Number of instances the Western Australian Government Purchasing Card has been used for a personal purpose	30
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure for the reporting period	\$1,444
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled by the due date	\$563
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled after the period required	\$881
The aggregate amount of personal use expenditure outstanding at the end of the reporting period	Nil
The number of referrals for disciplinary action instigated by the notifiable authority during the reporting period	Nil

Board and committee remuneration

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 7: Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee remuneration

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration
Chair	Ian Longson	per annum	30 Nov 2013 – 30 Nov 2016	\$19,253

Member	Norman Halse	per annum	30 Nov 2013 – 30 Nov 2016	\$11,552
Member	Stephen Lodge	per annum	30 Nov 2013 – 30 Nov 2016	\$11,552
Member	Elizabeth Woods	N/A	30 Nov 2013 – 30 Nov 2016	Nil
Member	Director of Aquatic Management, Department of Fisheries (ex officio)	N/A	30 Nov 2013 – 30 Nov 2016	Nil
TOTAL				\$42,357

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

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration
Chair	Ross Donald	per meeting	9 Feb 2015 – 31 Jan 2017	\$1,080
Member	Katherine Webber	per meeting	9 Feb 2015 – 31 Jan 2017	\$350
Member	Peter Nicol (resigned 9/03/2016)	per meeting	9 Feb 2015 – 31 Jan 2017	\$700
Member	Bruno Mezzatesta	N/A	9 Feb 2015 – 31 Jan 2017	Nil
TOTAL				\$2,130

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 9: Expenditure on advertising for the 2015/16 financial year

Expenditure	Agency	\$ (GST exc)
Expenditure with advertising agencies	Marketforce	61,743
Expenditure with media advertising agencies	Adcorp Australia	30,650
Expenditure with media advertising agencies	State Law Publisher	14,196
Expenditure with polling agencies	None	None
Expenditure with direct mail agencies	ABnote Australasia Pty Ltd	422,685
Total	All agencies	559,310

Disability 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 our services and attend any events organised by us.

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 our other facilities.

Our capital works program addresses access by people with disabilities to our buildings and facilities. We are committed to:

- ensuring that the design and construction of our 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 us 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 our 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 2015/16, six compliance matters arose regarding public sector standards and ethical codes within the Department. One of these matters was carried over to 2016/17, two were not treated as disciplinary processes and three matters were substantiated as breaches of discipline. Additionally, one breach claim was lodged against the Employment standard and one breach claim was lodged against the Grievance Resolution standard.

Actions implemented have included counselling and training of employees, increased performance monitoring, updating of policies, reprimands and reductions in classification and salary.

The following activities have been undertaken, or are in place, to support compliance with the public sector standard and ethical codes:

- Our Conduct and Behaviour policy and procedures have been updated to include the changes to misconduct legislation.
- Workplace conflict training was developed and provided with 50 per cent of our current staff having attended these training sessions. Additionally, all staff at Level 7 and above attended leadership training that included a module on managing misconduct.
- Conflict of interest and grievance management advisory documents are available for all employees to access on our Intranet.
- A range of fact sheets, flowcharts, policies and procedures are available 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.
- We are developing a custom-designed refresher online course to remind staff of their conduct and behaviour obligations, including their responsibilities in mitigating the risk of misconduct in the workplace.

Our people

In the table below all full-time or equivalent employees were included at the last pay period in June unless otherwise stated. Some full-time employees were on unpaid leave for a portion of the pay period and therefore appear as a percentage of a full-time employee.

Table 10: Full-time, part-time and casual employee numbers over the last three years

Summary statistics	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Full-time Equivalent (Financial Year Average)	491.6	483.3	473.4
Full-time permanent	399.0	392.9	377.5
Full-time contract	44.0	41.8	40.0
Part-time permanent	39.4	41.7	43.4
Part-time contract	5.2	7.3	6.5
Casuals	3.9	3.9	2.2

Recordkeeping

This year we continued the transition away from paper-based records to managing records electronically with an increased focus on recordkeeping process improvements in key business areas.

Sentencing projects took place to identify old hard copy records, review retention schedules and storage conditions, and lodge records to secure offsite storage, including a sentencing project in a large regional office. In 2015/16, 876 boxes of records (including boxes prepared previously) were lodged to offsite storage providers, representing 12 per cent of the total boxes stored. Other programs were further implemented and developed including the Regional Training Program, the Recordkeeping Plan was reviewed, and regular training on recordkeeping was delivered.

The recordkeeping system was upgraded in November 2015 to ensure the Electronic Documents and Record Management System (EDRMS) remains current, works with recent releases of Microsoft software and incorporates new features. EDRMS was further evaluated and configured to more closely meet business and recordkeeping

requirements. In 2015/16 this included integration of business systems, improvements to security features attached to classifications and records, new profiles for advanced end-users to make use of more complex EDRMS features, and the development of tools to assist with the coordination and transfer of legacy records. Monthly monitoring of system usage, established in 2014/15, was expanded.

Recordkeeping training for metropolitan and regional sites continued in 2015/16 and reporting on recordkeeping practices in regions promoted EDRMS use and implementation of standardised recordkeeping procedures throughout the State. In the third year of the Regional Training Program, strategies were reviewed and information management trends over time were examined, resulting in new compliance reporting tools and activities for each visit.

Modules of training relating to specific roles and aspects of recordkeeping were delivered, along with an increased focus on refresher and one-on-one training which provides each employee with the opportunity to develop custom recordkeeping solutions, link email systems to commonly used records in the EDRMS, and address any issues that disincentivise electronic recordkeeping. Training modules for advanced EDRMS users were delivered, particularly relating to electronic recordkeeping and addressing backlogs of records in hard copy or electronic formats.

Table 11: Completion rates by employees of recordkeeping training

Completion	HPRM training	Records awareness
In 2015/16	138	27
Total staff completion	290	478

An annual review of in-house training was conducted and new instructions for the management of legacy hard copy records were introduced to support us moving from a hybrid environment to complete electronic recordkeeping. An assessment component was incorporated into all EDRMS training, to further assess the effectiveness of the training delivered and confirm staff understanding of their responsibilities. A new Records Awareness online course was implemented, with a

greater level of customisation for Department records and specific instructions on recordkeeping responsibilities for staff in different roles within the Department. The Records Awareness course is one component of induction for new staff, completed alongside the online employee induction.

In 2015/16, between sentencing projects, migration of electronic records from shared drives and outlook folders into HPRM and daily recordkeeping, we were able to sustain the same quantity of documents registered as the year before. This demonstrates cumulative benefits from a number of long-term recordkeeping projects and continued training delivered to our staff.

As identified in the 2015/16 Recordkeeping Plan review, a new Recordkeeping Plan will be developed in the coming year which will confirm the direction of our recordkeeping in future years.

Table 12: Number of documents, folders and storage boxes created to contain our records over the last six years

Items created	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Documents created	7,203	18,642	42,502	107,111	237,248	236,077
Folders created	4,825	5,377	7,386	7,705	12,769	7,304
Storage boxes created	749	590	986	376	596	571

Public interest disclosures

(Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003, S23(1)(f)) 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 2015/16.

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 translation function on our website allowing visitors to translate content on the site into more than 30 languages;
- legislative recognition of the customary fishing rights of Indigenous Australian fishers exempting them from 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) Bahasa Melyu ([view the multilingual Crabbing for blue swimmer crabs West Coast Region brochure \(PDF 5.21MB\)](#)²⁹ on our website);
- 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 multi-lingual publicity materials, community newspaper advertising and advertising on a Chinese community website; and
- support for Fishers with Disabilities, a not for profit organisation that seeks to provide fishing opportunities for people with disabilities in WA ([view the Fisheries with Disabilities website](#)³⁰ for more information).

²⁹http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Documents/recreational_fishing/additional_fishing_information/rules_guide_crabbing_west_coast_multilingual.pdf

³⁰<http://fishability.org.au/>

Occupational health, safety and injury management

We have a Safety Management System Overview that shows the design structure of the safety management system, which has been endorsed by the Director General. Part of this overview includes the annual review of the Occupational Safety and Health Commitment Statement, which is endorsed by the Director General and reflects the Corporate Executive's commitment to health and safety.

We also have an occupational safety and health (OSH) policy that outlines our commitment to health and safety and includes the OSH Commitment Statement

Our OSH committee, made up of OSH representatives and management representatives, is chaired by the Executive Director – Corporate Services Division. There are two OSH sub-committees – the Dive Control Group and the Mental Health Awareness Group.

Our Injury Management Procedure is reviewed every two years and incorporates all injuries and illness including mental health and the management of injuries sustained outside of work. This year, we implemented an internal system that converted the manual incident reporting form to an electronic version to increase efficiency of reporting timelines and privacy of staff information.

We completed an internal and external safety audit in November 2015. This resulted in a nomination for a Worksafe Silver Award as we achieved a greater than 60 per cent rating against the Worksafe Plan. The audit resulted in 152 recommendations, which will be incorporated into our OSH Improvement Plan 2016-18. At present there are 59 high-risk priorities which will be actioned in the 2016/17 year of which six have already been addressed.

The wellness program strategy was endorsed by the Corporate Executive, which highlights the following concepts:

- **Mind** – building mental health and resilience
- **Body** – implementing positive lifestyle habits and physical activity
- **Community** – maintaining and building healthy connections

Table 13: Occupational safety and health injury management performance against key indicators

Measure	Actual results 2013/14	Actual results 2015/16	Results against target	Comment on results
Number of Fatalities	0%	0%	0%	Target achieved
Lost time injury incidence rate	0.81%	0.21%	< 10% reduction	Target achieved
Lost time injury severity rate	0%	0%	< 10% reduction	Target achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 13 weeks	83%	66.67%	> 80%	Not achieved still have one RTWP – restricted duties
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 26 weeks	0%	0%	Non applicable	Non applicable
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	80%	95%	> 80%	Target achieved

Note: In the table above, calculations 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

Government building training policy

No contracts have been issued that are within the scope of the policy.

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 tables 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

West Coast Bioregion

West Coast Rock Lobster

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate

Allowable catch (effort) tolerance ranges	Commercial: 6,000 t (TACC 2015) Recreational: 401 t (TARC 2014/15)
Commercial catch for 2015	6,086 t (includes 1.5% for drip loss)
Recreational catch (95% CI) for 2014/15 season	267-394 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

A Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) of 6,000 t was set for the 2015 season. Due to the conservative nature of the TACC, egg production and catch rates have been at record high levels in recent years. The TARC and recreational catch are therefore likely to increase in the next few years as the strong recruitment pulse passes through the fishery.

Roe's Abalone

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Additional actions have been undertaken
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate (some areas)
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 87t (TACC) (530-640 days) Recreational: 20t (TARC) Area 7 only
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2015	51 t (467 days)
Recreational catch (95% CI) for 2014/15 season	15-25 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

Commercial catch was less than the quota in Area 1 (0% caught), Area 2 (61% caught), Area 5 (28% caught), and Area 6 (22% 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. Area 7 (Perth area) survey abundance of recruitment and spawning stock at low levels which require additional management actions being implemented including the TARC being reduced to 20 t.

Octopus

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 50-250 t Recreational: Not developed
Commercial catch for season 2015	274 t
Recreational catch	2 t (boat only)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

The fishery is in a new interim management phase. An increase in allowable trap use has resulted in an increased catch for 2015. A recent assessment has indicated that 2015 catch levels are below the potential capacity of the stock, despite the increase in allowable trap use, indicating allowable effort has not yet been fully utilised in the fishery. The catch tolerance range will be reviewed in 2016.

Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Inadequate due to environmental conditions
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Environmentally limited
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 95-1,830 t (0 for 2015) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015	0 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed

The fishery was not opened due to the annual survey indicating low scallop abundance with a catch prediction below the target level required for fishing. The continued low abundance is due to the ongoing effects of the extreme marine heat-wave in the summer of 2010/11 and above-average water temperature in the

following two summers. The low recruitment has resulted in a very low spawning stock despite no fishing activity for three years.

Cockburn Sound Crab

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Inadequate due to environmental conditions
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Environmentally limited
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Under revision Recreational: Under revision
Commercial catch for season 2015	0 t
Recreational catch	0 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed

The 2013/14 egg production and juvenile indices were both below their limit reference points and the commercial fishing season ceased in April 2014. Juvenile and egg production indices for 2014/15 remain below their limits and the commercial and recreational fisheries remain closed.

Peel-Harvey/West Coast Crab

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 45-105 t (Peel-Harvey) Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2014/15	95 t (Peel-Harvey only)
Recreational catch (95% CI) for 13/14	50-66 t (boat only) West Coast 38-56 t (boat only) Peel-Harvey
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

Commercial catch rates and catch within allowable range. Both the commercial and recreational crab fishery in this region achieved third-party Marine Stewardship Council certification in 2016. The commercial standardised catch rates are used as a proxy for the recreational sector in the assessment of stock sustainability.

West Coast Nearshore and Estuarine Finfish

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Inadequate/actions taken
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate – Mullet/Whiting Actions taken – Herring Inadequate – Southern garfish
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Peel-Harvey: 75-220 t Herring: Under review Recreational: Not developed
Commercial catch for season 2015	Peel-Harvey: 95 t (all species) Herring: Statewide 72 t WCB 49 t
Recreational catch (95% CI) for 13/14 survey	69-87 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not assessed.

Commercial catches of west coast estuarine finfish have been stable since 2000. The high levels of shore based recreational fishing will require an additional index of this catch to be developed. Status of herring stock has already resulted in a change to the recreational bag limit and closure of commercial south coast trap net fishery.

West Coast Beach Bait and South West Beach Seine

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 60-275 t (whitebait only) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2014/15	97 t (whitebait only)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

Annual whitebait catch has fluctuated in response to normal environmental variations. Low catches in previous three years followed exceptionally warm ocean temperatures. The catch returned to the acceptable range in 2014/15 consistent with the previous year's assessments that the declines had been environmentally driven.

West Coast Purse Seine

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 0-3,000 t (TACC) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2014/15	1,253 t (scaly mackerel and pilchard combined)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

Total catch for all zones combined is the highest since the mid-2000s while the nominal catch rate remains within the range observed since the mid-1990s.

West Coast Demersal Scalefish

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Recovering
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: < 450 t (demersal suite) Recreational: < 250 t (top 15 species only)
Commercial catch for season 2014/15 or 2015	283 t
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey, charter 2015	139-166t (boat only, top 15 species) 45 t (charter)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational/Charter: Yes

The total catch of the demersal suite by all commercial and recreational fisheries in the West Coast Bioregion were within the allowable ranges. Management changes introduced in 2015 to the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery successfully reduced catches of snapper by this fishery to acceptable levels.

Gascoyne Coast Bioregion

Shark Bay Prawn

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 1,350-2,150 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015	2,067 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

Brown tiger prawn annual landings were within their acceptable range while western king prawn landings were above their allowable range as result of good recruitment.

Exmouth Gulf Prawn

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 771-1,276 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015	1,067 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

The landings of brown tiger prawns were within their acceptable range, western king prawns were below their acceptable range and endeavour prawns were above their acceptable range.

Shark Bay Scallop

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Recovering
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Trial quota 500 t (Denham Sound) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015	288 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Not applicable for trial Recreational: Not applicable

Limited commercial fishing occurred under a trial quota system in Denham Sound where the stock levels had recovered sufficiently to allow fishing. There was ongoing low recruitment and stock in northern Shark Bay due to the continued influence of the extreme environmental conditions and therefore no fishing was permitted in that part of the fishery.

Shark Bay Crabs

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Recovering
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 450 t (TACC) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2014/15	341 t (153 trap and 188 trawl)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

Increased levels of recruitment and spawning biomass were observed during 2014, which led to an increase in the TACC to 450 t for the 2014/15 fishing season. Non-achievement of this TACC was largely due to unused quota.

Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 235-335 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015	164 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

Total catch remained below the acceptable range due to a further reduction in effort (lowest on record) and low catches of sea mullet and tailor. Catch of yellowfin bream was above the 10-year average.

West Coast Deep Sea Crab (crystal crabs)

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 154 t (quota management; 61,000-101,500 standardised potlifts) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2015	154 t (68,132 standardised potlifts)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

The effort is within the allowable effort range, with the standardised catch rate of legal crabs at one of the highest levels in a decade.

Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish (snapper)

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 277 t (TACC) (380-540 days) Recreational: Not formal (under development)
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2015	196 t (446 days)
Recreational catch (95% CI) for 2013/14 survey	86-110 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

Spawning biomass close to target but catch rate has fallen below the threshold level. Updated stock assessment and review of catch and catch rate to be completed by end of 2016. The recreational catch of spangled emperor has decreased substantially between 2011/12 and 2013/14 surveys to be within an acceptable range.

Inner Shark Bay Demersal (snapper)

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Not applicable Recreational: 12 t EG, 12 t DS, 3.8 t FE
Recreational catch (95% CI) for 2010 survey	4-5 t EG, 6-7 t DS, 1-2 t FE (boat only)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Not applicable Recreational: Yes

The Eastern Gulf (EG), Denham Sound (DS) and Freycinet Estuary (FE) breeding stocks are all above their target abundance levels.

North Coast Bioregion

Onslow Prawn

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 60-180 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015	Negligible
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed

Minimal fishing occurred in 2015.

Nickol Bay Prawn

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 90-300 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015	87 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

The total landings were just below the allowable range but landings of banana prawns, which are the target species, were within their normal catch range and slightly above their predicted catch range.

Broome Prawn

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 55-260 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015	Negligible
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not assessed.

Minimal fishing occurred in 2015.

Kimberley Prawn

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 240-500 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015	175 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not applicable

Banana prawns were below the catch prediction and the allowable range. Endeavour and brown tiger prawns were also below the range because of the early targeting of banana prawns and very low fishing effort in the second part of the season.

North Coast Nearshore and Estuarine

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 33-44 t (barramundi) Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2015	52.4(barramundi), 82 t (total)
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey	11-19 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

The catch of barramundi is above the allowable tolerance range but as the catch rate is at its highest level since 1990 this catch was still considered acceptable.

Northern Demersal Scalefish

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Under revision Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2015	1,046 t (goldband 457 t, red emperor 132 t)
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey	48-64 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Not applicable Recreational: Yes

While the formal commercial catch range is being revised, the catches of goldband snapper and red emperor were both within their longer-term ranges. The current recreational catch levels are not considered to pose any stock issues.

Pilbara Fish Trawl

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Under revision Recreational: Covered in Northern Demersal Scalefish table
Commercial catch for season 2015	1,172 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not applicable

Reduced catch levels due to ongoing reductions in effort quota. Full assessment and review of catch range currently under revision.

Pilbara Demersal Trap and Line

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 400-600 t (trap) 50-115 t (line) Recreational: Covered in NDS
Commercial catch for season 2015	510 t (trap) 97 t (line)
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey	48-64 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

Total catch of the trap and line fisheries in 2015 were both within their allowable catch ranges.

Mackerel

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 246-410 t (TACC, Spanish mackerel) Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2015	302 t
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey	22-37 t (boat only)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

The commercial catch is at the average since the management plan was introduced even though effort was lower than previous years. Current recreational catch levels are not considered to pose any stock issues.

Northern Shark

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Not assessed
Stock assessment complete	No
Breeding stock assessment	Not assessed
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: < 20 t (sandbar) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2014/15	0
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Not applicable

No commercial fishing continued this year.

Pearl Oyster

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 667,350 oysters (quota management, 14,071-20,551 dive hours) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2015	560,005 oysters (20,079 dive hours)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

Low catch rates this year contributed to relatively high effort level, but still within tolerance range. Oysters at relatively low abundance levels in 2015 due to low spat settlement, but predicted to significantly increase in 2016. Quota not achieved due to economic reasons as vessels switched to seeding operations.

Sea Cucumber

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Sandfish 20-100 t, redfish 40-150 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015	Sandfish 37 t, redfish 0 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

No fishing for redfish in 2015. Catch rate for sandfish above the performance target.

South Coast Bioregion

South Coast Crustacean (southern rock lobster)

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 50-80 t Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2014/15	44 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Not assessed

Commercial catch of southern rock lobster was below the tolerance range but with a proportional decline in targeted effort, the catch rate remained in the targeted region and is therefore acceptable. Catch and catch rates of deep sea crabs (secondary target species) are currently being assessed.

Abalone (Greenlip/Brownlip)

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Additional actions have been undertaken
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 170 t (quota management) (3,440-5,270 hours) Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch (and effort) for season 2015	152 t (5,293 hours)
Recreational catch for survey year	8 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: No Recreational: Yes

Commercial effort exceeded tolerance range due to lower abundance. TAC reduced in 2016 for both species in response to the lower abundance. Current recreational catch levels are not considered to pose any stock issues.

South Coast Nearshore and estuarine

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Inadequate/actions taken
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Inadequate – cobbler in Wilson Inlet Adequate – other species
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 200-2,800 t (salmon) Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2015	157 t (salmon) 230 t (177 t other finfish, 53 t crab)
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey	19-27 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: No – cobbler in Wilson Inlet, Yes – other species Recreational: Yes

Cobbler stock level in Wilson Inlet is inadequate. Stock levels of cobbler from other regions and other key species considered adequate. Crabs have replaced some finfish catches in recent years. Recent commercial catches of salmon still low relative to historic levels, due to low effort and limited market demand. The catch tolerance range needs to be reviewed. The high level of shore-based recreational fishing will require an additional index of the catch for this suite to be developed.

Albany/King George Sound Purse Seine

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 2,683 t (TACC) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2014/15	974 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

Catch and effort higher than in 2013/14.

Bremer Bay and Esperance Purse Seine (zones combined to be reportable)

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate (both zones)
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 3,000 t (TACC, zones combined) Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2014/15	741 t (zones combined)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes (both zones)

In Bremer Bay the catch was similar to 2013/14 with the effort slightly lower. In Esperance the catch was higher than in 2013/14 with the effort similar.

South Coast Demersal

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Gummy and whiskery sharks: adequate. Dusky and sandbar sharks: recovering Demersal Finfish: adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Shark 725-1,095 t (key species only) Finfish: Under development Recreational: Not formal
Commercial catch for season 2014/15	880 t (key species only)
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2013/14 survey	31-38 t (boat only, top 10 species)
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes Recreational: Yes

Total commercial catch of key shark species within allowable tolerance range, similar to previous years and acceptable given effort levels. The gummy shark catch was slightly above (<10%) its range but catch rates are high so the catch is still considered acceptable with no concern for the stock. Whiskery catch was maintained below historical allowable levels due to reductions in targeted effort. Stock assessments indicate that four indicator finfish species – snapper, Bight redfish, blue morwong and western blue groper all have acceptable stock levels.

Northern Inland Bioregion

Lake Argyle Catfish

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: 93-180 t Recreational: Not applicable
Commercial catch for season 2015	91 t
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Commercial: Yes

The catch was slightly below the allowable range due to low effort in the fishery and so is still acceptable.

South Inland Bioregion

Marron

Criteria	Outcome
Status	Sustainable
Stock assessment complete	Yes
Breeding stock assessment	Adequate
Allowable catch (effort) tolerance range	Commercial: Not applicable Recreational: 96,000-136,000 marron
Recreational catch (95% CI) 2015 season	60,000-82,000 marron
Catch (or effort) level acceptable	Recreational: Yes

Stocks are considered adequate, however allowable catch range needs to be reviewed due to changes in environmental conditions affecting habitat availability (e.g. rainfall patterns).

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).

At 30 June 2016 the following items were recorded on the State Register:

- 170,094 recreational fishing licences covering 246,405 fishing activities.
(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).
- Three aquaculture leases.
- 404 aquaculture licences.
- 5,855 commercial authorisations of varying licence types.

Licensed recreational fishing activities consisted of the activities listed below:

Table 13: Recreational fishing licensed activities

Activity	Number of licences
Recreational Fishing from Boat	139,485
Rock Lobster	52,046
Abalone	17,082
Marron	10,972
Net Fishing	16,828
South West Fresh Water Angling	9,992
Total	246,405

The commercial authorisations on the State Register consisted of the following:

Table 14: Interim managed fishery permits

Fishery	Number of permits
Octopus	23
Pilbara Fish Trawl	11
Shark Bay Crab	5
West Coast Demersal Gillnet & Demersal Long Line	17
West Coast Estuarine	13
West Coast Demersal Scalefish	60
Total	129

Table 15: Managed fishery licences

Fishery	Number of licences
Abalone	50
Abrolhos Mid trawl	10
Broome Prawn	5
Cockburn Crab	12
Cockburn Fish Net	1
Cockburn Line & Pot	13
Cockburn Mussel	1
Exmouth Prawn	15
Gascoyne Demersal Scale Fish	60
Kimberley Gill Net & Barramundi	5
Kimberley Prawn	121
Mackerel	49
Marine Aquarium Fish Corporate	1
Marine Aquarium Fish Individual	11
Nickol Bay Prawn	14
Northern Demersal	15
Onslow Prawn	30

Fishery	Number of licences
Pilbara Trap	6
Shark Bay Crab	32
Shark Bay Beach Seine	10
Shark Bay Prawn	18
Shark Bay Scallop	29
South Coast Crustacean	59
South Coast Estuarine	24
South Coast Purse Seine	32
South Coast Salmon	18
South West Salmon	6
South West Trawl	10
Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline	52
Specimen Shell	31
Warnbro Crab	1
West Coast Beach Bait Fish	1
West Coast Purse Seine	12
West Coast Rock Lobster	617
West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean	7
West Coast Estuarine	11
Total	1,389

Table 16: Other licences

Activity	Number of licences
Commercial Fishing Licence	2,179
Fish Processing Licence (land)	106
Fish Processing Licence (sea)	89
Fishing Boat Licence	1,284
Fishing Tour Operators Licence	207
Restricted Fishing Tour Licence	23
Permit to Construct a Fish Processing Establishment (Land and sea)	449
Total	4,337

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*.

Table 17: Transactions on the Register 870

Type of transaction	Number of transactions
Extracts and searches	640
Notation of security interest	89
Removal of security interest	52
Variation of security interest	16
Total	157

Table 18: State Register of exemptions 2015/16

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2609	31/12/2017	Andrew and Tracey Basile	To allow Basile to conduct research and development on coral aquaculture at the Abrolhos Islands.
2610	31/12/2017	Andrew and Tracey Basile	To enable Basile to collect aquaculture broodstock.
2611	30/03/2016	Caitlin Conway	Collection of macrophytes, phytoplankton and algae from various locations.
2612	01/10/2015	Jayson Sekhon	Collection of Mosquito fish, <i>Gambusia holbrooki</i> from Beeliar and Jandakot wetlands.
2613	15/09/2015	Michael Williams	Collection of Milkfish (<i>Chanos chanos</i>) from Pond Zero, Rio Tinto – Dampier Salt Limited.
2614	31/08/2017	Ocean Grown Abalone Pty Ltd (OGA) and Ocean King Fishing Pty Ltd (OKF)	To enable OGA and OKF to conduct scientific research.
2615	24/01/2017	Roy Melville-Smith	Collection of Greenlip Abalone below the prescribed minimum size from Flinders Bay, inside and outside the Ocean Grown Abalone lease site.
2616	31/07/2016	Various persons as listed in the exemption of Murdoch University	Collection of Western school prawns from various locations in the Swan-Canning Estuary.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2617-2627	20/11/2015	Department of Fisheries	To enable the holders of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish for commercial purposes in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2628	31/10/2015	Jane Chambers & Belinda Robson	Collection of aquatic invertebrates and aquatic and fringing vegetation from Manning Lake, Piney Lake Reserve and a variety of urban wetlands in the Perth, Mandurah and Bunbury metropolitan regions.
2629	01/01/2016	Jim, Carmelo & Aldo Mendolia	To allow processing of fish at the premises of 4 Suffolk Street, Fremantle, Western Australia.
2630	31/12/2016	Dr Peter Kyne of Charles Darwin University	For the purposes of research.
2631	30/06/2015	Joel Williams of Murdoch University	For the purposes of research.
2632	25/07/2018	Dr Joseph Dibattista of Curtin University	For the purposes of research.
2633	30/11/2018	Terry Vallance & Employees of Ghd Consulting	To undertake electrofishing sampling of fish species, to establish a baseline dataset, in the Lower Ord River, Western Australia.
2634	30/03/2016	Stephen Beatty of Murdoch University	Collection of fish from Blackadder Creek, downstream section only, within 2 km from the Swan River.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2635	01/12/2017	All Saints College Students	To allow students from All Saints College to fish for freshwater fish in Waroona Dam during an Outdoor Education Camp.
2636	01/12/2015	Peter Morse of Australian Institute of Marine Science	To collect Southern Blue-Ringed Octopus (<i>Hapalochlaena maculosa</i>) from Cockburn Sound.
2637	01/09/2018	Lyndsey Cox, Emma Hastie & Sean Ferguson of Cape to Cape Catchment Group	To collect Eastern Gambusia from Cane Break Pool and Long Pool.
2638	31/10/2015	Jane Chambers Of Murdoch University	To collect aquatic invertebrates and aquatic and fringing vegetation from Manning Lake, Piney Lake Reserve and a variety of urban wetlands in the Perth, Mandurah and Bunbury metropolitan regions.
2639	23/10/2015	Matt Kalajzich	To set 160 commercial rock lobster pots to soak, to fish for demersal scalefish by means of rod and hand line, adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters off Kalbarri.
2640	23/10/2015	Matthew Fong	To set 130 commercial rock lobster pots to soak, and to fish for demersal scalefish by means of rod and hand line, adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters of the Abrolhos and Big Bank including the area.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2641	23/10/2015	Nino Paratore	To set 160 commercial rock lobster pots to soak, and to fish for demersal scalefish by means of rod and hand line, adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters off Fremantle.
2642	23/10/2015	Sam Koncurat	To set 130 commercial rock lobster pots to soak, and to fish for demersal scalefish by means of rod and hand line, adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters off Jurien.
2643	31/01/2016	Ryan Thipthorp	To tag and release pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) from various locations in Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound, for research purposes.
2644	31/01/2016	Danny Wimpres	To tag and release pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) from various locations in Cockburn Sound and Warnbro Sound, for research purposes.
2645	30/06/2017	Claudia Mueller Of Murdoch University	To collect fish from various locations.
2646	09/10/2015	Mark Thiele Of Murdoch University	To collect algae from Woodman Point (artificial boat groyne).
2647	09/10/2015	Mark Thiele Of Murdoch University	To collect algae, <i>Cladophora</i> sp, from Heron Point, Peel Harvey Estuary, Birchmont.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2648	01/10/2020	Bmt Oceanica Pty Ltd	Take up to a total of 100 litres of seagrass biomass and seagrass seeds, from different species of seagrass (including epiphytes) across 10 designated areas in the Wheatstone project area between October 2015 and October 2020.
2649	28/02/2019	Le Ma of Murdoch University	To collect Carter's Freshwater Mussel, <i>Westralunio carteri</i> , from the sites listed in Table 2.
2650	29/01/2016	Tom Ryan of Murdoch University	To collect fish from Canning River, 1 km upstream and downstream of the Kent St Weir.
2651	31/12/2018	Jane Townsend of Waroona District High School	To collect fish and crayfish, from the Harvey River basin, from Mornington to Coolup.
2652	31/12/2018	Challenger Institute of Technology	To enable Challenger to collect aquaculture broodstock.
2653	31/12/2015	Challenger Institute of Technology	To 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.
2654	21/11/2015	Bruce Cockman	To set 160 commercial rock lobster pots to soak, and to fish for demersal scalefish by means of rod and hand line and spear fishing while diving, adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters of the Abrolhos.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2655	21/11/2015	Kjell Stokke	To set 160 commercial rock lobster pots to soak, and to fish for demersal scalefish by means of rod and hand line, adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters off Lancelin.
2656	21/11/2015	James Chandler	To set 160 commercial rock lobster pots to soak, and to fish for demersal scalefish by means of rod and hand line, adjacent to breeding stock survey grounds in the waters off Dongara.
2657	20/10/2015	Kerry Trayler	To collect Black Bream from Middle Swan Estuary, Upper Swan Estuary and Canning Estuary (above and below Riverton Bridge).
2658-2662	3/11/2016	Esperance Octopus Fishery Pty Ltd.	To allow commercial octopus fishers explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology for commercial purposes.
2663	09/12/2015	Mathew Johansen of Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Org	To collect fish from the Montebello Islands, near Alpha, Trimouille and Hermite Islands.
2664	31/02/2016	Department of Fisheries (Abalone MFL Holders)	For the purposes of collecting abalone for disease testing by the Department of Fisheries Research Division.
2665	31/12/2015 Revoked	Russ Babcock Of CSIRO	For the purposes of establishing a priori environmental baseline of fish communities and fish health, to assist in oil spill response in the North West Shelf of Western Australia.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2666	31/07/2015	Paul Close of University of Western Australia	For the purposes of research.
2667	22/10/2020	Bmt Oceanica Pty Ltd	This Exemption is granted for the purpose of research and commercial purposes to obtain baseline environmental data in the Greater Enfield Development area.
2668	30/11/2016	Mr Garry Wilson of The Department of Transport	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, to monitor for introduced marine pest crab species at Bandy Creek Marina.
2669	30/11/2016	Caroline Aylott, Catherine Field & Alex Leonard Of Southern Ports Authority	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, to monitor for introduced marine pest crab species at Esperance Port.
2670	14/11/2015	Lyndsey Cox, Sean Fergusson & Emma Hastie Of Cape To Cape Catchment Group	For the purposes of research and teaching.
2671	31/05/2017	Chris Hallett of Murdoch University	For the purposes of research.
2672	31/12/2017	Ocean Foods International Pty Ltd (OFI)	To enable OFI to collect <i>O. angasi</i> broodstock.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2673	31/06/2016	Department of Fisheries (Masters of the Authorised Boat In Zone 3 of The South Coast Crustacean Managed Fishery)	To gather data regarding the impact of Sea Lion Exclusion Devices on commercial catch rates of southern rock lobster in Zone 3 of the South Coast Crustacean Managed Fishery.
2674	31/10/2016	Anne Brearley of University of Western Australia	For the purposes of research.
2675	30/10/2018	Camilla Piggott Of UWA And Martial Depczynski Of AIMS	For the purposes of research.
2676	30/04/2016	Alan Fraser & Trenton Horsman	To take brown mud crab and green mud crab by means of crab traps.
2677	30/01/2016	AIMS, Western Australia Museum, CSIRO	For the purposes of research.
2678	27/11/2015	Justin McDonald of The Department Of Fisheries	To collect <i>Isabella spallanzanii</i> (Family Sabellidae), invasive fanworms and species of genus <i>Hydroides</i> (Family Serpulidae), calcareous tubeworms from Perth to Esperance.
2679	31/12/2015	Russ Babcock of CSIRO	For the purposes of establishing a priori environmental baseline of fish communities and fish health, to assist in oil spill response in the North West Shelf of Western Australia.
2680	30/01/2019	Martial Depczynski of AIMS	To collect fish, coral, octopus and lobster from various locations within Ningaloo Reef and Muiron Islands.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2681	30/11/2018	John Leyland Craike	To take bivalves of the families Cardiidae (cockles), Donacidae (pipis), Veneridae (venus clams), Tellinidae (tellins), Mactridae (trough clams) and Mesodesmatidae (wedge shells) for a commercial purpose by hand raking.
2682	30/11/2018	Harold Richard Hoult	To take bivalves of the families Cardiidae (cockles), Donacidae (pipis), Veneridae (venus clams), Tellinidae (tellins), Mactridae (trough clams) and Mesodesmatidae (wedge shells) for a commercial purpose by hand raking.
2683	23/11/2018	Gary Kendrick of University of Western Australia	To collect seagrass from all Western Australian coastal waters.
2684	17/11/2030	Fisheries & Marine Officers & Those Assisting Fisheries Officers	Shark-related
2685	31/12/2018	Persons Fishing Under the Authority of Fishing Boat Licence Nos 2329, 2320, 2265	To permit the persons in Schedule 1 to carry out the activity described in Schedule 2, pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
2686	16/12/2030	Fisheries Offices, Research Officers & Those Persons Assisting	Any activity required to relocate fish when necessary.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2687	30/11/2020	Employees of Longreef Holdings Pty Ltd T/As Cicerellos	The collection of fish of the number/s and scientific classification/s as listed in the Annex, from Western Australia waters.
2688	02/02/2018	Rachele Bernasconi of Edith Cowan University	To collect corals, sediment, sponges and kelp from two sites from various.
2689	30/11/2016	Flavia Tarquinio & Glenn Hyndes Of Edith Cowan University	To collect <i>Posidonia sinuosa</i> from 3 meadows in Marmion Marine Park.
2690	11/01/2017	Laura Wilson Of Australian National University	To collect macroalgae and epifauna from up to 8 seaweed meadows around each of Tantabiddi and Coral Bay.
2691	28/02/2021	Employees of BMT Oceanica Pty Ltd	To dive and collect by hand samples of marine macroalgae from three specified locations within the vicinity of the Alkimos Ocean Outlet.
2692	31/12/2018	Persons Fishing Under The Authority of A Specimen Shell Managed Fishery Licence	To take specimen shells through the use of a remotely operated vehicle (ROV).
2693	31/12/2020	Employees of Coral World Australia T/As Aqwa	Fishing for and taking of fish from Western Australian waters, including fish smaller than the sizes set out in subdivision 2 of schedule 2 of the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> .

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2694	31/12/2018	Masters of Vessels Authorised In The Northern Demersal Scalefish & Pilbara Trap Managed Fisheries	To allow masters of authorised boats in the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery and the Pilbara Trap Managed Fishery to have bait bands on board the boat.
2695	30/06/2017	James Tweedley of Murdoch University	To collect Western school prawn, <i>Metapenaeus dalli</i> , from shallow and deep waters of the Peel-Harvey Estuary.
2696	30/04/2016	Samantha Andrzejczek Of Australian Institute of Marine Science	To collect Blue shark (<i>Prionace glauca</i>) from Bremer Canyon.
2697	30/04/2017	Dan Pedersen of The Pilbara Port Authority	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, to monitor for introduced marine pest crab species at Dampier and Port Hedland Ports (Pilbara Ports Authority).
2698	28/02/2017	Megan Huggett of Edith Cowan University	To collect corals, sponges and macroalgae from various locations.
2699	14/01/2017	Masters of Fishing Boats	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division in determining the complete size range of lobsters present in the various water depths and areas of the fishery and to trial efficiency of various approved pot designs.
2700	14/01/2019	Adrian Gleiss of Murdoch University	To collect Black bream, Mulloway and Bull sharks from Swan and Canning river estuary.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2701	31/12/2020	Persons Acting Under The Authority of Fishing Boat Licence No. 1223	(i) To explore and/or develop the crab fishery and fishing technology of that activity under the provision of Section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> . (ii) To gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks in the waters of the Mandurah to Bunbury Developing Crab Fishery under a controlled management regime.
2702	31/12/2018	Persons Authorised To Operate Managed Fishery Licences	To commercially fish under a Managed Fishery Licence within the relevant Managed Fishery using a boat greater than 375 boat units.
2703	01/07/2016	Dr Jonathon Werry of Griffith University	To gather data on the movements, behaviour and characteristics of white sharks to identify if the area is an adult pupping and neonate habitat area.
2704	26/02/2016	Mike Van Keulen of Murdoch University	To collect seagrasses, macroalgae, benthic macroinvertebrates and fish from Shoalwater Islands Marine Park and Mangles Bay.
2705	22/03/2017	Rachael Goetze & Paul Mackey	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, to monitor for introduced marine pest crab species at Port of Albany (Southern Ports Authority).

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2706	30/04/2017	Denis Doak, Adam Van Der Beeke & Rebecca James of Fremantle Port Authority	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division, Department of Fisheries, to monitor for introduced marine pest crab species at Fremantle Port.
2707	28/02/2017	Fishing Boat Licence Nos 1005, 1292, 1363, 1938, 2348 and 2451	i. To fish for beche-de-mer for a commercial purpose. ii. To gather baseline data about the beche-de-mer stocks in Western Australian waters under a controlled management regime.
2708	19/03/2019	Christopher Doropoulos of CSIRO	To collect coral colonies and small branches of corals from Coral Bay.
2709	31/03/2019	Martial Depczynski of AIMS	To collect fish and corals from King Sound and Kuri Bay.
2710	22/04/2016	Caroline Kerr of University of Western Australia	To collect fish from Swan River between Belmont Racecourse and Garvey Park
2711	30/06/2017	Ostiane Massiani of Greening Australia	To collect fish from Lower Fortescue River sections/Millstream National Park pools, Gregory Gorge and Portland River on Leramugadu Lease.
2712	30/05/2018	Ylva Olsen of University Of Western Australia	To collect seagrass, macroalgae, corals and sponges from six reef zones around Browse Island.
2713	30/05/2016	William Parkinson & Elizabeth Crompton of Curtin University	To collect echinoderms from Fremantle Traffic Bridge and Bathers Beach Fremantle.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2714	20/03/2018	Rick Roberts, Milly Formby, Stephen Robinson & Husnan Ziadi of University of Western Australia	To collect fish from Swan River in the vicinity of Shelley Traffic Bridge, Belmont Racecourse and Maylands Police Academy.
2715	31/03/2016	Marion Cambridge of University of Western Australia	To collect attached biota in the intake and outlet pipes of the Perth Seawater Desalination Plant at Henderson.
2716	31/12/2016	Mike Van Keulen of Murdoch University	To collect seagrass from various locations.
2717	31/05/2016	Samantha Andrzejaczek of University of Western Australia	To collect Tiger sharks, <i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i> , from Ningaloo Marine Park.
2718	31/03/2016	Jonathan Evans, Rowan Lymbery, Cameron Duggin & Jukka Kekalainen of University of Western Australia	To collect blue mussel, <i>Mytilus edulis</i> , from various locations.
2719	14/01/2017	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.
2720	30/04/2016	West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence Holders	To allow those operating in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery to catch their quota more efficiently, while also being mindful of the need to militate against interactions with humpback whales.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2721	30/03/2016	Australian Institute of Marine Science, Western Australian Museum & CSIRO	To collect benthic invertebrate taxa from northern Kimberley.
2722	24/03/2016	Employees of Hydrobiology WA	To undertake a fauna inventory of refuge pools in the Denmark River by collecting abundance and diversity data.
2723	14/03/2016	Department of Fisheries	To allow them to set and pull crab pots in Area 2 on Saturday 12 March and Sunday 13 March 2016 in order to meet the demand for fresh crabs for Crab Fest the following weekend (19 and 20 March).
2724	14/02/2017	Matt Fong, Peter Biale, Jake Suckling, Travis Normington, Kent Stanton, Bruce Cockman, Ian Ralph, Robbie Glass & Mark Ralph	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division in determining the catch rates, size composition and habitat information from the Big Bank area of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.
2725	17/04/2016	Josefin Stiller of Scripps Institution Of Oceanography	To collect Ruby Seadragons from east of Middle Island, Recherche Archipelago.
2726	17/04/2016	Josefin Stiller Of Scripps Institution Of Oceanography	To collect Common and Leafy seadragons from Esperance, Bremer Bay, Walpole and Albany.
2727	01/01/2017	Drew Wassman	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division in determining the age structure of crabs.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2728	01/01/2017	Aaron Schofield	For the purposes of assisting the Fisheries Research Division in determining the age structure of crabs.
2729	01/03/2017	Belinda Robinson & Stephen Beatty OF Murdoch University	To collect freshwater crayfish from wetlands in southern metropolitan area.
2730	01/01/2017	Drew Wassman & Aaron Schofield	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.
2731	30/06/2018	Colin Johnson of Durack Institute Of Technology	To collect fish from Chapman, Greenough, Irwin and Murchison rivers.
2732	31/12/2018	Department of Fisheries	To provide for the development of gear technology and consistency of fishing gear across the Onslow Prawn Managed Fishery for commercial purposes.
2733	30/11/2018	Stephen Beatty of Murdoch University	To collect marron, <i>Cherax cainii</i> , from large impoundments in the south west of WA, including Serpentine Dam, Drakes Brook Dam, and Harvey Weir.
2734	30/10/2016	Emily Hamley Of Murdoch University	To collect coral, <i>Favia favaus</i> , from Hall Bank and Minden Reef.
2735	31/10/2016	Stephanie Wong & Mike Van Keulen of Murdoch Univerty	To collect seagrass, <i>Halophila ovalis</i> , from the Swan River, (Fremantle to Point Heathcote).

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2736	31/03/2017	Jennifer Verduin of Murdoch University	To collect seagrass; <i>Amphibolis antarctica</i> , <i>Amphibolis griffithii</i> and <i>Posidonia</i> species from various areas in the southern bioregion.
2737	30/06/2019	Tycraft Pty Ltd	To allow Tycraft to collect up to 450 <i>Tridacna maxima</i> by hand, for commercial purposes under the provisions of the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (WA)(CKI).
2738	22/04/2016	Sam Koncurat	For the purposes of research.
2739-2746	22/04/2016	Department of Fisheries	To enable the holders of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to fish for commercial purposes in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery.
2747	01/11/2017	Department of Fisheries	To provide a standardised and reliable method of making nominations in the Shark Bay Crab Managed Fishery.
2748	31/03/2017	Department of Fisheries	To allow Marine Aquarium Fish Managed Fishery licence holders to commercially fish for invertebrates, seagrass and algae.
2749	30/11/2016	Tom Ryan of Murdoch University	To collect fish, and tag some, most likely Western Pygmy perch and Western minnow, from larger waterholes in the Canning river from Kent St Weir to Canning Reservoir.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2750	19/04/2019	Stephen Beatty of Murdoch University	For the purposes of research.
2751	15/03/2016	Members of The Harvey River Restoration Taskforce Inc & Students From Waroona District High School	To impart educational messages such as the importance of safe fishing practices, recreational fishing rules, correct fish handling techniques, the impact of feral fish species and the importance of safe fishing practices.
2752	31/12/2018	Andrew and Tracey Basile	To enable the collection of aquaculture broodstock.
2753	10/04/2019	Chris Hallett Of Murdoch University	To survey the entire fish community from the localities in the Peel-Harvey estuarine system.
2754	01/05/2017	Belinda Robson of Murdoch University	Collection of larvae from Perth metropolitan wetlands.
2755	22/04/2016	Renae Hovey of University of Western Australia	Collection of mussels, oysters and sessile invertebrates and algae from various localities.
2756	01/04/2019	Various staff and volunteers of the Western Australian Museum.	Collection of marine fauna and flora from State waters of Western Australia.
2757	15/04/2018	Colin Johnson, Batavia Coast Maritime Institute	Public education about Tilapia and research into the physiological and toxicity tolerances of Tilapia.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2758	31/07/2019	Stephen Beatty of Murdoch University	Collection of freshwater fish, Marron and Koonacs from Angove River (upstream and downstream of Clear Pool, and the Angove River Gauging Station (to no more than two hundred metres downstream).
2759	31/12/2017	Department of Fisheries	To allow for a revised calculation of the extent of trap fishing that has occurred in Zone C Area 2 of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery in the 2016 & 2017 licensing period.
2760	01/03/2019	Employees of Wetland Research and Management	To undertake monitoring through fish surveys in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.
2761	30/06/2018	Colin Johnson of Durack Institute of Technology	To collect fish from Chapman, Greenough, Irwin and Murchison Rivers.
2762	30/04/2017	Mr Robert McIntosh	To enable Mr Robert McIntosh to continue fishing for crabs until alternative management arrangements for commercial mud crab fishing are implemented.
2763	30/04/2017	Warren Arms	To enable Mr Warren Arms to continue fishing for crabs until alternative management arrangements for commercial mud crab fishing are implemented.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2764	31/03/2016	Department of Fisheries	To permit a nominated operator to be named on more than one Abalone Managed Fishery Licence of any species provided that one of those licences satisfies the relevant minimum unit holding requirements.
2765	31/12/2019	Murdoch University	To allow collection of Manta Rays from all Western Australian coastal waters for research purposes.
2766	3/05/2019	AECOM Australia Pty Ltd	To conduct surveys of marine communities for environmental impact assessments, monitor invasive marine species and collect samples of fish in ports, harbours and marinas.
2767	05/05/2019	Department of Fisheries	To enable trawling for scallops and demersal scalefish of the Class Osteichthyes (except Australian Salmon, small pelagic fish as defined in the <i>South Coast Purse Seine Management Plan 1994</i> and any fish specified as under Commonwealth control or management in the <i>Offshore Constitutional Settlement 1995</i>) in specified waters for commercial purposes.
2768	30/10/2016	Emily Hanley of Murdoch University	To collect coral, <i>Favites</i> sp. from Hall Bank and Minden Reef for research purposes.
2769	31/05/2016	Stuart Davey of Fremantle Ports	To provide safe passage of ships through the Success Bank shipping channel.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2770	19/04/2019	Nicole Ryan of Department of Parks and Wildlife	Collection of fauna associated with <i>Posidonia</i> seagrasses from Shark Bay Marine Park, Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, Jurien Bay Marine Park.
2771	01/07/2017	Gayani Thilakarathna of Murdoch University	Collection of sea urchin, <i>Centrostephanus tenuispinus</i> , from Hall Bank and Minden Reef, Perth metropolitan coast.
2772	30/06/2019	Sian Glazier of Murdoch University	Collection of benthic invertebrates, crabs, prawns and fish from five sites in the Vasse-Wonnerup Wetland.
2773	10/06/2016	David Broun of CSIRO	Collection of spangled perch (<i>Leiopotherapon unicolor</i>) from De Grey River, Mulyie Crossing and Ettrick Pool.
2774	01/06/2018	Department of Fisheries (West Coast Demersal Gillnet & Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Permit Holders and Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Managed Fishery Permit Holders)	Nomination of the Interim Managed Fishery Permit or the Managed Fishery Licence under which the boat is operating at times other than two hours before the commencement of a fishing trip.
2775	21/06/2016	Department of Fisheries (West Coast Demersal Gillnet & Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Permit Holders).	To allow Permit Holders to pay the first instalment of the total fee on or before 21 June 2016.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2776	24/05/2018	Colin Johnson, Batavia Coast Maritime Institute	Environmental Protection and Research into the physiological and toxicity tolerances of Tilapia.
2777	31/05/2021	Department of Fisheries (Abalone Managed Fishery Licence – Nominated Operators)	To permit a nominated operator to sell or transfer Roe's abalone taken from Area 7 of the Abalone Managed Fishery to retail outlets that are not approved fish processors or holders of an aquaculture licence who are authorised to process or aquaculture Roe's abalone.
2778	30/11/2016	Tom Ryan of Murdoch University	Collection of fish, and tag some, most likely Western Pygmy perch and Western minnow, from larger waterholes in the Canning river from Kent St Weir to Canning Reservoir.
2779	15/12/2016	Department of Fisheries (South Coast Crustacean Managed Fishery Licence Holders)	To permit Managed Fishery Licence holders to pay access fees by instalments.
2780	31/12/2017	Department of Fisheries (Northern Demersal Scalefish Area 2 Managed Fishery Licences)	To allow for masters of vessels operating in the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery to attach droplines to the vessel.
2781	30/10/2016	Emily Hamley of Murdoch University	Collection of coral, <i>Goniastrea</i> spp., from Hall Bank and Minden Reef.
2782	20/08/2016	Marnie Thomsett of Curtin University	Collection of black bream from Claisebrook Cove.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2783	10/04/2019	Chris Hallett of Murdoch University	Collection of the entire fish community from the localities in the Peel-Harvey estuarine system.
2784	31/12/2016	David Morgan of Murdoch University	Collection of freshwater fish from various.
2785	30/06/2017	James Tweedley of Murdoch University	Collection of blue swimmer crab from locations within the Swan-Canning and Peel-Harvey Estuaries and Cockburn Sound.
2786	30/11/2016	Jane Prince of University of Western Australia	Collection of algae and associated polychaetes from just north of Batavia Coast Marina, Coronation Beach, Drummond Cove, Horrocks Beach, Yanchep, and Cottesloe FHPA.
2787	11/07/2016	Dr Mike van Keulen of Murdoch University	Collection of macroalgae, coral and benthic invertebrates from Ningaloo Marine Park.
2788	28/02/2019	Murdoch University personnel	Collection of Carter's Freshwater Mussel, <i>Westralunio carteri</i> .
2789	31/05/2017	Chenae Tuckett of University of Western Australia	Collection of algae and associated invertebrates, herbivorous reef fish from localities between Esperance and Ningaloo Reef, extending out to the Abrolhos Islands.

Exemption No.	Expiry	Holder	Purpose
2790-2792	30/06/2019	Department of Fisheries	To exempt the holders from the provisions of Order No. 15 of 2008, to provide for the commercial collection of land hermit crabs within a sustainable management framework.
