

Annual Report

TO THE PARLIAMENT

2004/05



Department of Fisheries
Government of Western Australia



Fish for the future



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

Sir

In accordance with Section 62 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* (FAAA) and Section 263 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA), I submit for your information the Annual Report to Parliament of the Department of Fisheries of Western Australia for the financial year ending 30 June 2005.

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

Peter P Rogers

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FROM THE Executive Director



OVERVIEW

The 2004/05 financial year has seen some important shifts in the external environment that bear on the economic viability of our major commercial fisheries and fishing-based tourism. But there has also been major progress within the Department on a number of significant issues – both strategic and operational – it moves from sectoral to an Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) approach, based on the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

THE ECONOMY

The economic climate is a major factor in the viability of WA's fisheries. The industry has recently been faced with mounting cost-price pressures mainly as a result of the rising value of the Australian dollar (as this is depressing the Australian dollar value of exported fish products) and the rising cost of major inputs, particularly labour and fuel.

Controlling these factors is out of the Department's hands. However, there are a number of initiatives we can instigate to assist the commercial fishing industry. The industries hit hardest are pearling and western rock lobster, which account for the lion's share of our \$468 million commercial fish export industry.

It is now more important than ever to ensure that regulatory controls governing Western Australian fisheries provide appropriate incentives for fishers to maximise the collective efficiency of their operations. For example, in the rock lobster industry, effort reduction initiatives are being targeted at high effort and low catch periods. A review of the current regime of input controls (rock lobster pot limits) is also underway with industry, so that the implications of a possible output control regime (rock lobster quota limits) can be assessed. I expect the price of oil and the state of our economy to continue to be major challenges in the year ahead.

Within the pearling industry, the Government and industry are jointly developing new management arrangements to achieve balanced growth in the value of pearl production from Western Australian and Northern Territory pearl farms. To achieve this the Department has commenced the development of new legislation. A management policy has been introduced so that licensees can substitute hatchery produced pearl oysters to replace those which reject pearl nuclei during the annual pearl seeding process.


CAPITAL INVESTMENT

This year has seen the single biggest capital expenditure in more than 30 years. The Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories were built at Hillarys Boat Harbour at a cost of more than \$16 million.

The project has two main purposes – the accommodation of up to 160 research and education staff and the creation of a public education facility to be known as the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre. The Centre will open in early 2006 and will include an exhibition room, library and a series of programmed education activities for schools and other visitors.

This facility enables WA to stay at the forefront of fisheries marine research and sets an Australian first in combining research with public education and tourism. Congratulations and thank you to Dr Jim Penn, Director of Fisheries Research, who oversaw the project with the assistance of many other staff members.

Work on the new \$2 million Abrolhos Islands Research Institute commenced in February. The Institute is an integral part of the Government's Separation Point Marine Precinct, designed to create a regional facility for marine research and development excellence. Research work on rock lobster, Mid West fisheries and the Abrolhos Islands is set to commence at the site upon opening in early 2006.



The 2004/05 capital works budget also provided \$2.4 million towards the construction of a new Operations Centre in Fremantle. The new centre has been created by the redevelopment of the Department's existing Fleet Maintenance Centre and will house the Department's metropolitan regional office, Fremantle District Office and the Central Support Group within Regional Services. The facility will be shared with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)

Western Australia's position as a world leader in developing and maintaining sustainable fisheries has been reinforced by the Commonwealth Government's independent certification system for ecological sustainability.

ESD reports for 27 WA fisheries have now been completed and lodged with the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH). As of 30 June 2005, 24 had been accredited by the DEH.

These assessments demonstrate that the State's fish stocks are being harvested at ecologically sustainable levels and that WA's fisheries are among the best in the country. Importantly the approvals also give the green light for continuing exports from the State's major commercial fisheries.

While well over 90 per cent of the State's marine environment remains in a near pristine condition, at a regional level concern remains over the condition of WA's major estuary systems, and loss of fishery productivity particularly in the Swan-Canning, Peel-Harvey and Leschenault estuaries.

There are clear signs of significantly reduced fish species population levels and changes in the mix of species present over a 15 year period or more including key estuarine species such as river prawns, estuarine cobbler and Perth (bony) herring.

These areas are not only valuable from a recreational fishing and ecological perspective, they are also important in the life cycle of many west coast marine species.

The solutions of course are not simple – but point to the urgent need for effective co-ordination of aquatic environmental management across Commonwealth, State and local government jurisdictions if we are to meet the joint challenges of ESD and biodiversity conservation.

INTEGRATED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

One of the great achievements of the past year has been the evolution of Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) from a strategic direction to a functioning program within the Department.

IFM – believed to be a world first – will be critically important to the sustainable management and reduction of resource sharing conflicts for future generations. For the first time IFM will allow all sectors that harvest fish to have a greater sense of security around the entitlements of their sector – and an enhanced opportunity to be involved in sustainable management and sectoral take. This will bring with it challenges for all stakeholders and the Department. I am particularly pleased at the positive approach and commitment of all stakeholders to the implementation of IFM.

In 2004/05 considerable progress was made with the publication of a Government Policy on IFM, the creation and the appointment of members to the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC), the appointment of a Deputy Director to oversee the implementation of IFM and the progressing of the IFM process for western rock lobster and abalone. In addition the research program to underpin the IFM process for west coast demersal finfish has been developed and will be implemented in the next financial year.

Next year promises to be exciting – with the release by the IFAAC of its draft allocation reports for western rock lobster and abalone resources. Following the consideration of public submissions IFAAC will make a final recommendation on allocation for the Minister's consideration.

Executive Director

RECREATIONAL AND FISHING TOUR SECTOR

The cycle of regional planning for marine recreational fisheries is now drawing to a close with the implementation of new regulations for the Pilbara/Kimberley and South Coast bioregions, and the finalisation of a Statewide possession limit and filleting-at-sea legislation. These major changes have created a far sounder structure on which to base future management of this sector – and ultimately of allocations under Integrated Fisheries Management.

A major challenge for the future is to improve the economic and social performance of the recreational and fishing tour sector fisheries – and optimise their contribution to the State's economy and lifestyle – as well as ensuring their continuing quality and sustainability.

INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

For several decades the Department of Fisheries has maintained a dedicated team of 10 specialised staff to carry out fisheries compliance on behalf of the Commonwealth Government in waters outside Western Australia's jurisdiction. However, the Commonwealth Government has decided to withdraw from the current service delivery arrangements. Under the new arrangements, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) will directly employ Fisheries Officers to undertake all foreign compliance services and base the group in Darwin.

AFMA has indicated that the foreign fishing compliance program delivered by Western Australia will be progressively 'wound-down' and finalised during 2005/06. Some International Operations group officers may seek employment with the new Darwin based team. Others however will transfer to positions within the domestic compliance program. These officers will be an asset to the domestic program because of their high level of skill.

Western Australia will be keeping a close watch on the performance of the new arrangements to ensure they have no negative implications for our fisheries or our State.

MARINE PARK PLANNING

Finalisation of the marine parks in the Cape Leeuwin to Cape Naturaliste area, Walpole Inlet, Dampier Archipelago and Monte Bello Islands and working with the community to develop a regional marine plan for the south coast will be the major challenges in marine park planning over the coming 12 months.

The major issues to be resolved in the creation of the new parks are those of the community consultation process, potential compensation to the fishing industry and the role of sanctuary zones within marine parks. These are issues that the Department is actively addressing in partnership with other Government agencies and the fishing and related industries.

The Ministers for the Environment and Fisheries will finalise a Memorandum of Understanding between the portfolios to ensure cooperation and integration between the two departments is maximised in dealing with government agendas in the marine environment.

CHALLENGES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

A key challenge for fisheries management this coming year will be addressing customary fishing and the involvement of Aboriginal people in the fishing sector and fisheries management. Initiatives to address these challenges have been developed through the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy, and include a legal and policy framework for customary fishing, mechanisms to provide Aboriginal people with opportunities to enter the fishing sector, and employment and training programs with an emphasis in remote areas.

The challenge however, is funding these programs, both initially and on a sustainable basis. The progress of Aboriginal fishing and aquaculture initiatives to date has been a result of successful State and Commonwealth joint funding. While the State considers the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy within its budget processes, changes to Aboriginal governance and administration at the national level have resulted in uncertainty about where opportunities for joint funding with the Commonwealth can be developed. It is anticipated there will be some clarity on funding opportunities and responsibilities flowing from the current State/Commonwealth bi-lateral negotiations about Indigenous service delivery. The evolution of the national customary fishing principles, to which the Department is contributing, should also help give clarity.

As a Department we are also facing the reality that over the next 12 months there will be a major challenge in service delivery as a result of implementation of the State Government's Shared Service Centre model. This reform of corporate services, for which the Department of Fisheries is a pilot agency, will without doubt have an impact on the day-to-day business of the agency and our performance in the coming year. We will do our best to make this transition as smooth as possible.

CONCLUSION

Fishing continues to be a major contributor to the State's economy and provides jobs to thousands of Western Australians – many in our regional areas. Commercial fishing is the backbone to many of our coastal communities. Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for 2003/04 valued our fisheries exports at \$468 million, while the WA Fishing Industry Council estimates commercial fishing contributes about \$1.2 billion to the State's economy.

Nearly 540,000 Western Australians – or nearly one third of our population – participate in recreational fishing every year. We spend about \$570 million per year and create about 7,000 full-time jobs – making it a pastime that contributes enormously to our State's social fabric and economy.

I would like to conclude by thanking the Minister for Fisheries and his staff, all of the Department's staff throughout the State, and our 200 volunteers for all their efforts in ensuring Western Australia not only remains a leader in fisheries management, but is also a great place to *Fish for the future.*



Peter Rogers
Executive Director

Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2004/05

- The Department's satellite linked system for monitoring commercial fishing boats – the Vessel Monitoring Scheme (VMS) – won the 2004 Premier's Award for Governance. The use of VMS had a major impact on the way the State's trawl fisheries operate.
- WA's position as a world leader in developing and maintaining sustainable fisheries was reinforced with success in the Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) certification process. Reports for 27 WA fisheries have now been completed and lodged with the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH). As of 30 June 2005, 24 have been accredited by the DEH.
- This year has also seen the single biggest capital expenditure in more than 30 years. The Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories were built at Hillarys Boat Harbour at a cost of more than \$16 million. Work also commenced on the \$2 million Abrolhos Islands Research Institute and \$2.4 million was provided in the 2004/05 Budget towards the construction of a new Operations Centre in Fremantle
- The first of a series of reports that will help guide the future sustainable management of WA's fish resources – The 'Integrated Fisheries Management: Western Rock Lobster Resource' report was released. Considerable progress in the implementation of Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) was also made with the appointment of the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC) and the publication of a Government policy on IFM.
- Formal management of all the State's finfish resources has moved a step closer with the release of public discussion papers. The three papers are the result of a two-year review of the West Coast and Gascoyne commercial wetline fisheries. The wetline review was initiated to explore options that would help ensure the sustainability of scalefish stocks into the future.
- The Department has met Government efficiency expectations by rationalising the recently combined Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) and Fisheries fleet by 21 vessels and 30 outboard motors. This has effectively reduced capital funding requirement for vessel replacements by \$3.85 million.
- Hundreds more Western Australian youngsters will learn how to fish at free fishing clinics, increase their awareness of the fragile marine environment and help protect precious fish stocks under an expanded education program. The *Fish for the Future* program was expanded Statewide with a \$200,000 grant from the State Government.
- The long-standing resource-sharing dispute over crabs in Geographe Bay was resolved with a Ministerial decision to impose a general prohibition on commercial crab fishing. The area reverts to a purely recreational crab fishing area following consideration of public feedback on a discussion paper.
- Land based eco-tourism at the Abrolhos Islands moved a step closer with a Geraldton company being granted preferred status. The developer's proposal still depends on State and Commonwealth Government environmental approvals before the eco-sensitive tourism venture on Long Island is likely to proceed.
- Department compliance services were boosted in the Rockingham area with the opening of a new Department of Fisheries office with increased staff. Up to four staff will now be assigned to the office during the peak summer fishing season.



Who We Are and What We Do

Profile of the Department of Fisheries

Our Philosophy and our Context

Operating Environment – Significant Issues and Trends

Operating Structure

Executive Team

PROFILE OF the Department of Fisheries

VISION

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

MISSION

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

The Governor in the Executive Council has approved of the administration of the following Acts being placed under the control of the Minister for Fisheries; the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne:

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

The Department of Fisheries, established and designated under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, is the department principally assisting the Minister in the administration of these Acts.

Under the Acts there is a division of power between the Minister and the statutory office of the Executive Director. In broad terms, the Minister establishes the statutory and policy framework for fisheries management, and the office of the Executive Director carries out the day-to-day aspects of administration.

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

The Department also carries out fisheries compliance activities on behalf of the Commonwealth in waters adjacent to Western Australia in the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ), in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth's *Fisheries Management Act 1991*. The AFZ extends 200 nautical miles (370 kilometres) from the State's coastal baselines. In addition, under a Service Delivery Arrangement with the Commonwealth, the Department provides fisheries management, on behalf of the Department of Transport and Regional Services, in the territorial waters around both Cocos (Keeling) and Christmas Islands.

The following lists show fisheries in Western Australia that fall under State, joint or Commonwealth jurisdiction and activity under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement Agreement (refer to Fisheries Management Paper No. 77 for further details of the Offshore Constitutional Settlement Agreement).

Fisheries under Western Australian State Jurisdiction

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

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

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

Fisheries under Western Australian Joint Authority Jurisdiction

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

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

Fisheries under Commonwealth Jurisdiction

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

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

Under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Offshore Constitutional Parties, representatives of the Commonwealth, Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia must meet at least once per year to discuss management of northern fish stocks subject to their respective Offshore Constitutional Settlement agreements and Joint Authority arrangements. One such meeting of the Northern Australian Fisheries Management group was held in September 2004. The Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority also met in September 2004. The activities of fisheries managed through the Joint Authority are described separately in a report tabled in the Commonwealth and Western Australian parliaments.



Statutory Responsibilities

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

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

the Department of Fisheries

Major Stakeholder Groups

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

The Department identifies the following groups as its major stakeholders:

- the community of Western Australia;
- Management Advisory Committees;
- commercial fishers;
- pearlers;
- aquaculturalists;
- the conservation sector;
- fish processors and others involved in the commercial utilisation of WA's aquatic resources;
- recreational fishers in Western Australia;
- Indigenous communities;
- fisheries volunteers;
- environmental groups, passive users and ecotour operators;
- Department of Fisheries staff; and
- other state, national and international government agencies and tertiary institutions.

Department Outcomes and Outputs

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

This outcome is achieved through four key outputs:

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

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

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

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

The Department's performance in delivering services under these outputs is reported on page 102.

OUR PHILOSOPHY and our Context

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In this report the Department presents its summary of operations and outcomes during the 2004/05 financial year to Parliament and to the community based around the Government's strategic planning framework and three key performance indicators that reflect the components of ESD and its "triple bottom-line" of economic, environmental and social accountability.

WHO WE ARE AND
WHAT WE DO

REPORT ON OPERATIONS
- OUTPUTS

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OPERATING ENVIRONMENT –

Significant Issues and Trends

Conservation and Sustainability the key to the future

Conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources and protection of fish habitats is a statutory obligation of the Department of Fisheries. The Department is addressing a number of significant issues and trends over the short to medium term (one to five years) to meet this obligation. These issues and trends are:

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

- continuing to undertake and expand research and monitoring of all significant fisheries in the State and the publication of these findings annually in the 'State of the Fisheries' report;
- continuing to work with the Environmental Protection Authority, Department of Environment, Department of Conservation and Land Management and other relevant government agencies and environmental interest groups on fish habitat and marine conservation issues;
- implementing satellite vessel monitoring and tracking technology (VMS) and by-catch action plans in the State's trawl fisheries;
- implementing a policy for the Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) for all fisheries and aquaculture sectors within the State;
- continuing to work with other relevant government agencies to monitor the effects of climate change on the marine environment; and
- contributing to the preparation of Regional Natural Resource Management strategies.

A growing and more affluent population is placing ever-increasing pressure on the marine environment. This issue highlights the need for more cost-effective integrated management solutions for commercial and recreational fishing, recreational boating activities and marine park management. In response, the Department is:

- recovering the costs of management for the State's major commercial fisheries from the commercial fishing sector;
- collecting a Development and Better Interest Fee from licensees in managed fisheries. Revenue collected from this fee is for the use of the Minister for Fisheries to fund projects that will advance the interests of fisheries and/or fish habitat protection;
- delivering the Government's at-sea marine safety function;
- participating in planning for proposed marine parks including the Dampier Archipelago, Monte Bello Islands, Cape Leeuwin to Cape Naturaliste area and Walpole Inlet to ensure commercial fishing, recreational fishing, pearling and aquaculture activities are properly considered; and
- developing and refining community education and volunteer programs to support sustainable community behaviour.

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

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

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

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

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

- completed and lodged 27 assessments of the State's export fisheries in accordance with the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. As of 30 June 2005, 24 had been accredited by the Department of Environment and Heritage;
- together with other State agencies, continued to work with the National Oceans Office with respect to integrated oceans management and integrated coastal zone management with a particular focus on the southern coast of Western Australia; and
- together with other agencies, academia and the Commonwealth, contributed to the 'Marine Cluster' model for marine research and management, which has led to the formation of the Strategic Research Fund for the Marine Environment and the Western Australian Marine Science Institute.

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

- prepared a development plan to provide strategic direction to the aquaculture industry, together with a review of aquaculture legislation;
- assisted with the restructuring of the Aquaculture Council; and
- continued to provide licensing and policy services for development of the aquaculture industry.

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

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

Significant Issues and Trends

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

- implemented the WA Seafood Quality Management Initiative to promote the adoption of quality management systems for local and export seafood markets and disseminate information to industry about safe food requirements; and
- continued to administer, with the Department of Health, a WA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program to ensure that shellfish products farmed in WA are safe for human consumption.

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

- worked to develop an Aboriginal Fishing Strategy for Government consideration focused on improving the integration of, and opportunities for, Aboriginal involvement in management of the State's fisheries;
- further advanced consultative processes with the indigenous community through statewide meetings with Aboriginal groups and the wider community and through existing formal channels; and
- participated in the development of a national framework for customary fishing.

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

- taken up the challenge of acting as a pilot agency in implementing the Shared Services model for the provision of business management services across the whole of Government;
- implemented and refined a risk management process and established an electronic risk register;
- introduced internal policies in relation to Innovation and Intellectual Property and Fraud and Corruption;
- undertaken reviews of core and non-core business activities and to determine compliance in respect to competitive neutrality, the *Trade Practices Act 1974* and the *State Trading Concerns Act 1916*;
- implemented an integrated project and activity-based costing system to provide more accurate data relating to the cost of services it provides;
- developed a process for implementing risk assessment-based compliance programs;
- continued to operate and refine a Departmental Performance Indicator measurement system;
- introduced a customer feedback system;
- reviewed its strategic plan; and
- enhanced corporate governance processes and internal reporting.

Operating Structure

Functional Organisational Structure

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

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

Process Structure

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

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

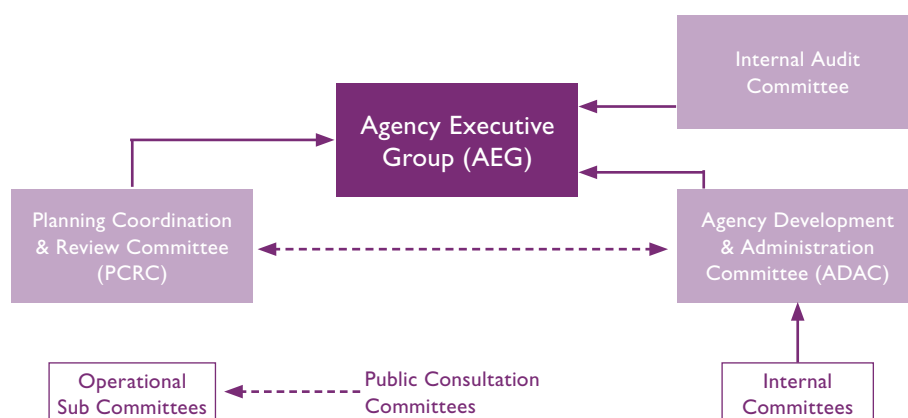
The committees are: the Agency Executive Group; the Planning Coordination and Review Committee; the Agency Development and Administration Committee; the Operational Sub-Committees and the Internal Audit Committee.

Advisory committees are also an important component of this process and an effective consultative mechanism for fisheries management. The Department administers a number of advisory committees with representatives from the government and non-government sectors. The committees reflect the Department's commitment to inviting significant public participation in the formulation and implementation of strategies for fisheries management and industry development. A series of Ministerial Advisory Committees (MACs) are responsible specifically to the Minister for Fisheries.

Agency Executive Group (AEG)

The AEG comprises the Executive Director, the Department's two directors and the managers of the Finance and Administration Branch, the Strategic Planning and Policy Branch and the Corporate and Community Relations Branch. The AEG is responsible for the overall strategic and financial direction of the Department arising from internal and external consultative processes, priority setting and resource allocation, and the administration of risk management processes.

The AEG also deals with issues referred to it by the PCRC and the ADAC (see below) and by the Department's directors and managers.



Operating Structure

Planning Coordination and Review Committee (PCRC)

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

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

Agency Development and Administration Committee (ADAC)

The ADAC is responsible for the general management and administration of the Department as a public sector organisation. Consisting of members from all corporate service areas, the ADAC is responsible for the financial, information technology, human resource and administrative issues within the Department and advises the AEG on strategic and budget planning for Departmental infrastructure and internal administration.

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

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

Operational Subcommittees (OSCs)

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

Internal Audit Committee (IAC)

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

Public Consultation/Advisory Committees

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

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

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

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

The Department administers a number of advisory committees with representatives from the government and non-government sectors. The committees reflect the Department's commitment to inviting significant public participation in the formulation and implementation of strategies for fisheries management and industry development. A series of Ministerial Advisory Committees (MACs) are responsible specifically to the Minister for Fisheries.

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

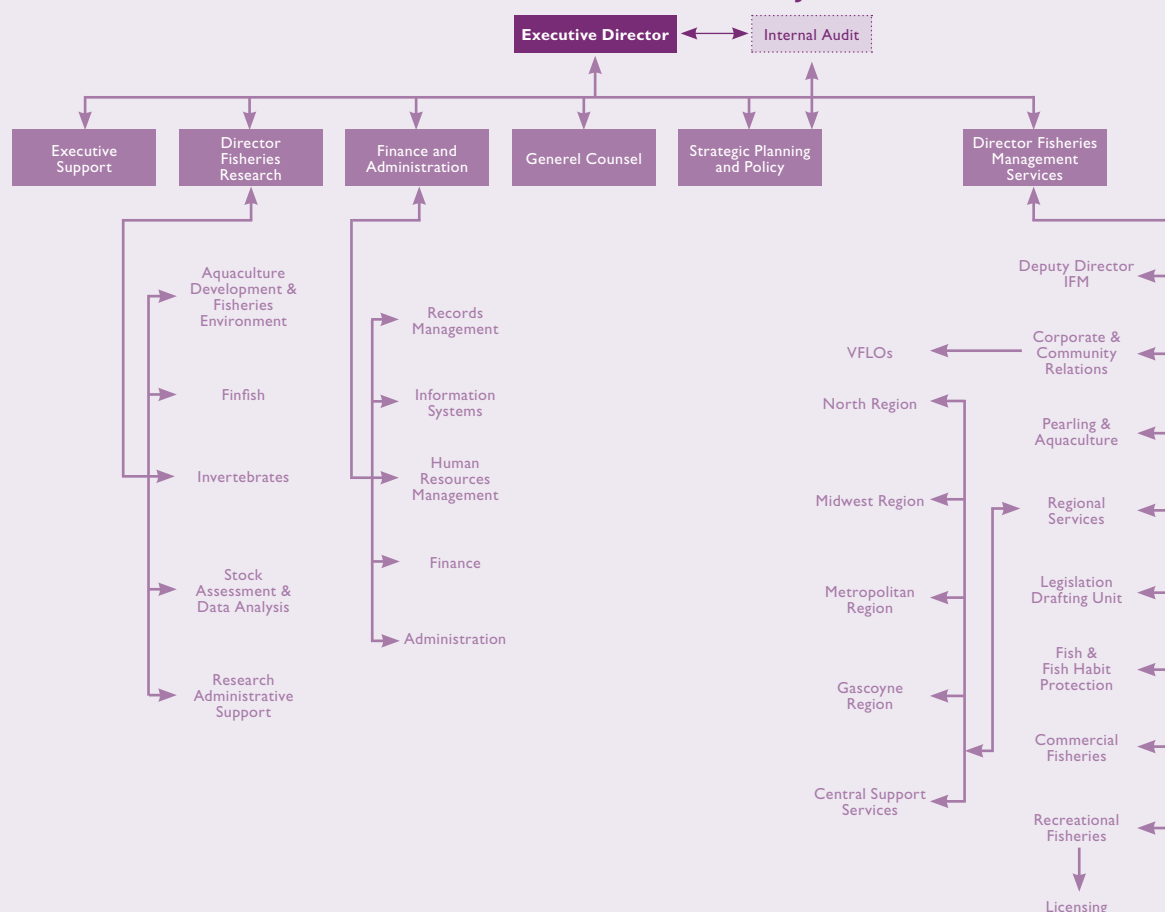
In commercial fisheries, where the formation of an advisory committee is not warranted, the Department aims to ensure that meetings are held with licensees on at least an annual basis. Consultation with interest groups and individuals not directly involved in commercial fishing occurs through the publication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

The Department of Fisheries Operations

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

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

DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE CHART AS AT 30 JUNE 2005



Executive Team

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

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

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

As Executive Director of the Department of Fisheries for the past 15 years, Peter Rogers has overseen a dramatic transformation of the Department. He has worked for the Department for all but two of the past 32 years, accumulating broad experience and specialist knowledge in all facets of fisheries resource management.

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

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

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

Peter Millington BSc (Hons) M Env St. MSc FAICD

Director, Fisheries Management Services

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

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

Jim Penn Dip Ag, BSc PhD

Director, Fisheries Research Services

Dr Jim Penn has been Director of Research and chief scientist for 17 years, within a career with the Department of Fisheries spanning 36 years. His extensive research and management expertise has involved work on most of the State's major fisheries and their environments.

Jim is responsible for the Department's strategic research which provides the information to underpin the Department's successful natural resource management programs.

AGENCY EXECUTIVE GROUP

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

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

Heather's experience extends across the commercial, recreational fishing and aquaculture sectors and includes management of the Pearling Sub-Program within the Pearling and Aquaculture Program.

Bruno Mezzatesta BBus FCPA GAICD

Manager, Finance and Administration

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

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

Andrew Cribb B.A.

Manager, Corporate and Community Relations

Andrew has enjoyed a number of senior roles with the Department over the past 17 years, most recently Manager of the Department's Corporate and Community Relations Branch and previously Recreational Fisheries Program Manager.

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

Greg Paust BAg.Sc.

Deputy Director, Integrated Fisheries Management

Greg Paust has a wealth of experience in natural resource management. He joined Fisheries in 1996 as Pearling and Aquaculture Program Manager during which time he was responsible for implementing the Department's aquaculture development initiative. He also represented the Department on a number of national committees.

In 2004 he was appointed to lead the team that is implementing the Integrated Fisheries Management initiative.

Greg holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and will complete his MBA at the University of Western Australia later this year.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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



Netmaker Bob Lang with Terry Hewitt, General Manager Engineering of MG Kailis, with a bycatch reduction device for use in the Exmouth Gulf trawl fishery.



Report on Operations

DEPARTMENT OUTPUTS

Integrated Fisheries Management

Commercial Fisheries

Recreational Fisheries

Pearling and Aquaculture

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection

INTEGRATED Fisheries Management

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

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

The previous Minister for Fisheries launched the Government's IFM initiative and policy in October 2004. The Government has continued its strong commitment to the IFM process with \$4.9 million funding over the next four years (from 2005/06 to 2008/09). These funds will be applied to the implementation of the IFM process including consultation, management, policy, fisheries research and education and compliance.

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

IFM involves:

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

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

Catch allocation and any subsequent adjustments will follow a series of consultations before a final report is presented by the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC) to the Minister for Fisheries.

IFAAC's first role is to provide advice and recommendations on allocations for the western rock lobster resource, the abalone resource (with emphasis on the Perth metropolitan fishery) and the West Coast Demersal Finfish resource (with emphasis on dhufish, baldchin groper and snapper as indicator species).

Major progress was made in 2004/05 in the western rock lobster resource IFM process. The Department released *Fisheries Management Paper; No. 192 Integrated Fisheries Management Report – Western Rock Lobster Resource*, which includes the sustainable harvest level that is determined by the Executive Director. The report will be used by IFAAC as a principal source of information in its consideration of the allocations for the Western Rock Lobster resource.

IFAAC has undertaken preliminary investigations on Western Rock Lobster resource sharing issues and consultation with stakeholders and is now preparing its Draft Allocation Report. It is anticipated that this report will be released for public comment in early 2005/06. It is expected that IFAAC's final advice on allocations will be provided to the Minister in 2005/06.

The Department also prepared a Fisheries Management Paper, *Integrated Fisheries Management Report – Abalone Resource*, for release in August 2005. IFAAC plans to finalise its recommendations to the Minister on the abalone resource in 2005/06.

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

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2004/05

- formed the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC) to investigate resource allocation issues and make recommendations on optimal resource use to the Minister;
- developed the Integrated Fisheries Management Allocations Process;
- preliminary investigations undertaken by IFAAC on western rock lobster resource sharing issues included consultation with stakeholders and work towards the preparation of its Draft Allocation Report;
- released *Fisheries Management Paper No. 192 Integrated Fisheries Management Report – Western Rock Lobster Resource*;
- appointed a manager and support group to drive the implementation of IFM; and
- developed a fisheries data collection program for West Coast Demersal Finfish to underpin the IFM process.

MAJOR INITIATIVES 2005/06

- developing a 10-year strategic plan and out years budget for implementation of IFM;
- providing final advice by the IFAAC to the Minister on allocations to sectors in the western rock lobster resource;
- releasing a Fisheries Management Paper on the *Integrated Fisheries Management Report – Abalone Resource*;
- providing IFAAC's final advice to the Minister on allocations to sectors in the abalone resource;
- implementing a change of management process within the Department to align with and support the IFM approach;
- preparing an assessment of the need for legislative change flowing from the implementation of IFM;
- scoping a project to address the need to develop a mechanism to allow reallocations between the sectors; and
- implementing a fisheries data collection program for West Coast Demersal Finfish to underpin the IFM process.

COMMERCIAL Fisheries

Commercial fishing occurs along the entire 12,500km of the Western Australian coast providing jobs, income to the State and premium seafood to people around the globe.

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for 2003/04 valued Western Australia's fisheries exports at \$468 million, while the WA Fishing Industry Council estimates commercial fishing contributes about \$1.2 billion to the State's economy.

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

Commercial fisheries are managed in line with the objectives of the Act and in accordance with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD). ESD

reports for 27 WA fisheries have now been completed and lodged with the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH). As of 30 June 2005, 24 have been accredited by the DEH.

The Western Rock Lobster Fishery is currently undergoing a period of significant review and change. The development of new resource sustainability management packages for the fishery and reviews of the management strategy and the minimum unit holding requirement are some of the projects that have been undertaken this year.



A major achievement was Ministerial approval of new measures to ensure the sustainability of sharks, particularly the slow-growing dusky and sandbar sharks.

The Department's satellite linked system for monitoring commercial fishing boats – the Vessel Monitoring Scheme (VMS) – won the 2004 Premier's Award for Governance. The use of VMS had a major impact on the way the State's trawl fisheries operate.

Management plans for the State's managed commercial fisheries can now be viewed electronically through links on the Department's website to the State Law Publisher.

Wetline Review

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

In 2003 the Minister appointed two panels – a Management Planning Panel (MPP) and a Commercial Access Panel (CAP) – to conduct a review into the commercial scalefish fishery in the West Coast and Gascoyne bioregions. The review was in response to research indicating that catch levels were unsustainable in the long term.

The MPP was appointed to develop specific management arrangements for the "open access" scalefish fisheries in the West Coast and Gascoyne regions and the CAP was appointed to devise a fair and equitable method of determining who will have access to the State's "open access" scalefish fisheries and their level of allocation.

In 2004/05, following extensive consultation, both panels released reports for public comment. The review panels are expected to deliver their final recommendations on the future management of the West Coast and Gascoyne commercial scalefish fisheries to the Minister before the end of 2005.

Shark Fisheries

In August 2004 the Minister released *Fisheries Management Paper 180* discussing options for improved management of the two temperate shark fisheries. At the same time the Minister expressed concerns with the reliance of the two northern (or tropical) shark fisheries on fins for their revenue and asked that they demonstrate full and appropriate use of all sharks taken.

Subsequently, following consultation with industry and other stakeholders, in late 2004/05 the Minister approved a number of changes to the management of all the State's shark fisheries that will be introduced over the following two years. The measures are aimed at ensuring the conservation and sustainable management of "at risk" shark species (dusky whalers, whiskery and sandbar sharks) and include:

- closures and a 16.6 per cent effort reduction in the temperate shark fisheries to aid in the recovery of whiskery shark stocks, closure of a significant area of the Western Australian North Coast Shark Fishery between North West Cape and Broome to protect sandbar sharks;
- closure of King Sound to shark fishing;
- the implementation of the satellite based Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in all the State's shark fisheries;
- a prohibition on the possession of sharks and rays by commercial fishers outside the target shark fisheries (with some exceptions);
- the total commercial protection of sawfish from the genus *Pristis*;
- significant increase in penalties for illegally possessing sharks or rays;
- introduction of effort controls in the tropical shark fisheries including limits on fishing days, longline hook numbers and net lengths; and
- introduction of an observer program with 10 per cent coverage for the two tropical shark fisheries.

Further measures are under consideration.



West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery

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

During the 2004/05 rock lobster season, several significant stakeholder discussion documents regarding the sustainability of the rock lobster resource and its interactions with wildlife were developed and released.

The development of resource sustainability management packages to reduce effective effort in the fishery was necessary as a result of significant increases in fishing efficiency (particularly Zone B), which has caused a downward trend in stock levels and a decline in egg production (particularly in Zone B).

To ensure sustainability of the resource, a minimum of a 15 per cent reduction in effective fishing effort is required in Zones A and B, while a five per cent reduction is required in Zone C. It is anticipated the management measures will be implemented in the 2005/06 season.

As a requirement of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery ESD process and Department of Environment and Heritage and Marine Stewardship Council certification/accreditation, it was necessary to investigate and implement the best possible mitigation measures that would eliminate the bycatch of Australian sea lion pups from rock lobster pots while minimising the impact on commercial fishing operations. A discussion paper proposing the implementation of sea lion exclusion devices in the 2005/06 season was released in May.

Also currently under review is the minimum unit holding requirement for the commercial fishery. A detailed investigation and economic analysis has been completed and three options have been released for stakeholder consideration. The options include maintaining the current arrangements, reducing the minimum unit holding level, or removing the requirement from the fishery.

Another major undertaking by the fishery has been the ongoing review of the current management system and investigation and assessment of the benefits of alternative management models (i.e. input controls vs. quotas). This review will provide detailed information to industry on how best to address the long-term socio-economic issues concerning the future management of the rock lobster resource within an ecological sustainable development framework. It is expected that the review papers will be available in late 2005.

Shark Bay Prawn Fishery

In total 27 vessels operated in the Shark Bay Prawn Fishery in 2004, catching about \$22 million of product.

In the past year the boundaries of the recognised tiger prawn spawning areas have been further refined in consultation with industry as an additional sustainability measure. A minimum catch rate threshold for tiger prawns has also been established to assist the implementation of closures to protect spawning stock.

The formal requirement for Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs or grids) to be installed in all nets continued during the 2004 fishing season. In addition, Fish Exclusion Devices (FEDs) were installed into about half of the nets being towed by each vessel in order to assess the effectiveness of these devices.

Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery

The Exmouth Prawn Managed fishery consists of 16 licences held by two licensees. Only 12 vessels are active in the fishery. This low number is a result of a gear amalgamation arrangement that is currently operating under Ministerial Exemption. The total catch in the 2004 season was 1,347 tonnes, valued at about \$12 million.

The formal requirement for BRDs to be installed in all nets continued during the 2004 fishing season. In addition, Fish Exclusion Devices (FEDs) were installed into half of the nets being towed by each vessel in order to assess the effectiveness of these devices.

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

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

Shark Bay Scallop Fishery

The 2004 season scallop catch was around 1,617 tonnes (whole weight). The estimated annual value of the fishery was \$2.6 million.

The 2004 scallop catch was taken by a fleet of 41 vessels that is made up of 14 vessels with A-class licences (only licensed to trawl for scallops with 100 mm mesh nets), and 27 vessels with B-class licences (licensed to trawl for prawns and scallops using nets with a mesh of 60 mm or less).

The formal requirement for BRDs for this fishery continued during the 2004 fishing season. Due to the large mesh size of nets used by vessels operating under an A-class licence, FEDs are not required for this group.

Abalone Fishery

The Abalone Fishery operates off the west and south coasts of the State. The fishery takes three species of abalone – Roes abalone (south and west coasts) and greenlip and brownlip abalone (south coast). It has an annual gross value of production of \$13 – \$15 million.

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

Other Fisheries

An Interim Management Plan was introduced for the commercial mackerel fishery in August 2004. This fishery operates between the WA/NT border and Cape Leeuwin and targets primarily Spanish mackerel. Under the Interim Management Plan, the fishery is divided into three management areas (Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne-West Coast). There is a limit on the number of permits issued for each area, and designated fishing seasons. The Interim Management Plan is currently being amended to enable the implementation of Individual Transferable Quotas from 1 January 2006.

Consultation on new management arrangements for the South West Beach Seine fishery was finalised and an implementation process developed.

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committees of Management continue for the South West Coast Salmon, West Coast Estuarine and the South Coast Herring Fisheries. A further committee has been established to consider establishing a scheme for the South Coast Salmon Fishery.

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes were established for the South West Salmon and West Coast Estuarine Fisheries in 2004/05 and will continue in 2005/06. Three rounds of offers were considered for the South West Coast Salmon Fishery that resulted in the surrender of a fishing unit. Further offers will be considered in 2005/06. Offers continue to be considered for the surrender of authorisations in the West Coast Estuarine Fishery.

Geographe Bay was closed to commercial crab fishing by a Section 43 Order in January 2005. Act of Grace payments were offered to fishers affected by this closure.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2004/05

- developed resource sustainability management packages for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery;
- completed scientific certification systems audit for Marine Stewardship Council certification for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery;
- reassessment of the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery as being compliant with US Turtle Exclusion Device laws and continuation of the fishery's accreditation permitting prawns to be exported to the US;
- commencement of a three-year review of the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery management systems, assessing the relative benefits of alternative management models against the current system;
- release of the *Fisheries Management Paper 180* discussing options for improved management of the two temperate shark fisheries and provided advice to the Minister on future management; and
- progress towards the management of the State's open access wetline fisheries through the release for public comment of proposals for future management from the West Coast and Gascoyne Management Planning and Commercial Access Panels.

MAJOR INITIATIVES 2005/06

- undertake a strategic review of management systems for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, specifically quota versus input;
- implement resource sustainability management packages for the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery;
- develop Ministerial Policy Guidelines for the ecologically sustainable management of the Shark Bay snapper, rock lobster, Shark Bay prawn and scallop and Exmouth gulf prawn, abalone and pearl oyster fisheries;
- progress toward management arrangements for the State's wetline fisheries;
- complete a new management plan for Marine Aquarium Managed Fishery;
- introduce revised management arrangements for the northern shark fisheries; and
- implement a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) into the Shark Bay Snapper Managed Fishery.

RECREATIONAL Fisheries

The Recreational Fisheries Program is responsible for a range of fisheries management, compliance, community education and research projects to manage the recreational and fishing tour components of the State's fisheries and ensure the sustainability of fish stocks.

Recreational fishing is not only a favorite pastime for nearly 540,000 Western Australians every year (about one third of the population), it also generates about \$570 million per year and creates about 7,000 full-time jobs.

Increasing pressure on WA's fisheries by the recreational sector can be attributed to population and tourism growth, coastal development, improved fishing technology and easier access to many remote areas.

Along with these changes comes a need to consider the broader marine environment and the delicate linkages between healthy fish populations and the environment on which they depend. This has meant a shift in focus from the sustainability of particular fish stocks to incorporate the wider demands across the aquatic environment.



To address these growing pressures on fish stocks the Department has developed fisheries management strategies, which seek to ensure not only the biological sustainability of fish stocks and the maintenance of high-quality recreational fishing experiences, but also recognises the impact human activity has on the supporting aquatic ecosystem.

The development of a regional approach will also assist with integrating the management of recreational and charter fishing with commercial fishing, customary fishing and other uses in each region, such as conservation, eco-tourism and aquaculture.

In addition to completing the implementation of regionalised management strategies for recreational fishing particular emphasis has been placed on ensuring the continued recovery of pink snapper stocks in the inner gulfs of Shark Bay, providing adequate protection of pink snapper stocks in Cockburn Sound and developing a long term management strategy for the recreational marron fishery over the last year.

In Western Australia recreational fishers need a licence to fish for rock lobster, abalone and marron and to participate in freshwater angling and netting. All revenue from recreational fishing licences is used to protect and conserve the State's vulnerable fish stocks and help ensure the future of recreational fishing throughout Western Australia. In 2004 more than 61,000 recreational licences were issued.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2004/05

- finalised recommendations for the management of recreational fishing in the Pilbara/Kimberley and South Coast bioregions. Outcomes will be released in mid to late 2005;
- finalised strategies to manage the interactions between the commercial prawn trawl fishery and pink snapper populations in Denham Sound;
- reviewed the managed arrangements for Shark Bay inner gulf fish stocks;
- reviewed the management arrangements for metropolitan pink snapper stocks including Cockburn Sound;
- commenced a review of the recreational marron fishery;
- developed a recreational fishing strategy for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands;
- continued surveys of catch and effort in key recreational fisheries including West Coast finfish, abalone, rock lobster, marron and freshwater finfish fisheries;
- continued research projects on Shark Bay snapper, release mortality of demersal finfish on the West Coast, the status of West Coast demersal scalefish, status of estuarine species and impact of fish kills, Waroona Dam restocking, King George Whiting and key coastal nursery habitats and the status and future needs of the marron fishery; and
- refined management arrangements for the aquatic tour industry.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2005/06

- implement new regulations and community education and compliance strategies for the management of recreational fishing in the South Coast and Pilbara/Kimberley regions;
- implement regulations and community education and compliance strategies for the management of recreational fishing on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands;
- implement new management arrangements for Shark Bay inner gulf fish stocks;
- implement new management arrangements for metropolitan pink snapper stocks including Cockburn Sound;
- review and amend Ministerial Policy Guidelines for entry into the Aquatic Tour Sector;
- assist the Aquatic Tour Industry to develop a representative consultative body;
- publish the first research report on the Aquatic Tour Industry;
- review of the management and arrangements for recreational freshwater fisheries including trout and other fish species;
- finalise new management arrangements for the recreational marron fishery;
- continue surveys of catch and effort in key recreational fisheries including West Coast finfish, abalone, rock lobster, marron and freshwater finfish and aquatic tour operator (charter) fisheries;
- continue research projects on Shark Bay pink snapper, the status of West Coast demersal scalefish, the status of estuarine species and impact of fish kills and the status and future needs of the marron fishery; and
- develop a recreational fishing strategy for Christmas Island.

AQUACULTURE and Pearling

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

Pearling

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

The management of the production of pearls from species other than *Pinctada maxima* is dealt with by the Aquaculture sub-program.

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

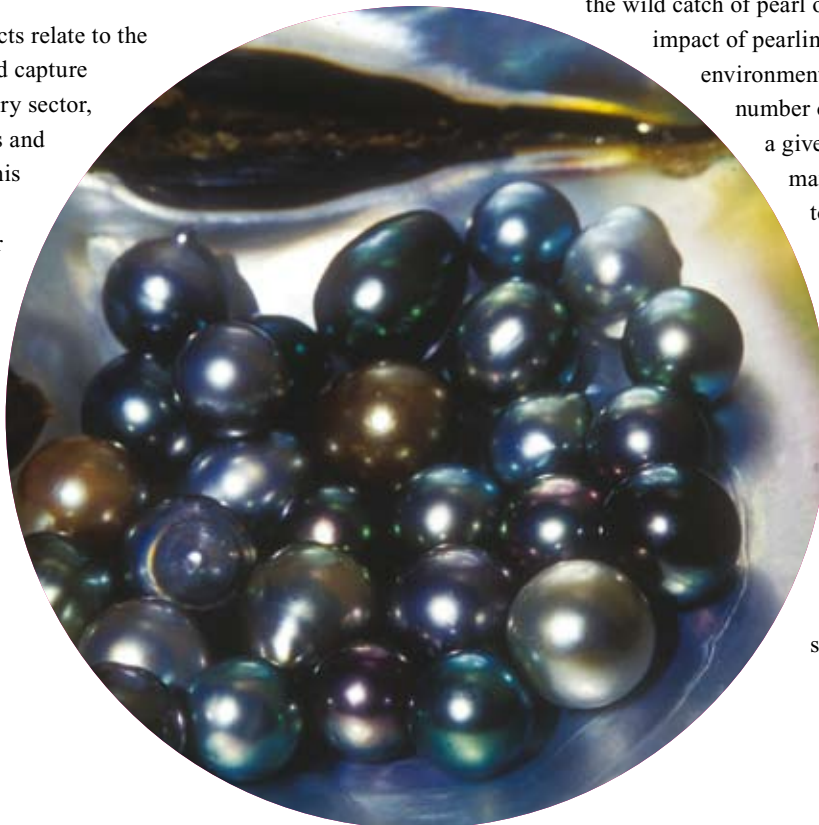
The sub-program is also responsible for ensuring the ongoing environmental management of the Western Australian pearling industry, which has achieved Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage accreditation as being environmentally sustainable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity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

Production of the Western Australian pearl industry was valued at \$128 million in 2004. There are 16 pearling licensees, collectively holding 572 units in the wild stock fishery and 350 hatchery units. The value of the wildstock units, in terms of the number of shells permitted per unit, is reviewed annually based on recruitment and stock assessment data collected through the research program.

A key element in the management of the pearling industry is a quota management system, which limits the total amount of wild shell that can be harvested and also the total amount of hatchery shell that can be seeded. The quota management system provides for ecologically sustainable management of the wild catch of pearl oysters and minimal

impact of pearling on the marine environment. It also limits the total number of pearls cultured over a given time period thereby maximising returns to the State through maintaining optimum pearl prices and market confidence.

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

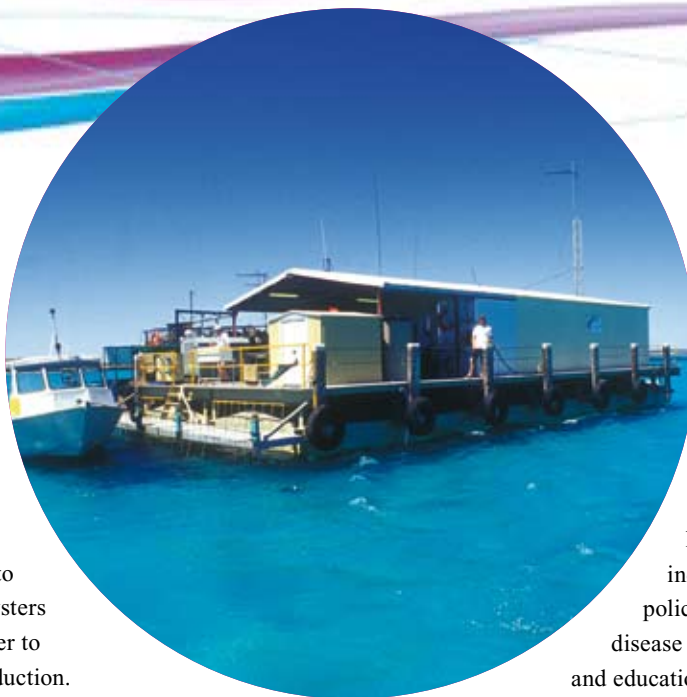


The research data shows that wild pearl oyster stocks in Zone 1 continue to recover from past cyclone events; therefore the total allowable catch from Zone 1 for the 2004 season was maintained at 55,000 shells to assist in the recovery of the fishery within this area. Zone 1 licensees are permitted to substitute hatchery-produced oysters for wild captured oysters in order to maintain their annual pearl production.

As a result of an increase in recruitment within the fishery the value of units within Zones 2 and 3 of the fishery was increased by 10 per cent, to a value of 1,100 oysters per unit.

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

During 2004/05, key activities continued to focus on the review of the *Pearling Act 1990*, review of the Pearl Oyster Hatchery Policy, review of the Fees and Charges and development of a strategic plan for future activities and management of the Pearl Oyster Industry.



Aquaculture

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

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

Management arrangements ensure that the aquaculture industry in Western Australia is developing in an environmentally sustainable manner. *The Fish Resources Management Act 1994* requires that before an aquaculture licence is granted, the Executive Director must be satisfied that "the activities to be conducted under the licence are unlikely to adversely affect other fish or the aquatic environment; and that the activities to be conducted under the licence have been approved by other relevant authorities" (including the Department of Environment). The Department of Fisheries will not approve aquaculture licence applications where all relevant environmental authorities have not been established.

and Pearling

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

In 2004 the Aquaculture Development Strategy for Western Australia was finalised. The Strategy recommended that developmental activities, which were previously the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries, become the responsibility of restructured Aquaculture Development Council appointed by the Minister for Fisheries, which is now focussed on the key impediments of investment attraction, businesses facilitation and infrastructure support. Copies of the Strategy are available by contacting the Department's Aquaculture sub-program.

Under its new focus, the Aquaculture Development Council is determining realistic and achievable targets for aquaculture development in Western Australia and progressing to determine and implement key initiatives to facilitate the achievement of these targets.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2004/05

- completion of the restructure and refocussing of the Aquaculture Development Council, in accordance with the recommendations of the Aquaculture Development Strategy for Western Australia;
- restructuring of the Aquaculture sub-program in accordance with recommendations of Aquaculture Development Strategy for Western Australia;
- progression of negotiations with Fremantle Ports in relation to the issuing of a head lease to the Minister for Fisheries for the Cockburn mussel farm locations;
- progression of drafting instructions for a new *Pearling Management Bill* prepared and considered by the Minister and Pearling Industry Advisory Committee;
- Commencement of the implementation of the review of aquaculture development and legislation in Western Australia;
- Completion of the draft policy for Broodstock Access and Hatchery Production of Endemic and Non-species for Aquaculture Purposes; and
- Commencement of the development of the revised Pearl Oyster Hatchery Policy.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2005/06

- finalise drafting instructions for the new *Pearling Management Bill*;
- finalise the review of pearl oyster hatchery policy;
- finalise the pearling industry strategy policy;
- finalise the pearling industry fees and charges review;
- implement a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministers for Fisheries in Western Australia and the Northern Territory for the management of the Australian pearling industry;
- implement a satellite-based VMS within the Western Australian pearling industry; and
- commence implementation of the findings of the Aquaculture Legislative Review.

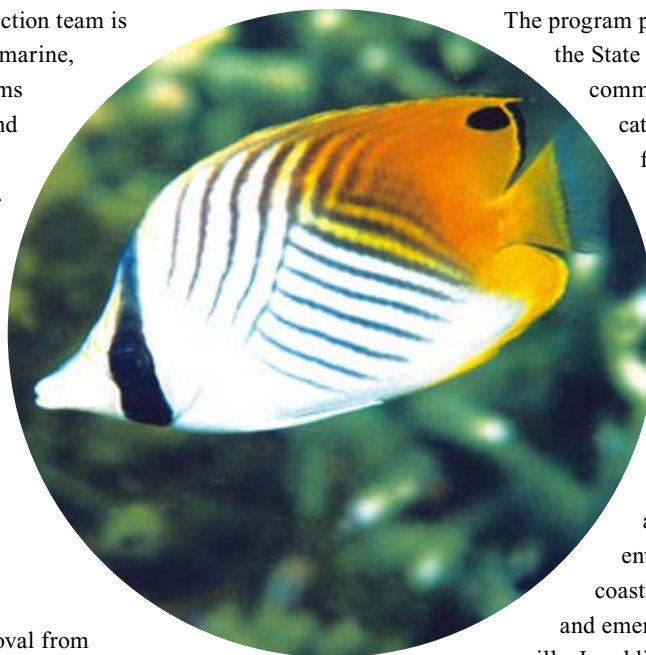
FISH AND FISH HABITAT Protection

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

In 2004/05 the State's sixth Fish Habitat Protection Area (FHPA) was established at Point Quobba. The move formally provides protection to the largely unspoilt and highly diverse coral formations, fish and the marine environment of Point Quobba Lagoon.

Significant resources were also targeted at obtaining final approval from the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage for Western Australia's commercial fisheries. The remaining eight are expected to be submitted for approval in 2005.

Another success for the team was the development of a recovery plan for the critically endangered Margaret River ("hairy") marron (*Cherax tenuimanus*). This was done in collaboration with the departments of Environment and Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and local stakeholder groups. Initial recovery actions have focussed on raising public awareness, trial fish outs of invasive smooth marron (*Cherax cainii*) and the establishment of a captive breeding program at Pemberton. External funding for recovery actions has been obtained through Threatened Species Network, and South West Catchments Council Natural Resource Management grants.



The program provided substantial advice to the State Natural Resource Management committees and the six individual catchment councils on marine and freshwater environments in the various areas and management issues associated with the regions.

Advice was also provided to industry, government departments, and authorities such as the Environmental Protection Authority, on the potential impact on fisheries, aquaculture and the marine environment from proposed coastal developments, dredging and emergency incidents such as oil spills. In addition through its membership of the Cockburn Sound Management Council the Department has been involved in formulating advice in respect of a number of significant development proposals in Cockburn Sound.

The program participated in a survey of the effects of the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami on coral reefs and mangroves in the area of Phuket, Thailand as part of the Department of Fisheries assistance program to aid fisheries in affected areas. The trip was organised by the US National Geographic Society.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2004/05

- achieved Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage Ecologically Sustainable Development accreditation and export approval for a further 12 WA managed fisheries;
- provided advice on fisheries issues relevant to the Government's program for marine conservation reserves, in particular with regard to proposals at Ningaloo, Montebello and Barrow Islands, the Rowley Shoals, Shark Bay, Dampier and the Cape Leeuwin to Naturaliste area;
- completed a study of the viability of establishing a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) on the West Coast between Shark Bay and Cape Leeuwin and the issues have been raised with relevant National authorities;
- prepared management papers on the translocation of trout and Murray Darling fish species;
- established the Point Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Area;
- established a community-based recovery team to assist in the conservation of Margaret River "hairy" marron;
- provided advice on the fisheries, aquaculture, pearling and marine environmental issues associated with petroleum exploration and development including new and significant developments at Cliff Head (within the Western Rock Lobster Fishery) and developments near Exmouth Gulf and on the North West Shelf; and
- provided advice on the fisheries, aquaculture, pearling and marine environmental issues associated with coastal development including the Geraldton Port redevelopment and the proposed solar salt development in Exmouth Gulf.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2005/06

- work towards the provision of cost-effective services in marine conservation reserves by progressing formal engagement with the Department of Conservation and Land Management to develop a collaborative approach to the delivery of government services and aquatic biodiversity and conservation;
- continue liaison with stakeholders and other government agencies in respect to fisheries issues around marine conservation reserves, provide advice and as necessary draft legislation in support of the Government's program for marine conservation areas;
- draft legislation to give effect to changes to the Ningaloo Marine Park, the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area, Montebello/Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserves, Rowley Shoals Marine Park, the Jurien Bay Marine Park and others as required;
- work with other government agencies and stakeholders in progressing regional marine planning including engagement with the National Oceans Office to address the South West marine planning process;
- continual role of lead agency within Western Australia in developing policies, legislation and response to introduced marine pests that will reflect the National System to be introduced in 2006/07;
- continue Natural Resource Management (NRM) work with groups to develop marine initiatives as part of the Natural Heritage Trust process;
- active participation in committees and by provision of formal submissions in order to provide advice on the impact of coastal developments and activities on fisheries, aquaculture, pearling and the marine environment; and
- develop further applications to the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage for ESD assessments of Western Australian fisheries, and required reports for fisheries that have already been assessed.



Department of Fisheries
researcher Corey Wakefield
with nets used to catch
plankton eggs.



Report on Operations

DEPARTMENT SERVICES

Regional Services

International Operations

Research Division

Strategic Planning and Policy

Corporate and Community Relations

Registrar and General Counsel

Legislation and Drafting Unit

Licensing

REGIONAL SERVICES Branch

The Regional Services Branch is the largest service provider within the Department of Fisheries with more than 130 staff in five regional and 13 district offices located throughout Western Australia.

The safety of people fishing and operating in the marine environment has also become a focus of the Branch's activities in line with the Government's decision to enhance the efficiency of its marine operations. The transfer of the marine safety compliance function to the Department of Fisheries from the Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) highlights the Department's capacity to deliver services on behalf of other Government agencies in the metropolitan region.

Compliance, both in Western Australian waters and within the Australian Fishing Zone on behalf of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, represent more than half of the activities of the Branch.

The Branch allocates staff and assets across the State to ensure compliance to fisheries legislation in recreational and commercial fisheries, the pearling and aquaculture industries and fish and fish habitat protection areas. The allocation of resources is achieved through a standardised risk assessment process that determines the likelihood and consequences of illegal activity occurring.

Compliance strategies are developed and resources are allocated to fisheries and areas of highest risk. A wide range of compliance tools is utilised such as land and sea patrols, aerial surveillance, covert operations, mobile patrols and education activities to ensure that industry and the public are complying with fisheries legislation.

Rationalisation of Boat Fleet

With the integration of at-sea compliance services between Fisheries and the DPI, the DPI fleet of vessels was transferred to Fisheries. The Department has met Government expectations of a rationalisation of these resources by reducing the fleet by 21 vessels and 30 outboard motors. Rationalisation has effectively removed \$3.85 million from the capital funding requirement for vessel replacements.

Mobile Patrols

The operation of the Department's two mobile patrol units over the past two years has shown that the delivery of compliance and education services to the recreational fishing community in this manner is an effective and efficient use of staff resources. The versatility of the units means that areas and fisheries of highest risk can be targeted during peak seasons and given the lack of administrative constraints placed on these officers, they can deliver far greater hours into recreational fishing and achieve far greater compliance and in particular, educational contacts.



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES REGIONAL STAFFING 2004/05

Area	Offices	Regional Services Staff	Fisheries Managed	Regionally Based Policy Officers	Regionally Based Research staff	VFLOs	MACs
Southern Region	4	19.5*	10	1	1	41	3
Perth Metropolitan Region	5	37*	8	1	0	90	2
Gascoyne Region	3	17	7	1	1	2	1
Midwest Region	3	22**	5	1	0	11	1
Northern Region	2	17.2***	4	1	1	10	1

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

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

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

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2004/05

Perth Metropolitan

- new Hillarys District Office established within Western Australian Fisheries and Marine and Research Laboratories and new Rockingham District Office opened;
- first stage of the rationalisation of patrol vessels achieved;
- Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery Agreed Arrangements progressed;
- VFLOs participated in a variety of research activities including abalone research and tailor research at Point Walter and Floreat Drain and the samson fish research held off Rottnest Island; and
- Brendan Mitchell (VFLO) recognised by a 'Commendation for Brave Conduct' for his actions rescuing a man caught in a rip during the 2002 abalone fishing season.

Northern

- new patrol vessels commissioned to provide improved at-sea servicing capability, improved employee safety, enhanced marine safety and response capacity;
- implemented the revised compliance program for the pearling industry shifting field inspection focus to first seeding operations and transport of quota;
- reviewed the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park infrastructure needs and capital works expenditure to replace and improve agency assets. An Emergency Management Plan was developed to address agency and tenant risk and an ongoing analysis of seawater intake and improved water quality and supply volume was undertaken; and
- developed marine park service plans to deliver services to the Rowley Shoals, Montebello Islands and Barrow Islands, in consultation with the Department of Conservation and Land Management and other stakeholders.

Branch

Mid West

- appointed two additional Fisheries and Marine Officers for the Jurien Bay District Office to assist in service delivery to the Jurien Bay Marine Park;
- created the Abrolhos Islands Coordinator position;
- designed and constructed a suitable patrol vessel for operation mainly within the Dongara District;
- appointed an Abrolhos Islands Policy Officer to work on new legislation pertaining to the Abrolhos and a review of the Abrolhos Islands Management Plan; and
- delivery of an 8.7m catamaran for the Geraldton District and a 6.1m centre console for the Dongara District to assist Fisheries and Marine Officers carry out several projects including commercial rock lobster, recreational, fish habitat and marine safety.

Southern

- implemented a prohibition on commercial crab fishing in Geographe Bay and developed a compensation mechanism for affected fishermen;
- finalised a review of management arrangements for the South Coast crustacean fisheries and updated management arrangements for the South and South West salmon managed fisheries;
- implemented Margaret River marron recovery actions as identified in the Interim Recovery Plan;
- promoted increased VFLO recruitment over the entire Southern Region with three induction courses for 12 new VFLOs in the Bunbury, Busselton and Albany districts; and
- Fisheries and Marine Officers and Customs Officers conducted several at-sea compliance checks of Southern commercial fishers that resulted in a number of prosecutions.

Gascoyne

- implemented measures to assist in the oceanic Shark Bay pink snapper stock recovery through new management arrangements for the commercial Shark Bay Snapper Managed Fishery;
- commenced consultation and drafting of legislation for the implementation of Vessel Monitoring System for the Shark Bay Snapper Managed Fishery;
- provided input and membership for the Gascoyne Rangelands Committee and Whole of Rangelands Committee (Natural Heritage Trust NRM process);
- undertook planning in preparation for extensions to the Ningaloo Marine Park. Funding for a new two person mobile patrol and a new 8m boat was secured. Completed risk assessments for Ningaloo Marine Park and a generic risk assessment model for use in all marine parks; and
- gazetted the Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Area following public consultation.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2005/06

Perth Metropolitan

- VFLOs will work with the Fishers with Disabilities Association Incorporated in the launch of a vessel capable of taking people with disabilities fishing on the Swan and Canning rivers;
- further rationalisation of the region's larger patrol boat fleet;
- launch a new dual-purpose vessel to further enhance the effectiveness of at sea fisheries and marine safety compliance programs;
- implement a regional restructure to address rapid growth in the Southern District (Rockingham to Mandurah); and
- complete and implement the outcomes of the Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery Agreed Arrangements.

Northern

- complete and implement a new accord for the Barramundi (and Threadfin) Fishery in the Kimberley;
- continue the review of the pearling industry compliance program to improve client systems, monitor the introduction of vessel monitoring and assist the legislative development and review of the *Pearling Act 1990* and Regulations;
- complete business planning, emergency management planning and infrastructure replacement and development for the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park;
- commence compliance patrolling of marine parks and facilitate joint servicing with the Department of Conservation and Land Management and other stakeholders for marine parks; and
- establish a temporary office in Kununurra to enhance community access to mobile patrol and other agency staff.

Mid West

- increase capacity at the Jurien Bay District Office to deal predominantly with the marine park;
- commence renovations to Geraldton Regional Office to accommodate additional staff and to provide a suitable conference room for Mid West staff; and
- submit funding applications to Northern Agricultural Catchment Council for research projects at the Abrolhos Islands to support baseline data knowledge of the Abrolhos System.

Southern

- coordinate the public consultation process regarding the future management of the South Coast Trawl Fishery;
- develop a management discussion paper for the consolidation of the South Coast Crustacean Fisheries;
- commence a landholder marron monitoring program in the upper Margaret River as part of the recovery program for "hairy" marron;
- target recruitment of VFLOs in areas of low participation in the Southern Region; and
- complete the redevelopment of the Bunbury and Busselton offices to improve accommodation for staff.

Gascoyne

- commence the Ningaloo Marine Park patrol, complete compliance and operational plan, establish joint servicing arrangements with the Department of Conservation and Land Management and construction and delivery of purpose built Rigid Inflatable Boat;
- create compliance and operational plans for all major trawl fisheries;
- establish VMS operating and compliance environment for Gascoyne Snapper Fishery;
- review compliance delivery processes for the Shark Bay Marine Park in light of new operating environment in Ningaloo Marine Park; and
- finalise the review of the Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Managed Fishery.

INTERNATIONAL Operations

The Department of Fisheries is responsible for delivering fisheries compliance operations in six Commonwealth fisheries programs, within the 200 nautical mile Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) through service delivery arrangements with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

These involve, but are not limited to, areas of the AFZ adjacent to mainland Western Australia, the external territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos/Keeling group of islands, and Heard and McDonald Islands situated in the sub-Antarctic region.

The compliance operations programs managed by the International Operations Group were the Heard and McDonald Islands; Southern and Western Tuna and Billfish; Southern Bluefin Tuna; Northern Prawn Fishery; Australian Fishing Zone Programs; and Apprehensions and Prosecutions.

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

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

The Department of Fisheries has maintained a dedicated team of 10 specialised staff to carry out these duties. However, the Commonwealth Government has decided to withdraw from the current service delivery arrangements for the foreign fishing compliance program that it has with State governments around Australia.

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

AFMA has indicated that the foreign fishing compliance program delivered by Western Australia will be progressively “wound-down” and finalised during 2005/06. Some International Operations group officers may transfer to the new Darwin-based team. Others, however, will transfer to positions within the domestic compliance program. These officers will be an asset to the domestic program because of their high level of skill.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2004/05

- apprehended 15 Indonesian fishing vessels and one vessel was dealt with at-sea by administrative seizure. Actual numbers are down considerably due to a significant reduction in the level of access to vessels by International Operations officers;
- involvement in Operation Clearwater to the north of Darwin and the Gulf of Carpentaria due to large increases in illegal, unregulated and unreported activity in the area. The Operation was a joint task involving a number of agencies. A total of 29 vessels were apprehended over a two-week period and escorted to either Darwin or Gove for investigation;
- appeals brought by the owner of the Patagonian Toothfish longliner, Volga, were dealt with in the Criminal and Federal Courts of Australia after three and a half years. These resulted in finding in favour of the Commonwealth. The Volga, its catch and equipment were ordered to be forfeited to the Crown;
- conducted 36 vessel inspections for logbook compliance and catch composition in the Southern and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery. Seven processor inspections were also conducted and surveillance flights were undertaken to ensure compliance with permit conditions;
- undertook net measuring checks prior to equipment being deployed to sea in the Northern Prawn Fishery; and
- trained selected members of the Australian Customs Service Southern Ocean Marine Patrol Response unit in sub-Antarctic foreign fishing vessel boarding and investigation techniques continued.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2005/06

- development and implementation of a strategy to increase compliance of illegal, unlicensed and unregulated fishing in Australia's sub-Antarctic regions;
- review and assess illegal foreign fishing activities with regard to Indonesian fishers and future changes to their operations;
- upgrade and implement strategies to address issues of non-compliance by foreign operators in the Christmas and Cocos Island regions of Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone;
- promote formal in-country discussion with respect to alternative fisheries-based livelihoods for Indonesian fishers;
- review and develop training needs for core client groups; and
- develop and establish strategies to efficiently address monitoring, control and surveillance needs arising from the implementation of international fisheries management legislation.

RESEARCH Division

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

In 2004/05 development of a new \$16 million leading-edge fisheries and marine research laboratory was completed. This facility also contains a significant public education interface including an exhibition hall, training and activity areas for school groups and volunteers along with viewing access to working laboratories and research aquarium areas. This new complex is the first in Australia to combine research laboratories and education facilities to provide direct community access to the scientific basis for the conservation and management of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

The Research Division's 120-plus staff members are structured in four expertise-based branches. Research projects are carried out through multi-disciplinary teams.

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

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

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

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

Invertebrate Fisheries

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

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



Finfish Fisheries

The Finfish Fisheries Branch undertakes research to underpin management of the State's diverse finfish resources and facilitates fisheries chemistry projects to support finfish research and environmental management. Stocks researched include the tropical shallow and deep-water snappers, sharks, salmon

and herring, pelagic stocks (pilchards, whitebait, mackerel) and coastal embayment and estuarine stocks.

These are harvested by commercial fishers supplying local markets, the recreational fishing sector and the newly-managed recreational charter sector. Much of this research work relates to stocks that are the focus of the Department of Fisheries' Integrated Fisheries Management Strategy.

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

Aquaculture Development and Fisheries Environment

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

The Aquaculture Development and Fisheries Environment Branch is involved in the development of fish feeds, fish disease identification and testing, trout and trochus stock enhancement, monitoring of the recreational marron stock and its environment and Aboriginal aquaculture development. Staff also maintain a database of aquaculture production statistics, and manage the Department's marine aquarium and scientific workshop facilities.

The Aquaculture Development and Fisheries Environment Branch has staff based at a number of sites around the State, including Hillarys research and education centre, Department of Agriculture laboratories (fish pathology), Challenger TAFE in Fremantle (mariculture group), Broome TAFE and the Department's major freshwater research centre at Pemberton.

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

Stock Assessment and Data Analysis

The Stock Assessment and Data Analysis Branch provides support for the Research Division in the fields of statistical design and analysis; population dynamics and stock assessment; library services; and research information systems and information technology. It assesses the status of all fish stocks in Western Australia.

This group maintains the Department's extensive commercial fisheries databases and undertakes leading-edge research into the development of fisheries stock assessment models and sustainability reporting techniques.

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

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2004/05

- submitted successful applications for external funding for priority research from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) and other sources worth about \$2.7 million;
- completed the following externally funded research studies which are now being utilised in the Department's management and development processes:
 - the implementation and assessment of Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) in the Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf trawl fisheries;
 - the age, growth, reproductive biology and stock assessment of grass emperor, *Lethrinus laticaudis*, in Shark Bay;
 - the biology and stock assessment of the thickskin (sandbar) shark, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, in Western Australia;
 - replacement of Artemia (brine shrimp) in larval rearing of marine finfish;
 - nutritional management of barramundi;
 - scientific input to the development of a range of aquaculture projects for indigenous communities in the Kimberley; and
 - assessment of improving indigenous trochus fisheries through relocation of broodstock in the Kimberley.
- developed an ESD Assessment Manual for wild capture fisheries and an ESD Framework for aquaculture;
- successfully re-established marron and other freshwater stocks in the refurbished Waroona Dam, in collaboration with the Water Corporation;
- completed a blue swimmer crab recreational survey in the South West;
- coordinated with industry partners the first commercial-scale marine prawn farming harvest in Western Australia;
- developed and marketed an automated larval finfish feeds dispenser; and
- organised an international workshop on hatchery feeds and systems.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2005/06

- a new study to determine the most cost-effective method for undertaking recreational fishing surveys in the West Coast bioregion;
- collaborative research with Murdoch University to develop methods of assessing the ecosystem impacts of fishing using data collected by commercial fishers;
- a joint project with Edith Cowan University on space-time analysis of prawns and scallops in Shark Bay for fisheries management;
- a new research project on the management of bio-eroding sponges in wild stocks of pearl oysters;
- scientific input into national forums aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of shark stocks to meet Australian and international objectives;
- a program of captive breeding of the endangered 'hairy' marron sub-species from the Margaret River area; and
- a series of new fish health projects dealing with translocation and biosecurity issues in relation to aquarium fish.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND Policy Branch

The Strategic Planning and Policy Branch is responsible for ensuring the preparation and periodic review of the Department's Strategic Plan and supporting business and operational plans in consultation with relevant divisions.

It is also responsible for the development of policy advice on a wide range of issues that have implications for fish resources management in WA and the Department's capacity to deliver stated outputs and outcomes. In addition, the Branch has an overview role in relation to the Department's budget planning process and financial settings, and is responsible for management of the internal audit function.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2004/05

- developed a Sustainability Action Plan in accordance with the State Sustainability Strategy;
- managed Phase 2 of the Australian Seafood Strategy for Export Growth project on behalf of the National Food Industry Strategy Ltd;
- finalised reports on the nature and extent of rights to fish in Western Australia and the development of a unit register of fishing entitlements;
- implemented an upgraded Risk Register and internal policies for its management;
- developed a Department of Fisheries Pricing of Goods and Services Policy;
- provided advice to the Commonwealth/State bilateral negotiations regarding indigenous service delivery;
- facilitated the development of a strategic plan for the Fishers with Disabilities program; and
- assisted with the planning and development of a "changing community perceptions" initiative in conjunction with the commercial fishing industry

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2005/06

- finalise a review of fees and charges in the pearling industry in consultation with industry;
- develop a new Fish Resources Management Bill and Pearling Management Bill and regulations;
- implement approved recommendations arising from the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy and development of customary fishing arrangements on a regional basis;
- publish a final report on fish welfare following stakeholder responses to a discussion paper on the subject;
- liaise with the Commonwealth National Oceans Office through the Department of Premier and Cabinet to provide input into the regional marine plan for the southern coast of Western Australia;
- assist in the development of legislative training course for fishing industry participants; and
- finalise processes to enable clients to access and interact on an online basis with the existing licence register.

WHO WE ARE AND
WHAT WE DO

REPORT ON OPERATIONS
- OUTPUTS

REPORT ON OPERATIONS
- SERVICES

REPORT ON
CORPORATE SERVICES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PERFORMANCE
INDICATORS

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APPENDICES

CORPORATE AND Community Relations

The Corporate and Community Relations Branch (CCRB) aims to encourage the knowledge, values and attitudes that reinforce sustainable community behaviour in the aquatic environment. The Branch plays a strategic communications role in all the Department's programs, keeping the Western Australian community and key stakeholders abreast of developments in fisheries management, research and compliance, and engaging the community in policy and planning processes.

Key activities during the year focused on the delivery of targeted communication strategies to more than 45 per cent of the WA community with a direct interest in fishing and the aquatic environment, and the planning and development of a series of innovative community education programs primarily targeting recreational fishers.

Activities included media liaison, advertising, coordination of launches for various initiatives, attendance at key public and community events, coordination of the Volunteer

Fisheries Liaison Officer (VFLO) program, community education activities and the delivery of a significant popular and technical publishing program through print and e-media.

Major programs during the year included the planning and delivery of communication and education strategies to support:

- changes to marine recreational fisheries management in the Gascoyne and West Coast bioregions;
- management of the licensed marron, rock lobster, abalone, southern freshwater finfish and recreational net fisheries;
- management of pink snapper fisheries in Cockburn Sound and Shark Bay's inner gulfs;
- management of recreational barramundi fishing in the Kimberley region;
- changes to management of the State's commercial wetline fishery;
- management of the State's major commercial fisheries including rock lobster, abalone, and Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf prawn trawl fisheries;
- the State Government's shark safety program;
- the Department's statutory reporting, strategic planning and staff communications programs;
- the Fishing Gear Tsunami Appeal;
- the State Government's regional fishing clinic initiative;
- Fishwatch initiative and compliance activities;
- science communication activities for Department of Fisheries research programs and projects;
- commencement of the first phase in the Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) initiative;
- National Volunteer Week; and
- more than 100 community education activities including workshops, fishing clinics and public events across the State.

The Branch also moved its base of operations from head office to the new fisheries research and education facility at the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories, and continued the development of plans for a new marine discovery centre and associated suite of environmental education activities.



Glen Jakovich (second from left) promoting volunteering in the field, with a group of VFLOs.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2004/05

- coordinated the Department's award-winning stand at the "WA on Show" exhibition in August 2004;
- successfully staged the Minister's Industry Reward and Recognition program and event;
- relaunched a revitalised *Western Fisheries Magazine* with a greater emphasis on science communication and environmental education;
- received another 'Lonnie Award' (for transparency and accountability) for the Department's 2003/04 Annual Report;
- completed an overhaul of the design, content and architecture of the Department's web site to present a more flexible, faster and more user-friendly information resource; and
- restructured the Branch role and functions to meet the joint challenges of a developing Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) and IFM agenda along with a new approach to community education and the management of a major public tourism and education facility.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2005/06

- finalise an overall community education strategy for the Department, integrating current and proposed volunteer programs, the marine discovery centre at Hillarys and opportunities presented by the State's new schools curriculum framework;
- review, develop and support volunteer programs and education activities to support overall community education and participation objectives;
- further develop *Western Fisheries Magazine* as a key science communication strategy and educational resource;
- coordinate the Department's involvement in key public events such as launches for major initiatives, the Perth, Mandurah and Hillarys boat shows, regional expos and relevant conferences;
- complete stage one in the implementation of the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre including educational resources, displays and activity programs; and
- continue with planning and delivery of communication strategies to support key departmental initiatives and fisheries management.

REGISTRAR AND General Counsel

Registrar

A primary function of the Registrar is to keep a register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases, pursuant to Part 12 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA)*. Day-to-day registry operations are performed by officers of the Licensing Branch under the authority of the Registrar.

Appendix 3 of this report outlines the relevant provisions of the Act and lists the activities that have taken place under those provisions during the reporting period.

From 1 July 2005, the Manager, Legal and Registry Services will also be appointed as the Registrar.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2005/06

- assist with the development of a unit register for commercial fisheries;
- undertake a review of fees for extracts from the register;
- audit the use of names on register and manage resulting issues (for example, related to deceased estates, family trusts and use of business names); and
- coordinate development of an online register service.

General Counsel

The General Counsel had three main functions:

- provide strategic and operational legal advice and legal policy to the Minister, Executive Director and officers of the Department of Fisheries on a range of matters concerning the legislation administered by the Department and legislation and other law affecting the Department's activities;
- manage litigation in which the Department is the defendant or plaintiff; and
- manage the Fisheries Objection Tribunal process and represent the Executive Director in tribunal matters.

Due to a restructure of legal, drafting, licensing and Registrar functions, there will be no General Counsel from 1 July 2005.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2004/05

- continued work on development of leases at the Abrolhos Islands.

State Administrative Tribunal

The Fisheries Objection Tribunal was replaced on 1 January 2005 by the State Administrative Tribunal. This is a general standing tribunal which has jurisdiction to deal with a wide variety of matters, including the review of fisheries licensing decisions. A number of associated changes were made to the *Fish Resources Management Act* including a move from "proposed" decisions to decisions.

A significant number of Fisheries Objections Tribunal matters were transitioned to be dealt with by the State Administrative Tribunal. Twelve of these matters have been completed in the first six months of the State Administrative Tribunal.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2004/05

- prepared papers for the transition of a significant number of outstanding Fisheries Objections Tribunal matters to the State Administrative Tribunal.

MAJOR INITIATIVE FOR 2005/06

- resolve outstanding matters transitioned from the Fisheries Objections Tribunal.

Legislation And Drafting Unit

The Legislation and Drafting Unit is a specialised branch that provides a number of services to the Minister, Executive Director, Director of Fisheries Management Services and other Department staff.

These services include:

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

Following an external review in 2004/05 of the delivery of legal services within the Department, the Legislation and Drafting Unit will be merged with the Department's Licensing and Registrar areas to form a Legal and Registry Services Unit operational from 1 July 2005.

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

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2004/05

- developed drafting orders to prohibit fishing activities in areas of the Ningaloo Marine Park;
- drafted and gazetted the South Coast Estuarine Fishery Management Plan 2005;
- development Statewide "filleting at sea" regulations in connection with the management and protection of special and high-risk finfish stocks;
- reviewed and approved statutory forms for various licensing and other applications;
- conducted training seminars throughout the State to assist Department staff understand fisheries legislation; and
- continued to play a lead role in access to legislation issues and assisted the improvement of public and internal access to current and unofficially consolidated subsidiary fisheries legislation. The unit also reviewed and repealed obsolete legislation.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2005/06

- prepare and implement further Marine Reserves legislation and develop Cocos and Christmas Island legislation;
- develop and implement regional recreational regulations for the South Coast and Pilbara / Kimberley regions;
- develop and introduce a legislative scheme of entitlement into the *Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2004*;
- provide further training seminars for Department staff involved in the development of legislation, to assist them understand the legislation process;
- continue to review access to legislation issues with a view to improving public and internal access to current and unofficially consolidated fisheries legislation as well as continuing the review and repeal of obsolete legislation; and
- develop and implement a range of legislation for the protection and management of shark stocks, and provide advice relating to relevant Joint Authority matters.

Licensing

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

In 2004/05 the Branch continued to explore more efficient ways to manage its service delivery. Work has been taking place to enable recreational fishing licences to be purchased on-line through the Department's website from October 2005. This will not only lead to a reduction in licensing costs, but also provide greater access to licensing facilities for Fisheries clients.

Recreational Fishing

More than 62,500 varying combinations of recreational fishing licences were issued during 2004/05.

In 2001 the renewal of recreational fishing licences went live on the Department of Fisheries website in conjunction with WA Fast Pay. In 2004/05 a total of 6,915 licences were renewed on the Internet, compared to 5,536 in the previous reporting period.

Commercial Licensing

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

At 30 June 2005, there were 1,539 Fishing Boat Licences.

Amendments to managed fishery plans and fisheries legislation are ongoing. It is therefore necessary to modify internal computer programs and re-assess application forms and the way the Licensing Branch conducts its business with the commercial fishing industry.

Aquaculture Licensing

In 2004/05 there were 353 freehold licences and 115 non-freehold licences issued. This is made up of 288 marron licenses and 65 others (including yabby, silver perch, trout, ornamental fish). This represents a decrease of only one aquaculture licence from the previous reporting period of 2003/04.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2004/05

- installed an internal tracking system to monitor commercial licence applications. The new system should lead to a reduction in application processing times and enable Licensing Officers to monitor the progress of applications under consideration;
- work continued on the development of the issue process for recreational fishing licences to be granted on-line through the Department's website. It is anticipated that the new system will go live in October 2005;
- continued to manage the licensing renewal program by sending out renewal notices for a multitude of recreational and commercial fishery licences and aquaculture licences in a timely manner; and
- the Fisheries Licensing and Management system (FLAMS) continued to be modified and enhanced to incorporate changes brought about through the advancement of fisheries and aquaculture management.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2005/06

- establish a Licensing and Register service area at the new Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys;
- introduce the granting of Recreational Fishing Licences on the Department's website;
- record pearling and aquaculture leases to be recorded on the Fisheries Licensing and Management System;
- develop an on-line register inspection facility; and
- develop an on-line renewal process for Commercial Fishing Licences.



Report on Corporate Services

Customer Service Council

Human Resources

Capital Works Program

CUSTOMER SERVICE Council

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

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

Our Policy

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

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

Consisting of senior Department staff and representatives from peak industry and recreational fishing groups, the Council was instrumental in the development of a customer service charter. The charter established procedures for the effective management and resolution of complaints and feedback by members of the public. The charter, known as the Feedback Management Policy, meets the criteria for effective Complaints Handling laid down by the *Australian Standard (AS 4269-1995)*.

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

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

The Feedback Management System

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

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

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

Overview 2004/05

For the past financial year 20 compliments, five suggestions and seven complaints were submitted through the Feedback Management System.

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

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

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

HUMAN RESOURCES AND Staff Relations

The approved annual staffing level for the year was the equivalent of 434 full-time employees.

**TABLE I – DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
PERMANENT AND FIXED TERM
EMPLOYEES (BY CLASSIFICATION,
LEVEL AND GENDER) AS AT
30 JUNE 2005.**

Level	Female	Male	Total Employees
1	32 (40)	11 (13)	43 (53)
2	42 (35)	46 (43)	88 (78)
2/4	4 (6)	4 (2)	8 (8)
3	35 (33)	70 (100)	105 (133)
4	15 (13)	48 (45)	63 (58)
5	11 (11)	29 (21)	40 (32)
6	5 (10)	27 (22)	32 (32)
7	7 (3)	22 (16)	29 (19)
8	3 (2)	19 (17)	22 (19)
9	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Class I & above	0 (0)	3 (3)	3 (3)
TOTAL	154 (153)	280 (282)	434 (435)

Figures in brackets denote comparative figures at 30 June 2004

Staff Relations

A major restructuring of the Regional Services Branch was completed during the latter half of 2004. The new structure provides enhanced career opportunities for Fisheries and Marine Officers and should enable the Department to continue to attract and retain high calibre staff to support the compliance and education role of the Regional Services Branch.

The Department is in the process of negotiating with the Civil Service Association to update the 2003 Agency Specific Agreement under which staff currently work. The flexibility provided under the 2003 Agency Specific Agreement has enabled the Department to deliver services, particularly those delivered in the field, more efficiently and effectively whilst allowing for improved pay and conditions for staff.

Implementation of the Government's Shared Service Centre model, for which the Department of Fisheries is a pilot agency, is expected to provide both challenges and rewards in the year ahead.

Occupational Safety and Health

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

The Department's Marine Operations Safety Policy and Manual, and Diving Policy and Manual are two of the key OSH policies that were reviewed by the Committee this year. Diving activities are inherently hazardous in nature. The Department's Dive Control Group, together with endorsement from the OSH Committee and Agency Executive Group (AEG), have increased the minimum training requirements for staff involved in diving activities as part of their core duties. The year has seen a remodified Dive Manual and intensive annual training program designed and implemented in order to control the risk of injury from a diving accident.

The number of workers' compensation claims lodged with the Department and the number of lost time injuries has significantly decreased from last year. There were 11 claims for the year, only three of which resulted in lost time. The Department's Human Resources Branch has continued to focus on early intervention strategies to ensure that employees receive the assistance they need to make a speedy recovery from work related injuries or personal illness.

TABLE 2 – DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM HISTORY 2000 – 2005

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
TOTAL CLAIMS	23	16	12	17	11
LOST TIME INJURIES	7	9	4	9	3
LOST TIME HOURS PER MILLION HOURS WORKED	6960.60	5418.30	1618.90	6023.30	3317.70
W/C PREMIUM \$ 000	338	482*	568**	(357)***	(15)****

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

** The Workers Compensation premium for 2002/03 comprises of the premium rate \$235,811 plus an arrears adjustment from 1997/98 of \$332,664 resulting in a total premium of \$568,475.

*** The Workers Compensation premium for 2003/04 comprises of the premium rate \$226,811 plus an arrears adjustment from 1999/00 of (\$584,517) resulting in a total premium of (\$357,706). The Department has been credited \$357,706 from RiskCover for the 2003/04 workers' compensation premium.

**** The Workers Compensation premium for 2004/05 comprises of the premium rate \$194,549 plus an arrears adjustment from 2001/02 of (\$209,970) resulting in a total premium of (\$15,421). The Department has been credited \$15,421 from RiskCover for the 04/05 workers' compensation premium.

Corporate Training and Leadership

The Department of Fisheries has completed another year of the corporate leadership and management program, designed to maximise the Department's flexibility to cope with increasing public sector change.

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

The corporate training initiatives undertaken this year as part of the program included supervisor development training for officers Levels 2–4 based on the Certificate III in Business, frontline management training for officers Level 4+ based on the Diploma in Business and training relating to recruitment, selection and appointment.

Certificate III in the Seafood Industry (Fisheries Compliance)

The Department of Fisheries and Challenger TAFE have continued an arrangement where current skills, knowledge, experience and qualifications gained through work as a Fisheries and Marine Officer can now be assessed to prove an officer's competency in units of the Certificate III in the Seafood Industry (Fisheries Compliance) qualification. At present, over a third of the Fisheries and Marine Officers have gained the qualification.

Long Serving Fisheries Staff

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

20 years +

Theo Berden	Kerrie Colwell	Tom Morris*
Chris Bird	Mike Cranley	Shane O'Donoghue
Stuart Blight	Kevin Donohue	Phil Readhead
Paul Boase	Laurie Edwards	Mark Rossbach
Gary Brown	Greg Finlay	Neil Sarti
Rae Burrows	Ken Gittens	Gerry Segers
Laurie Caporn	Peter Godfrey	Phil Shaw
Tony Cappelluti	Graeme Hall	Errol Sporer
Rod Casey	Paul Hillier	Bruce Stevenson
Chris Chubb	Tony Lemmon	Robert Tregonning
Tony Church	Eric Loughton	Bruce Webber
Mark Cliff	Gordon Lymn	

30 years+

Derek Blackman	Tony Goadby	Kerry Knapp
John Breeden	Peter Johnsen	John Mutter
Nick Caputi	Lindsay Joll	John Looby
Kevin Carhart	Barry Jones	Peter Rogers
George Cassells	Phil Kelly	Peter Willey
Alex Cechner	Bob Kirk	John Williams

40 years +

Eric Barker
Rod Lenanton
Jim Penn

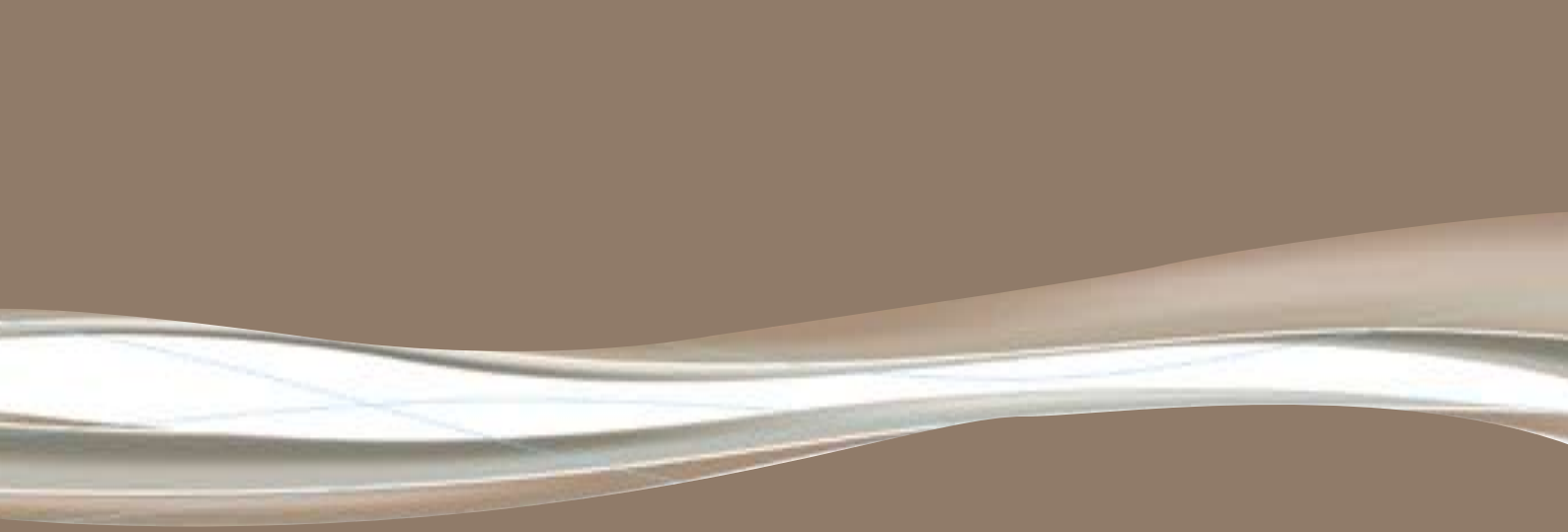
* Tom Morris passed away June 2005.

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

CAPITAL WORKS Program

The 2004/05 Capital Works Program budget totalled \$20.8 million with actual expenditure of \$15.4 million. The table below details the projects designed to provide the necessary infrastructure support to enable the Department to deliver against the budgeted outputs. The nature of capital works is such that expenditure crosses financial year boundaries and contributes to the variation against budget.

Project Description	Planned Expenditure \$'000	Actual Expenditure \$'000
Small Boats, Outboards and Trailers	\$1,462	\$810
Fremantle Operations Centre	\$2,078	\$1,229
Fit-out and Equipment Program	\$985	\$483
New Research and Education Facility	\$10,799	\$10,970
Abrolhos Islands Capital Program	\$2,151	\$331
Information Technology	\$2,480	\$1,366
Aquaculture – Regional Initiatives and Aquaculture Park Upgrades	\$381	\$59
Operational Equipment	\$285	\$151
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program	\$32	\$0
Communications Equipment	\$59	\$24
Recreational Fishing Initiatives	\$55	\$3
Total Capital Works Program	\$20,767	\$15,426



Financial Statements

Certification of Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

The accompanying financial statements of the Department of Fisheries have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2005 and the financial position as at 30 June 2005.

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



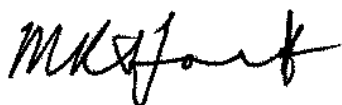
Bruno Mezzatesta BBus FCPA GAICD
Principal Accounting Officer

8 August 2005



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

8 August 2005



Mark K Holt Dip LG(c) AIMM
A/Manager Financial Services

8 August 2005



AUDITOR GENERAL

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the controls exercised by the Department of Fisheries provide reasonable assurance that the receipt and expenditure of moneys, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (ii) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and the Treasurer's Instructions, the financial position of the Department at 30 June 2005 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Scope

The Executive Director's Role

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

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

Summary of my Role

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

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

D D R PEARSON
AUDITOR GENERAL
9 September 2005

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

Statement of Financial Performance

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

COST OF SERVICES	Note	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employee expenses	4	28,595	24,915
Supplies and services (a)	5	14,255	13,641
Depreciation and amortisation expense	6	1,838	1,568
Borrowing costs expense	7	114	135
Accommodation expenses	8	1,564	1,635
Grants and subsidies	9	4,150	3,948
Capital User Charge	10	3,781	3,192
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	11	320	128
Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed	12	430	488
Total cost of services		<u>55,047</u>	<u>49,650</u>
Revenues from ordinary activities			
<i>Revenue from operating activities</i>			
User charges and fees	13	23,752	23,328
Grants and contributions	14	3,725	2,838
		<u>27,477</u>	<u>26,166</u>
<i>Revenue from non-operating activities</i>			
Other revenues from ordinary activities	15	891	1,005
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets	12	325	320
		<u>1,216</u>	<u>1,325</u>
Total revenues from ordinary activities		<u>28,693</u>	<u>27,491</u>
NET COST OF SERVICES		26,354	22,159
REVENUES FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service Appropriations	16	23,869	22,460
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	16	427	289
Resources received free of charge	17	408	264
Total revenues from State Government		<u>24,704</u>	<u>23,013</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		<u>(1,650)</u>	<u>854</u>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Asset Revaluation Reserve		<u>1,089</u>	<u>2,856</u>
Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity		<u>1,089</u>	<u>2,856</u>
TOTAL CHANGES IN EQUITY OTHER THAN THOSE RESULTING FROM TRANSACTIONS WITH WA STATE GOVERNMENT AS OWNERS.		<u>(561)</u>	<u>3,710</u>

(a) Administration expenses are included in supplies & services

The Statement of Financial Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2005

	Note	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Assets	18	10,891	16,747
Restricted Cash Assets	19	1,631	1,897
Receivables	20	713	880
Amounts Receivable for Services	21	1,328	1,282
Prepayments	22	255	228
Total current assets		<u>14,818</u>	<u>21,034</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Amounts Receivable for Services	21	3,870	2,432
Property, plant and equipment and vehicles	23	43,530	30,054
Total non-current assets		<u>47,400</u>	<u>32,486</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		62,218	53,520
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	24	1,237	1,007
Interest Bearing Liabilities	25	167	155
Provisions	26	4,032	3,228
Other Liabilities	27	44	827
Total current liabilities		<u>5,480</u>	<u>5,217</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Interest Bearing Liabilities	25	1,186	1,354
Provisions	26	2,608	2,394
Total non-current liabilities		<u>3,794</u>	<u>3,748</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>9,274</u>	<u>8,965</u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	29	23,145	14,195
Reserves	30	11,092	10,003
Accumulated surplus	28	18,707	20,357
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>52,944</u>	<u>44,555</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		<u>62,218</u>	<u>53,520</u>

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

Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Note	2005 Inflows (Outflows) \$'000	2004 Inflows (Outflows) \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service Appropriations	16	21,103	20,155
Capital Contributions	29	8,950	5,000
Holding account drawdowns	21	1,282	3,085
Net cash provided by State Government		31,335	28,240
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee costs		(27,932)	(24,073)
Supplies and Services		(13,693)	(13,592)
Borrowing costs		(114)	(243)
Accommodation		(1,564)	(1,635)
Grants and subsidies		(4,150)	(3,948)
Capital User Charge		(3,781)	(3,192)
GST Payments on purchases		(3,393)	(2,381)
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks		(320)	(128)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		23,752	23,233
Grants and contributions		3,702	2,673
Interest Received		891	1,005
GST Receipts on sales		598	560
GST Receipts from taxation authority		2,982	1,501
Net cash used in operating activities	31	(23,022)	(20,220)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchases of non-current physical assets		(14,604)	(5,615)
Proceeds from the sale of non-current physical assets	12	325	320
Net cash used in investing activities		(14,279)	(5,295)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment – Fisheries Adjustment Scheme (FAS)		(1,382)	
Repayment of Principal – Leases		(156)	(144)
Amounts received from FAS participants		1,500	
Net cash provided by financing activities		(156)	(26)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(6,122)	2,699
Cash Assets at the beginning of the financial year		18,644	15,945
Cash Assets at the end of the financial year	18,19	12,522	18,644

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



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Output Schedule of Expenses and Revenue

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	COMMERCIAL		RECREATIONAL	
COST OF SERVICES	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Expenses from ordinary activities				
Employee expenses	13,935	12,979	8,111	6,171
Supplies and services	6,502	6,717	4,246	3,413
Depreciation and amortisation	839	812	216	380
Borrowing costs expense	56	76	31	31
Accommodation expenses	770	866	430	388
Grants and subsidies	3,150	3,172	440	304
FAS Buybacks	157	128	88	0
Capital User Charge	1,460	1,657	1,439	796
Other expenses from ordinary activities	213	253	118	122
Total cost of services	27,082	26,660	15,119	11,605
Revenues from ordinary activities				
User charges and fees	17,509	16,164	2,490	2,659
Grants and contributions	1,934	1,542	617	405
Other revenues from ordinary activities	598	525	114	249
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets	218	166	42	80
Total revenues from ordinary activities	20,259	18,397	3,263	3,393
NET COST OF SERVICES	6,823	8,263	11,856	8,212
REVENUES FROM STATE GOVERNMENT				
Service Appropriations	5,858	8,375	10,989	8,324
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	286	108	55	107
Resources received free of charge	274	99	52	98
Total revenues from State Government	6,418	8,582	11,096	8,529
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	(405)	319	(760)	317
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(405)	319	(760)	317

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

PEARLING AND AQUACULTURE		FISH AND FISH HABITAT PROTECTION		TOTAL	
2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
4,445	4,361	2,104	1,404	28,595	24,915
2,472	2,604	1,032	907	14,252	13,641
514	275	271	101	1,840	1,568
18	21	8	7	113	135
253	290	113	91	1,566	1,635
452	342	107	130	4,149	3,948
52	0	23	0	320	128
610	545	272	194	3,781	3,192
69	83	31	30	431	488
8,885	8,521	3,961	2,864	55,047	49,650
3,661	4,034	92	471	23,752	23,328
871	801	303	90	3,725	2,838
166	170	13	61	891	1,005
60	55	5	19	325	320
4,758	5,060	413	641	28,693	27,491
4,127	3,461	3,548	2,223	26,354	22,159
3,714	3,508	3,308	2,253	23,869	22,460
80	45	6	29	427	289
76	41	6	26	408	264
3,870	3,594	3,320	2,308	24,704	23,013
(257)	133	(228)	85	(1,650)	854
(257)	133	(228)	85	(1,650)	854

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Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations and Revenue Estimates

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Estimate \$'000	2005 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	2005 Actual \$'000	2004 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Item DELIVERY OF SERVICES						
47 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	23,464	23,714	250	23,714	20,314	3,400
Section 25 transfer of appropriation		0	1,996	(1,996)		
Amount authorised by other statutes						
– <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	155	155	0	155	150	5
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	23,619	23,869	250	23,869	22,460	1,409
CAPITAL						
131 Capital Contribution	7,150	8,950	(1,800)	8,950	5,000	3,950
GRAND TOTAL	30,769	32,819	(1,550)	32,819	27,460	5,359
Details of Expenditure by Service						
Management of the State's Commercial Fisheries	27,536	27,082	(454)	27,082	26,660	422
Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries	14,300	15,119	819	15,119	11,605	3,514
Development and promotion of the State's Aquaculture Industry	8,255	8,885	630	8,885	8,521	364
Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat	2,328	3,961	1,633	3,961	2,864	1,097
Total Cost of Services	52,419	55,047	2,628	55,047	49,650	5,397
Less Total Revenue from Ordinary Activities	(27,990)	(28,693)	(703)	(28,693)	(27,491)	(1,202)
Adjustment for movement in cash balances and other accrual items	(810)	(2,485)	(1,675)	(2,485)	301	(2,786)
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	23,619	23,869	250	23,869	22,460	1,409
	Estimate \$'000	2005 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	2005 Actual \$'000	2004 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Capital Expenditure						
Purchase of Non-Current physical Assets	20,364	14,652	5,712	14,652	5,700	8,952
Adjustment for movement in cash balances and other funding sources				0	(700)	700
Capital Contribution (appropriation)	20,364	14,652	5,712	14,652	6,400	8,252

This summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations, Variations to Budget and Actual should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

This Summary provides the basis for the Explanatory Statement information requirements of T1 945 which are set out in Note 35.

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

1 DEPARTMENTAL MISSION AND FUNDING

The Department's mission is as follows:

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

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

2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General Statement

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

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

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

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AAS 29 'Financial Reporting by Government Departments'.

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

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

(a) Service Appropriations

Service appropriations are recognised as revenues in the period in which the Department gains control of the appropriated funds. The Department gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited into the Department's bank account or credited to the holding account held at the Department of Treasury and Finance. Refer to Note 16 for further commentary on service appropriations

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(b) Contributed Equity

Under UIG 38 “Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities” transfers in the nature of equity contributions must be designated by the Government (owners) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions in the financial statements. Capital contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity in the Statement of Financial Position. *Capital appropriations which are repayable to the Treasurer are recognised as liabilities. Refer to Note 29 for further commentary on the application of UIG 38 and TI 955.*

(c) Net Appropriation Determination

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

- GST receipts on sales and input credits

In accordance with the determination, the Department retained \$3.58m in 2004-05 (\$2.061m in 2003-04)

Retained revenues may only be applied to the services specified in the 2004-05 Budget Statements.

(d) Grants and Other Contributions

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

Contributions are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

(e) Revenue Recognition

Revenue from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets and the rendering of services is recognised when the Department has passed control of the goods or other assets or delivery of the service to the customer. Fees paid for access to managed fisheries are levied on a seasonal, not financial year, basis and may be paid in instalments. The revenue for access fees is recognised at the time of receipt.

(f) Non Current Assets

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

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

Revaluation of Land and Buildings

The Department has a policy of valuing land and buildings at fair value. The annual revaluations of the Department's land and buildings undertaken by the Valuer General's Office for the Government Property Register are recognised in the financial statements.

Revaluation of Other Assets

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

Depreciation of non current assets

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

Expected useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

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

(g) Employee benefits

Annual leave

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

Long service leave

The Department, in accordance with AAS30 and AASB1028, had the present value of its long service leave liability estimated by PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2004, using actuarial methodology. Over the next two years, the Department will be using the relevant short-hand method for measurement of long service leave liability. This is the sum of unconditional long service leave for all employees at current remuneration rates (including on-costs) plus pro-rata long service leave for all employees with three or more years of service at current remuneration rates (including on-costs). The accuracy of this methodology will be re-checked no later than 30 June 2007, and every three years thereafter by a full actuarial assessment.

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

Superannuation

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

The superannuation expense comprises the following elements:

- change in the unfunded employer's liability in respect of current employees who are members of the Pension Scheme and current employees who accrued a benefit on transfer from that Scheme to the Gold State Superannuation Act Scheme; and
- employer contributions paid to the Gold State Superannuation Act Scheme and West State Superannuation Scheme.

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

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

Employee benefit on-costs

Employee benefit on-costs, including payroll tax, are recognised and included in employee benefit liabilities and costs when the employee benefits to which they relate are recognised as liabilities and expenses (See Notes 4 and 26).

(h) Leases

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

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

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

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

(i) Receivables

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

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

(j) Payables

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

(k) Accrued Salaries

The accrued salaries suspense account (refer Note 20) consists of amounts paid annually into a suspense account over a period of 10 financial years to largely meet the additional cash outflow in each eleventh year when 27 pay days occur in that year instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account. As 27 pays occurred in this reporting period the amount was fully drawn in 2004/05 to meet the expense of the 27th pay period.

As the final pay for 2004/05 ended on 30 June 2005, there were no required accruals for salaries as at 30 June 2005.

(l) Resources Received Free of Charge

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

(m) Comparative Figures

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

(n) Cash

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

(o) Investments

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

Interest revenues are recognised as they are accrued.

(p) Interest Bearing Liabilities

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

(q) Rounding of Amounts

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

(r) Cost Recovery – Major Commercial Fisheries

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

3 SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

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

Information about the Department's services, are set out in the Schedule of Expenses and Revenue by Service.

The services of the Department of Fisheries are:

Service 1 **Management of the State's Commercial Fisheries**

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

Service 2 **Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries**

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

Service 3 **Development and promotion of the State's Aquaculture Industry**

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

Service 4 **Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat**

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

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
4 EMPLOYEE EXPENSES		
Wages and salaries	24,242	20,718
Superannuation	2,606	2,393
Shift in Long service leave Provision	573	555
Shift in Annual leave Provision	505	645
Other related expenses (i)	669	604
	<u>28,595</u>	<u>24,915</u>
(i) These employee expenses include superannuation, workers compensation premiums and other employment on-costs associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability. The related on-costs liability is included in employee benefit liabilities at Note 26.		
5 SUPPLIES AND SERVICES		
Communications	868	825
Consultants and contractors	2,435	2,356
Consumables	1,544	1,320
Materials	338	309
Repairs and maintenance	2,422	2,373
Travel	1,796	1,828
Administration	3,708	3,380
Operating lease expenses	748	761
Electricity and water	235	252
Advertising	127	175
Other	34	62
	<u>14,255</u>	<u>13,641</u>
Includes Administration expenses which were previously a separate line item		
6 DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION EXPENSE		
Depreciation		
Furniture	215	327
Plant and equipment	335	351
Small vessels	37	50
Computer equipment	351	281
Buildings	52	58
Major vessels	403	172
Motor vehicles	47	17
Other Construction	126	118
Other	87	8
Total Depreciation	<u>1,653</u>	<u>1,382</u>
Amortisation		
Leased office equipment	0	1
Leased patrol vessel	185	185
Total Amortisation	<u>185</u>	<u>186</u>
	<u>1,838</u>	<u>1,568</u>

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
7 BORROWING COSTS EXPENSE		
Finance lease finance charges	114	125
Interest paid – Fisheries Adjustment Scheme	0	10
	<u>114</u>	<u>135</u>
8 ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES		
Lease rentals	1,564	1,635
	<u>1,564</u>	<u>1,635</u>
9 GRANTS & SUBSIDIES		
Recurrent		
Grants to Educational Institutions (Schools etc)	9	26
Grants to Key Stakeholder Groups	2,070	2,061
Contributions to Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	1,484	1,138
Research Grants	308	400
Other	279	323
	<u>4,150</u>	<u>3,948</u>
10 CAPITAL USER CHARGE		
Capital User Charge	3,781	3,192
	<u>3,781</u>	<u>3,192</u>
A capital user charge rate of 8% has been set by the Government and represents the opportunity cost of capital invested in the net assets of the Department used in the provision of services. The charge is calculated on the net assets adjusted to take account of exempt assets. Payments are made to the Department of Treasury and Finance on a quarterly basis.		
11 FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEME BUYBACKS		
Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Buybacks	<u>320</u>	<u>128</u>
12 NET GAIN / (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets	325	320
Less carrying amount of non-current assets disposed of during the year	430	488
Net gain / (loss) on disposal of non-current assets	<u>(105)</u>	<u>(168)</u>
Gain on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	24	198
Loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	(129)	(366)
Net gain/(loss)	<u>(105)</u>	<u>(168)</u>

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
13 USER CHARGES AND FEES		
Access fees	14,199	13,390
Development of Better Interests Fees	3,500	3,503
Application fees	983	1,067
Licence fees	2,366	2,382
Fees for service	1,489	1,316
Other	1,215	1,670
	<u>23,752</u>	<u>23,328</u>
14 GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS		
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	3,153	2,296
Other	572	542
	<u>3,725</u>	<u>2,838</u>
15 OTHER REVENUES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
Interest received		
Fisheries Research and Development Fund	845	967
AFMA Fund	0	30
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Fund	46	8
	<u>891</u>	<u>1,005</u>
16 REVENUES FROM STATE GOVERNMENT		
Appropriation revenue received during the year :		
Service appropriations (i)	23,869	22,460
	<u>23,869</u>	<u>22,460</u>
The following liabilities have been assumed by the Treasurer during the financial year (ii):		
Superannuation	427	289
Total liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	427	289
	<u>24,296</u>	<u>22,749</u>
(i) Service appropriations are accrual amounts, reflecting the full cost of services purchased by the Government. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.		
(ii) The assumption of the superannuation liability by the Treasurer is only a notional revenue to offset the notional superannuation expense reported in respect of current employees who are members of the pension scheme and current employees who have a transfer benefit entitlement under the Gold State Scheme.		

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	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
17 RESOURCES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE		
Administration expenses	408	264
	<u>408</u>	<u>264</u>
Resources received free of charge has been determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
Department of Justice	340	263
Department of Land Information	1	1
Department of Treasury and Finance	67	0
	<u>408</u>	<u>264</u>
Where assets or services have been received free of charge or for nominal consideration, the Department recognises revenues equivalent to the fair value of the assets and/or the fair value of those services that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated, and those fair values are recognised as assets or expenses, as applicable.		
18 CASH ASSETS		
Advance Account	19	18
Recreational Fishing Fund	12	10
AFMA Fund	172	72
Fisheries Research and Development Fund	10,688	16,647
	<u>10,891</u>	<u>16,747</u>
19 RESTRICTED CASH ASSETS		
<i>Current</i>		
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Fund (i)	573	(74)
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account (ii)	1,058	1,213
Salaries Suspense Account (iii)	0	758
	<u>1,631</u>	<u>1,897</u>
(i) Monies held in the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Fund are not available for operations of the Department as they relate to specific research projects.		
(ii) Monies held in the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account are only available for use as prescribed by the <i>Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987</i> .		
(iii) Amount held in suspense account is only to be used for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years.		
This amount was drawn in 2004/05.		
20 RECEIVABLES		
Amounts receivable for goods and services supplied	359	333
GST Receivable	361	551
	<u>720</u>	<u>884</u>
Less: provision for doubtful debts	(7)	(4)
	<u>713</u>	<u>880</u>

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
21 AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR SERVICES		
Current	1,328	1,282
Non Current	3,870	2,432
	<u>5,198</u>	<u>3,714</u>
This asset 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.		
22 PREPAYMENTS		
Licences and rentals	30	53
Software support/licence	17	0
Management Fee	0	15
Grants	0	2
Lease Patrol Vessel	25	28
Industry Advances	183	130
	<u>255</u>	<u>228</u>
23 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES		
LAND		
Land at fair value (i)	7,541	6,690
	<u>7,541</u>	<u>6,690</u>
BUILDINGS		
At fair value (i)	2,643	2,603
Accumulated depreciation	(53)	(52)
	<u>2,590</u>	<u>2,551</u>
INFRASTRUCTURE		
At cost	2,182	2,008
Accumulated depreciation	(670)	(543)
	<u>1,512</u>	<u>1,465</u>
MAJOR VESSELS		
At fair value (ii)	8,302	8,428
Accumulated depreciation	(593)	(281)
	<u>7,709</u>	<u>8,147</u>
SMALL VESSELS		
At fair value (ii)	280	301
Accumulated depreciation	(82)	(115)
	<u>198</u>	<u>186</u>
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
At cost	4,074	3,629
Accumulated depreciation	(1,863)	(1,560)
	<u>2,211</u>	<u>2,069</u>
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS		
At cost	2,086	2,060
Accumulated depreciation	(1,351)	(1,136)
	<u>735</u>	<u>924</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
23 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES (continued)		
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		
At cost	3,881	3,407
Accumulated depreciation	(3,128)	(2,787)
	<u>753</u>	<u>620</u>
LEASED OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
At capitalised cost	85	84
Accumulated amortisation	(85)	(84)
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
LEASED PATROL VESSEL		
At capitalised cost	1,849	1,848
Accumulated amortisation	(601)	(416)
	<u>1,248</u>	<u>1,432</u>
MOTOR VEHICLES		
At cost	862	810
Accumulated depreciation	(199)	(260)
	<u>663</u>	<u>550</u>
CAPITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS		
At construction cost	18,370	5,420
	<u>18,370</u>	<u>5,420</u>
Total property, plant and equipment and vehicles	<u>43,530</u>	<u>30,054</u>

- (i) The revaluation of freehold land, land improvements and buildings was performed in July 2004 in accordance with an independent valuation by the Valuer General's Office. Fair value has been determined on the basis of market value or current use where market value is not appropriate. The valuation was made in accordance with a regular policy of annual revaluation.
- (ii) A revaluation of large and small vessels was performed in July 2003 in accordance with an independent valuation undertaken by Keith Haslam Pty Ltd

Reconciliation

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

	Carrying amount at start of year \$'000	Additions \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Transfers from WIP \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Deprecn For the year \$'000	Carrying amount at end of year. \$'000
Land	6 690				851		7 541
Major vessels	8 147	90	311	191	73	481	7 709
Small vessels	186	16	7		40	37	198
Plant and Equipment	2 069	494	40		33	345	2 211
Furniture and Fittings	924	26				215	735
Computer Equipment	620	484				351	753
Leased Patrol Vessel	1 432					184	1 248
Buildings	2 551				91	52	2 590
Infrastructure	1 465	173				126	1 512
Motor Vehicles	550	232	72			47	663
Work in progress	5 420	13 141	(191)		18 370		
	30 054	14 656	430	0	1 088	1 838	43 530

2005
\$'000

2004
\$'000

24 PAYABLES

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

1,023	845
214	162
<u>1,237</u>	<u>1,007</u>

25 INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES

Current

Finance Lease Liability

167	155
<u>167</u>	<u>155</u>

Non Current

Finance Lease Liability

1,186	1,354
<u>1,186</u>	<u>1,354</u>

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

Assets pledged as security:

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

Finance Leases

Leased Patrol Vessel

1,248	1,432
<u>1,248</u>	<u>1,432</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
26 PROVISIONS		
Current		
Annual leave	2,020	1,568
Long service leave	1,608	1,330
Other employee benefits (i)	404	330
	<u>4,032</u>	<u>3,228</u>
Non Current		
Long service leave	2,346	2,150
Other employee benefits (i)	262	244
	<u>2,608</u>	<u>2,394</u>
TOTAL PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS	<u>6,640</u>	<u>5,622</u>
<p>(i) The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including superannuation and workers compensation premiums. The liability for such on-costs is included here. The associated expense is included in Other related expenses (under Employee Expenses) at Note 4.</p> <p>The Department considers the carrying amount of employee benefits to approximate the net fair value.</p>		
27 OTHER LIABILITIES		
Accrued salaries	0	782
FBT Accrued	45	45
Infringement Notice collections payable	(1)	0
	<u>44</u>	<u>827</u>
EQUITY		
<p>Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Department. The Government holds the equity interest in the Department on behalf of the community. The asset revaluation reserve represents that portion of equity resulting from the revaluation of non-current assets.</p>		
28 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Opening balance	20,357	19,503
Change in net assets from ordinary activities	(1,650)	854
Closing balance	<u>18,707</u>	<u>20,357</u>

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
29 CONTRIBUTED EQUITY		
Opening balance	14,195	6,891
Capital Contributions (i)	8,950	5,000
Assets assumed (ii)		2,304
Closing balance	<u>23,145</u>	<u>14,195</u>

- (i) Capital Contributions have been designated as contributions by owners and are credited directly to equity in the Statement of Financial Position.
- (ii) Net capital contributed upon restructure, for non-reciprocal transfers after 1 July 2003 (designated as Contributions by Owners in TI 955).

30 RESERVES

Asset Revaluation Reserve

Opening balance	10,003	7,147
Revaluation during the year:		
Land	851	222
Buildings	92	3
Vessels and Plant	146	2,631
Closing balance (i)	<u>11,092</u>	<u>10,003</u>
Total equity	<u>52,944</u>	<u>44,555</u>

- (i) The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets, as described in accounting policy note 2(f).

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
31 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
(a) <u>Reconciliation of cash</u>		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:		
Cash assets	10,891	16,747
Restricted cash assets (refer note 19)	1,631	1,897
	<u>12,522</u>	<u>18,644</u>
(b) Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash in operating activities to net cost of service:		
Net cash (used in)/from operating activities	(23,022)	(20,220)
<u>Non Cash Items</u>		
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	(427)	(289)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(1,838)	(1,568)
Resources received free of charge	(408)	(264)
<u>Increase/(Decrease) in Assets</u>		
Accounts receivable – General	(167)	485
Profit/(Loss) on disposal of assets	(105)	(168)
Prepayments	27	75
<u>(Increase)/Decrease in Liabilities</u>		
Accrued salaries	782	(202)
FBT Accrued	0	(13)
Accrued interest – FAS	0	108
Liability for employee entitlements	(1,018)	(338)
Income in advance – infringement notice collections payable	1	95
Accounts payable – General	(179)	140
Net cost of services	<u>(26,354)</u>	<u>(22,159)</u>

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000

32 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

(a) Capital Expenditure Commitments

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

Within one year	5,341	9,154
Later than one year and not later than five years	0	0
Later than five years	0	0
	<u>5,341</u>	<u>9,154</u>
The capital commitments include amounts for:		
Buildings	<u>849</u>	<u>4,837</u>

(b) Operating Lease commitments

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

Within one year	1,916	1,640
Later than one year and not later than five years	4,705	4,032
**Later than five years	11,064	1,691
	<u>17,685</u>	<u>7,363</u>

** The increase in commitments from 2003/04 is attributed to the new 83 year ground lease for the Research and Education Centre located at Hillary's Boat Harbour

(c) Finance Lease Commitments

Commitments in relation to finance leases are payable as follows:

Within one year	266	266
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,066	1,066
Later than five years	399	666
Minimum lease payments	<u>1,731</u>	<u>1,998</u>
Less Future finance charges	<u>(377)</u>	<u>(489)</u>
Total finance lease liabilities	<u>1,354</u>	<u>1,509</u>

Included in the financial statements as:

Current (note 25)	167	155
Non-current (note 25)	<u>1,186</u>	<u>1,354</u>
	<u>1,353</u>	<u>1,509</u>

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

33 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

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

Contingent Liabilities

- (a) Workers compensation claims are currently pending which have a potential liability of \$250,000. As the Department is insured by Riskcover, these claims are also noted as contingent assets.

In addition to the assets incorporated in the financial statements, the Department has the following contingent assets:

Contingent Assets

- (a) Workers compensation claims are currently pending which have an estimated value of \$250,000. Due to the Department's insurance policy held with Riskcover, it is expected that the disclosed sum will be a receivable, should the claims not be defended. These claims are also noted as contingent liabilities.

34 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER REPORTING DATE

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

35 EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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

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

(a) Significant variances between estimate and actual – total cost of services.

no significant variation

(b) Significant variances between actual and prior year actual – total appropriation to deliver services

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	Variance \$'000
Services			
Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries <i>This service is highly labour dependent and has been impacted by increased employee costs (salary increases and reclassification, increased activity and a specific one off grant for fishing clinics and other recreational activities)</i>	15,119	11,605	3 514
Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat <i>Has been impacted by the recently established Marine Parks</i>	3,961	2,864	1,097

	Actual \$'000	Estimate \$'000	Variance \$'000
(c) Significant variances between estimate and actual – Capital Contribution			
Capital Contribution	8,950	7,150	1,800

Additional funding was provided for the Abrolhos Islands Research Institute

(d) Significant variances between actual and prior year actual – Capital Contribution			
	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	Variance \$'000
Capital Contribution	8,950	5,000	3,950

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

	Actual \$'000	Estimate \$'000	Variance \$'000
(e) Significant variances between estimate and actual – Capital Expenditure			
	14,652	20,364	5,712

Capital projects uncompleted included the Abrolhos Islands Research Institute, Fremantle operations centre and information technology projects.

2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
------------------------	------------------------

36 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Assets

Cash Resources	12,522	18,644
Accounts receivable – General	713	880
Amounts Receivable for Services	5,198	3,714
Total Financial Assets	18,433	23,238

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	1,237	1,007
Accrued salaries	0	782
Employee entitlements	6,640	5,622
Lease liabilities	1,353	1,509
Total Financial Liabilities	9,230	8,920

Net Financial Assets	9,203	14,318
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Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
RECONCILIATION OF NET FINANCIAL ASSETS TO NET ASSETS		
Net financial assets/(liabilities)	9,203	14,318
Non-financial assets and liabilities:		
Land	7,541	6,690
Buildings	2,590	2,551
Plant, equipment and other	33,399	20,813
Other assets – prepayments and deferred expenses	255	228
Other liabilities	(44)	(45)
Net assets per Statement of Financial Position	<u>52,944</u>	<u>44,555</u>

Credit Risk

Financial Assets

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

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

Net Fair Value of Financial Instruments

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

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

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

Interest Rate Risk

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

	Fixed Interest Rate to Maturity						
	Weighted					Non-	
	Average					Interest	
	Effective	Variable	Less than		More than	Bearing	Total
Interest	interest rate	1 year	1-5 years	5 years			
Rate							
%	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2005							
Financial Assets							
Cash Assets	5%	10,891					10,891
Restricted cash assets	0%					1,631	1,631
Receivables	0%					5,911	5,911
		10,891	0	0	0	7 542	18 433
Financial Liabilities							
Payables	0%					1,237	1,237
Finance lease liabilities	8%		167	753	434		1,354
		0	167	753	434	1 237	2 591
2004							
Financial Assets							
							23,238
Financial liabilities							2,516

37 REMUNERATION OF SENIOR OFFICERS

Remuneration

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

	2005	2004
\$120,001 – 130,000	0	2
\$130,001 – 140,000	2	0
\$180,001 – 190,000	0	1
\$200,000 – 210,000	1	0
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of senior officers	472	436

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

No senior officers are members of the Pension Scheme.

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
38 REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR		
Remuneration to the Auditor for the financial year is as follows:		
Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	72	0
39 RELATED BODIES		
The Department had no related bodies as defined in the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 and Treasurer's Instruction 951.		
40 AFFILIATED BODIES		
The Department had no affiliated bodies as defined in Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 and Treasurer's Instruction 951.		
41 SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
<u>Write-Offs</u>		
During the financial year, debts due to the State were written off under the authority of:		
The Accountable Officer	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
During the financial year \$54,000 was written off the Department's asset register under the authority of:		
The Accountable Officer	55	5
LESS: Recovered by Insurance	(8)	0
	<u>47</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Act of Grace Payments</u>		
During the financial year, seven act of grace payments were made under the authority of:		
The Minister	131	1
	<u>131</u>	<u>1</u>
42 IMPACT OF ADOPTING AUSTRALIAN EQUIVALENTS TO IFRS		
In respect of financial reports for annual reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2005, the Department of Fisheries is not aware of any significant impacts on the financial report had it been prepared using the AIFRs		

Trust Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2004 TO 30 JUNE 2005

2004		2005	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
43 FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND			
14,008	Opening balance – 1 July		16,647
Receipts			
18,908	Contribution from Consolidated Fund	24,108	
14,501	Fisheries Access Fees	15,297	
3,503	Development and Better Interests	3,500	
1,032	Application Fees	967	
967	Interest	845	
89	Contributions to Projects	180	
2	Insurance Recoups	0	
542	Grants	572	
86	Recoups of Expenditure	13	
	Recoup for Services Provided	160	
15	Sale of Publications and Retail Goods	10	
52	Sale of Confiscated Fish and Equipment	2	
260	Sale of Assets	346	
0	Recovery of Legal Costs	3	
65	Aquaculture Development Fund	0	
696	Other Sundry Revenue	230	
0	Contribution from Salaries Suspense	758	46,991
54,726			63,638
Payments			
37,985	Contribution to Department of Fisheries operations	52,950	
94	Contribution to Salaries Suspense	0	52,950
38,079			52,950
16,647	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		10,688

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

Trust Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2004 TO 30 JUNE 2005

2004		2005	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
44 AFMA FUND			
169	Opening balance – 1 July		72
Receipts			
1,228	Funds received from AFMA	1,439	
8	Interest	0	
0	Other	44	1,483
1,405		1,555	
Payments			
1,333	Expenditure on AFMA related activities	1,383	1,383
1,333		1,383	
72	Balance 30 June held by Treasury	172	

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

45 RECREATIONAL FISHING FUND

10	Opening balance – 1 July		10
Receipts			
8,053	Contribution from Consolidated Fund	8,711	
2,381	Recreational Fishing Licences	2,367	
13	Sale of Confiscated Equipment	1	
8	Court Costs Recovered	4	
9	Other Revenue	9	11,092
10,474			11,102
Payments			
10,464	Expenditure on recreational fishing related activities	11,090	11,090
10,464			11,090
10	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		12

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

2004		2005	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
46 FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FUND			
235	Opening balance – 1 July		(74)
	Receipts		
2,296	Contributions from FRDC	3,153	
30	Interest	46	
23	Other	0	3,199
2,584			3,125
	Payments		
2,658	Expenditure on Fisheries WA research related activities	2,552	2,552
2,658			2,552
(74)	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		573

The purpose of this Fund is to hold funds in accordance with section 242 of the FRMA 1994 which may be applied by the Minister for all or any of the purposes prescribed by section 242(4) of the FRMA 1994. Approval has been granted by the Treasurer to overdraw this Fund to a limit of \$300,000.

47 FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEMES TRUST ACCOUNT			
844	Opening balance – 1 July		1,213
	Receipts		
1,500	Contributions from participants in prawn fisheries adjustment schemes	0	
500	Specific State contributions to fisheries adjustment	0	0
2,844			1,213
	Payments		
3	Administration	1	
128	Unit buy back State Scheme	154	
1,500	Loan repayments	0	155
1,631			155
1,213	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		1,058

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.

Trust Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2004 TO 30 JUNE 2005

2004		2005	
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
48 FISHERIES PRIVATE MONEYS TRUST ACCOUNT			
19	Opening balance – 1 July		53
Receipts			
34	Proceeds from the sale of seized fish	6	6
53	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		59
The purpose of this account is to hold moneys seized and proceeds from the sale of seized fish pursuant to the <i>Fisheries Act 1905</i> pending prosecution action. The <i>Fisheries Act 1905</i> has been repealed and replaced by the FRMA 1994.			
49 FISH FARM BOND DEPOSITS TRUST ACCOUNT			
19	Opening balance – 1 July		24
Receipts			
5	Deposits received	0	0
24	Balance 30 June held by Treasury		24
The purpose of this account is to hold fish farm bond deposits lodged by licensees, as security and guarantee for the due and punctual performance of the licensees Fish Farm licence conditions.			
50 CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS			
49	Opening Balance		18
Receipts			
42	Reimbursements	99	99
91			117
Payments			
24	Salaries	50	
6	Travel & Accommodation	10	
17	Administration	3	
26	Oncosts	54	117
73			117
18	Balance 30 June		0

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



WHO WE ARE AND
WHAT WE DO

REPORT ON OPERATIONS
- OUTPUTS

REPORT ON OPERATIONS
- SERVICES

REPORT ON
CORPORATE SERVICES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PERFORMANCE
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APPENDICES

Financial

OVERVIEW

Summary

The following is a summary of the financial performance and financial position of the Department for the year ended 30 June 2005:

- *The Department's net cost of services has increased by 18.9% (\$26.4m:2005, \$22.2m: 2004). Operating revenue increased by 4.3% (\$28.7m: 2005, \$27.5m: 2004), and operating expenses increased by 10.9% (\$55m: 2005, \$49.7m :2004). The variance in expenditure results from increased employee costs due to award and employee leave provision increases, which was partly offset by increased consolidated funding of \$1.4m.*

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

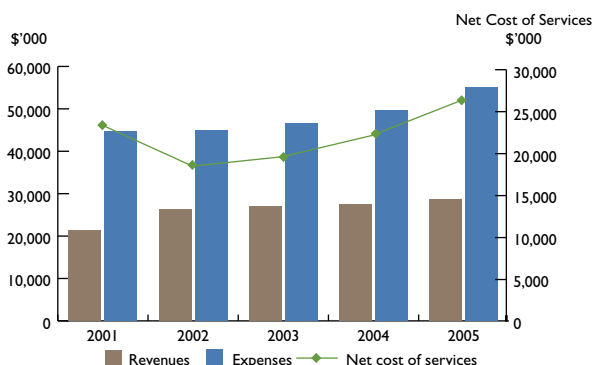
Financial Performance

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

The Department's net cost of services has increased by 18.9% (\$26.4m: 2005, \$22.2m: 2004).

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

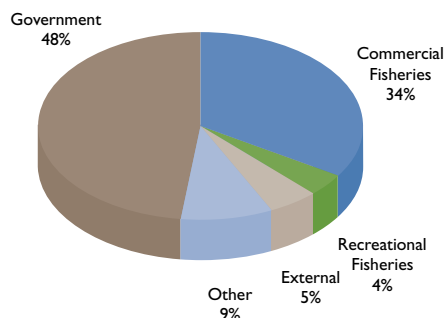
FIGURE 1: Net Cost of Services



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

Total revenue has increased by 5.7% between 2004 and the current financial year (\$53.4m: 2005, \$50.5m: 2004).

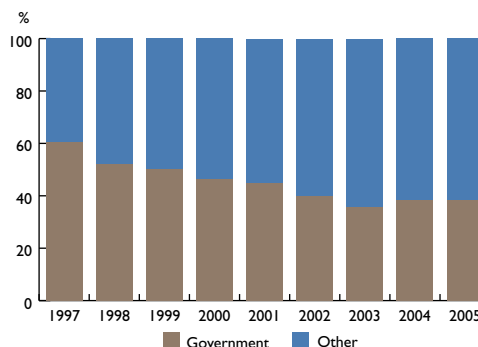
FIGURE 2: Revenue Sources



The reduction in the reliance on government funding is also demonstrated through the government funding ratio. This indicator shows the extent to which the Department is funded by the State. The government funding ratio has decreased from 60.5% to 48.4% since 1996/97.

Figure 3 shows this trend with the most recent years reflecting that full cost recovery from part of the commercial sector was achieved in 2001/02. The increase in 2004/05 results from increased capital related expenses as the asset base grows.

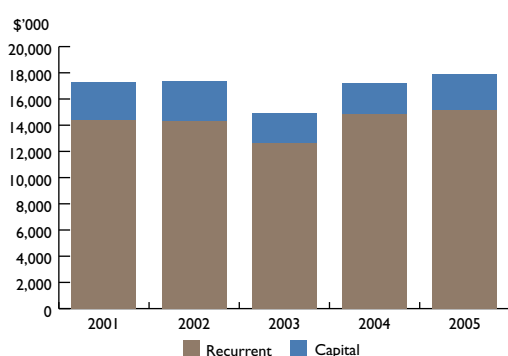
FIGURE 3: Proportion of Total Funding



The total State Government funding has increased in 2004/05 as a result of capital funding which varies according to the scheduled capital works program.

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

FIGURE 4: Government Funding



Revenues from other sources are received from the commercial fishing industry through access fees under the cost recovery arrangement and external funding for research and management of the Australian Fishing Zone from the Commonwealth Government. The amount of revenue received from independent sources has increased by 4.3% (\$28.7m: 2005, \$27.5m : 2004). The categories of user fees and charges which comprise these non State Government funding sources are displayed in Figure 5.

FIGURE 5: User Fees, Charges and Grants

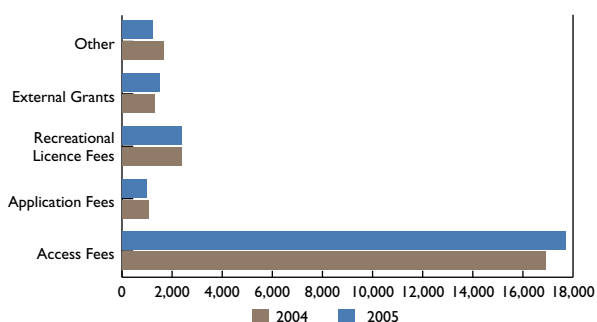
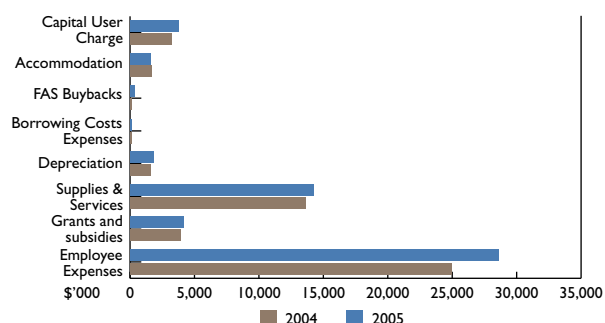


Figure 6 shows the total expenditure by type against comparative figures for the 2003/04 financial year.

FIGURE 6: Total Expenses by Type

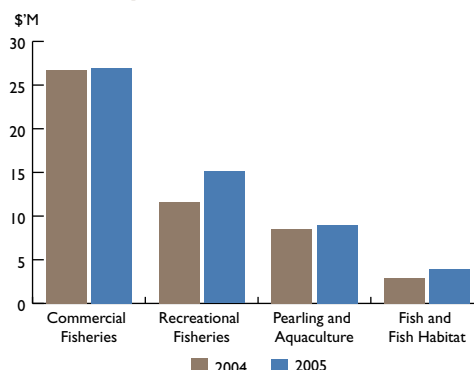


The Department has four outputs:

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

Figure 7 shows the level of expenditure by output, against comparative figures for the 2003/04 financial year.

FIGURE 7: Outputs – Total Cost of Services



Financial

OVERVIEW

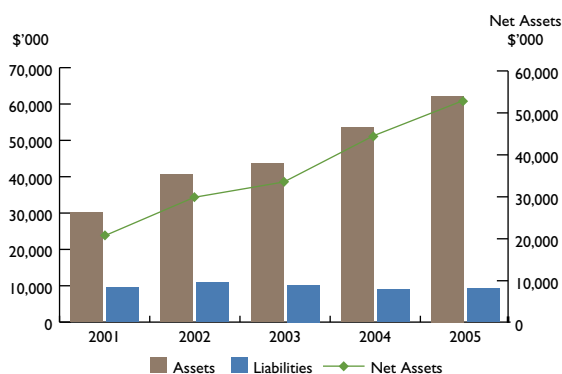
Financial Position

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

The net assets of the Department represent the residual interest in the assets after deducting liabilities. This position has increased during the financial year by 18.8% (\$52.9m : 2005, \$44.6m : 2004) due to an increase in both reported cash balances and property plant and equipment, as well as a decrease in liabilities.

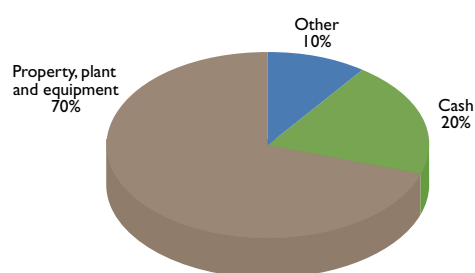
Figure 8 provides an overview of the asset and liability position of the Department for the past five years.

FIGURE 8: Financial Position



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

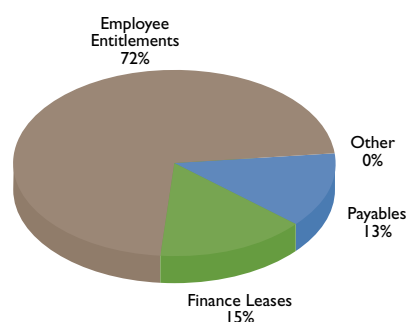
FIGURE 9: Asset Categories



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

In the past, a major component of the Department's liabilities related to the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme. Final payments under the Scheme were made in 2003/04.

FIGURE 10: Liability Categories



Employee entitlements consist of annual and long service leave. The Department has faced increasing staffing levels as well as increased salary rates since 1999/2000. The liability for employee entitlements has increased by 18.1% during the 2004/05 financial year, although staffing levels have increased by 8.5%. The Department will continue to pursue strategies to reduce its leave liability.

FIGURE 11: Employee Entitlements

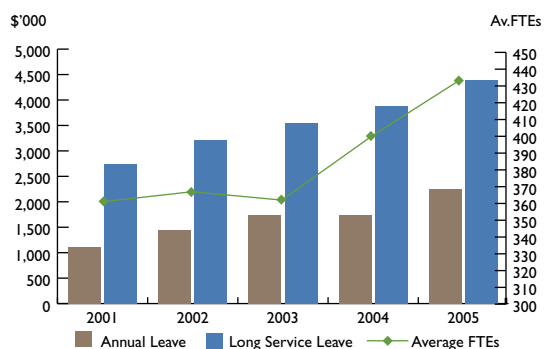
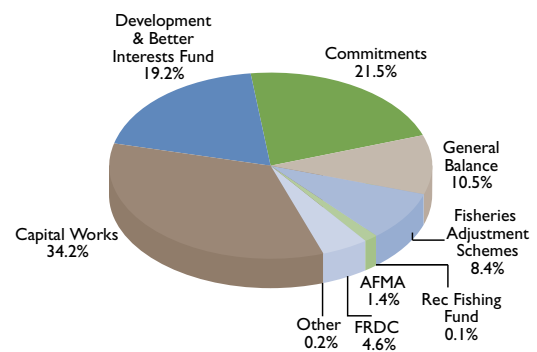


Figure 12 shows the composition of the amounts appearing as cash assets. Commitment for capital works accounts for 47.4% of this balance, while other commitments (including DBIF) account for a further 42.1%.

FIGURE 12: Bank Account Composition



Performance Indicators 2004/05

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

CERTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Treasurer's Instruction 905

Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985

I hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Department of Fisheries performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Department of Fisheries for the financial year ended 30 June 2005.



Peter P Rogers

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

21 July 2005



AUDITOR GENERAL

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the key effectiveness and efficiency performance indicators of the Department of Fisheries are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Department's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2005.

Scope

The Executive Director's Role

The Executive Director is responsible for developing and maintaining proper records and systems for preparing performance indicators.

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

Summary of my Role

As required by the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985, I have independently audited the performance indicators to express an opinion on them. This was done by looking at a sample of the evidence.

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the performance indicators is error free, nor does it examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the performance indicators.

D D R PEARSON
AUDITOR GENERAL
9 September 2005

Performance Indicators 2004/05

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

Outcome

The desired outcome of the Department of Fisheries is the conservation and sustainable development of the State's fish resources.

The effectiveness of the Department in achieving this outcome is determined by its performance against the following mix of resource sustainability, economic and social benefit measures.

Objective 1:

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

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

For the 2004/05 performance review, 35 fisheries have been utilised. This is one more than 2003/04.

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

Within the group of 33 fisheries, 29 (88 per cent) involve stocks that have adequate breeding stock levels. This is a slight reduction on the result for 2003/04 where the reported result was 91 per cent (*Figure 1*). The four fisheries with inadequate or uncertain breeding stocks are the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery (oceanic), the Northern Shark Fishery, the Southern and West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Longline Fishery (southern shark), and the Southern Crustacean Fishery.

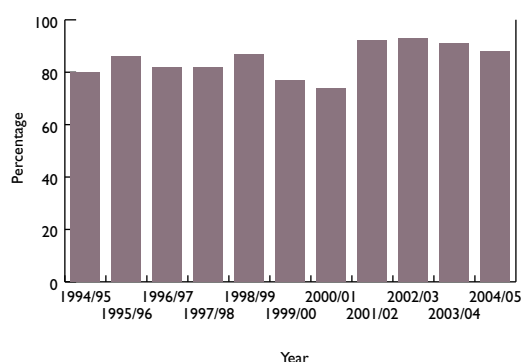
For the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery, a series of low recruitment years has resulted in a significant decline in the adult biomass during the past few years. Management actions to reduce the catch quota and restore the spawning biomass to appropriate levels have already been implemented.

For the Southern Shark Fishery, two of the four target species are considered to be over-fished. While the whiskery shark stock has stabilised, the dusky whaler and sandbar stocks are declining with current levels of fishing, which is being exacerbated by the targeting of larger adult dusky whalers using the longline method. In the Northern Shark Fishery, increasing effort targeting adult sandbar shark (the key indicator species) is reducing breeding stock levels, and this effect is being compounded by increasing catches of juvenile sandbars in the southern fishery. The management arrangements for both shark fisheries and other fisheries that have an incidental catch of sharks (including one managed by the Commonwealth) are under review to address this problem.

Finally, the breeding stock status of the southern rock lobster stocks fished in the Great Australian Bight, Esperance and Albany areas is uncertain, and lower recruitment to the fishery may reflect recruitment over-fishing. This uncertain breeding stock status is due to the unknown relationship between the small Western Australian stock and the much larger stock in South Australia, which may be the source of WA recruitment. Genetic research to attempt to determine the breeding source for WA southern lobsters has been proposed.

Figure 1

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



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

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

For most of the fisheries in WA, management plans seek to directly control the fishing effort applied to the stock with the level of catch taken providing an indication of the effectiveness of the plan. That is, if the plan is operating effectively, the catch by the fishery should fall within a projected range. The size of this range reflects the effects of normal environmental variations on the level of recruitment of young fish to the stock which cannot be 'controlled' by the management plan.

In the specific case of quota-managed fisheries, the measure of success of the management arrangements is firstly that the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is achieved, but more importantly that it has been possible to take this catch using an acceptable amount of fishing effort. That is, if an unusually large expenditure of effort is needed to take the TAC, or the industry fails to achieve the TAC by a significant margin, this may indicate that the abundance of the stock is significantly lower than anticipated when the TAC was set. For these reasons, an appropriate range of fishing effort to take the TAC in the reporting year has also been incorporated for assessing the performance of quota-managed fisheries (*Appendix 5*).

Comparisons of actual catches with the target catch or effort ranges have been provided for 29 of the 35 fisheries referred to in *Appendix 5*. The fisheries for which ranges were provided account for most of the commercial value of WA's fish catch. The fisheries where ranges are unavailable include those that are largely developmental, plus the four pilchard fisheries, which are rebuilding following an exotic virus attack, where the effort levels to take the current quotas have not yet stabilised.

Of the 29 fisheries where "target catch ranges" were available in 2004/05, four were catch-quota managed (through a TAC allocated through Individually Transferable Quotas ITQs) and 25 were subject to effort control management (including individually transferable effort in more advanced management plans).

For the four TAC/ITQ managed fisheries assessed, three operated within their target effort ranges. The Shark Bay Snapper Fishery was above the range set despite the reduced overall quota. The relatively high level of effort used is consistent with the depleted levels of adult biomass for this stock. Changes to the management of this fishery have involved a 40 per cent reduction in quota for the 2004 season and a further small reduction for 2005.

For the greenlip and brownlip abalone fishery the overall effort was within range; however, the quota was not achieved in one of the three management areas, and a downward adjustment to the quota has been adopted.

Performance Indicators 2004/05

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

In the 25 effort-controlled fisheries, 20 produced catches that were within, or acceptably above (three) or below (two), their catch ranges.

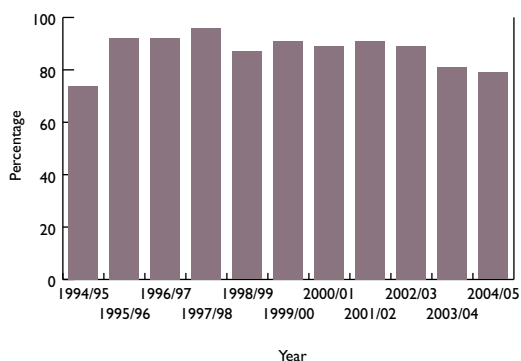
Four fisheries had unacceptably high catches which require management review. Two of these were the northern and southern shark fisheries (where management action to reduce effort is planned). The remainder were the Pilbara Trap and Line, where the wetline component is under review, and the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery, where a management review is planned due to increased catches of the indicator species, although the overall catch remains within the range.

Three of the effort-based fisheries were marginally above their catch ranges but are not of concern. Similarly, two fisheries were below their range due to variable recruitment (Cockburn Sound Crab) or depressed markets (Australian Herring).

In summary, 23 (79 per cent) of the 29 fisheries assessed were considered to have met their performance criteria, or were affected by factors outside the purview of the management plan. This is a slight reduction on the result for 2003/04 where the reported result was 81 per cent (*Figure 2*).

Figure 2

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



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

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

In the past, fish resources have been shared mainly on an implicit basis, with no explicit setting of catch shares within an overall total allowable catch or corresponding total allowable effort. The Department is adopting an Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) approach where the aggregate effects of all fishing sectors are taken into account. This will see the development of an agreed framework in which decisions on optimum resource use (i.e. allocation and re-allocation of fish resources) can be determined and implemented within a total sustainable catch for each fishery or fished stock. IFM will need to be progressively phased in and it is likely to take some 10 years to bring the majority of the State’s shared fisheries under this new framework.

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

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

In this context, “fisheries or fished stocks” can either be a managed fishery for a particular species (e.g. western rock lobster) or a spatially managed area of fishing activity encompassing a number of species (e.g. west coast estuaries). A “current estimate” (of catch) is within the past five years (i.e. since 1999/2000). For recreational fisheries, the accuracy of any catch estimate can be an issue and is often methodology-dependent. For example, a telephone diary survey is more accurate than a mail-recall survey. A “sharing allocation” is defined as a percentage of a total allowable catch or effort.

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

The most recent catch share data used for the first part of the indicator are reported in the Department's *State of the Fisheries Report*. These shares are currently based on commercial catch data and results from recreational surveys undertaken by the Department's Fisheries Research Division. The Department has made no assessment of whether these current shares are optimal or equitable with regard to community benefit and it acknowledges that this indicator does not include shares allocated implicitly or otherwise to the conservation sector (via "no-take" areas) or to other sectors (e.g. Indigenous).

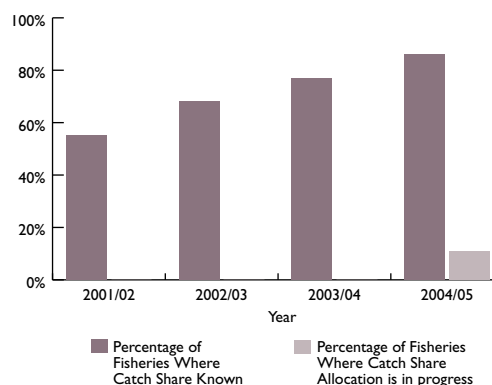
On this basis, the share of catch attributable to the commercial sector and the recreational sector for 2004/05 is known for 19 of the 22 fisheries (86 per cent). This small increase is the result of further analyses of a national recreational fishing survey (undertaken during 2000/01). This analysis of historical data has allowed new estimates for some regional fisheries to be generated.

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

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

Figure 3

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



OBJECTIVE 2:

Maximise the Economic Benefit to the State

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

The sustainable management of WA's fishing industry increases the benefits to the State as a result of significant local sales and export earnings from fish and fish products. The value of production from commercial and pearling/aquaculture sectors at first point of sale in WA is published by ABARE annually, based on data supplied by industry to the Department's Fisheries Research Division. Information for the years 2001/02 to 2003/04 in broad groupings is provided in *Table 1*.

Performance Indicators 2004/05

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

The value of commercially caught crustaceans declined slightly during 2003/04 despite a substantial increase in the tonnage landed. The large tonnage was mostly a result of the increased rock lobster catch during 2003/04 which was forecast based on the juvenile settlement observed three to four years earlier. The catches from the prawn fisheries declined slightly in 2003/04, as did the landed value of the catch. The overall increase in crustacean catch was not sufficient to override the decline in landed value of crustaceans that mainly resulted from the high exchange rate of the Australian currency during this period.

There was a significant decrease in the production and value of molluscan fisheries in 2003/04. The majority of this was due to the reduced catch of scallops. Such variations in scallop abundance are mainly due to environmental effects on recruitment (abundance).

The finfish sector continues to be supported by a large number of stocks, thereby providing a relatively stable yearly

production with the total production having remained above 16,000 tonnes. Overall, the value of production in 2003/04 was up on the previous year due to higher production of some of the more valuable species.

The value of pearl production in 2003/04 continued at similar levels to the previous year. Western Australia continues to be the dominant supplier of premium South Sea pearls in the international markets. Aquaculture production in 2003/04 was also relatively stable compared to the 2002/03 figure, with increased barramundi production offsetting the decline in yabbies caused by low rainfall.

In summary, WA fisheries production value again declined marginally in 2003/04 due primarily to lower returns from the crustacean fisheries. The WA fisheries sector continues to perform reasonably well despite significant external influences on market values, and WA remains the dominant State nationally at 26 per cent of the value of fish produced.

TABLE 1 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES PRODUCTION – YEARS 2001/02 TO 2003/04

	2001/02		2002/03(d)		2003/04(e)	
	tonnes	\$ m	tonnes	\$ m	tonnes	\$ m
Crustaceans	13,655	359	16,566	334	18,580	314
Molluscs (a)	2,771	35	7,650	50	3,745	38
Fish	16,522	40	16,226	42	16,931	45
Pearling (b)	n/a	175	n/a	150	n/a	150
Aquaculture (c)	1,232	7	1,020	6	1,188	7
TOTAL PRODUCTION	34,180	616	41,462	582	40,444	554

Footnotes:

a Includes miscellaneous invertebrates, e.g. beche-de-mer.

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

c Excludes hatchery production and algae production for betacarotene.

d Figures have been adjusted by late production returns and validation of databases.

e Figures current as at end of financial year.

n/a Not available.

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

Sources: ABARE; Western Australia Department of Fisheries

Objective 3:

Maximise the social benefit to the State.

Information for performance indicators 3.1 to 3.3 was derived from a community survey conducted by the Research Division to assess the level of success of the Department of Fisheries' activities and functions within the Western Australian community.

The objectives of the survey were to:

- assess the level of recall and awareness of the Department of Fisheries' information and promotional activities;
- assess the understanding and support of the community for the Department of Fisheries' management strategies across all four programs (Commercial Fisheries, Recreational Fisheries, Pearling and Aquaculture, and Fish and Fish Habitat Protection); and
- examine key aspects of community fishing and marine habitat behaviour.

The survey was conducted by telephone during April 2005. The telephone numbers were randomly selected from the DTMS white pages on CD-ROM. Respondents were males and females older than 17 years residing in Western Australia. The total sample of 700 interviews comprised:

- 422 metropolitan interviews; and
- 278 regional interviews.

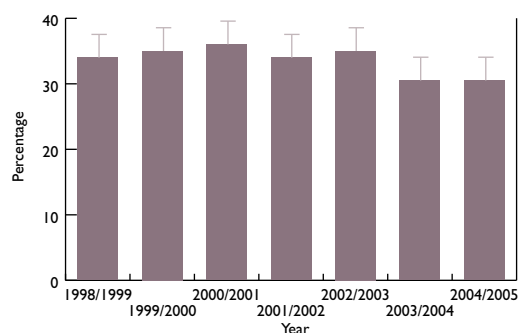
3.1 – The participation rate in recreational fisheries

Research conducted by the Recreational Fishing Surveys and Statistics section of the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories and Asset Research gives the number of people in Western Australia who went recreational fishing at least once in the previous 12 month period as 538 000 individuals or 31.1 percent of the WA population (using ABS population estimates from the 2001 census).

The participation rate for recreational fishing in Western Australia was 30.8 per cent in 2003/04, 34.6 per cent in 2002/03, 33.8 per cent in 2001/02, 37.1 percent in 2000/01, 35.4 per cent in 1999/2000, and 34 per cent in 1998/1999 (Figure 1).

FIGURE 4

PARTICIPATION RATE IN RECREATIONAL FISHERIES 1998/99 – 2004/05

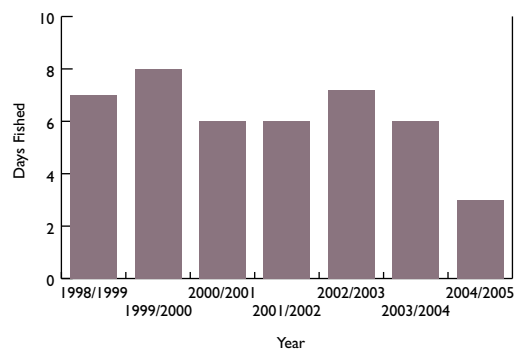


Days Fished

The average number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last 12 months was six days with a median of three days (Figure 5). This latest estimate is consistent with a mean of six days fished reported by the National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey. For earlier years, the results were influenced by extreme outliers which increased the estimate of the mean number of days fished.

FIGURE 5

MEDIAN NUMBER OF DAYS FISHED 1998/99 – 2004/05

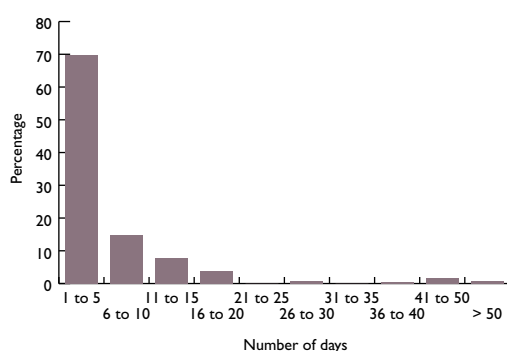


Performance Indicators 2004/05

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

The number of days fished by recreational fishers in the last 12 months ranges from one to 60 days. The majority of people in Western Australia fished between one and five days. However, some fished for considerably more than 10 days, giving a skewed frequency distribution (*Figure 6*). These results can be affected due to the inability of respondents to accurately recall all past fishing trips over a 12 month period.

FIGURE 6
DISTRIBUTION FOR NUMBERS OF DAYS FISHED



The most popular region for recreational fishers was the Perth metropolitan area from Yanchep to Mandurah (50 per cent). Other areas that people fished were the West Coast other than the Perth metropolitan area (45 per cent), South Coast – Marine (27 per cent), Gascoyne (7 per cent), South Coast – Freshwater (6 per cent), Pilbara/Kimberley – marine (4 per cent) and Pilbara/Kimberley – freshwater (3 per cent). The total exceeds 100 per cent due to multiple responses.

3.2 – The satisfaction rate of those engaged in recreational fishing.

An overall satisfaction scoring model or index has been developed to measure and track the satisfaction of recreational fishers.

The satisfaction index is a combination of Knowledge, Management and Confidence.

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

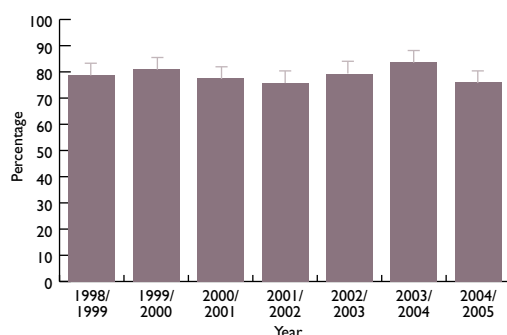
Management: the level of the person's awareness of rules and regulations.

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

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

The satisfaction index for recreational fishing was 74.6 per cent with a 95 per cent confidence interval between 72.8 per cent and 76.4 per cent. The satisfaction index is lower than the value of 81.4 per cent reported by the 2003/04 *Community Survey* (Baharthah, 2004). This was primarily due to a decrease in the proportion of respondents who were very satisfied with their confidence (see definition above) and knowledge of habitat and ways to catch fish.

The satisfaction index was 81.4 per cent in 2003/04, 79.2 per cent in 2002/03, 75.6 per cent in 2001/02, 77.5 per cent in 2000/01, 81 per cent in 1999/2000 and 78.7 per cent in 1998/99 (*Figure 7*).

FIGURE 7**SATISFACTION RATING OF THOSE INVOLVED IN
RECREATIONAL FISHING 1998/99 – 2004/05.****3.3 – The satisfaction rating of the broader community
and stakeholders as to their perceptions of the
extent to which the Department of Fisheries
is achieving sustainable fisheries management
objectives.**

The following results are from the 54 per cent of respondents from the broader community who knew the Department of Fisheries was responsible for one or more of the four programs. The Department of Fisheries was given a satisfaction rate of 83.7 per cent by the Western Australian public.

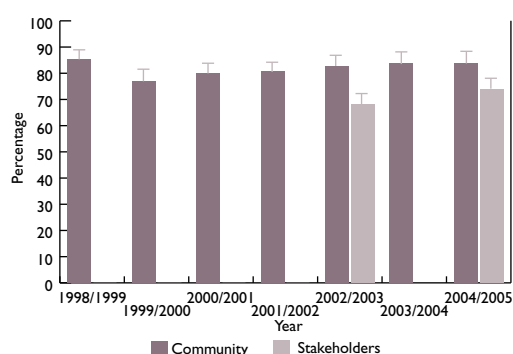
The 95 per cent confidence interval for the satisfaction rate of the broader community is between 81.2 per cent and 86.3 per cent. The satisfaction rate is not significantly different to the value of 83.9 per cent for 2003/04 (*Baharthah, 2004*).

There is no significant change in the public's satisfaction with the management of the programs. The satisfaction rate of the broader community was 83.9 per cent in 2003/04, 82.8 per cent in 2002/03, 80.6 per cent in 2001/02, 80.1 per cent in 2000/01, 77 per cent in 1999/2000 and 85.3 per cent in 1998/99 (*Figure 8*).

During 2002/03 and 2004/05 an additional survey was conducted to measure the satisfaction of Department of Fisheries' stakeholders. The 2004/05 survey comprised 145 interviews with representatives from commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, fish and fish habitat protection and aquaculture and pearling.

The Department of Fisheries was given a satisfaction rate of 74 per cent (with 95 per cent confidence interval for the stakeholder satisfaction rate was between 70.6 per cent and 77.3 per cent) by Department of Fisheries stakeholders (*Baharthah, 2004*). This satisfaction rate is higher than the value of 68.3 per cent obtained from the 2002/03 *Stakeholder Survey* (*Baharthah & Sumner, 2003*). This was due to an increase in the satisfaction with fish habitat protection.

The satisfaction rating of stakeholders was also significantly different to the broader community. For stakeholders the satisfaction rating was 74 per cent compared to 83.7 per cent for the broader community.

FIGURE 8**SATISFACTION RATING OF THE BROADER
COMMUNITY AND DEPARTMENT STAKEHOLDERS
1998/99 – 2004/05**

Performance Indicators 2004/05

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

4.0 Efficiency Indicators

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

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

Outcome:

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

Output 1:

Management of the State's Commercial Fisheries

Output Description

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

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

Output 1 – Commercial	Actual 2003/04	Actual 2004/05
Cost		
Average Cost per hour for Community Education and Compliance	\$133	\$138
Average Cost per hour for Management	\$137	\$134
Average Cost per hour for Research	\$112	\$128

Outcome:

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

Output 2:

Management of the State's Recreational Fisheries.

Output Description:

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

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

Output 2 – Recreational Fishing	Actual 2003/04	Actual 2004/05
Cost		
Average Cost per hour for Management	\$139	\$163
Average Cost per hour for Research	\$94	\$125
Average Cost per hour for Community Education and Compliance	\$107	\$143

Outcome:

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

Output 3:

Development and promotion of the State's aquaculture industry

Output Description:

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

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

Output 3 – Aquaculture and Pearling	Actual 2003/04	Actual 2004/05
Cost		
Average Cost per hour for Aquaculture Management	\$131	\$139
Average Cost per hour for Pearling Management	\$121	\$116
Average Cost per hour for Aquaculture Research	\$113	\$127
Average Cost per hour for Pearling Research	\$78	\$130
Average Cost per hour for Aquaculture Community Education and Compliance	\$174	\$200
Average Cost per hour for Pearling Community Education and Compliance	\$163	\$172

Outcome:

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

Output 4:

Management and Conservation of Fish and Fish Habitat

Output Description:

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

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

Output 4 – Fish and Fish Habitat Protection	Actual 2003/04	Actual 2004/05
Cost		
Average Cost per hour for Community Education and Compliance	\$124	\$134
Average Cost per hour for Management	\$116	\$146
Average Cost per hour for Research	\$119	\$144



Photo: Cliff Young



Obligatory Reporting

Strategic Planning Framework

Required Reporting

STRATEGIC PLANNING Framework

People And Communities

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

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

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

Department examples in 2004/05 that contributed to the Strategic Planning Framework include;

- Considerable progress was made with the publication of a Government Policy on Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM). IFM will be critically important to the sustainable management and reduction of resource sharing conflicts for future generations. Other IFM achievements were the creation and appointment of members to the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC), the appointment of Deputy Director to oversee the implementation of IFM and the progressing of the IFM process for western rock lobster and abalone.
- Hundreds more Western Australian youngsters will learn how to fish at free fishing clinics, increase their awareness of the fragile marine environment and help protect precious fish stocks under an expanded education program. The *Fish for the Future* program was expanded Statewide with a \$200,000 grant from the State Government.
- The Fishers with Disabilities Association Inc. (FWDAI) group was granted \$20,000 by the Minister for Fisheries to further extend the Fishers with Disabilities Program. In February the program was launched in Bunbury with a second workshop in May. The program will become a permanent feature of the VFLO activities in the Bunbury area.

- The FWDAI, with assistance from Challenger TAFE in Fremantle, is building a boat capable of taking people in wheelchairs fishing on the Swan and Canning River. It is expected to be launched in late 2005.
- There were opportunities for people to participate in management of the State's recreational fishery through groups such as Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees and Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees.
- Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLOs) participated in a variety of research activities including abalone research and tailor research at Point Walter and Floreat Drain and the Samson fish research held off Rottnest Island. The volunteers also carried out a number of patrols and fishing clinics throughout the State.
- The Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Area was gazetted following public consultation.
- The State Government extended aerial shark patrols between Two Rocks and Mandurah over summer to help allay community concerns about shark safety.

The Economy

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

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

The Department protects this economic generator by managing the fisheries in a sustainable manner for current and future generations.

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for 2003/04 valued Western Australia's fisheries exports at \$468 million, while the WA Fishing Industry Council estimates that commercial fishing contributes about \$1.2 billion to the State's economy. Nearly 540,000 Western Australians participate in recreational fishing every year, spending about \$570 million per year and creating about 7,000 full-time jobs.

The Department also assists small businesses – such as aquaculture developments – to attract international and national investment and explore market opportunities. It actively promotes Western Australian seafood both domestically and abroad.

Department examples in 2004/05 that contributed to the Strategic Planning Framework include:

- Investing in our research – \$16 million was spent developing a leading edge fisheries and marine research laboratory at Hillarys. This facility also contains a significant public education interface including an exhibition hall, training and activity areas for school groups and volunteers along with viewing access to working laboratories and research aquarium areas. The new complex is the first in Australia to combine research laboratories and education facilities to provide direct community access to the scientific basis for the conservation and management of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. The total value of research projects delivered in 2004/05 was more than \$18 million.
- The Department is assisting the western rock lobster industry seek renewal of its Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification, which would give it commercial advantages over competitors.
- The Department and the Centre for Fish and Fisheries Research at Murdoch University committed \$300,000 over three years into a research fund to leverage funding for large national and international collaborative research projects.
- A total of 24 Western Australian commercial fisheries have been granted export approval by the Department of Environment and Heritage after meeting Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) accreditation. The approvals give the green light for continuing exports from the State's major commercial fisheries.
- The Department has met Government efficiency expectations by reducing the recently combined Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) and Fisheries fleet by 21 vessels and 30 outboard motors. Rationalisation has effectively reduced capital funding requirement for vessel replacements by \$3.85 million.

Environment

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

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

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

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

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

The Department also actively encourages environmental awareness within the office environment. See also the Sustainability, Waste Management and Energy Smart Program later in this section for examples.

Framework

Department examples in 2004/05 that contributed to the Strategic Planning Framework include:

- Construction of the new Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys incorporated a number of energy saving innovations such as energy efficient orientation, wide roof eaves for solar control, thermal insulation, dual-purpose heating systems which warms sea water for aquariums as well as the air in the building, “smart lights”, energy efficient air conditioning, use of bore water and drought-resistant, salt-tolerant coastal plant species in landscaping;
- ESD reports for 27 WA fisheries have now been completed and lodged with the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH). To date 24 have been accredited by the DEH.
- The State’s sixth Fish Habitat Protection Area (FHPA) was established at Point Quobba. The move formally provides protection to the largely unspoilt and highly diverse coral formations, fish and the marine environment of Point Quobba Lagoon.
- The Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC) was formed to investigate resource allocation issues and make recommendations on optimal resource use to the Minister.
- A community based recovery team was established to assist in the conservation of Margaret River ‘hairy’ marron.
- A co-mingled recycling program was introduced and has trebled the amount of recyclable material collected.
- A domestic rubbish collection trial on Roma Island was launched as part of a proposed waste management strategy for the Houtman Abrolhos Islands. The Department has seconded an officer from the Department of Environment to help find a practical solution to the disposal of the domestic waste that is generated on the islands throughout the four-month rock lobster season.
- An overall reduction in the at-sea patrol vessel fleet resulting in a 15 per cent reduction in fuel consumption occurred as a result of the merging of the Marine Safety program of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure with the Department of Fisheries.

The Regions

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

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

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

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

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

Similarly, with regard to the Department’s Commercial Fisheries program, there are Management Advisory Committees (MACs) that provide a local industry contribution into the development and maintenance of fisheries management plans for the major fisheries around the State.

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

Department examples in 2004/05 that contributed to the Strategic Planning Framework include:

- Work on the new \$2 million Abrolhos Islands Research Institute commenced in February. The Institute is an integral part of the Government’s Separation Point Marine Precinct, designed to create a regional facility for marine research and development excellence.

- New patrol vessels were commissioned in the Northern region to provide improved at-sea servicing capability, enhanced marine safety and response capacity and complement the pearling, recreational and commercial fisheries compliance programs.
- The Fishers with Disabilities Association Inc. (FWDAI) was granted \$20,000 by the Minister for Fisheries to further extend the Fishers with Disabilities Program. In February the program was launched in Bunbury with a second workshop in May. The program will become a permanent feature of the Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer (VFLO) activities in the Bunbury area.
- In conjunction with the Department of Fisheries, FWDAI funded a regional promotional tour to Geraldton by the Metropolitan VFLOs. As a result, the program is now being established permanently in that region.
- Two additional Fisheries and Marine Officers were appointed for the Jurien Bay District Office to assist in the service delivery to Jurien Bay Marine Park.
- The new Rockingham District Office was opened. It will house two permanent Fisheries and Marine Officers. Up to four staff will be assigned to the office during the peak period from October to June.
- Appointment of an Abrolhos Policy Officer to work on new legislation pertaining to the Abrolhos and a review of the Abrolhos Islands Management Plan.
- Significant work was done on the development of new regulations and community education and compliance strategies for the management of recreational fishing in the South Coast and Pilbara/Kimberley regions.
- The review of aquaculture development and legislation in Western Australia was implemented.

Governance

The Department of Fisheries supports the State Government's Strategic Planning Framework goal of governing for all Western Australians in an open, effective and efficient manner that also ensures a sustainable future.

There is an increasing need for fisheries management agencies to explain to fishers, parliaments and the general community the processes that underpin their decision-making.

Corporate governance is a concept more commonly used in the private sector to describe the overall management of the affairs of companies and corporations; however, the principles are being increasingly used by government agencies to assess their decision making structures and processes, with the aim of making them more effective.

The Department has adopted the principles of corporate governance and is endeavouring to ensure there is a clear understanding of its role and responsibilities when it comes to the management of our fisheries resources and the pearling and aquaculture sector.

Department examples in 2004/05 that contributed to the Strategic Planning Framework include:

- The Department's satellite linked system for monitoring commercial fishing boats – the Vessel Monitoring Scheme (VMS) – won the 2004 Premier's Award for Governance. The use of VMS had a major impact on the way the State's trawl fisheries operate.
- The Department won a Western Australian Division of the Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) W.S. Lonnie Awards for excellence in annual reporting. The award was the Auditor General's Award for Excellence in Accountability and Transparency.
- The Department is developing a process for reporting to the people of WA on issues associated with Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) in fisheries. This will involve working with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to prepare a framework for reporting on ESD for all fisheries.

See Performance Indicators on page 102 and later in this section to see further examples of how the Department meets the goal of governing for all Western Australians in an open, effective and efficient manner that also ensures a sustainable future.

REQUIRED Reporting

DISABILITY SERVICE PLAN

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

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

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

Outcome 1:

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

Tailored recreational fishing workshops are provided by Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLOs) throughout the State specifically for people with a disability.

Perth metropolitan VFLOs are also training other groups around the State in the use of specialised fishing equipment for people with disabilities.

In recognition of the tremendous work by the Fishers with Disabilities Association Inc. (FWDAl), the group was granted \$20,000 by the Minister for Fisheries to further extend the Fishers with Disabilities Program. In February the program was launched in Bunbury with a second workshop in May. The program will become a permanent feature of the VFLO activities in the Bunbury area.

In conjunction with the Department of Fisheries, FWDAl funded a regional promotional tour to Geraldton by the Metropolitan VFLOs. As a result, the program is now being established permanently in that region.

The FWDAl, with assistance from Challenger TAFE in Fremantle, is building a boat capable of taking people in wheelchairs fishing on the Swan and Canning River. It is expected to be launched in late 2005.

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

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

The Department has three representatives on the FWDAl. These staff members volunteered their services to the group, which has the prime focus of increasing recreational fishing access for people with disabilities.

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

Outcome 2:

Access to buildings and facilities is improved.

The Department of Fisheries has maintained access to its offices and facilities around the State for people with disabilities. The new Research and Education Centre at Hillarys Boat Harbour has tremendously improved access to research and education resources including the State’s leading marine reference library.

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

The new Marine Operation Centre under construction in Fremantle will include enhancements in access and facilities, particularly for those people with a disability either visiting or working at the new centre.

Outcome 3:
Information meet the communications requirements of people with disabilities.

The Department of Fisheries is committed to continual improvement in its information dissemination processes. For example, the Department's website is now W3C compliant to at least AA level – with some sections meeting the stringent AAA accessibility rating. This maximises the conversion of the material to audio information. The Department's monthly internal newsletter *Bottom Line* continues to meet the needs of staff with visual impairments.

Outcome 4:
Advice and services are delivered by staff that are aware of and understand the needs of people with disabilities.

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

Outcome 5:
Opportunities are provided for people with disabilities to participate in public consultations, grievance mechanisms and decision-making processes.

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

CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE SERVICES OUTCOMES

As part of their normal duties, Fisheries and Marine Officers may be required to interview either suspects or witnesses of imperfect English. This includes Aboriginal people who may regard English as their second language. Interpreters are available to the Department through the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A number of brochures are available in other languages to assist people with rules and regulations in fisheries that have been identified as having a high number of participants for whom English is a second language.

To date there have been no requests for translators from people visiting Department of Fisheries offices.

Reporting

YOUTH OUTCOMES

Through the Department of Fisheries' Community Education program, a number of initiatives have been developed to target Western Australian youth, including:

- free fishing workshops are held regularly, teaching fishing safety, rules and regulations, catch care and fish habitat protection;
- the 'Get Hooked on Fishing' program is a series of free fishing workshops for families throughout the metropolitan area. Seven workshops are held each year at a variety of river and ocean locations;
- the Rottnest Island School Holiday program involves eight workshops over four days being conducted at the Army Jetty in Thomson Bay;
- work in conjunction with community organisations such as Joondalup City Council and Police and Citizens Youth Club Fremantle to provide fishing workshops in a safe friendly environment; and
- the Fishers with Disabilities program also caters for youth with disabilities giving them the opportunity to enjoy the pleasure of fishing.

Work was also undertaken by the Community Education team with secondary schools to provide class presentations in fisheries management, recreational fishing and *Fish for the Future*.

The Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer program has a number of under 25 year-olds as registered volunteers.

WASTE PAPER RECYCLING

The Department's commitment to recycling its paper waste increased significantly in 2004/05. About 287 kg per month of waste paper was collected for recycling this financial year compared with about 72 kg per month last financial year.

A co-mingled recycling scheme has also been recently introduced to enable the collection of other types of recyclable waste including plastic bottles, aluminium cans, milk cartons, cardboard and glass.

ENERGY SMART PROGRAM

In accordance with the Government's Energy Smart Policy, the Department of Fisheries is fully committed to endeavours that will achieve the target reductions in energy consumption in non-transport related energy use across the entire agency.

The Department was successful in achieving an energy saving reduction on its benchmark (baseline) of 6.67 per cent in 2003/04, which was above the Government set target of six per cent.

In 2004/05, the Department again exceeded its energy saving commitment, achieving a reduction in energy consumption of 9.1 per cent.

Energy Smart Government program	Baseline Data	2004/05 Actuals	Variation %
Energy Consumption (MJ)	5,447,726	4,950,770	-9.1
Energy Cost (\$)	245,279	190,626	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (tonnes of CO ₂)	1,287	1,248	
Performance indicators			
MJ/sqm – office buildings	354	346	
MJ/FTE – office buildings	10,494	9,385	
MJ/sqm – laboratories.	804	776	

The following energy saving initiatives were undertaken during 2004/05:

- an energy audit was conducted in the Atrium Building (Head Office) and new lighting tubes to reduce energy use will now be installed;
- the construction of the new WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys incorporated a number of energy-saving innovations such as energy efficient orientation, wide roof eaves for solar control, thermal insulation, dual-purpose heating systems which warms sea water for aquariums as well as the air in the building, "smart lights" and energy efficient air conditioning; and
- a staff awareness program on energy saving techniques was developed and will be implemented over the next 12 months.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Department of Fisheries supports the Government's Regional Development Policy, *'Regional Western Australia – A better place to live'*, by linking activities to the Outcomes of the policy and partnering the State's regional areas.

Understanding, Partnering and Delivering Better Outcomes for Regions.

Outcome 1 – Government decision-making is based on a thorough understanding of regional issues.

Outcome 2 – Planning in partnership for a sustainable future.

Outcome 3 – Effective government service delivery to regions.

The Regional Services Branch supports regional WA through;

- the delivery of compliance, education, policy and management services through a regionalised management structure. Five regional and 13 district offices are maintained across the State;
- the provision of advice through community consultative groups and other government agencies;
- the provision of advice on compliance and management issues to the regional Ministerial Advisory Committees for commercial fisheries and Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees;
- the continued deployment of mobile patrols into regional 'hot-spots' to focus on recreational fishing and as a visible deterrent for prevention of regulatory breaches;
- ongoing risk assessment and compliance planning workshops for better management and deployment of resources;
- assist in the delivery of at-sea compliance services for other government agencies; and
- development of Memoranda of Understanding with other agencies to clarify regional roles, responsibilities and joint servicing arrangements.

Reporting

Growing a Diversified Economy.

Outcome 4 – Skilled communities.

Outcome 5 – Improved Regional Infrastructure.

Outcome 6 – Diversified regional economies.

Outcome 7 – Enhanced regional investment.

Outcome 8 – Fair pricing for regional residents and businesses.

Regional Services Branch activities support regional economies through:

- the provision of compliance services to ensure that sustainable management objectives for commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, pearling and aquaculture are met, to ensure the viable use of aquatic resources;
- the provision of management and compliance services to assist with maintaining equity between users of the aquatic resource and maximising the value of commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, pearling and aquaculture;
- the provision of policy advice to other government agencies and community groups into the sustainable management of marine, coastal, estuarine and inland environments;
- the provision of vessels and assistance to research and other government agencies in the collection of data and management of the marine environment;
- the provision of officers for monitoring and investigating large-scale fish 'kills' and marine pest incursions; and
- frequent use of regional suppliers to provide operational equipment, vessels, trailers, dive equipment, outboard motors and maintenance activities.

Educated, healthy, safe and supportive communities.

Outcome 11 – Safe regional communities.

Outcome 13 – Cohesive communities.

Outcome 14 – Improved environmental management.

Outcome 15 – Sustainable natural resource management.

The Regional Services Branch actively supports regional communities through:

- support and training of Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLOs) to promote voluntary compliance with fishing laws, fisheries educational activities and clinics for people with disabilities;
- promotion of the VFLO program to recruit more volunteers in regional areas;
- the provision of education programs in schools and communities, as well as providing expert fisheries advice at boating shows and fishing competitions;
- completion and distribution of new initiatives, including a training video, 'Kimberley Indigenous Aquaculture' information package and support for the establishment of two model aquaculture farms, in conjunction with the Indigenous Aquaculture Development Group;
- participation in natural resource management group planning in the regions;
- establishment of additional officers in regional areas to monitor at-sea compliance in marine parks;
- the provision of staff and resources to assist Hazard Management Agency responsibilities for preparation, planning, response and recovery actions, specifically Oil Pollution and Sea Search and Rescue; and
- the provision of Fisheries and Marine Officers to support marine safety at-sea compliance as part of recreational fishing compliance.

Key Department initiatives with a regional focus include:

Aboriginal Fishing Strategy

The Aboriginal Fishing Strategy was developed following extensive consultation with Aboriginal people and other key stakeholders. Key recommendations include the establishment of an Aboriginal Fishing Fund for the acquisition, through the market, of commercial fishing licences, and an Aboriginal Fisheries Managers and Wardens program. Both of these programs, if supported, will contribute directly to the social and economic well-being of regional Aboriginal communities.

Aquatic Tour (Charter) Industry

The Department of Fisheries licenses and manages the WA aquatic tour (charter) industry. The industry operates across

the four bioregions of the Pilbara/Kimberley, Gascoyne, West Coast and South Coast. Since regulation of this industry business viability has increased by improving predictability and stability in terms of long-term access to the aquatic resource based tourism market.

Bioregional Marine Planning

The Department is working to ensure that marine planning and Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) are fully incorporated in regional and natural resource management planning processes. The Department has commenced Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) fishery assessment reports for minor fisheries. Combined with those previously undertaken for export fisheries, these will feed into the development of bioregional ESD reports which will cover the catch by all sectors in a region and initiate a bioregional management approach to fisheries management. Work continues in relation to the establishment of fish habitat protection areas under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* to complement the marine parks and reserves system.

In addition to the above, the Department's continued work in commercial and recreational fisheries management within an ecologically sustainable development framework contributes directly to regional development, given the regional focus of many fishing activities. Pearling and aquaculture activities also contribute significantly to regional communities. The pearling industry, for example, operates predominantly in the Kimberley region with an estimated value of \$121 million in 2003/04.

EVALUATIONS

A number of reviews were conducted or finalised during the reporting period including:

Nature and Extent of Rights to Fish in Western Australia

Although there has been much debate within the Western Australian fisheries sector about the degree to which fishing licences or authorities constitute "property", there is often no common understanding of what is meant by the term. Better articulation and understanding of the notion of "property" will assist discussions and provide a foundation upon which decisions about changes to the fisheries management regime in Western Australia can be made.

A steering committee, comprising officers of the Department of Fisheries and the Department's three major stakeholder groups, considered that issue and prepared a report addressing fisheries access rights. The report included input from the State Solicitor's Office but does not necessarily represent the views of the State Solicitor or reflect Government policy. The report analyses the legislation and case law that underpins the current system of fisheries management and considers the nature of "property" and matters that will need to be taken into account in any change from the current regime. The results of this examination will inform debate about an appropriate future system for management of fisheries in Western Australia and the legal issues which will need to be addressed in implementing any change.

The report is limited to an examination of rights in tidal fisheries.

Sustainability Action Plan

In compliance with the State Sustainability Strategy and the Sustainability Code of Practice for Government Agencies, the Department has conducted an extensive evaluation of sustainability actions and commitments to produce a Sustainability Action Plan for the period 2005 – 2007. The Action Plan will guide the Department in ensuring that it undertakes its operations in accordance with sustainability principles.

The Action Plan is subject to ongoing review.

Reporting

Strategic Plan 2004–2008

The Department's Strategic Plan was reviewed during 2004 and published in September with a proposed life to 2008. Development of the plan involved extensive internal consultation and feedback from key external client groups.

The plan takes into account, and is consistent with, requirements under the *State Strategic Planning Framework* and is linked to whole-of-Government initiatives including the State Sustainability Strategy and Regional Development Policy.

The plan focuses on Ecologically Sustainable Development, Integrated Fisheries Management and Regional Natural Resource Management. It identifies opportunities arising from new initiatives such as the development of new fisheries and marine environment research facilities at Hillarys and the adoption by the Department of a significant role in the delivery of marine safety. The plan highlights the growing importance of stakeholders and partnerships.

Review of core/non-core business activities

The Department of Fisheries produces goods and services to allow the achievement of corporate objectives and to enhance its relationships with stakeholders and heighten local and international awareness of the Department's achievements with respect to the management of fisheries, aquaculture development and the aquatic environment. Opportunities arise for goods and services to be produced and provided to organisations external to the Department including the general public (e.g. sale of publications, sale of advertising space, sale of merchandise, charter of vessels and training of overseas personnel).

The *State Trading Concerns Act* (STCA) makes provision for Government Departments to access "own source" revenue opportunities subject to approval by the Treasurer by regulation under the STCA.

The Department has undertaken a review of its core and non-core activities to identify any activities that require approval under the STCA and has sought approval from the Treasurer to conduct these activities.

In association with this evaluation, the Department has developed a policy with respect to the charging for goods or services provided in these circumstances. The policy is cognisant of the Competition Principles Agreement entered into by all Australian Governments, which requires competitive pricing for any "significant" activity carried out by a government department.

National Competition Policy review

With the implementation of the National Competition Policy (NCP), the State Government embarked on a reform agenda to move fisheries management towards full compliance with NCP. Following an evaluation of fisheries management in Western Australia, the National Competition Council (NCC) issued its NCP assessment report in December 2004.

In relation to fisheries legislation, the NCC has assessed that Western Australia is still to completely fulfil its NCP obligations, citing licensing and entitlement restriction changes in the rock lobster fishery as unfulfilled obligations. In relation to pearling legislation, the NCC assessed that NCP obligations had not been met as the current pearling legislation imposed competitive restrictions.

Government and industry representatives have provided substantial information to the NCC in support of Western Australia's NCP reform agenda, focussing on rock lobster and pearling. Notwithstanding the NCC assessment, the existing reform agenda will be continued in accordance with agreed State Government directions and timeframes.

Trade Practices Act review

Following a review of the *Trade Practices Act* applicability to the business activities of the Department, it developed a Trade Practices Act Compliance Policy with the aim of ensuring that every employee had access to current information about relevant trade practice laws.

The Department of Fisheries Trade Practices Act (TPA) Compliance Policy and Trade Practices Act Compliance Manual and Guide were designed to help all Department employees understand their role in complying with trade practices laws.

Fisheries Statutory Management Authority inquiry

An independent advisory committee was appointed by the Minister for Fisheries to conduct an inquiry into the feasibility and desirability of establishing a single statutory management authority (SMA) to administer Western Australia's fisheries.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were to examine and report on the desirability and feasibility (including advantages and disadvantages) of establishing a SMA to administer the State's fisheries; if a SMA was to be established, to report on the appropriate structure, role, functions, legislative framework, accountability processes, performance measures and involvement of stakeholders; and if a SMA was not to be established, to report on any changes that could be made to improve the existing Departmental structure, role, functions, legislation, accountability processes, performance measures and involvement of stakeholders.

The recommendations arising from the inquiry were that a statutory management authority not be established to administer the State's fisheries on either a broad basis or in the cost recovery fisheries only and that the Department of Fisheries be retained as a stand-alone agency. Further recommendations were made in respect to consideration of a fisheries royalty; advisory and consultative mechanisms; strategic approaches to fisheries and marine management issues; an independent audit of key research outcomes; reviewing performance measures; and an independent review of the coordination and integration of marine management in WA.

INFORMATION STATEMENT

Freedom of Information Act 1992

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

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

For the year ending 30 June 2005, the Department received three applications for access to information in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. Full access to information was given in one case, edited access was given in one case and one application was refused.

On average, each application took 33 days to process, against the Government standard of 45 days.

Reporting

REPORTING ON RECORD KEEPING PLANS

(*State Records Act 2000*, section 61, & State Records Commission Standards, Standard 2, Principle 6)

Under Section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000*, every government department is required to have a Record Keeping Plan. The Record Keeping Plan is to provide an accurate reflection of the record keeping program within the Department and must be complied with by the Department and its officers.

Under Part 3, Division 4, the Department is to review its Record Keeping Plan periodically or when there is any significant change to the Department's functions. In November 2003 the Department's Record Keeping Plan was fully endorsed by the State Records Commission.

The Department's record keeping function was audited in December 2004. Findings from the report indicated that overall "quality of management control" associated with record keeping within the Department was rated as satisfactory and that record keeping practices represented a low "overall risk exposure" to the Department.

The Department implemented an online record keeping training and awareness program in December 2004. All staff throughout the State have been enrolled in the course and as at 30 June 2005, 75 per cent of staff have completed the course. The effectiveness of this training program will be reviewed in 2006.

The Department also holds a formal induction seminar for new employees. This includes a segment on the record keeping program within the Department and addresses employees' roles and responsibilities in regard to their compliance with the Department's Record Keeping Plan.

ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP

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

Total expenditure for 2003/04 was \$84,138.19

The details of the report are as follows:

Expenditure with Advertising Agencies – Marketforce Australia \$91,372.42	\$91,372.42
Expenditure with Market Research Agencies	\$0
Expenditure with Polling Agencies	\$0
Expenditure with Direct Mail Agencies	\$0
Expenditure with Media Advertising Agencies – FWA Media Pty Ltd – \$3,227.29	\$3,227.29
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$94,599.71

STATE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

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

- an expansion of the Department's environmental assessments of fisheries and aquaculture sectors to include social and economic components;
- development of a long-term aquatic ecosystem strategy to rehabilitate freshwater ecosystems and establishment of a freshwater native fish sub-program within the Department;
- establishment of fish habitat protection areas to complement the marine park and reserve system;
- a continuation and expansion of targeted education and training programs to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture throughout Western Australia;
- development of an Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) strategy and supporting processes taking into account the needs of all stakeholders on a bio-regional basis; and
- preparation of an introduced marine pest response strategy for Western Australia.

The Sustainability Code of Practice for Government Agencies requires the Department to address 13 corporate level commitments and 40 actions in the areas of governance, agency operations and employee empowerment. In fulfilment of this commitment, the Department has developed a Sustainability Action Plan for the period 2005 – 2007. The plan was prepared in consultation with the Department's Agency Executive Group and peak external stakeholders, and has been endorsed by the Minister for Fisheries. An internal Sustainability Committee has been established to oversee commitments outlined in the Action Plan.

Several notable initiatives have been undertaken under the Action Plan including:

- the Department's Strategic Plan 2004–2008 recognises key fisheries actions as per the State Sustainability Strategy. It is also aligned with the Government's Strategic Planning Framework;
- the Department has commenced a review of its consultation processes and practices with stakeholders

and lists agency community consultations on the Citizenship Consultation Catalogue;

- the Department has developed processes to ensure that internal procurement complies with the 'Buying Wisely and Environmental Procurement' guidelines;
- the Department has provided training to staff members in sustainable procurement;
- compliance with fleet management guidelines has been achieved by maintaining the available vehicle fleet at 25 per cent LPG powered;
- an effective operational Service Level Agreement has been negotiated with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) for the delivery of integrated at-sea marine safety services;
- Memoranda of Understanding and service level agreements with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and the Department of Transport and Regional Services have been negotiated for the delivery of fisheries compliance services in the Australian Fishing Zone and the delivery of fisheries management services at Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands;
- an energy audit was conducted in the Atrium Building (Head Office) and new lighting tubes to reduce energy use will now be installed;
- a printer and toner recycling program was implemented across the metropolitan area;
- the construction of the new WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories at Hillarys incorporated a number of energy-saving innovations such as energy efficient orientation, wide roof eaves for solar control, thermal insulation, dual-purpose heating systems which warms sea water for aquariums as well as the air in the building, "smart lights", energy efficient air conditioning, use of bore water and drought-resistant, salt-tolerant coastal plant species in landscaping;
- the construction of the new Saville Kent Research facility at the Abrolhos Islands, incorporating research laboratories and accommodation for 20 people utilises solar technology to produce its main energy requirements. Lights, power and desalination from seawater to freshwater are achieved using solar power while gas is used to heat water;
- the introduction of a co-mingled recycling program that

Reporting

- has trebled the amount of recyclable material collected;
- actions have been identified to reduce unnecessary solo car journeys and promote travel alternatives;
- “people mover” style vehicles have been incorporated into the Department’s vehicle fleet;
- there has been an overall reduction in the at-sea patrol vessel fleet and therefore around 15 per cent reduction in fuel consumption, as a result of the merging of the Marine Safety Program of the DPI with the Department of Fisheries;
- a reduction in fuel consumption of up to 35 litres of diesel per hour in running time has been achieved through a minor reduction in the cruising speed of patrol vessels;
- the Department has implemented its Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan, which encourages and creates opportunities to understand and respect diversity; and
- the Department has implemented a robust management system of occupational health and safety measures in the workplace to improve environmental, economic and social outcomes.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY OUTCOMES

(Equal Opportunity Act 1984, S146)

The Department of Fisheries’ Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Committee has set an objective to promote EEO and diversity through internal publications such as *Bottom Line* and on posters displayed throughout the Department.

The Committee has recently reviewed the Department’s Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Policy and appointed a number of contact and grievance officers to assist with EEO education and grievance resolution.

The Department’s EEO and Diversity Management Plan 2002/05 (the Plan) is designed to achieve a “culture that celebrates diversity” within the agency.

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

For this year’s intake of Fisheries and Marine Officers, candidates were again required to complete an online application. Provision is made within the application process to accelerate indigenous applicants through the online screening process. On conclusion of the selection and appointment process female candidates represented 30 per cent of the 2004/05 Fisheries and Marine Officer recruitment pool.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC SECTOR STANDARDS AND ETHICAL CODES

(Public Sector Management Act 1994 S31 (1))

The Department's human resource management policies are written to support the achievement of its human resource strategy and to comply with the Human Resource Management Standards.

The standards compliance process includes a quality control audit of all recruitment, selection and appointment processes for appointments exceeding six months, undertaken independently by the Human Resources Branch. Monitoring of compliance with other standards occurs on an ongoing basis with review audits where necessary.

A significant effort has been made in recent years to promote awareness of the Public Sector Code of Ethics and the Department's own Code of Conduct.

All human resource policies and the ethical codes are available to staff via the intranet. The Code of Conduct, last reviewed in March 2003, is currently under review by the Department's Joint Consultative Committee.

The Department continues to have very low numbers of claims relating to breaches of standards or the ethical codes. The table below summarises the breach of standards claims dealt with during 2004/05:

Claims lodged	1
Claims not finalised from previous financial year	0
Total claims in 2004/05	1
Outcome of claims:	
Withdrawn in agency	0
Resolved in agency	0
Still pending in agency	0
Referred to OPSSC	1
Total claims 2004/05	1

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

CORRUPTION AND FRAUD PREVENTION

The Department of Fisheries is committed to developing appropriate capabilities, organisational policies and processes and culture, which will prevent corruption and fraud within the Department, consistent with the Department's Code of Conduct and relevant legislation.

The Department of Fisheries' Corruption and Fraud prevention policies and processes will also anticipate areas of misconduct and corruption, and have measures in place to counter them.

In 2004/05 the Department had in place the following measures in place to counter misconduct and corruption:

- rollout of Public Interest Disclosure (PID) in accordance with the Act;
- Code of Conduct – copies sent to each employee;
- articles on corruption and fraud included in internal monthly newsletter;
- business plans, including a Risk Management Plan, which looks at how the Department addresses fraud; and
- a presentation on corruption and fraud, given as part of the mandatory induction process for new staff.

Reporting

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES

(Public Interest Disclosures Act 2003, S23 (1) (f))

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* came into effect on 1 July 2003, requiring the Department of Fisheries to:

- facilitate the disclosure of public interest information;
- provide protection for those who make disclosures; and
- provide protection for those who are the subject of a disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, the Department has duly appointed a Public Interest Disclosure Officer and has published internal policies and procedures related to its obligations. No public interest disclosures were received during 2004/05.

COMPLIANCE WITH RELEVANT WRITTEN LAWS

Enabling Legislation

The Department of Fisheries is established under Section 35 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

Legislation Administered

The Department of Fisheries assists the Minister in the administration of legislation under five State Acts of Parliament (see page 10).

The Department also manages the majority of fishing adjacent to Western Australia in the Australian Fishing Zone under the provisions of Part 5 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* of the Commonwealth and Part 3 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Legislation Affecting Department Outcomes

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

Animal Welfare Act 2002

Conservation and Land Management Act 1984

Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003

Disability Services Act 1993

Electronic Transactions Act 2003

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Equal Opportunity Act 1984

Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985

Firearms Act 1973

Freedom of Information Act 1992

Government Employees' Housing Act 1964

Industrial Relations Act 1979

Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993

New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999

Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984

Occupiers Liability Act 1985

Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972

Public Interest Disclosures Act 2003

Public Sector Management Act 1994

Salaries and Allowances Act 1975

State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004

State Records Act 2000

State Superannuation Act 2000

State Supply Commission Act 1991

State Trading Concerns Act 1916

Trade Practices Act 1974

Volunteers (Protection from Liability) Act 2002

Western Australian Marine Act 1982

Wildlife Conservation Act 1950

Numerous other State and Federal laws also affect the Department's activities. These are listed in Appendix 4.

In the financial administration of the Department of Fisheries, we have complied with the requirements of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* and other relevant written law, and exercised controls which provide reasonable assurance that the receipt and the expenditure of monies, and the acquisition and disposal of public property and incurring of liabilities, have been in accordance with legislative provisions.

At the date of signing, I am not aware of any circumstances, which would render the particulars included in this statement misleading or inaccurate.



P P Rogers D.Sc. BSc (Agric) MBA FAICD
Accountable Officer



Bruno Mezzatesta BBus FCPA GAICD
Principal Accounting Officer

30 June 2005

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Ministerial and Management Advisory Committees (MACs)

- Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee
(Section 29 FRMA 1994)
Chair: Ron Edwards
- Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee
(Section 33 FRMA 1994)
Chair: Doug Bathgate
- Aquaculture Development Council
(Section 37 FRMA 1994)
Chair: Dexter Davies
- Pearling Industry Advisory Committee
(Pearling Act 1990)
Chair: George Kailis

Non-Statutory Management Advisory Committees

(Section 41 and 42 Fish Resources Management Act 1994)

- Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee
- WA Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery Management Advisory Committee
- Abrolhos Islands Management Advisory Committee
- Purse Seine Management Advisory Committee
- Joint Trawl Management Advisory Committee
- Abalone Management Advisory Committee
- Northern Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery Management Advisory Committee

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

(Section 11 of the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987)

- South West Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management
- West Coast Estuarine and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management
- South Coast Herring and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management
- South Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee of Management

Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes

(Section 10 of the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987)

- South West Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme
- West Coast Estuarine and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme

Full membership of these committees can be found at the Department's website, www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/macs

APPENDIX 2

Major Publications produced by the Department of Fisheries

Fisheries Occasional Publications

- No. 14 *Department Of Fisheries Stakeholder Survey 2004*
- No. 15 Proposals for a Unit Register for a fishery. A discussion paper by the Unit Register Working Group
- No. 16 Report for the Sea Lion Reference Group.
- No. 17 Western Rock Lobster Environmental Management Strategy July 2002 – June 2006
- No. 18 Western Rock Lobster Fishery – Investigation and Economic Analysis of the Minimum Unit Holding.
- No. 19 Management of Western Rock Lobster – Proposed Resource Sustainability Management Package for the Northern Zones [A and B]
- No. 20 Management of Western Rock Lobster Fishery – Advice to Stakeholders – Assessment of Southern Zone Resource Sustainability Options
- No. 21 Allocation of the Western Rock Lobster Resource Between User Groups. Submission to the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee by the Department of Fisheries

Fisheries Management Papers

- No. 178 Draft Plan of Management for the Kalbarri Blue Holes Fish Habitat Protection Area
- No. 179 A Draft Policy for the Translocation of Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*) and Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) into and within Western Australia for the Purposes of Recreational Stocking, Domestic Stocking and Commercial and Non-Commercial Aquaculture

- No. 180 The Sustainable Management of Western Australia's Temperate Shark Fisheries
- No. 181 A Quality Future for Recreational Fishing in the Pilbara/Kimberley
- No. 182 A Quality Future for Recreational Fishing in the Southern Region of WA
- No. 184 South West Beach Seine Management Discussion Paper
- No. 185 Plan of Management for the Point Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Area
- No. 187 Proposals for community discussion on the future management of pink snapper fishing in Cockburn Sound and surrounding waters
- No. 189 Proposed Management Arrangements for the Gascoyne Commercial Wetline Fishery
- No. 190 Management Arrangements for the West Coast Commercial 'Wetline' Fishery
- No. 191 Access And Allocation Arrangements For The Commercial 'Wetline' Fisheries
- No. 192 Integrated Fisheries Management Report – Western Rock Lobster Resource
- No. 192A A Sustainable Future for Recreational Fishing in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- No. 193 A Five-Year Management Strategy for the Pilbara/Kimberley Region of Western Australia
- No. 194 A Five-Year Management Strategy for the South Coast Region of Western Australia
- No. 195 Nature and Extent of Rights to Fish in Western Australia
- No. 197 Proposed Implementation of Sea Lion Exclusion Devices in the Western Rock Lobster Fishery

Research reports

- Development of Assessment Tools for the National ESD Framework – initial scoping exercise; *Fletcher, W.J., Chesson, J., Sainsbury, K.J., Fisher, M., Hundloe, T.*
- Modelling Western Australian Fisheries with techniques of time series analysis; *Craine, M.*
- Mother-of-Pearl Shell (*Pinctada maxima*): Stock Evaluation for Management and Future Harvesting in Western Australia; *Anthony M. Hart, A.M. and Friedman, K.J.*
- Implementation and Assessment of Bycatch Reduction Devices in the Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf Trawl Fisheries; *Mervi Kangas, M. and Thomson, A.*
- Minimising the cost of future stock monitoring, and assessment of the potential for increased yields, from the oceanic snapper (*Pagrus auratus*) stock off Shark Bay; *Moran, M., Stephenson, P., Gaughan, D., Tapp, N. and Moore, J.*
- The age, growth, reproductive biology and stock assessment of grass emperor (*Lethrinus laticaudis*) in Shark Bay, Western Australia; *Ayvazian, S., Chatfield, B. Gaughan, D., Keay, I. and Nowara, G.*
- Aquatic Animal Health Subprogram: Enhancing the emergency disease response capability of the Western Australian Department of Fisheries and industry bodies associated with freshwater crayfish; *Stephens, F.*
- The western rock lobster fishery 2001/2002 to 2002/2003; *Chubb, C. F. and Barker, E. H.*
- Historical distribution and abundance of the Australian sea lion (*Neophoca cinerea*) on the west coast of Western Australia; *Campbell, R.*
- Mitigation of the negative impacts on biodiversity and fisheries values of the refurbishment of Waroona Dam, south-western Australia; *Molony, B., Beatty, S., Bird, C. and Nguyen, V.*
- Yabby hybrid growout experiment; *Lawrence, C.*
- Enhancing the emergency disease response capability of the Western Australian Department of Fisheries and industry bodies associated with freshwater crayfish culture; *Stephens, F., Jones, B., East, I., Scott, K. and Bennison, S.*
- Mother-of-pearl shell (*Pinctada maxima*): Stock evaluation for management and future harvesting in Western Australia; *Hart, A. M., Friedman, K. J.*
- The nutritional management of barramundi; *Glencross, B.*
- Defining the impact of hydrological changes associated with lake-turnover events on barramundi cage aquaculture in Lake Argyle, Final Report; *Felsing, M. and Glencross, B.*
- The western rock lobster fishery 1999/2000 to 2000/2001; *Chubb, C. F. and Barker, E. H.*

Appendices

- State of the Fisheries Report 2003/04; *Penn, J.W., Fletcher, W.J. and Head, F.*
- The Second Hatchery Feeds and Technology Workshop; *Kolkovski, S., Heine, J. and Clarke, S.*
- Marron Farming Workshop, Field Day and Trade Show; *Maguire, G.*

APPENDIX 3

REGISTER OF LICENCES, PERMITS, EXEMPTIONS AND AQUACULTURE LEASES

The register of licences, permits, exemptions and aquaculture leases is available to the public on application to the Registrar and payment of appropriate fees – s125 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA). No aquaculture leases were granted.

Although details of recreational licences are recorded on the register, the Registrar is prohibited from making them available for public search – *Fish Resources Management Act s125(6)*.

At 30 June 2005, there were 57,820 recreational fishing licences recorded, 7,580 commercial authorisations recorded and 474 aquaculture licences recorded on the register.

Fees to access the register and obtain copies of entries in, and extracts from, the register are prescribed in Schedule 1 Part 1 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*.

Transactions on the register	
Extracts	416
Searches	48
Notation of security interest	168
Removal of security interest	202
Variation of security interest	48

The Registrar recorded four convictions against 11 authorisations in the relevant period, pursuant to the statutory obligation under s224(1) of the *Fish Resources Management Act*. No authorisations were cancelled (under s224(2) of the *Fish Resources Management Act*) as a result of the recording of three convictions within 10 years against the authorisation.

The Registrar provided certificates under s212 of the *Fish Resources Management Act* for the purposes of proceedings for offences under the *Fish Resources Management Act* on seven occasions.

Fisheries Objections Tribunal/State Administrative Tribunal

Four Fisheries Objections Tribunal matters were completed in the period 1 July 2004 to 30 December 2004.

On 1 January 2005 the State Administrative Tribunal was established. This standing tribunal replaced the Fisheries Objections Tribunal (and a number of other tribunals).

A number of matters were transitioned from the Fisheries Objections Tribunal to the State Administrative Tribunal. Twelve transitioned matters were completed by 30 June 2005.

APPENDIX 4

NEW LEGISLATION, LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND GAZETTED INSTRUMENTS

1. Summary

1.1 *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*

There were three amendments to this Act.

- The Courts Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2004* was proclaimed to come into operation on 1 May 2005. The amendment replaces the term “petty sessions” with “summary jurisdiction” in s.201(4).
- The State Administrative Tribunal (Conferral of Jurisdiction) Amendment and Repeal Act 2004* commenced operation on 1 January 2005. The amendments were various but in particular affected “Part 14 – Objections”.
- The Criminal Procedure and Appeals (Consequential and Other Provisions) Act 2004* came into operation on 2 May 2005. The amendment made various minor amendments to certain terms used.

Regulations

There were five amendments made to the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*. See item 2.1(a) below.

Management Plans

There were two new management plans and 16 amendments to existing management plans. See item 2.1(b) below.

Orders

There were six new orders and 10 amendments to existing orders. See item 2.1(c) below.

Notices

There were 14 notices published in the Gazette. See 2.1(d) below.

1.2 *Pearling Act 1990*

There were two amendments to this Act.

- a) The *State Administrative Tribunal (Conferral of Jurisdiction) Amendment and Repeal Act 2004* commenced operation on 1 January 2005. The amendment made various amendments regarding appeals.
- b) The *Criminal Procedure and Appeals (Consequential and Other Provisions) Act 2004* came into operation on 2 May 2005. The amendment made various minor amendments to certain terms used.

Notices

There was one notice published in the Gazette. See item 2.2(a) below.

1.3 *Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987*

There was one amendment to this Act.

The *State Administrative Tribunal (Conferral of Jurisdiction) Amendment and Repeal Act 2004* commenced operation on 1 January 2005. The amendment made various amendments including deleting the term “Tribunal” and inserting “State Administrative Tribunal”.

Regulations

There was one amendment to the Regulations.

Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Amendment Regulations 2004: commenced 1 January 2005. Repealed regulations 8, 9, 10 and Schedule 1 which all deal with the Tribunal.

Notices

There were two notices under the Act.

- a) *South West Coast Salmon and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Notice 2004*: Established a voluntary fisheries adjustment scheme in the South West Coast Salmon Fishery and related fisheries
- b) *West Coast Estuarine and Related Fisheries Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Notice 2005*: Established a voluntary fisheries adjustment scheme in the West Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery and related fisheries.

1.4 *Fishing Industry Promotion Training and Management Levy Act 1994*

There were no amendments to this Act.

1.5 *Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997*

There was one amendment to this Act.

The *State Administrative Tribunal (Conferral of Jurisdiction) Amendment and Repeal Act 2004*: Commenced operation on 1 January 2005. The amendment made various amendments regarding applications to the Tribunal.

Regulations

There was one amendment to the Regulations.

Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Amendment Regulations 2004: Commenced 1 January 2005. Amended Schedule 1 “Forms”.

2. SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

2.1 *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*

a) *Regulations*

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 9) 2004: Commenced 30 September 2004. Amended Schedules 1 (Fees), 7 (List of common and scientific names) and 9 (Determining the value of fish).

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2004: Commenced 30 November 2004. Amended the definition of “closed season” and the regulation dealing with the notation of security interests on the register.

Appendices

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 10) 2004: Commence on the day on which Part 2 Division 51 of the *State Administrative Tribunal (Conferral of Jurisdiction) Amendment and Repeal Act 2004* comes into operation or on the day of their publication in the Gazette, whichever is later. Repealed Part 12 (Objections) and regulation 175 (Appeals to the Minister for the Environment against giving of notice). Deleted the fee payable for objections and Forms 1 and 8 in Schedule 14.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations 2005: Commenced 1 March 2005. Amended various fees in Schedule 1.

Fish Resources Management Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2005: Commenced 3 June 2005. Amended relevant regulations to authorise a recreational fisher to fish after they have applied for, but not yet received, a Recreational Fishing Licence.

Management Plans

New Plans

Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2004: Commenced 1 August 2004. Introduced management arrangements for commercial fishing of mackerel.

South Coast Estuarine Fishery Management Plan 2005: Commenced 1 July 2005. Introduced management arrangements for commercial fishing in the estuaries on the South Coast of Western Australia.

Amendments to existing Plans

Warnbro Sound (Crab) Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004: Amended two definitions in the Interpretation clause.

Abrolhos Islands and Mid West Trawl Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004: Amended the coordinates in line with the GDA.

Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery Management Plan

Amendment 2004: *Amended the coordinates in line with the GDA.*

Kimberley Prawn Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004: Amended the coordinates in line with the GDA.

Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004: The amendment re-describes the line of longitude in line with the GDA.

Nickol Bay Prawn Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004: Amended the coordinates in line with the GDA.

Onslow Prawn Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004: The amendment removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD within the instrument.

Shark Bay Prawn Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004: Amended the coordinates in line with the GDA.

Shark Bay Scallop Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004: Amended the coordinates in line with the GDA.

Shark Bay Snapper Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No.2) 2004: Amended the coordinates in line with the GDA.

West Coast Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004: Amended the plan to provide for catch restrictions for the year ending 31 March 2005.

West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan Amendment (No. 2) 2004: Amended the provisions relating to temporary transfer of part of an entitlement.

Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2004: Introduced access fees for 2005 and increased flexibility around landing of mackerel.

West Coast Deep Sea Crab Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2004: Amended the date of cessation of the plan.

Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery (Interim) Management Plan Amendment 2005: Amended the date of cessation of the plan.

West Coast (Beach Bait Fish Net) Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2005: The amendment removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD within the instrument.

(c) Orders

New Orders

Prohibition on Fishing (Busselton Jetty) Order 2004 (Order No. 20 of 2004): Prohibits fishing around Busselton Jetty.

Point Quobba Fish Habitat Protection Area Order 2004: Sets aside the waters of Point Quobba as a fish habitat protection area.

Prohibition on Fishing for Pink Snapper (Cockburn Sound) Order 2004 (Order No. 23 of 2004): Prohibits fishing for pink snapper in the waters of Cockburn Sound at certain periods of the year.

Prohibition on Fishing for Rock Lobster (Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin) Order 2005 (Order No. 1 of 2005): Prohibits vessels larger than eight metres from fishing for rock lobster in certain waters.

Prohibition on Fishing for Crabs (Geographe Bay) Order 2005 (Order No. 2 of 2005): Prohibits commercial fishing for crabs in certain waters. Also revokes the *Prohibition on Commercial Fishing for Crabs (Geographe Bay) Order 1999*.

Prohibition on Fishing for Rock Lobster (Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin) Order (No. 2) 2005 (Order No. 3 of 2005): A mistake was made in the navigational coordinates in Order No. 1 of 2005. A decision was made not to amend Order No. 1 of 2005 but rather gazette a new order with the correct navigation coordinates.

Amendments to Existing Orders

Prohibition on Taking Fish (South Muiron Island) Amendment Order 2004 (Order No. 19 of 2004): The amendment removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD and amended the coordinates in line with the GDA.

Houtman Abrolhos Reef Observation Areas Amendment Order 2004 (Order No. 13 of 2004): Amended the coordinates in Schedule 1.

Prohibition on Netting (Point Samson) Amendment Order 2005 (Order No. 5 of 2005): The amendment removed the clause that establishes and defines the AGD within the instrument.

Lake Argyle Fishery Amendment Order (Order No. 6 of 2005): The amendment removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD within the instrument.

Prohibition on Recreational Fishing (Marmion Marine Park) Amendment Order 2005 (Order No. 9 of 2005): Amended the coordinates in line with the GDA.

Prohibition on Commercial Fishing (Marmion Marine Park) Amendment Order 2005 (Order No. 10 of 2005): Amended the coordinates in line with the GDA.

Houtman Abrolhos Reef Observation Areas Amendment Order 2005 (Order No. 15 of 2005): Amended the coordinates in line with the GDA.

Prohibition on Recreational Netting (North West and Kimberley) Amendment Order 2005 (Order No. 7 of 2005): The amendment re-describes the line of longitude and coordinates in line with the GDA.

Prohibition on Netting (Mid West Coast) Amendment Order 2005 (Order No. 8 of 2005): The amendment removes the clause that establishes and defines the AGD and amended the coordinates in line with the GDA.

Prohibition on Fishing for Coral (Abrolhos Islands) Notice Revocation Order 2005 (Order No. 14 of 2005): Revoked Notice No. 387 published in the Gazette of 3 February 1989.

(d) Notices

Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery. Clause 9 – closures of areas within the Fishery. Notice that a new determination (Determination No. 3 of 2004) has been made of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the Fishery. Published in the Gazette of 20 July 2004.

Correction: Warnbro Sound (Crab) Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2004. Corrected an error in the order published under the above heading. Published in the Gazette of 20 August 2004.

South Coast Purse Seine Managed Fishery – Approved receivers of small pelagic fish. Lists approved receivers in respect of small pelagic fish. Published in the Gazette of 5 October 2004.

Appendices

Issue of Ministerial Policy Guidelines. *Guidelines in respect of the "Assessment of Applications for Authorisations with regards to Rock Lobster Aquaculture"*. Published in the Gazette of 19 October 2004.

Pilbara Trap Managed Fishery – Notice of determination. Notice of determination of the capacity of the Fishery for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005. Published in the Gazette of 30 November 2004.

Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery – Notice of determination. Notice of determination of the capacity of the Fishery for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005. Published in the Gazette of 3 December 2004.

Statement of Determination – Abalone Management Plan 1992. Statement of determination in regard to the maximum quantity of abalone that may be taken in an area of the Fishery during the licensing period commencing on 1 April 2005. Published in the Gazette of 25 February 2005.

Shark Bay Prawn Management Plan 1993. Clause 10 – closures of areas within the Fishery. Gave notice that a new determination (Determination No. 1 of 2005) has been made of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the Fishery. Published in the Gazette of 1 March 2005.

Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery. Clause 9 – closures of areas within the Fishery. Notice that a new determination (Determination No. 1 of 2005) has been made of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the Fishery. Published in the Gazette of 8 March 2005.

Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1993 – Notice No. 1 of 2005. Revoked the previous notice and gave notice that fishing was prohibited in the Fishery during certain times and dates. Published in the Gazette of 1 April 2005.

Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery. Clause 9 – closures of areas within the Fishery. Notice that a new determination (Determination No. 2 of 2005) has been made of the areas, times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the Fishery. Published in the Gazette of 8 April 2005.

Intention to Determine a Management Plan for the South Coast Estuarine Fishery. Notice of the intention to determine a management plan for the South Coast Estuarine Fishery. Published in the Gazette of 15 April 2005.

Broome Prawn Managed Fishery Management Plan 1999 – Notice No. 1 of 2005. Cancelled Notice No. 1 of 2004 and gave notice of the times and dates that fishing is prohibited in the Fishery. Published in the Gazette of 17 May 2005.

South Coast Purse Seine Managed Fishery – Approved receivers of small pelagic fish. Lists approved receivers in respect of small pelagic fish. Published in the Gazette of 14 June 2005.

2.2 *Pearling Act 1990*

(a) Notices

Pearling (Annual Fees) Notice 2004. Established the fees payable for various pearling licences and permits for the year commencing 1 January 2005. Published in the Gazette of 31 December 2004.

APPENDIX 5

STOCK STATUS AND CATCH RANGES FOR MAJOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

The information in this table is derived from more detailed data on each fishery presented each year in the companion report *State of the Fisheries*. The fisheries referred to in the table are management units (explained fully in *State of the*

Fisheries), most of which are fully managed fisheries or are in the process of having dedicated management plans developed.

Full information on the current management status and future directions of commercial fisheries, as well as recreational fisheries and aquaculture industries, is given in the *State of the Fisheries Report*.

FISHERY	STOCK ASSESSMENT COMPLETE	BREEDING STOCK ASSESSMENT	PREVIOUS TARGET CATCH (and effort) RANGE IN TONNES (days)	CATCH (tonnes) FOR SEASON REPORTED ¹	SEASON REPORTED ¹	CATCH (or effort) LEVEL ACCEPTABLE	COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE IN REPORTED SEASON
WEST COAST BIOREGION							
West coast rock lobster	Yes	Adequate	8,166–14,523	13,565	2003/04	Yes	The above-average catch due to good puerulus settlement 3–4 years previously.
Abrolhos Islands and Mid West trawl	Yes	Adequate	95–1,830	145	2004	Yes	The annual recruitment (and therefore catch) of scallops is highly variable depending upon environmental conditions.
South West trawl	NA	NA	Not available	Prawns 12 Scallops 3	2004	NA	
Roe's abalone	Yes	Adequate	110.9 (Q) (679–914 days)	107.5 (734 days)	2004	Yes	Most of the exploratory quota (7.9 t) was utilised in Area 1.
Cockburn Sound crab	Preliminary	Adequate	200–350	159	2003/04	Yes	Decrease in catch due to low recruitment. Stock prone to large natural fluctuations in recruitment.
Deep sea crab	Yes ²	Adequate	NA	226	2004	NA	Developing fishery with expanding catch due to increased exploratory effort.
Estuarine fisheries (west coast)	Yes ²	NA	75–220 (Peel/Harvey only)	194 (Peel/Harvey)	2004	Yes	Includes fish and crustaceans. Recent annual catches have been stable, but lower than in previous years due to reductions in the number of commercial fishers operating in estuaries.
West coast beach bait	Yes ²	Adequate	60–275 (whitebait only)	211	2004	Yes	Yearly fluctuations in whitebait stocks due to environmental conditions.
West coast purse seine	Yes	Adequate	3,000 (Q)	701	2004	NA	Low catch is due to a combination of irregular availability of fish and low activity levels by fleet. Acceptable effort level not available.

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FISHERY	STOCK ASSESSMENT COMPLETE	BREEDING STOCK ASSESSMENT	PREVIOUS TARGET CATCH (and effort) RANGE IN TONNES (days)	CATCH (tonnes) FOR SEASON REPORTED ¹	SEASON REPORTED ¹	CATCH (or effort) LEVEL ACCEPTABLE	COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE IN REPORTED SEASON
GASCOYNE COAST BIOREGION							
Shark Bay prawn	Yes	Adequate	1,501–2,330	1,748	2004	Yes	All three major prawn species were within target catch limits.
Exmouth Gulf prawn	Yes	Adequate	771–1,276	1,348	2004	Yes	Total catch slightly higher than the target catch range due to very good tiger prawn catches as predicted from favourable environmental conditions.
Shark Bay scallop	Yes	Adequate	1,250–3,000	1,655	2004	Yes	
Shark Bay beach seine & mesh net	Yes ²	Adequate	235–335	313	2004	Yes	The catch for the four key species was within their individual target ranges except for yellowfin bream which was higher due to strong recent recruitment.
Shark Bay snapper	Yes	Increasing	338.3 (Q) (425–558 days)	311.9 (672 days*) *June–July period only	2004	No	Age-based stock assessment determined that the breeding stock was below acceptable levels but should now increase due to management action. The 2005 quota has been reduced via an agreement that Shark Bay prawn and scallop trawlers will not take their snapper quota.
NORTH COAST BIOREGION							
Onslow prawn	Yes	Adequate	60–130	194	2004	Yes	Tiger prawn catch higher than target range which probably reflects highly favourable environmental conditions. The upper end of catch range will be increased to better reflect tiger prawn catches since the 1990s.
Nickol Bay prawn	Yes	Adequate	90–300	201	2004	Yes	All species were within their target catch ranges although banana prawn catch was lower than predicted.
Broome prawn	Yes	Adequate	55–260	124	2004	Yes	Both species (king and coral prawns) within target catch ranges.
Kimberley prawn	Yes	Adequate	240–500	423	2004	Yes	Banana prawn catches within expected range for observed rainfall. Other species also within target catch ranges.
Kimberley gillnet & barramundi	Yes ²	Adequate	25–40 (barramundi)	53 (barramundi)	2004	Yes	The catch increase was a result of increased levels of effort and an increase in CPUE due to improved recruitment. A new assessment of the fishery and a review of management are currently in progress.

FISHERY	STOCK ASSESSMENT COMPLETE	BREEDING STOCK ASSESSMENT	PREVIOUS TARGET CATCH (and effort) RANGE IN TONNES (days)	CATCH (tonnes) FOR SEASON REPORTED ¹	SEASON REPORTED ¹	CATCH (or effort) LEVEL ACCEPTABLE	COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE IN REPORTED SEASON
NORTH COAST BIOREGION CONTINUED							
Northern demersal scalefish	Yes	Adequate	600–1,000 (goldband <233) (red emperor <122)	690 (goldband 283) (red emperor 144)	2004	No	The catches of goldband snapper and red emperor have both increased substantially and are above the target range, and need to be reviewed if this trend continues.
Pilbara fish trawl	Yes	Adequate	2,000–2,800	2,837	2004	Yes	Catches were slightly above upper limit due to increases in target stocks and continued catch diversification.
Pilbara demersal trap & line	Yes	Adequate	160–360 (trap) 50–115 (line)	395 (trap) 217 (line)	2004	No	Trap catches were slightly above upper limit due to increases in target stocks and continued catch diversification. The increased catch and effort by the line fishery are currently under management review.
Mackerel	Yes ² (Spanish mackerel)	Adequate (Spanish mackerel)	246–410 (all except grey mackerel)	432 (all except grey mackerel)	2004	Yes	Catches have declined but continue to exceed target catch range due to good recruitment. New management arrangements are being implemented.
Northern shark	Yes ²	Declining	< 117 (sandbar only)	209 (sandbar only)	2003/04	No	The catch of sandbar sharks is used as an indicator species to monitor the fishery. The target catch range will be lowered further to reflect new management arrangements aimed at arresting sandbar depletion.
Pearl oyster	Yes	Adequate	512,000 oysters (Q) (14,071–20,551 dive hours)	404,984 oysters (11,994 dive hours)	2004	Yes	No catch taken in Zone 1 and 52,000 shell in Zone 2/3 taken from hatchery stock, resulting in significant reduction in catch and effort.
SOUTH COAST BIOREGION							
Southern crustacean	Yes ²	Uncertain	50–80 (southern rock lobster)	46	2003/04	No	Includes Esperance, GAB and Albany management zones. Downturn in lobster fishery may be a result of recruitment overfishing in both SA and WA. Management of this fishery is under review.
Abalone (greenlip/ brownlip)	Yes	Adequate	225.5 (Q) (1,095–1,511 days)	204.6 (1,268 days)	2004	Yes	Quota not achieved due to low catch in Area 3.

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FISHERY	STOCK ASSESSMENT COMPLETE	BREEDING STOCK ASSESSMENT	PREVIOUS TARGET CATCH (and effort) RANGE IN TONNES (days)	CATCH (tonnes) FOR SEASON REPORTED ¹	SEASON REPORTED ¹	CATCH (or effort) LEVEL ACCEPTABLE	COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE IN REPORTED SEASON
SOUTH COAST BIOREGION CONTINUED							
Estuarine fisheries (south coast)	Yes	Adequate	200–500	180	2004	Yes	Includes fish, molluscs and crustaceans. Catch just below target range can be mostly attributed to a drop in the cobbler catch in Wilson Inlet, which is subject to environmental influences but will be reviewed.
WA salmon	Yes	Adequate	1,200–3,350	2,327	2004	Yes	Environmental factors (e.g. Leeuwin Current) are considered the main influence on recruitment and catch levels in subsequent years.
Australian herring	Yes	Adequate	475–1,200 (south coast)	302 (south coast)	2004	Yes	South coast catch only. Catch below target limit due to limited market demand.
Albany/King George Sound purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (Q)	979	2003/04	NA	Quotas are adjusted annually. Target effort levels not yet available.
Bremer Bay purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (Q)	276	2003/04	NA	Quotas are adjusted annually. Target effort levels not yet available. The low catches this season are due to a scarcity of market-size fish in the traditional fishing grounds.
Esperance purse seine	Yes	Adequate	1,500 (Q)	200	2003/04	NA	Quotas are adjusted annually. Target effort levels not yet available. The low catches this season are due to a scarcity of market-size fish in the traditional fishing grounds.
Southern & west coast demersal gillnet & longline	Yes ²	Declining	725–1,175 ²	1,192 ²	2003/04	No	Breeding stocks of two of the four indicator species (dusky whalers and sandbar sharks) have declined and are of concern. Target catch range will be lowered following updated stock assessments for these species.
NORTHERN INLAND BIOREGION							
Lake Argyle catfish	Yes	Adequate	95–155	147	2004	Yes	Catch levels back within the target range.

¹ Catch figures supplied for latest year/season available.

² For key species only.

NA Not assessed.

Q Quota management.

EXEMPTIONS 2004/05

Exemption No:	1474
Applicant:	Goldband Nominees Pty Ltd & Northern Wildcatch Seafood Australia Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	3/6/04 – 2/9/04
Provisions:	Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery Management Plan 2000
Purpose:	To allow the collection of research data with regards to a comparison of trap and line fishing methods within the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery.
Exemption No:	1478
Applicant:	Bunbury Port Authority
Period of Exemption:	10/2/04 – 5/3/04
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To provide for the optimal passage of ships and safe navigation within the designated shipping channels of Bunbury to remove drift seaweed or wrack.
Exemption No:	1479
Applicant:	Douglas Gibson
Period of Exemption:	20/10/04 – 12/11/04
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department of Fisheries to promote internationally a greater understanding of the fishing techniques and management measures used to ensure sustainability of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery.

Exemption No:	1482
Applicant:	Far West Scallops Industries Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	15/5/05 – 30/7/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To allow Far West Scallops Industries Pty Ltd to process scallops on board LFB G142 “Miss Rylee”, while the formal application for a Fish Processing Permit is being considered.
Exemption No:	1483
Applicant:	Challenger TAFE, WA Maritime Training Centre, Aquaculture Development Unit.
Period of Exemption:	3/8/04 – 30/6/06
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	The taking of sea mullet (<i>Mugil cephalus</i>) for scientific research purposes.
Exemption No:	1484
Applicant:	RB Lowden Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	25/11/04 – 25/12/04
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Resources Management Regulation 1995 and the Mackerel Fishery (Interim) Management Plan 2004.</i>
Purpose:	To allow for the processing of shark at sea and the retention of mackerel caught as a by-catch to shark fishing operations.
Exemption No:	1485
Applicant:	Maxwell Ian Michael
Period of Exemption:	1/8/04 – 31/7/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To undertake monitoring and identification of fish species present in the Walpole River.

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Exemption No:	1486
Applicant:	Rock Lobster Licensed Processors
Period of Exemption:	15/11/04 – 15/7/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To enable licensed rock lobster processors and holding depots to assist the Department of Fisheries Research Division in collecting data on tagged lobsters by allowing those persons to have in their possession tagged lobsters that are below the legal minimum size.
Exemption No:	1487
Applicant:	Geoff Myers
Period of Exemption:	1/1/05 – 30/6/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department of Fisheries Research Division in collecting biological information (length/reproductive/age data) of dhufish (<i>Glaucosoma hebraicum</i>) and pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>).
Exemption No:	1490
Applicant:	Allan Bevan
Period of Exemption:	1/3/05 – 28/2/06
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department of Fisheries Research Division in collecting biological samples of undersize dhufish (<i>Glaucosoma hebraicum</i>) for length and growth analysis from waters deeper than 40m off the coast between Mandurah and Lancelin

Exemption No.	1491
Applicant:	Kimberley Aquaculture Aboriginal Corporation
Period of Exemption:	7/6/05 – 30/6/08
Provisions	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To take juvenile Cherabin (<i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i>) for the purpose of aquaculture trials.
Exemption No:	1492
Applicant:	Marine Farms Limited
Period of Exemption:	4/4/04 – 31/3/08.
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To allow Marine Farms Ltd to collect Mahi Mahi for use as aquaculture broodstock.
Exemption No:	1493
Applicant:	Shane A Hearn
Period of Exemption:	7/4/05 – 30/6/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To permit the establishing of a fish processing place on board LFB F842 “Four Seasons” for the purpose of processing prawns pending the outcome of a formal application.
Exemption No:	1494
Applicant:	Latitude Fisheries Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	1/1/05 – 31/12/06
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To conduct scientific research on the use of bottom “fenceline” culture in the cultivation of pearls.

Exemption No:	1496
Applicant:	Sea Resources Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	6/9/04 – 6/9/06
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To permit mussel aquaculture in Cockburn Sound without a licence until such time as Sea Resources Pty Ltd's application for a (new) aquaculture licence has been finally determined.
Exemption No:	1497
Applicant:	Department of Conservation and Land Management
Period of Exemption:	31/12/04 – 31/12/06
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To permit the purchase and possession of a totally protected species, (tarwhine) of a length less than 230 mm for the Monkey Mia dolphin feeding program.
Exemption No:	1498
Applicant:	Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Managed Fishery Licence Holders
Period of Exemption:	31/12/04 – 31/12/06
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To permit the possession, consignment, purchasing and selling of a totally protected species – Tarwhine (<i>Rhabdosargus sarba</i>) – at lengths less than 230 mm as part of the Monkey Mia Dolphin feeding program.

Exemption No:	1499
Applicant:	Shark Bay Fish Factory
Period of Exemption:	31/12/04 – 31/12/06
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To permit the possession, consignment, purchasing and selling of a totally protected species – Tarwhine (<i>Rhabdosargus sarba</i>) at lengths less than 230 mm as part of the Monkey Mia dolphin feeding program.
Exemption No:	1500
Applicant:	Mark's Quality Seafoods Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	13/12/04 – 30/6/06
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995, Cockburn Sound Crab Management Plan 1995, Cockburn Sound Line and Pot Management Plan 1995</i>
Purpose:	To use a boat which is licensed in the Cockburn Sound Crab Managed Fishery and the Cockburn Sound Line and Pot Managed Fishery but larger than that provided for in the Cockburn Sound Crab Management Plan 1995 and/or the Cockburn Sound Line and Pot Management Plan 1995.
Exemption No:	1501
Applicant:	Trophy Bay Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	31/3/05 – 31/3/06
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To allow paying customers of a fishing tour to take pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) for a purpose other than a commercial purpose in waters other than the waters of the Shark Bay eastern gulf and/or the Shark Bay western gulf.

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Exemption No:	1502
Applicant:	Kimberley College of TAFE
Period of Exemption:	21/10/04 – 30/6/08.
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	The taking of certain species for aquaculture purposes using beach seine nets, throw nets, scoop nets and hook and line.
Exemption No:	1503
Applicant:	West Coast Estuarine Interim Managed Fishery Licence Holders
Period of Exemption:	Between 0800 hours on Saturday 12 March 2005 and 0800 hours on Sunday 13 March 2005.
Provisions:	<i>West Coast Estuarine Interim Management Plan 2003</i>
Purpose:	To provide an adequate supply of crabs for sale at the Mandurah Crabfest and therefore promoting commercial fishing and local fish products.
Exemption No:	1504
Applicant:	J, M and S Da Silva
Period of Exemption:	21/7/04 – 11/7/06
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1994</i>
Purpose:	To i) Explore and/or develop the crab fishery and fish technology of that activity. ii) Gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks from the Point Samson to Port Hedland area under a controlled management regime.

Exemption No:	1505
Applicant:	Trevor Wheatcroft
Period of Exemption:	26/11/04 – 14/2/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 and Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i>
Purpose:	Explore and/or develop the octopus fishery and fishing technology and to gather baseline data about octopus stocks within WA waters.
Exemption No:	1506
Applicant:	Western Australian Maritime Training Centre
Period of Exemption:	25/10/04 – 31/12/08
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and the Abalone Management Plan 1992.</i>
Purpose:	To allow Western Australian Maritime Training Centre to collect broodstock for commercial seed production and to provide training activities in relation to aquaculture.
Exemption No:	1507
Applicant:	R L and M A Alexander
Period of Exemption:	18/1/05 – 31/12/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Trap Restrictions Notice 1990 and Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994</i>
Purpose:	To use baited traps within the Developmental Octopus Fishery.

Exemption No:	1509
Applicant:	Great Southern Marine Hatcheries Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	1/10/04 – 1/10/07
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 and Abalone Management Plan 1992</i>
Purpose:	The taking of greenlip abalone (<i>Haliotis laevis</i>), brownlip abalone (<i>Haliotis conicopora</i>) and Roes abalone (<i>Haliotis roei</i>) as broodstock for aquaculture purposes.
Exemption No:	1510
Applicant:	Multi Species Hatchery Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	21/10/04 – 31/12/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and the Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To allow the holder of aquaculture licence no. 1589 to engage in the aquaculture of banana prawns (<i>Penaeus merguensis</i>).
Exemption No:	1513
Applicant:	John William Higgins
Period of Exemption:	18/4/05 – 18/4/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To use set nets to take fish for commercial purposes in association with Fishing Boat Licence Number 2053 (LFB PS5) in waters from Beadon Groyne Onslow to 120 degrees East longitude.

Exemption No:	1514
Applicant:	Haydn Webb
Period of Exemption:	18/4/05 – 18/4/04
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To use set nets to take fish for commercial purposes in association with Fishing Boat Licence Number 2053 (LFB PS5) in waters from Beadon Groyne Onslow to 120 degrees East longitude.
Exemption No:	1515
Applicant:	Stan McDonald
Period of Exemption:	21/12/04 – 3/6/07
Provisions:	<i>Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 and Fish Traps Restrictions Notice 1990</i>
Purpose:	To gather baseline data about inshore crab stocks in Exmouth Gulf under a controlled management regime.
Exemption No:	1516
Applicant:	Bruce Gould
Period of Exemption:	18/4/05 – 18/4/07
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	Using set nets to take fish for commercial purposes in association with the Fishing Boat Licence 1023 (LFB PH05) within the 80 Mile Beach and Pilbara regions.
Exemption No:	1517
Applicant:	Milton Comino
Period of Exemption:	19/4/05 – 19/4/07
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	Using set nets to take fish for commercial purposes in association with Fishing Boat Licence 3525 (LFB BR18) within the 80 Mile Beach and Pilbara regions.

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Exemption No:	1518
Applicant:	Marmion Marine and Aquatic Club members
Period of Exemption:	12/3/05 – 13/3/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department's Fisheries Research Division in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis.
Exemption No:	1519
Applicant:	Tenzin's Fishing Pty Ltd, Gregory Sharp, Mulataga Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	1/8/04 – 31/8/04
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Traps Prohibition Notice Order, Esperance Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery Notice and Windy Harbour-Augusta Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery Notice</i>
Purpose:	To take snow crabs/crystal crabs (<i>Chaceon bicolor</i>) by means of fish traps in accordance with the requirements of the South Coast Crystal Crab Research Project administered by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.
Exemption No:	1520
Applicant:	Terry Dixon
Period of Exemption:	20/7/04 – 31/12/04
Provisions:	<i>West Coast Deep Sea Crab (Interim) Fishery Management Plan and Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department's Fisheries Research Division in evaluating the effectiveness of escape gaps in preventing the retention of undersize snow crabs/crystal crabs by comparing the catches of pots with and without escape gaps.

Exemption No:	1521
Applicant:	Paul Nolan
Period of Exemption:	20/7/04 – 19/7/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department's Fisheries Research Division in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis of pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) from the waters off the coast between Scarborough and Ocean Reef.
Exemption No:	1522
Applicant:	MG Kailis (1962) Pty Ltd
Period of Exemption:	1/11/04 – 14/11/04
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>
Purpose:	To enable MG Kailis Pty Ltd to assist the Department's Fisheries Research Division by temporarily holding live lobsters pending transport to the Department of Fisheries research laboratories.
Exemption No:	1523
Applicant:	Mulataga Pty Ltd, Gregory Sharp
Period of Exemption:	1/10/04 – 31/10/04
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Traps Prohibition Notice Order, Esperance Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery Notice and Windy Harbour-Augusta Rock Lobster Limited Entry Fishery Notice</i>
Purpose:	To take snow crabs/crystal crabs (<i>Chaceon bicolor</i>) by means of fish traps in accordance with the requirements of the South Coast Crystal Crab Research Project administered by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council.

Exemption No:	1524
Applicant:	Graeme Kennedy
Period of Exemption:	20/7/04 – 19/7/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department's Fisheries Research Division in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis of undersize pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) from the waters off the coast between Denmark and Bremer Bay.
Exemption No:	1525
Applicant:	David Franz, Greg Miles, Keith Fay, Phil Knott, Noel Smith, Les Akryll
Period of Exemption:	11/9/04 – 16/9/04
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department's Fisheries Research Division in collecting samples for daily egg production method survey of pink snapper (<i>Pagrus auratus</i>) from the Freycinet Estuary, Shark Bay.
Exemption No:	1526
Applicant:	Marmion Angling & Aquatic Club members
Period of Exemption:	12/2/05 – 13/2/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To assist the Department's Fisheries Research Division in collecting biological samples for length and growth analysis of undersize WA dhufish (<i>Glaucosoma hebraicum</i>) in the course of the Marmion Angling & Aquatic Club March angling competition day.

Exemption No:	1527
Applicant:	Southern Trading Co., Mulataga Aquaculture, Harlquin Pty Ltd & West Coast Deep Sea Crab Interim Managed Fishery Permit Holders
Period of Exemption:	20/07/04 – 31/07/05
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>
Purpose:	To enable persons to assist the Department's Fisheries Research Division in recapturing tagged snow crabs/crystal crabs by allowing those persons or holding depots to have in their possession tagged snow crabs/crystal crabs.
Exemption No:	1531
Applicant:	Antonio La Macchia
Period of Exemption:	15/11/2004 – 30/06/2005
Provisions:	<i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994, Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995, West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993, Fish Traps Prohibition Notice 1994 and Fish Traps Restrictions Notice 1990</i>
Purpose:	To allow the continued fishing in accordance with the <i>West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 1993</i> without a Managed Fishery Licence using not more than 84 pots to fish for rock lobsters from fishing boat Tonnarella III (previously F359) in the area described as Zone C of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES ANNUAL REPORT FEEDBACK FORM

The Department of Fisheries is interested in your feedback and comments regarding the 2004/05 Annual Report. This will help us to improve the report in the future and make it more informative to our readers.

In general terms, how would you rate the Annual Report?

☐

EXCELLENT

☐

VERY GOOD

☐

AVERAGE

☐

POOR

In what ways do you think the Annual Report could be improved?

Other comments?

Your occupation or business?

☐

EDUCATION

☐

TOURISM

☐

MARINE SCIENCE

☐

FINANCE INDUSTRY

☐

GOVERNMENT AGENCY

☐

SEAFOOD PROCESSING OR MARKETING

☐

FISHING GEAR MANUFACTURER/SALES

☐

RECREATIONAL FISHER

☐

MARINE INDUSTRY SUPPLIES

☐

OTHER

Please return this form to:

Corporate and Community Relations Branch
Department of Fisheries
PO Box 20
North Beach WA 6920

