



Contacting SFS

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Need to know more? Here's the score...

Please check out our website - www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries for more information on current assessments and requirements and the latest Ministerial decisions and assessment outcomes.

To assist managers, industry and the public in understanding the issues relating to the fishery assessment process, the SFS has developed comprehensive fact sheets covering a range of issues, from the fishery assessment process to exporting requirements. These fact sheets are available online at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/information> or a hard copy can be posted to you.

Save a tree... Email me!

This edition of the *CatchUp* newsletter and previous newsletters can now be found at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/newsletter>

A fact or two to tantalise you!

- Dolphins sleep with one eye open
- A baby oyster is called a spat
- A scallop has 35 blue eyes
- "Jaws" is the most common name for a goldfish
- Dry fish food can make goldfish constipated!



As the year keeps going the Assessments are flowing...



There will be lots of opportunities to comment on the numerous fishery assessment submissions due in the second half of this year.

All input is extremely helpful to the fishery assessment process so we encourage all interested parties to provide the SFS with any comments.

We maintain a register of individuals and organisations interested in commenting on the assessment submissions.

Those on the register are advised of, and provided with access to the fishery manager's submission for those fisheries that they are interested in. This allows them to consider the proposal on its merits and provide comments or concerns regarding the fishery to the SFS.

We have recently updated our register, if you did not receive a letter regarding this, or you would like to register, please contact us and we will send you out a form. Our contact details are at the back of this newsletter.

Welcome to the 2007 mid-year edition of *CatchUp* – the newsletter of the Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW) Sustainable Fisheries Policy and Assessment Section (SFS). *CatchUp* aims to ensure that all those involved in the assessment of the management arrangements of fisheries are kept well informed of the latest progress.



A change in name but we're still the same...

With the January reshuffle of cabinet, which saw Malcolm Turnbull (previously a parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister with special responsibility for water issues) become our new Minister, our Department was given a new name. The Department changed its name from the Department of the Environment and Heritage to the Department of the Environment and Water Resources. Our role in the Department remains unchanged, however. So when you're searching for us next, you'll know what name to look under! For more info, you can have a look at the Prime Minister's press release at www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2007/media_Release2337.cfm.

We get more as we move to the fifth floor...

Karina McLachlan joins the Department in the SFS team as of June this year. Prior to joining the Department, Karina worked in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) most recently on fisheries bycatch policy. She has also worked on a range of other issues in DAFF, including invasive marine species policy, quarantine and plant biosecurity.

We warmly welcome Karina to the team and we will surely put her skills to good use!

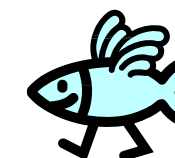
More gone for good and one would if she could...

Sadly we say goodbye to Dave Walter who has recently retired. We would like to thank Dave for his many years of service in SFS and wish him all the best for the future.

In addition, Danielle Dal Cortivo is currently on 'loan' to the Department of Health and Ageing for a period of six months, where she is fulfilling her passion working on HIV/AIDS related issues, and putting her public relations skills to good use. While we would love for her to return to us here in the SFS, we are glad that she has found her niche and is enjoying her new position so much. Danielle would like to eventually head off to Africa to put her hard work and new skills to good use. We will keep you posted.

Between February and May 2007 Benita Ainsworth, a DEW Graduate, joined the Section. Benita researched international fisheries by-catch policy and contributed to the domestic fisheries assessment processes. We would all like to say a big thank you to Benita for all her hard work.

The SFS must also bid farewell to Helen Parker and Geraldine Cusack who joined the section in March and April this year respectively. Helen stepped in temporarily as administrative assistant for the team while Geraldine has worked on fisheries compliance issues and the development of a database. We thank Helen and Geraldine for their contributions to the team and wish them good luck in their new posts.



Interactions with protected species

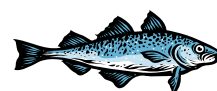
Under the EPBC Act, it is a requirement to report certain interactions with protected species. If an interaction occurs, please call: **1800 641 806**

or email: protected.species@environment.gov.au

Information on interactions with protected species is available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/publications/identification-guide>

Fisheries due for assessment in 2007 and 2008

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Assessment Decision</u>	<u>Re-assessment date</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Assessment Decision</u>	<u>Re-assessment date</u>
QLD	Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Finfish Fishery	WTO	26-Aug-07	WA	Shark Bay Prawn Fishery	Exempt	01-Jan-08
QLD	Mud Crab Fishery	WTO	31-Aug-07	WA	Shark Bay Scallop Fishery	Exempt	01-Jan-08
QLD	Gulf of Carpentaria Line Fishery	WTO	03-Sep-07	WA	Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery	Exempt	11-Feb-08
WA	Western Rock Lobster Fishery	Exempt	04-Sep-07	NT	Spanish Mackerel Fishery	Exempt	11-Feb-08
NT	Mud Crab Fishery	Exempt	25-Sep-07	TAS	Kelp Fishery	WTO	19-Feb-08
WA	South Coast Crustacean Fishery	WTO	20-Sep-07	WA	Abrolhos Is and Mid West Trawl Fishery	WTO	22-Mar-08
QLD	Developmental Slipper Lobster	WTO	14-Oct-07	NSW	Estuary General Fishery	Exempt	25-Apr-08
QLD	Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery	WTO	22-Oct-07	NSW	Ocean Hauling Fishery	Exempt	25-Apr-08
QLD	East Coast Spanish Mackerel Fishery	WTO	01-Nov-07	QLD	Rocky Reef Fishery	WTO	29-Apr-08
QLD	Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery	WTO	12-Nov-07	NT	Timor Reef Fishery	Exempt	11-May-08
WA	Shark Bay Experimental Crab	WTO	15-Nov-07	C/Wealth	Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery	WTO	20-Jun-08
QLD	Moreton Bay Development Beche-de-mer	WTO	16-Nov-07	NT	Aquarium Fish Fishery	WTO	29-Jun-08
C/Wealth	Southern Bluefin Tuna fishery	WTO	17-Nov-07	QLD	Coral Fishery	WTO	01-Jul-08
C/Wealth	Coral Sea fishery (Beche-de-mer Sector)	WTO	19-Nov-07	C/Wealth	Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	WTO	20-Jul-08
C/Wealth	Western Trawl fishery	WTO	19-Nov-07	VIC	Abalone Fishery	Exempt	21-Jul-08
QLD	Stout Whiting Fishery	WTO	24-Nov-07	TAS	Aquarium Fish Fishery	WTO	15-Aug-08
C/Wealth	Torres Strait Rock Lobster Fishery	WTO	24-Nov-07	WA	South Coast Trawl Fishery	WTO	31-Aug-08
WA	Pilbara Trap Fishery	WTO	30-Nov-07	SA	Urchin Fishery	WTO	20-Oct-08
NT	Shark Fishery	WTO	30-Nov-07	WA	Pearl Fishery	Exempt	22-Oct-08
QLD	East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery	WTO	01-Dec-07	WA	Aquarium Fishery	WTO	25-Oct-08
QLD	East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery (Incidental harvest of syngnathids)	WTO	01-Dec-07	QLD	Deepwater Finfish Fishery	WTO	28-Oct-08
QLD	Gulf of Carpentaria Finfish Trawl	WTO	01-Dec-07	SA	Rock Lobster Fishery	Exempt	31-Oct-08
WA	Pilbara Trawl Fishery	WTO	01-Dec-07	QLD	Coral Reef Finfish Fishery	WTO	04-Nov-08
C/Wealth	Small Pelagics Fishery	WTO	06-Dec-07	VIC	Sea Urchin Fishery	WTO	04-Nov-08
NSW	Ocean Trap and Line Fishery	WTO	14-Dec-07	QLD	Aquarium Fishery	WTO	25-Nov-08
QLD	Holothurian Fishery (East Coast Beche-de-mer)	WTO	21-Dec-07	C/Wealth	CCAMLR New and Exploratory Fishery	WTO	25-Nov-08
WA	Beche-de-Mer Fishery	WTO	22-Dec-07	SA	Lakes and Coorong Fishery	WTO	25-Nov-08
NT	Trepang Fishery	WTO	22-Dec-07	SA	Marine Scalegfish Fishery	WTO	25-Nov-08
				WA	South Coast Purse Seine Managed Fishery-South Coast	WTO	25-Nov-08
				C/Wealth	Torres Strait Trochus Fishery	WTO	25-Nov-08
				WA	West Coast Purse Seine Managed Fishery-West Coast	WTO	25-Nov-08
				NSW	Abalone Fishery	WTO	28-Nov-08
				NSW	Ocean Trawl Fishery	WTO	28-Nov-08
				C/Wealth	Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	WTO	29-Nov-08
				QLD	East Coast Inshore Finfish Fishery	WTO	30-Nov-08
				C/Wealth	Skipjack Tuna Fishery	WTO	30-Nov-08



Exempt or WTO- what's the difference?

An assessment can result in one of three things.

EXEMPT- the fishery is being managed in an ecologically sustainable way, in accordance with the Guidelines. This fishery will be added to the exempt native specimens list for 5 years and recommendations for action over that time may be made. Product from these fisheries is exempt from the export controls of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

WTO- The fishery is consistent with the EPBC Act and is not likely to have an unacceptable impact in the short term. However, there are uncertainties and further action is required. This fishery would be declared an approved Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) and export can occur while conditions are being met.

PROHIBITION- The fishery has unacceptable impacts that cannot be mitigated through conditions. Export will not be permitted. This is an undesirable situation and we will always strive to find mutual ground and a positive way forward.