



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

AFMA Levy Arrangements Guide

2024–25

Securing Australia's fishing future

www.afma.gov.au

Contents

Management and Research Levy arrangements for 2024–25	3
What is the levy for?	3
Does the Government contribute to the cost of managing Commonwealth fisheries?	3
What period of time does my levy relate to?	4
When will I receive a levy invoice and when is my payment due?	4
How much levy do I have to pay this year?.....	4
Why has the amount I pay for my levy changed this year?	4
Is the levy subject to Goods and Services Tax (GST)?	5
How do I pay my levy?	5
What if I am having trouble paying my levy?.....	6
How do I enter into an arrangement to pay my overdue levy?	6
AFMA’s consideration of an arrangement to pay.....	7
What if I don’t make a payment or enter into an arrangement to pay?	7
Overview of cost recovered budget and levy collection.....	8
Fisheries in which levies have decreased for 2024–25	10
Fisheries in which levies have increased in 2024–25	11
Commonwealth Fisheries Levy Rates for 2024–25	14
AFMA contacts	19

Figures

Figure 1 Cost Recovery Breakdown 2024–25	3
Figure 2 AFMA Actual Levies vs CPI Adjusted Levies.....	8

Tables

Table 1 Levy invoicing and payment schedule for 2024–25.....	4
Table 2 Commonwealth Fisheries Levy Rates for 2024–25	14
Table 3 Fishery contacts.....	19
Table 4 Levy payment enquiries contact.....	19

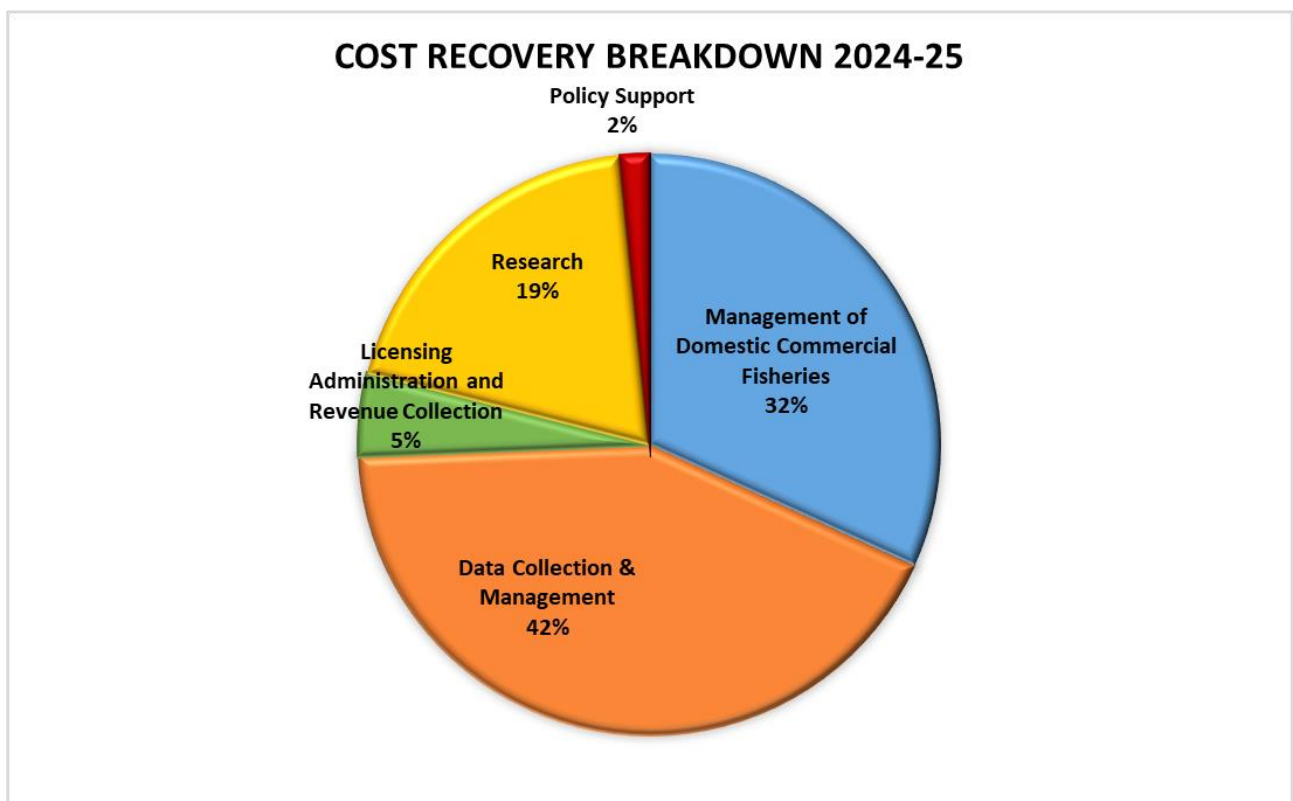
Management and Research Levy arrangements for 2024–25

What is the levy for?

Levy is charged to Commonwealth concession owners to cover the annual costs associated with managing Commonwealth fisheries. Commonwealth concession owners are required to contribute to the cost of managing the fishery in which they own a fishing concession.

The main components that impact cost recovered fishery budgets are shown in the graph below.

Figure 1 Cost Recovery Breakdown 2024–25



Does the Government contribute to the cost of managing Commonwealth fisheries?

The Australian Government does contribute to the cost of managing Commonwealth fisheries. The amount the government contributes is based on AFMA’s Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) which was prepared in accordance with the Australian Government’s Cost Recovery Policy.

As part of the Government’s structural adjustment package relating to the buyout of boat statutory fishing rights, \$1.014 million in levies relief was provided to Commonwealth Trawl Sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery in 2024–25.

What period of time does my levy relate to?

Your levy covers the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

When will I receive a levy invoice and when is my payment due?

If you are the owner of a leviable Commonwealth fishing concession you will be issued three invoices throughout the first five months of 2025. Each invoice will be for approximately one third of your total annual levy. The table below sets out when levy invoices will be issued and when payment is due:

Table 1 Levy invoicing and payment schedule for 2024–25

Levy invoice	Expected issue date	Due date
1	15 January 2025	12 February 2025
2	12 March 2025	9 April 2025
3	2 May 2025	30 May 2025

How much levy do I have to pay this year?

The table on [page 14](#) lists the levy rates for all Commonwealth fishing concessions for 2024–25. Your levy is calculated by multiplying the number of concessions you own on the day of invoicing by the rate of that particular type of concession.

Why has the amount I pay for my levy changed this year?

AFMA recovers the costs of managing each fishery in accordance with the CRIS. If the costs of management go up or down, the amount to be collected from concession holders also goes up or down. Your levies may have increased or decreased this year depending on a change in costs that need to be recovered from your fishery, or a change in who is required to pay those costs.

A list of which fisheries have had levy decreases or increases in 2024–25 and the reasons for those changes starts on [page 10](#).

Is the levy subject to Goods and Services Tax (GST)?

Levies are excluded from GST. As such, AFMA does not issue a tax invoice for levies. AFMA's Australian Business Number is 81 098 497 517.

How do I pay my levy?

Each year AFMA receives levy payments by direct deposit that it cannot match to an invoice as no reference numbers have been provided. Please ensure this does not happen to you by including your levy reference numbers when making all payments by these methods.

The reference number on each invoice is unique and allows AFMA to confirm your payment.

AFMA offers a number of payment methods:

BPAY

BPAY is a national phone and internet payment system supported by all major banks and is the preferred method of payment. If you decide to pay your levy using BPAY there are a few things you will need to do:

- use the biller code and reference number provided on the PAYMENT OPTIONS page of your invoice.
- retain the transaction or reference number issued by BPAY for your records.
- allow yourself plenty of time if you intend to use this service. The average processing time is 2–3 working days, but this may vary from bank to bank.

Direct Deposit to the National Bank Australia

Payment of your levies may be made by a direct deposit into AFMA's bank account at any branch of the National Australia bank. AFMA's banking details can be found on the PAYMENT OPTIONS page of your levy invoice or reminder notice.

Please ensure you use the correct account details as they may change from the previous year and include your invoice reference number. Using out-of-date account details or failing to include your reference number may interfere with the correct recording of a payment made.

Credit Card

Please note an additional one per cent surcharge may be applied if AFMA officers process your credit card payment.

To pay by credit card, complete the credit card details on the PAYMENT OPTIONS page of your levy invoice and:

- fax it to 02 6225 5440, or
- post it to AFMA, PO Box 7051, Canberra Business Centre, Canberra ACT 2610.

What if I am having trouble paying my levy?

If you are having difficulty paying your levy by the due date, please contact AFMA as soon as possible on 1300 723 621 to discuss what payment options may be available to you.

If you do not pay your levy by the due date, AFMA will issue an overdue notice. The overdue notice will advise:

- that the levy amount is overdue and will incur a penalty of 20 per cent per annum (calculated daily), on the overdue amount
- if no payment is received within 14 days from the date of the overdue notice, any relevant fishing concessions can be suspended, and
- if the levy remains unpaid, the relevant fishing concessions can be cancelled, and legal action commenced to recover the debt.

AFMA will take all reasonable measures to ensure all levies are recovered. Regardless of whether you were the concession owner that was issued the original levy invoice or not, AFMA reserves the right to suspend or cancel a concession due to outstanding levies or penalties relating to the concession. For this reason, AFMA recommends that you check on the status of levy payments before purchasing or leasing concessions.

How do I enter into an arrangement to pay my overdue levy?

A concession holder can request to enter into an arrangement to pay overdue levy and any associated penalties. To request an arrangement to pay a concession holder must contact AFMA as soon as possible on 1300 723 621 to discuss payment options. Note that there is also a one-off administration fee of \$220 to set up an arrangement to pay.

In accordance with the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, entering into an arrangement to pay the 2024–25 levies does not exclude the concession owner from accruing penalty. Penalty is calculated at the rate of 20 per cent per annum (calculated daily) on overdue amounts.

A request to enter into an arrangement for the payment of overdue debt must be submitted in writing to AFMA and must set out a proposed payment plan together with any necessary justification.

In an application to enter into an arrangement to pay, a concession holder must include:

- a repayment schedule which:

- includes an initial payment of \$220 administration fee and 25 per cent of the outstanding levy debt
- includes monthly payment instalments of 25 per cent of the outstanding debt.
- an acknowledgment that failure to pay any of the instalments by the due date will result in the immediate suspension of their concession(s) and the remainder of the debt will become immediately payable
- acknowledgement that penalty will accrue on outstanding amounts, and
- a commitment to make payment on or before the due dates of the plan.

AFMA's consideration of an arrangement to pay

In considering whether or not to enter into an arrangement for payment of overdue levy, AFMA will consider:

- the management arrangements applicable to the fishery for which the request has been made
- statements and evidence from the applicant in relation to their financial situation
- previous payment history, and
- the timing of payments of the overdue debt.

If AFMA agrees to an arrangement for payment, correspondence will be forwarded which:

- sets out the conditions and terms applying to the arrangement
- sets out the schedule of payments
- advises that if any repayment is missed the balance will immediately become due and payable and the fishing concession(s) will be suspended, and
- who to contact regarding the arrangement.

What if I don't make a payment or enter into an arrangement to pay?

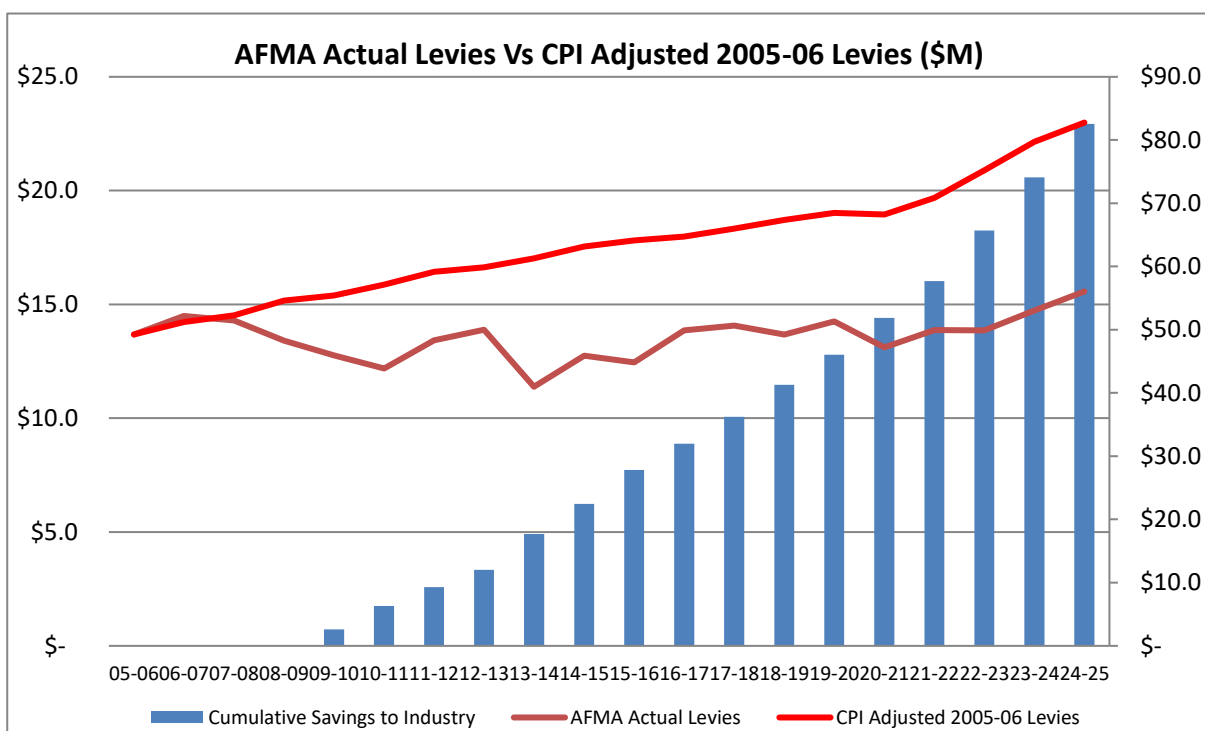
Once an invoice has been issued permanent transfers will not be registered until any outstanding levy and/ or associated charges relating to AFMA concessions are paid in full.

All levies are a debt due to the Commonwealth of Australia. AFMA has an obligation to collect the levy once an invoice has been issued.

Overview of cost recovered budget and levy collection

Despite inflation, AFMA’s cost recovered budgets for fisheries management have remained relatively consistent since 2005. In 2010, AFMA made a commitment to the Commonwealth fishing industry that it would keep levies at or below the rate applied in 2005–06 once corrected for Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases. Since making this undertaking in 2010, AFMA has outperformed the cumulative CPI by more than \$82 million, that is, industry has paid \$82 million less than it would have done if CPI increases had been applied each year.

Figure 2 AFMA Actual Levies vs CPI Adjusted Levies



For 2024–25, the total AFMA budget (excluding Torres Strait Fisheries) that is subject to cost recovery is \$17.090 million. This is an increase of 5.7 per cent or \$924,197 on the previous year.

The amount to be collected from the fishing industry each year comprises the budgeted cost recovery amount, plus or minus the acquittal from the prior financial year. In addition, AFMA collects a research levy of 0.25 per cent of each fishery’s gross value of production (GVP) on behalf of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC).

The levy amount to be collected for Commonwealth fisheries (excluding the FRDC research component) in 2024–25 is \$14.556 million. This is an increase of 6.1 per cent on the \$13.723 million levied in 2023–24.

AFMA has kept costs down through creating efficiencies across the organisation including contracting and market testing of key fisheries management services, the implementation and use of technology-based solutions such as electronic monitoring and identifying and removing unnecessary regulation.

Across all fisheries the total levy amount for 2024–25 has increased compared to 2023–24, however the levy amount for each fishery may vary substantially due to several factors including:

- changes in management and research priorities for each fishery
- adjustment for prior year over/under collections, and
- changes in priorities through the financial year that alter the amount of resources required to administer the fishery.

Fisheries in which levies have decreased for 2024–25

Heard Island and Macdonald Islands Fishery

There has been a 25.6 per cent (\$380,009) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2024–25 (\$1,106,228) compared to the levy amount payable for 2023–24 (\$1,486,237).

The total levy cost has decreased due to an under-spend in 2023–24 primarily due to lower than budgeted observer deployments.

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery

Commonwealth Trawl Sector

There was a 6.1 per cent (\$115,705) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2024–25 (\$1,780,559) compared to the levy payable for 2023–24 (\$1,896,264).

The lower levy amount payable in the sector is attributable to the Government's structural adjustment. As part of this package, \$1.014 million in levies relief was provided to this sector in 2024–25.

Southern Squid Jig Fishery

There has been a 69.3 per cent (\$173,992) decrease in the levy amount for 2024–25 (\$77,200) compared to the levy amount payable for 2023–24 (\$251,192).

An increase in the 2024–25 cost recovered budget combined with an over collection from the previous year resulted in a decrease in the levy amount payable.

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

There has been a 2.3 per cent (\$5,007) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2024–25 (\$214,702) compared to the levy amount payable for 2023–24 (\$219,709).

This decrease in the levy amount payable in 2024–25 is mainly due to an overcollection in the previous year offsetting a slight increase in the cost recovered budget.

Fisheries in which levies have increased in 2024–25

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery

There has been a 23.7 per cent (\$93,071) increase in the levy amount for 2024–25 (\$486,081) compared to the levy amount payable for 2023–24 (\$393,010).

The increase in the 2024–25 levy is largely due to the reduced budget being offset by an overspend on fishery priorities in 2023–24.

Coral Sea Fishery

There has been a 310.6 per cent (\$125,414) increase in the levy payable for 2024–25 (\$165,795) compared to the 2023–24 (\$40,381).

The increase in the levy payable is due to a combination of an increase in the 2024–25 cost recovered budget compared with the 2023–24 budget and a reduced underspend being carried over from the previous year.

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

There has been a 11.1 per cent (\$167,898) increase in the levy amount payable for 2024–25 (\$1,680,556) compared to the levy amount payable for 2023–24 (\$1,512,658).

This increase is primarily the result of a higher budget which has only slightly been offset by a decrease in some recoverable costs and an underspend in 2023–24.

Eastern and Western Skipjack Fisheries

There has been a 27.0 per cent (\$8,627) increase in the levy payable for 2024–25 (\$31,927) compared to the levy payable for 2023–24 (\$31,927).

There has been an increase in data management costs which has been offset by a decrease in licensing administration and policy support costs.

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

There has been an 87.5 per cent (\$256,165) increase in the levy payable for 2024–25 (\$548,908) compared to the levy payable in 2023–24 (\$292,743).

The increase in the cost recovered budget from the previous year is largely driven by an increase in observer costs.

Northern Prawn Fishery

There has been a 3.9 per cent (\$89,343) increase in the levy amount payable for 2024–25 (\$2,355,908) compared with the levy amount for 2023–24 (\$2,266,565).

This increase was primarily due to an increase in research and observer costs.

North West Slope Fishery

There has been a 13.0 per cent (\$13,856) increase in the levy payable for 2024–25 (\$120,395) compared to the levy payable in 2023–24 (\$106,539).

The increase in the levy payable in 2024–25 compared to the previous financial year is largely due to an increase in the cost recovered budget only partially being offset by an underspend carried over from 2023–24.

Small Pelagic Fishery

There has been a 11.1 per cent (\$105,020) increase in the levy amount payable for 2024–25 (\$1,054,371) compared to the levy amount payable for 2023–24 (\$949,351).

Although an increase in the cost recovered budget for 2024–25 was partially offset by an over collection in the previous year an increase in the levy amount payable has resulted.

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery

Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector

There was a 21 per cent (\$466,240) increase in the levy amount payable in 2024–25 (\$2,687,505) compared to the levy amount payable for 2023–24 (\$2,221,265).

While budget increased by a relatively small amount, the significant increase in the levy payable relates to a large overcollection in 2022–23 that off-set the levy payable in 2023–24.

Great Australian Bight Sector

There has been a 37.6 per cent (\$160,379) increase in the levy amount payable for 2024–25 (\$587,459) compared to the levy payable for 2023–24 (\$427,080).

There was an overcollection in 2022–23 which offset the levy collected in 2023–24 in combination with a lower budget in 2023–24 that has resulted in the overall net increase in the levy amount payable in 2024–25.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery

There has been a 1.1 per cent (\$16,853) increase in the levy amount payable for 2024–25 (\$1,558,108) compared to the levy amount payable for 2023–24 (\$1,541,255).

The increase in the 2024–25 cost recovered budget combined with an over collection from the previous financial year has resulted in an increase in levy payable.

Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery

There has been a 5.6 per cent (\$4,911) increase in the levy amount payable for 2024–25 (\$92,167) compared to the levy amount payable for 2023–24 (\$87,256).

The increase in the levy amount payable for the fishery in 2024–25 has resulted as an onflow effect of an increase in the 2024–25 cost recovered budget.

Commonwealth Fisheries Levy Rates for 2024–25

Table 2 Commonwealth Fisheries Levy Rates for 2024–25

Fishery	2024–25 (\$)
Bass Straight Central Zone Scallop Fishery	
Commercial scallop quota SFR	1.0985
Coral Sea Fishery	
Tier 1 permit	11,142.42
Tier 2 permit (aquarium fish sector)	1,072.97
Tier 2 permit (lobster and/or trochus sectors)	1,072.97
Tier 2 permit (line sector)	4,291.87
Tier 2 permit (sea cucumber sector)	1,072.97
Eastern Skipjack Fishery	
Eastern Skipjack permit	1308.19
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	
Albacore Tuna quota SFR	0.1133
Bigeye Tuna quota SFR	0.124
Broad Billed Swordfish quota SFR	0.2283
Longline boat SFR	4,628.31
Minorline boat SFR	2,372.06
Striped Marlin quota SFR	0.0305
Yellowfin Tuna quota SFR	0.6362
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery	
Mackerel Icefish quota SFR	21.54
Patagonian Toothfish quota SFR	21.54

Fishery	2024–25 (\$)
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	
Patagonian Toothfish quota SFR	28.3600
Northern Prawn Fishery	
Northern Prawn Gear SFR	73.91000
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	
North West Slope Trawl Permit	17,717.86
Small Pelagic Fishery	
Australian Sardine quota SFR	0.0068460
Eastern sub-area Blue Mackerel quota SFR	0.0722540
Eastern sub-area Jack Mackerel quota SFR	0.0285330
Eastern sub-area Redbait quota SFR	0.0067920
Western sub-area Blue Mackerel quota SFR	0.0165600
Western sub-area Jack Mackerel quota SFR	0.0067920
Western sub-area Redbait quota SFR	0.0067920
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	
Autolongline permit	4,932.60
East Coast Deep Water Trawl permit	543.5
Gillnet boat SFR	7,278.03
GHT fishing permit	2,950.14
GHT trap permit	27,140.96
GAB trawl boat SFR	58,745.86
Scalefish hook boat SFR	3,165.64
Shark hook boat SFR	5,201.32
Trawl boat SFR	8,812.44

Fishery	2024–25 (\$)
Victorian Coastal Waters fishing permit	698.78
Alfonsino quota SFR	0.00150
Bight redfish quota SFR	0.00487
Blue eye trevalla quota SFR	0.22688
Blue grenadier quota SFR	0.23281
Blue warehou quota SFR	0.00005
Deepwater shark (Eastern) individual transferable quota unit	0.03852
Deepwater shark (Western) individual transferable quota unit	0.06666
Deepwater flathead quota SFR	0.00534
Elephant fish quota SFR	0.14159
Flathead quota SFR	0.00029
Gemfish (Eastern) quota SFR	0.05971
Gemfish (Western) quota SFR	0.00534
Gummy shark quota SFR	0.48429
Jackass morwong quota SFR	0.00069
John dory quota SFR	0.00097
Mirror dory quota SFR	0.00000
Ocean perch quota SFR	0.04927
Orange roughy (Albany and Esperance) quota SFR	0.00112
Orange roughy (Cascade Plateau) quota SFR	0.00806
Orange roughy (Eastern) quota SFR	0.04745
Orange roughy (Southern) quota SFR	0.00341
Orange roughy (Western) quota SFR	0.00169
Oreo individual transferable quota unit	0.02868

Fishery	2024–25 (\$)
Smooth Oreo (Cascade Plateau) individual transferable quota unit	0.00002
Smooth Oreo (other) individual transferable quota unit	0.01453
Pink ling quota SFR	0.31864
Redfish quota SFR	0.00007
Ribaldo individual transferable quota unit	0.09991
Royal red prawn quota SFR	0.00000
Saw shark quota SFR	0.11718
School shark quota SFR	0.38886
School whiting quota SFR	0.00000
Silver trevally quota SFR	0.00011
Silver warehou quota SFR	0.00012
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	
Southern Bluefin tuna quota SFR	0.3075
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	
Southern Squid Jig gear SFR	17.284
Western Deep Water Trawl Fishery	
Western Deepwater Trawl permit	8,378.82
Western Skipjack Fishery	
Western Skipjack permit	1,308.19
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	
Western Tuna and Billfish longline boat SFR	975.55
Bigeye Tuna quota SFR	0.043
Broadbill Swordfish quota SFR	0.043
Striped Marlin quota SFR	0.043

Fishery	2024–25 (\$)
Yellowfin Tuna quota SFR	0.043

AFMA contacts

If you have any questions regarding the levies for your fishery, please contact the relevant Fishery Manager.

Table 3 Fishery contacts

Fishery	Contact	Telephone
Bass Strait Scallop Fishery	Yvette LaMont	08 8943 0320
Coral Sea Fishery	Dari Wallis	02 6225 5408
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Lara Ainley	02 6225 5373
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery	Danait Ghebregabhier	02 6225 5329
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Danait Ghebregabhier	02 6225 5329
North West Slope Fishery	Darci Wallis	02 6225 5408
Northern Prawn Fishery	Darci Wallis	02 6225 5408
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery		
• Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Mark Grubert	03 5155 6425
• Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Mark Grubert	03 5155 6425
• Gillnet Hook and Trap	Lianos Triantafillos	02 6225 5520
Eastern and Western Skipjack Fishery	Lara Ainley	02 6225 5373
Small Pelagic Fishery	Yvette LaMont	08 8943 0320
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	Jeremy Smith	02 6225 5407
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Yvette LaMont	08 8943 0320
Western Deep Water Trawl Fishery	Darci Wallis	02 6225 5408
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Lara Ainley	02 6225 5373

If you have any questions regarding payment of levies, please contact:

Table 4 Levy payment enquiries contact

Finance	Contact	Telephone
Senior Debt Recovery Officer	Simone Pont	02 6225 5343



Australian Government

**Australian Fisheries
Management Authority**