



**Australian Government**

---

**Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

Assessment of the  
**Western Australian Salmon Managed Fisheries**

**November 2009**

© Commonwealth of Australia 2009

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the Commonwealth, available from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to:

Assistant Secretary  
Marine Environment Branch  
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601

#### **Disclaimer**

This document is an assessment carried out by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts of a commercial fishery against the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. It forms part of the advice provided to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts on the fishery in relation to decisions under Part 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts or the Australian Government.

While reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the contents of this report are factually correct, the Australian Government does not accept responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the contents, and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of, or reliance on, the contents of this report. You should not rely solely on the information presented in the report when making a commercial or other decision.

**Table 1: Summary of the Salmon Managed Fishery (SMF)**

<b>Publicly available information relevant to the fishery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WA <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> (FRM Act)</li> <li>• WA <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i> (FRM Regulations)</li> <li>• <i>South Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan 1982</i></li> <li>• <i>South-West Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan 1982</i></li> <li>• The Department of Fisheries Western Australia (DFWA) State of the Fisheries Report 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/2008</li> <li>• Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) 'Assessment of the Western Australian Salmon Managed Fisheries', September 2004</li> <li>• DFWA 'Environmental Assessment of the Western Australian Salmon Managed Fisheries' June 2004</li> </ul>
<b>Area</b>	<p>The SMF is comprised of two fisheries under separate management plans: the South Coast Salmon Managed Fishery (SCS) and the South West Coast Salmon Managed Fishery (SWCS).</p> <p>The SCS fishery extends from Cape Beaufort to the South Australian border, with licence holders restricted to nominated beaches.</p> <p>The SWCS fishery is officially from Cape Beaufort to the Northern Territory border, however fishing occurs on a few beaches in the southern section of this range. Geographe Bay is closed to commercial fishing as a resolution to resource sharing issues with the recreational sector.</p>
<b>Fishery status</b>	<p>Ongoing monitoring indicates stable recruitment of juveniles, though distribution between the SCS and SWCS fisheries has varied, possibly due to a link with the Leeuwin Current.</p> <p>Recent catches have declined significantly, likely due to low market demand rather than resource issues.</p> <p>There are no resource concerns for this species.</p>
<b>Target Species</b>	<p>Australian Salmon (<i>Arripis truttaceus</i>).</p> <p>Information on the biology of these/this species can be found in the 2004 assessment of the fishery located on the DEWHA website.</p>
<b>Byproduct Species</b>	<p>Techniques used to target salmon are highly specific. Byproduct consists of small quantities of finfish, including Australian Herring (<i>Arripis georgianus</i>), garfish, mullet and other beach associated finfish. Actual quantities of byproduct are uncertain due to current reporting arrangements, however are likely to be minor.</p>
<b>Gear</b>	<p>Beach-seine nets are used to encircle schools of salmon, usually with the aid of motorised watercraft. Net dimensions are not legislated, though operators tend to use gear that reduces sorting time (allows small fish to escape without 'gilling' salmon).</p>
<b>Season</b>	<p>There are no formal seasons, though fishing usually coincides with spawning migrations in late summer and autumn.</p>
<b>Commercial harvest (2008)</b>	<p>879 tonnes. This was below the lower limit performance measure for the fishery of 1200t. This was primarily due to very low effort in the SCS</p>

	fishery due to low market demand and environmental conditions.
<b>Value of commercial harvest (2008)</b>	\$413,000
<b>Take by other sectors</b>	Recreational catch was estimated at 6% of the total salmon catch in the 2000/01 National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey. Given reduced effort in the commercial sector and the closure of Geographe Bay to commercial fishing, recreational take is likely to comprise an increased proportion of the total catch.
<b>Commercial licences issued</b>	There were 18 and six licence holders in the SCS and SWCS fisheries respectively in 2009. A voluntary fishery adjustment scheme was taken up by three SWCS fishers before the implementation of the Geographe Bay closure. In 2008, 13 SCS and 10 SWCS licence holders reported catches.
<b>Management arrangements</b>	<p>The salmon fisheries are managed under the <i>South Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan 1982</i>, the <i>South-West Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan 1982</i>, <i>WA Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> and the <i>WA Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995</i>.</p> <p>Controls on the fishery include limited entry, gear restrictions, minimum size limits and spatial closures. Each licence in the SCS fishery is restricted to an assigned beach. SWCS fishery permit holders may fish at any beach within the range of the fishery subject to 'priority of netting' rules in the FRM Regulations.</p>
<b>Export</b>	The Philippines, Thailand, Europe and Asia. Products include trunks, fillet and roe.
<b>Bycatch</b>	The beach-seine method used in the fishery is highly specific, targeting Australian Salmon aggregated in schools on their way to spawning grounds. Current reporting mechanisms make both byproduct and bycatch difficult to quantify, though limited observer diaries have recorded minor quantities of blowfish. Sharks are occasionally encircled during fishing operations, but their retention is not permitted.
<b>Interaction with Protected Species<sup>1</sup></b>	No interactions with threatened, endangered or protected species have been reported in this fishery, with the exception of seals which are occasionally encircled by the net. Seals are easily released without harm due to net design and the labour intensive manner of fishing operations.
<b>Ecosystem Impacts</b>	Due to the naturally unstable benthos associated with surf beaches, impacts of the net on the physical ecosystem are negligible. Industry has also developed a Code of Practice, outlining ways to minimise the impact of fishing operations on the environment.
<b>Impacts on CITES-listed specimens</b>	No specimens listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) are permitted to be harvested in the fishery. Therefore no assessment of the WA Salmon Fisheries impact on specimens listed under CITES has been conducted.

<sup>1</sup> 'Protected species' means all species listed under Part 13 of the EPBC Act, including whales and other cetaceans and threatened, marine and migratory species.

**Table 2: Progress in implementation of recommendations made in initial assessment of the WA Salmon Fisheries**

Recommendation	Progress	Recommended Action
<p>1. DFWA to advise of any material change to the fisheries' legislated management plans and/or management arrangements that could affect the criteria on which EPBC decisions are based, within 3 months of the change being made.</p>	<p>DEWHA was not informed of the closure of Geographe Bay to the commercial fishery from July 2009. Spatial closures can potentially displace effort to other locations, causing increased impacts on the ecosystem associated with increased fishing activity.</p> <p>In recognition that the closure of Geographe bay would lead to increased pressure on the remaining beaches open to commercial fishing. The Department of Fisheries extended the time period available for submissions to the South West Salmon Voluntary Fishery Adjustment Scheme, which had been established in 2004/05. At the time of publication of this report six South West Salmon authorisations have been surrendered to this scheme.</p> <p>DEWHA will continue to work with DFWA regarding this recommendation.</p>	<p>This recommendation is ongoing, and remains in force in a modified form for a further five years (see <b>Recommendation 2</b>, Table 4).</p>
<p>2. DFWA to ensure, where</p>	<p>DFWA has engaged in significant</p>	<p>This recommendation is ongoing. DEWHA commends DFWA</p>

appropriate, that any relevant indigenous, conservation and recreational interests in the fishery are considered through consultative mechanisms.	consultation to resolve resource sharing issues between recreational and commercial fishers. Outcomes of the process saw Geographe Bay closed to commercial fishing from June 2009.	on their consultation with stakeholders concerning resource sharing issues. This recommendation remains in a modified form for a further five years (see <b>Recommendation 6</b> , Table 4)
3. The ESD Report, including all performance measures, responses and information requirements to be incorporated into the management regime and decision making process	<p>DFWA has incorporated the information generated and derived through the ESD process into the management regime and the decision making process.</p> <p>DEWHA notes that the risk assessment outcomes from the ESD report have not been reviewed for the salmon fisheries. DFWA are required to review the risk ratings every five years.</p>	<p>DEWHA considers this recommendation has been met. DFWA reports against performance measures in the annual <i>State of the Fisheries Report</i>.</p> <p>DEWHA notes that a review of the risk outcomes from the ESD report has not yet been performed. A recommendation (<b>Recommendation 5</b>) to review the risk assessment outcomes is included in Table 4.</p>
4. DFWA to incorporate into the management regime, an objective to minimise protected/listed species interactions, to minimise or maintain the take of other non-retained at sustainable levels and to minimise impacts on the marine environment	<p>Specific objectives as outlined in the recommendation have not been incorporated into the management regime. DFWA has cited that zero protected species interactions have been reported, bycatch is very low and the fishing methods pose negligible risk to the marine environment.</p> <p>As management plans for WA fisheries do not contain objectives, DEWHA recommends DFWA work with industry to incorporate</p>	DEWHA acknowledges that this fishery has low impact on protected species and the marine environment, but insist that specific objectives to minimise impacts on these components are desirable. This recommendation remains in a modified form for a further five years (see <b>Recommendation 4</b> , Table 4).

	these objectives into their Code of Practice.	
5. DFWA, in its Annual State of the Fisheries Report, to report on the performance of the fishery against performance measures that relate to the sustainability of the fishery	DFWA has reported against performance measures in their <i>Annual State of the Fisheries Reports</i>	This recommendation is ongoing, and remains in a modified form for a further five years (see <b>Recommendation 3</b> , Table 4)
6. DFWA to continue to cooperate with other relevant jurisdictions to pursue complementary management and research of shared target stocks	DFWA has continued to cooperate with other jurisdictions to pursue complementary management, especially South Australia.	This recommendation is ongoing. Given that the fishery targets a shared stock between the southern states, this recommendation remains in a modified form for a further five years (see <b>Recommendation 6</b> , Table 4).
7. DFWA to develop and implement a system to periodically validate fishery dependent data on catch and effort for all target and byproduct species within 2 years.	Fishers are required to submit Catch Disposal Records (CDRs) to validate monthly logbook catch data. DFWA has also implemented a fishery independent observer diary. The quality of this data is reflected by the level of activity in the fishery since implementation in 2006. Success of the observer diary has been seen in identifying bycatch species.	DEWHA considers that this recommendation has been partially met. In light of patchy data from both fishery dependant and independent records, especially for byproduct species, DEWHA recommends improving current monitoring mechanisms (see <b>Recommendation 7</b> , Table 4).
8. DFWA to implement, within 1 year, a more precautionary performance measure for the major target species sufficient to ensure that harvest is maintained within sustainable levels and that significant changes in the stock abundance can be detected	DFWA reduced the higher level of the target range for the total catch of salmon in 2004/05 from 3600 to 2800 tonnes. The revised upper range target is based on modeling, rather than purely historical catch limits. This upper catch limit has not been reached in any year since the initial assessment.	DEWHA considers this recommendation has been met.

9. DFWA to collect data on non-retained species in the fisheries, sufficient to validate assumptions and inform future reviews.	In addition to independent observer diaries, DFWA has implemented a voluntary research logbook. There has been a low uptake of this logbook, however DFWA has further encouraged their use. Compulsory catch returns currently do not include bycatch.	DEWHA considers this recommendation has been partially met. Limited data on non-retained species has been sourced from observer diaries. DEWHA recommends improving current monitoring mechanisms (see <b>Recommendation 7</b> , Table 4).
10. DFWA to provide a mechanism, which allows fishers to record interactions with protected/listed species. DFWA to implement an education program to ensure that industry has the capacity to make these reports at an appropriate level of accuracy	Fishers are required to record interactions with protected species in compulsory monthly catch returns. Voluntary daily logbooks can also be used to report interactions. Information, including details of the interaction and confirmation of species identification is obtained via follow up from these reporting mechanisms.	DEWHA considers this recommendation has been met.



**Table 3: The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) assessment of the WA Salmon Fishery against the requirements of the EPBC Act related to decisions made under Parts 13A**

**Please Note** – the table below is not a complete or exact representation of the EPBC Act. It is intended as a summary of relevant sections and components of the EPBC Act to provide advice on the fishery in relation to decisions under Part 13A. A complete version of the EPBC Act can be found on the DEWHA website.

**Part 13A**

Section 303DC Minister may amend list	DEWHA assessment of the WA Salmon Fishery
<p>(1) Minister may, by instrument published in the Gazette, amend the list referred to in section 303DB (list of exempt native specimens) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) including items in the list;</li> <li>(b) deleting items from the list; or</li> <li>(c) imposing a condition or restriction to which the inclusion of a specimen in the list is subject; or</li> <li>(d) varying or revoking a condition or restriction to which the inclusion of a specimen in the list is subject; or</li> <li>(e) correcting an inaccuracy or updating the name of a species.</li> </ul>	
<p>(3) Before amending the list referred to in section 303DB (list of exempt native specimens), the Minister:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) must consult such other Minister or Ministers as the Minister considers appropriate; and</li> <li>(b) must consult such other Minister or Ministers of each State and self-governing Territory as the Minister considers appropriate; and</li> <li>(c) may consult such other persons and organisations as the Minister considers appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p>DEWHA considers that the consultation requirements have been met. The public comment period on the DFWA submission sought comment on the annual submission for the WA Salmon Fishery and provided sufficient opportunity for consultation with other persons and organisations.</p> <p>A letter to the Hon Norman Moore advises him of the intention to declare the fishery exempt from the export provisions of the EPBC Act.</p>
<p>(5) A copy of an instrument made under section 303DC is to be made available for inspection on the Internet.</p>	<p>The instrument for the WA Salmon Fishery made under sections 303DC will be gazetted and made available on the DEWHA website.</p>

<b>Section 303FR Public consultation</b>	<b>DEWHA assessment of the WA Salmon Fishery</b>
<p>(1) Before making a declaration under section 303FN, the Minister must cause to be published on the Internet a notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) setting out the proposal to make the declaration; and</li> <li>(b) setting out sufficient information to enable persons and organisations to consider adequately the merits of the proposal; and</li> <li>(c) inviting persons and organisations to give the Minister, within the period specified in the notice, written comments about the proposal.</li> </ul>	<p>Under the EPBC Act, a decision to amend the LENS does not require a public consultation period. However, a public notice, which set out the proposal to grant export approval to the WA Salmon Fishery and included the submission for the WA Salmon Fishery, was released for public comment which closed on 16 October 2009 with zero submissions received.</p>
<p>(2) A period specified in the notice must not be shorter than 20 business days after the date on which the notice was published on the Internet.</p>	<p>A public notice, which set out the proposal to grant export approval to the WA Salmon Fishery and included the submission for the WA Salmon Fishery was released for public comment on 17 September 2009 and closed on 16 October 2009, a total of 21 business days.</p>
<p>(3) In making a decision about whether to make a declaration under section 303FN, the Minister must consider any comments about the proposal to make the declaration that were given in response to the invitation in the notice.</p>	<p>No public comments about the proposal were received.</p>

#### Part 16

<b>Section 391 Minister must consider precautionary principle in making decisions</b>	<b>DEWHA assessment of the WA Salmon Fishery</b>
<p>(1) The Minister must take account of the precautionary principle in making a decision under section 303DC and/or section 303FN, to the extent he or she can do so consistently with the other provisions of this Act.</p>	<p>The precautionary principle has been considered when making a decision to include specimens on the LENS.</p>
<p>(2) The precautionary principle is that lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing a measure to prevent degradation of the environment where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.</p>	

### **Objects of Part 13A**

- (a) to ensure that Australia complies with its obligations under CITES and the Biodiversity Convention;
- (b) to protect wildlife that may be adversely affected by trade;
- (c) to promote the conservation of biodiversity in Australia and other countries;
- (d) to ensure that any commercial utilisation of Australian native wildlife for the purposes of export is managed in an ecologically sustainable way;
- (e) to promote the humane treatment of wildlife;
- (f) to ensure ethical conduct during any research associated with the utilisation of wildlife; and
- (h) to ensure the precautionary principle is taken into account in making decisions relating to the utilisation of wildlife.

## **Final recommendations to the Department of Fisheries Western Australia for the SMF**

The material submitted by DFWA indicates that the SMF operates in accordance with the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. DEWHA considers that the fishery is well managed and unlikely to have an unacceptable or unsustainable impact on the environment in the short to mid term. Overall, DEWHA recognises that the proportion of suitable beaches fished, the closure of Geographe Bay to address resource sharing issues and the level of fishing effort are conservative and suggest that the fishery is being managed in an ecologically sustainable way.

In making its assessment, DEWHA considers that the range of management measures are sufficient to ensure that the fishery is conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing and that stocks are not currently overfished. Taking into account the relatively benign and targeted fishing methods, low effort and consideration of resource sharing issues, DEWHA considers that fishing operations are managed to minimise their impact on the structure, productivity, function and biological diversity of the ecosystem.

DEWHA is satisfied that the fishery will not be detrimental to the survival or conservation status of the taxon to which it relates in the short term. Similarly, it is not likely to threaten any relevant ecosystem in the short term. To contain and minimise the risks in the longer term the recommendations listed below have been made. DEWHA believes that product taken in the fishery should be exempt from the export controls of Part 13A of the EPBC Act, with that exemption to be reviewed in 5 years.

DEWHA considers that the operation of the fishery does not, or is not likely to, adversely affect the survival in nature of a listed threatened species or population of that species, or the conservation status of a listed migratory species, cetacean or listed marine species or a population of any of those species. DEWHA also considers that under the management plan operators are required to take all reasonable steps to avoid the killing or injuring of protected species, and the level of interaction under current fishing operations is low.

For these reasons, the management plans were accredited under Part 13 of the EPBC Act in November 2004. Since there have been no significant changes to the management arrangements since the initial assessment of the fishery, DEWHA considers that the existing Part 13 accreditation remains valid.

Recommendations are provided below with a brief explanation of the related issue/intent. Unless a specific time frame is provided in the recommendation each recommendation must be addressed within the life of the declaration (5 years).

**Table 4: Salmon Managed Fishery Assessment– Summary of Issues and Recommendations**

	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
1	<p><u>General Management</u></p> <p>Export decisions relate to the arrangements in force at the time of the decision. In order to ensure that these decisions remain valid and export approval continues uninterrupted, the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) needs to be advised of any changes that are made to the management regime and make an assessment that the new arrangements are equivalent or better, in terms of ecological sustainability, than those in place at the time of the original decision. This includes operational and legislated amendments that may affect sustainability of the target species or negatively impact on by-product, bycatch, protected species or the ecosystem.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> Operation of the Salmon Managed Fisheries will be carried out in accordance with the <i>South Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan 1982</i> and <i>South-West Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan 1982</i> in force under the <i>Western Australian Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i>.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 2:</b> DFWA to inform DEWHA of any intended amendments to the Salmon Managed Fisheries' management arrangements that may affect the assessment of the fishery against the criteria on which EPBC Act decisions are based.</p>
2	<p><u>Annual reporting</u></p> <p>It is important that reports be produced and presented to DEWHA annually in order for the performance of the fishery and progress in implementing the recommendations in this report and other managerial commitments to be monitored and assessed throughout the life of the declaration.</p> <p>Annual reports should follow Appendix B to the <i>Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition</i> (the Guidelines) and include a description of the fishery, management arrangements in place, research and monitoring outcomes, recent catch data for all sectors of the fishery, status of target stock, interactions with protected species, impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem in which it operates and progress in implementing DEWHA recommendations. Electronic copies of the Guidelines are available from the DEWHA website at <a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/publications/guidelines.html">http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/publications/guidelines.html</a></p> <p>The Annual State of the Fisheries Report, which reports on the performance of the fishery</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 3:</b> DFWA to produce and present reports to DEWHA annually as per Appendix B to the <i>Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition</i>.</p>

	against performance measures that relate to the sustainability of the fishery, is a recognised format for annual reporting.	
3	<p><u>Strategic management framework</u></p> <p>The initial DEWHA assessment of the SMF identified that there was no objective in the management regime to minimise protected/listed species interactions, to minimise or maintain the take of other non-retained species at sustainable levels and to minimise impacts on the marine environment. As such, a recommendation was placed on the fishery for DFWA to incorporate these objectives into the management regime within the course of the five year exemption.</p> <p>DFWA note in their submission that specific objectives as outlined in the recommendation have not been incorporated into the management regime, as the management plans only contain regulations, not objectives for the fishery. DFWA has cited that zero protected species interactions have been reported, bycatch is very low and the fishing methods pose negligible risk to the marine environment.</p> <p>DFWA have advised that the risks posed to protected species, bycatch and the marine environment by the fishery are likely to be negligible to low, as outlined in DFWA's State of the Fisheries Reports. The previous assessment of the fishery in 2004 outlined DEWHA's position that such environmental objectives should be a priority in the fishery. Because objectives can not be included as part of the management regime, DEWHA encourages DFWA to work with industry to include these objectives in their Code of Practice. Such objectives allow rapid management response to potential protected species and other environmental issues should they arise.</p> <p>The original ESD assessment included an assessment of risk posed to target species, byproduct, bycatch, protected/listed species and the marine environment. The ESD report stated that risks assigned to these components are to be reviewed every five years. DFWA has indicated that the review of the original risk assessment outcomes is overdue. DEWHA recommends that a review workshop be conducted with participation from stakeholders, including indigenous, recreational and conservation groups.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 4:</b> DFWA to encourage fishers in the Salmon Managed Fisheries to incorporate the following objectives into the fisheries' Code of Practice to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. minimise protected/listed species interactions;</li> <li>b. minimise or maintain bycatch at sustainable levels; and</li> <li>c. minimise impacts on the marine environment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendation 5:</b> DFWA to conduct a review of risk levels for target species, byproduct, bycatch (including protected species) and impacts on the environment for the Salmon Fishery. DFWA to implement appropriate measures to ensure identified risks are addressed and minimised.</p>

	<p>DEWHA notes that there is a lack of recent information on the recreational catch of salmon in Western Australia, which was last quantified in the national recreational survey in 2000/01. DFWA has demonstrated its ability to address resource sharing issues through the consultation process for the closure of Geographe Bay, and DEWHA expects to see recreational catches of target species taken into account as part of the ESD review.</p>	
4	<p><b>Consultation and Research</b></p> <p>The western sub-species of Australian Salmon have a range extending across the southern states. The majority of the stock is shared between Western Australia and South Australia, which contain the known nursery areas of this species. Australian Herring, a byproduct in the fishery, are also a shared stock between these states. As both species are targeted in recreational and commercial fisheries in both States, cooperative management arrangements and data sharing is vital to sustainable management of the stock.</p> <p>Cooperation between states for research projects on these species has major potential benefit for the fishery, including quantifying recreational catch and the influence of the Leeuwin Current on recruitment of both salmon and herring.</p> <p>DEWHA also considers that adequate means for consultation with the recreational sector are particularly pertinent in this fishery. DFWA has recently introduced a new consultation structure for the recreational sector, which it perceives will substantially aid consultation. DEWHA encourages DFWA to ensure relevant interests are identified and consulted where appropriate to ensure complementary management of the fishery's natural resources.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 6:</b> DFWA to continue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) to cooperate with other relevant jurisdictions to pursue complementary management and research of shared stocks of target and major byproduct species; and</li> <li>(b) where appropriate, to ensure that any relevant indigenous, conservation and recreational interests in the fishery are considered through consultative mechanisms.</li> </ul>

5	<p><b>Monitoring</b></p> <p>Compulsory monthly returns and catch disposal records are used to monitor the catch of salmon in the fishery and report protected species interactions. A voluntary daily logbook is also available for fishers to record environmental and other observations. Observer diaries are also available for fisheries staff to record data on the fishery, including byproduct and bycatch quantity and composition.</p> <p>DEWHA considers that the quantity and quality of the data on byproduct and bycatch is patchy, due to a combination of factors; byproduct recorded in compulsory monthly returns is not clearly associated with the salmon fishery; voluntary logbook returns are low and do not focus on collecting byproduct/bycatch data; and observer coverage is very low due to the nature of fishing events.</p> <p>DFWA's submission for reassessment contains byproduct data from fishers operating in the Salmon Fisheries. These data are not necessarily reflective of byproduct taken in the fishery, as byproduct is currently reported in statutory returns as being taken under the Wetline (Fishing Boat) Licence. The actual byproduct taken in the fishery is therefore obscured by fish taken opportunistically by operators who are entitled to target Australian Herring, Garfish and Sea Mullet under Wetline entitlements. DFWA has indicated that the Wetline Fishery is currently undergoing review to be brought under a formal management plan within the next five years. Catch returns should be modified to enable fishers to record byproduct and bycatch caught in the Salmon Fishery, to ensure that byproduct taken in the fishery is recorded and correctly accounted for in the management of byproduct species in the Salmon Fishery i.e. monitoring trends.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 7:</b> DFWA to improve reporting mechanisms in the Salmon Managed Fisheries, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) recording byproduct and bycatch taken in the Salmon Managed Fisheries on catch returns;</li> <li>(b) ensuring observer coverage is high enough to validate byproduct and bycatch recorded on returns for at least a period of 12 months; and</li> <li>(c) monitoring trends in byproduct, bycatch and protected species interactions.</li> </ul>
---	---	--



DRAFT