

## Environment and Communications References Committee

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Inquiry into environmental, social and economic impacts of large-capacity fishing vessels commonly known as 'Supertrawlers' operating in Australia's marine jurisdiction

Hearing – 1 November 2016 Canberra

### Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

**Division/Agency:** Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

**Topic:** Funding for scientific research on the Small Pelagic Fishery over the last 10 years and broken down into government and industry.

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**CHAIR (Senator McKim)**

**CHAIR:** Just for clarity: perhaps I could ask that you take on notice the last 10 years, if that is possible—so the funding for scientific research on the SPF over the last 10 years and broken down into government and industry. Would you have the data to provide that?

**Mr Thompson:** I think we have. We certainly have the data for the last five years. I think we have it for the last 10.

**CHAIR:** If you have it for the last 10 we will take it—otherwise, from whenever you are able and you have the data.

### Answer

1. Funding for scientific research on the Commonwealth Small Pelagic Fishery for the last 9 years (since 2008) amounts to \$8,732,998.
2. The breakdown of government/industry funding is as follows.

Commonwealth Government funding (includes matching contributions and public good components): \$4,703,050

Industry funding: \$1,561,101

Other funding sources (includes research organisations, universities and state/territory governments etc.): \$2,468,847

The above industry/government breakdown excludes two projects as the details were not able to be found within the timeframe (refer Attachment A\*\*).

3. Attachment A provides further details project by project.

Project name	Publication date/status	Commissioning organisation	Total Funding GST excl	Industry	Government proportion, amount <sup>1</sup>	Other Funds <sup>2</sup> and source
<b>Ongoing</b>						
Developing a rapid molecular identification technique to improve egg production based fish biomass assessments. (Project # 2014/022)	<b>Ongoing</b> Anticipated completion date August 2017	FRDC	<b>\$550,268</b>	\$36,000	\$144,000 (FRDC Gov funds)	\$156,087 (JCU), \$172,869 (NT DPIF), \$21,312 (QDAF), \$20,000 (NT SPF licence holders in-kind contributions)
Commonwealth Small Pelagic Fishery: Fishery Assessment Report 2016	<b>Ongoing</b> Assessment report due 15 May 2017	AFMA	<b>\$216,000</b>	\$172,800	\$43,200 (AFMA)	
Spawning biomass of Jack Mackerel ( <i>Trachurus declivis</i> ) between western Tasmania and Kangaroo Island, South Australia	<b>Ongoing</b> The DEMP survey will take place in 2016-17	AFMA/SARDI	<b>\$538,000</b>		\$430,000 (AFMA)	\$108 000 (SARDI)
Stock assessment and Management Strategy Evaluation update for Jack Mackerel in the SPF	<b>Ongoing</b>	AFMA	<b>\$66,936</b>	\$53,549	\$13,387 (AFMA)	
Small Pelagics Research Co-ordination Program (Project # 2013/064)	<b>Ongoing</b> Expected completion December 2016	FRDC	<b>\$77,000</b>		\$77,000 (public good funding FRDC)	

<sup>1</sup> Includes Commonwealth Government funding and any Commonwealth Government matching of funds and public good components.

<sup>2</sup> Includes state/territory government contributions, research organisation contributions, in-kind contributions etc.

Project name	Publication date/status	Commissioning organisation	Total Funding GST excl	Industry	Government proportion, amount	Other Funds and source
Method development on the robustness and precision of estimates of egg production and spawning biomass obtained using the Daily Egg Production Method (Project # 2014/026)	<b>Ongoing</b> Anticipated completion date December 2016	FRDC	<b>\$392,429</b>	\$40,000	\$160,000 (public good FRDC)	\$107,429 (SARDI), \$85,000 (other research agencies)
<b>2016</b>						
Eliciting Expert Knowledge to inform the establishment of trigger limits for key marine mammal species that overlap the Commonwealth Small Pelagic Fishery (Project # 2015-035)	September 2016	FRDC	<b>\$82,457</b>		\$74,713 (public good FRDC)	\$7,744 (SARDI)
<b>2015</b>						
Method workshop on benchmarking Australia's small pelagic fisheries against world's best practice (Project # 2013/063)	December 2015	FRDC	<b>\$135,000</b>		\$75,000 (public good FRDC)	\$18,000 (SARDI), \$42,000 (Other research agencies)
Egg distribution, reproductive parameters and spawning biomass of Blue Mackerel Australian Sardine and Tailor off the East Coast during late winter and early spring (Project # 2014/033)	December 2015	FRDC	<b>\$636,900</b>		\$456,900 (FRDC)	\$60,000 (SARDI), \$120,000 (QDAF, NSW DPI, UTAS)
Summer Spawning patterns and preliminary Daily Egg Production Method survey of Jack Mackerel and Australian Sardine off the East Coast (Project # 2013/053)	March 2015	FRDC	<b>\$442,858</b>		\$392,858 (FRDC)	\$30,000 (SARDI), \$20,000 (UTAS)

Project name	Publication date/status	Commissioning organisation	Total Funding GST excl	Industry	Government proportion, amount	Other Funds and source
Small Pelagic Research Coordination Program: Technical workshop to explore mitigation options for mitigating marine mammal interactions in the Small Pelagic Fishery (Project # 2014-046)	July 2015	FRDC	\$30,600		\$30,600 (FRDC)	
Review and update of harvest strategy settings for the Commonwealth Small Pelagic Fishery: Single species and ecosystem considerations (Project # 2013/028)	January 2015	FRDC/CSIRO	\$194,087		\$122,741 (FRDC) \$71,346 (CSIRO)	
Jack mackerel stock structure in the Small Pelagic Fishery  Importance of small pelagic species in diet of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT)	May 2015	AFMA	\$22,600		\$22,600 (CSIRO)	
Reports 1 and 2 of the Expert Panel on a Declared Commercial Fishing Activity: Final (Small Pelagic Fishery) Declaration 2012 and Declaration (No.2) 2013.	March 2015	DoE	\$854,000		\$854,000 (DoE)	*3 DoE FTE to support the panel  (DoE)
<b>2014</b>						
Commonwealth Small Pelagic Fishery: <u>2011-13 Fishery Assessment Report – Small Pelagic Fishery R2010/0812</u>	June 2014	AFMA	\$402,040	\$321,632 (AFMA)	\$80,408 (AFMA)	

Project name	Publication date/status	Commissioning organisation	Total Funding GST excl	Industry	Government proportion, amount	Other Funds and source
<b>2013</b>						
Comments on using daily egg production method to estimate the spawning biomass of jack mackerel, <i>trachurus declivis</i> , off south-eastern Australia	November 2013	AFMA	<b>\$5000</b>	\$5000 (AFMA)		
Simulation analysis of jack mackerel stock sizes. Ecosystem model based plausibility study **	February 2013	CSIRO/AFMA	unknown			
<b>2012</b>						
Movement patterns and stock structure of Australian sardine ( <i>Sardinops sagax</i> ) off South Australia and the East Coast: implications for future stock assessment and management (2009-021)	2012	FRDC	<b>\$669,759</b>	\$49,759 (FRDC - SA Sardine industry)	\$199,038 (FRDC)	\$28,474 (NSW DPI) \$49,566 (SARDI) \$244,165 (Uni Adelaide) \$98,757 (UNSW)
<b>2011</b>						
The trophodynamics of small pelagic fishes in the southern Australian ecosystem and the implications for ecosystem modelling of southern temperate fisheries (FRDC Project 2008/023)	2011	FRDC/CSIRO	<b>\$384,586</b>		\$176,362 (FRDC) \$163,921 (CSIRO)	\$37,419 (SARDI) \$6,884 (UTAS)
Establishing ecosystem-based management for the South Australian sardine fishery: developing ecological performance indicators and reference points to assess the need for ecological allocations (2005-031)	2011	FRDC	<b>\$1,639,972</b>	\$310,000 (FRDC) \$180,000 (SA sardine industry)	\$487,999 (FRDC)	\$661,973 (SARDI)

Project name	Publication date/status	Commissioning organisation	Total Funding GST excl	Industry	Government proportion, amount	Other Funds and source
<b>2010</b>						
Tactical Research Fund: Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) of the harvest strategy for the Small Pelagic Fishery (2008-064)	2010	FRDC	<b>\$127,897</b>		\$85,897 (FRDC) \$27,000 (ABARES)	\$7,500 (SARDI) \$7,500 (UTAS)
<b>2008</b>						
Review of the draft Harvest Strategy for the Commonwealth Small Pelagic Fishery (R2008/843)	2008	AFMA	<b>\$25,000</b>	\$20,000	\$5,000 (AFMA)	
Ecological importance of small pelagic fishes in the Flinders Current System **	March 2008	DEWHA	unknown			
Dolphin and seal interactions with mid-water trawling in the Commonwealth Small Pelagic Fishery, including an assessment of bycatch mitigation (R05/0996)	February 2008	AFMA	<b>\$142,127</b>	\$109,102	\$27,275 (AFMA)	\$5,750 (TAFI)
Evaluation of egg production as a method of estimating spawning biomass of redbait off the east coast of Tasmania (2004-039)	2008	FRDC	<b>\$882,617</b>	\$132,000 (FRDC) \$131,259 (Seafish Tasmania)	\$266,940 (FRDC)	\$302,645 (UTAS) \$43,988 (UTAS AMC) \$5,785 (SARDI)
Management zones from small pelagic fish species stock structure in southern Australian waters (2006-076)	2008	FRDC	<b>\$214,865</b>		\$86,877 (FRDC) \$21,719.29 (AFMA) \$71,269 (CSIRO) \$35,000 (ABARES)	
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>\$8,732,998</b>	<b>\$1,561,101</b>	<b>\$4,703,050</b>	<b>\$2,468,847</b>

### **List of Acronyms**

ABARES – Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

AFMA – Australian Fisheries Management Authority

AMC – Australian Maritime College

DEWHA – Department of the Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts

DoE – Department of the Environment

FRDC – Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

NSW DPI – New South Wales Department of Primary Industries

NT DPIF – Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

NT SPF – Northern Territory Small Pelagic Fishery licence holders

QDAF – Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

SARDI – South Australian Research and Development Institute

UNSW – University of New South Wales

UTAS – University of Tasmania