

AFMA03
Attachment 1

Fishery	Species common name	BRS Assessment of Current Fishing Activity	BRS Fishery Stock Status	Rebuilding strategy
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	Orange roughy	Not Overfishing	Overfished	The rebuilding strategy for orange roughy* has curtailed overfishing by setting area-specific total allowable catches (25 to 60t) to cover unavoidable incidental catches, specific spatial and depth closures and an ongoing program of research and monitoring. Targeted fishing of orange roughy occurs in the Cascade Plateau zone with a total allowable catch (TAC) set annually. The species is long lived (over 100 years) and slow to mature (~30 years), thus stock recovery may take many years.
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	Deepwater shark (upper slope) <i>Also known as gulper sharks</i>	Status Uncertain	Overfished	A management strategy for gulper sharks comprising Harrison's, endeavour and southern dogfish is currently being developed. Existing management measures include spatial closures and a trip limit (150kg) that covers incidental catch of the species. Overfishing status is uncertain due to difficulty in reliably identifying between species. The species group is long lived and slow to mature, thus stock recovery may take many years. A research programme is underway which includes a survey of gulper shark populations along the east coast, as well as a tagging and monitoring project and a plan to improve identification of species by industry.
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	Gemfish (eastern)	Not Overfishing	Overfished	The rebuilding strategy for gemfish (eastern)* comprises area specific total allowable (100t) catches to cover unavoidable incidental catches, gear restrictions, voluntary closures and an ongoing program of monitoring. The current stock assessment shows the stock has begun to rebuild.
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	Oreo dory – smooth	Not Overfishing	Overfished	A specific rebuilding strategy for oreo dory – smooth is not required as the rebuilding strategy for orange roughy also protects this species. Total allowable catches for this species are set in accordance with the fishery's harvest strategy, currently 30 tonnes for the 2009/10 fishing season.
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	Pink ling	Overfishing Occurring	Not Overfished	Pink Ling catches in the east of Bass Strait over recent seasons have indicated that the species is subject to overfishing. To decrease overfishing in the east, AFMA has implemented a 12 month closure over two areas known as Seiner's horseshoe and Everard horseshoe (eastern Bass Strait) in addition to existing voluntary closures for Maria Island and Ling Hole (Tasmania). An assessment of the effectiveness of the strategy will be determined before the 2010/11 season.
Southern and Eastern	School shark	Status Uncertain	Overfished	The rebuilding strategy for school shark* was implemented in 2008. Management includes extensive spatial closures to protect pupping grounds, gear restrictions

Scalefish and Shark Fishery				<p>and annual total allowable catches (240t) to cover incidental catches. It is uncertain whether overfishing is still occurring due to difficulties in assessing the stock.</p> <p>Preliminary results of a stock assessment conducted in 2008/2009 indicate that the decline in stock numbers has halted and there may be signs of recovery.</p>
South Tasman Rise Trawl Fishery	Orange roughy	Not Overfishing	Overfished	The fishery is currently closed to allow the stock to rebuild.
Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery	Sandfish	Status Uncertain	Overfished	<p>The rebuilding strategy for sandfish comprises a zero annual total allowable catch since 2001.</p> <p>Australia has requested Papua New Guinea adopt a similar strategy for the Western Province to reduce the potential for illegal fishing on Warrior Reef for this species. Illegal fishing by Papua New Guinean nationals targeting Beche-de-mer has continued to be observed in Australian waters in the Torres Strait. Australia encourages Papua New Guinea to also deter their nationals from conducting Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing in the Torres Strait Protected Zone. Thus the status of overfishing is uncertain.</p>
Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery	Black teatfish	Status Uncertain	Overfished	<p>The rebuilding strategy for black teatfish comprises a zero annual total allowable catch since 2003.</p> <p>Australia has requested Papua New Guinea adopt a similar strategy for the Western Province to reduce the potential for illegal fishing on Warrior Reef for this species. Illegal fishing by Papua New Guinean nationals targeting Beche-de-mer has continued to be observed in Australian waters in the Torres Strait. Australia encourages Papua New Guinea to also deter their nationals from conducting Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing in the Torres Strait Protected Zone. Thus the status of overfishing is uncertain.</p> <p>Recent research surveys conducted in eastern Torres Strait will provide additional information for the assessment of the stocks of black teatfish.</p>
Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery	Surf redfish	Status Uncertain	Overfished	<p>A zero total allowable catch has been in place for this species since 2003.</p> <p>Australia has requested Papua New Guinea adopt a similar strategy for the Western Province to reduce the potential for illegal fishing on Warrior Reef for this species. Illegal fishing by Papua New Guinean nationals targeting Beche-de-mer has continued to be observed in Australian waters in the Torres Strait. Australia encourages Papua New Guinea to also deter their nationals from conducting</p>

				Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing in the Torres Strait Protected Zone. Thus the status of overfishing is uncertain.
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	Southern scallop	Not Overfishing	Overfished	The Bass Strait Central Zone Fishery was subject to a zero total allowable catch for the last three years to allow stock rebuilding. The fishery's harvest strategy allowed the fishery to open a small (approximately 75 nm ²) area on 1 June 2009 and a total allowable catch of 2650 tonnes based on the results of an official stock survey of the target species. The harvest strategy requires that a minimum of 40% of viable biomass (not less than 500 tonnes) must remain closed to commercial fishing each season to ensure a sustainable spawning biomass. The overfished status of the fishery was based on a 2007 assessment when the fishery was closed to allow stocks to rebuild.
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Bigeye tuna Yellowfin tuna	Overfishing Occurring	Not Overfished	<p>Yellowfin and bigeye tuna are highly migratory species and are caught across the Australian tuna fisheries as well as the broader Pacific Ocean. These species are managed at an international level by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Therefore the overfishing of these species is an international issue, which is addressed by an international committee. Australia is subject to international obligations and therefore must comply with the conservation management measures and resolutions from the committee. The overfishing of the tuna species occurs across the Pacific Ocean, mostly outside Australian waters in the equatorial region. The causes of overfishing are from illegal and unregulated fishing, and increasing efficiency of fishing operations.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessments for both yellowfin and bigeye tuna were completed in 2006 and found that for both species over-fishing is occurring in the western and central Pacific Ocean but the stock is not yet in an overfished state. Since this assessment AFMA has implemented the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Harvest Strategy which is designed to mitigate the risk of the overfishing occurring within the AFZ, and therefore the stock becoming overfished.</p> <p>Australia has agreed to measures at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission designed to reduce fishing mortality by 30% over 3 years and prevent the stock from becoming overfished.</p> <p>Australia has agreed to measures at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission designed to cap fishing mortality at 2001 -2004 levels and prevent the stock from becoming overfished.</p>

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Swordfish Yellowfin tuna	Overfishing Occurring	Not Overfished	<p>Yellowfin tuna and swordfish are highly migratory species and are caught across the Australian Tuna Fisheries as well as the broader Indian Ocean. These species are managed at an international level by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). Therefore the overfishing of these species is an international issue, which is addressed by an international committee. Australia is subject to international obligations and therefore must comply with the conservation management measures and resolutions from the committee. The overfishing of the tuna species occurs across the Indian Ocean, mostly outside Australian waters in the equatorial region. The causes of overfishing are from illegal and unregulated fishing, and increasing efficiency of fishing operations.</p> <p>Australia is a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission which is developing measures to prevent the overfishing of swordfish.</p> <p>Yellowfin tuna are subject to overfishing in the Western part of the Indian Ocean. Australia is a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission which is developing measures to prevent the overfishing of yellowfin tuna.</p>
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	Southern bluefin tuna	Overfishing Occurring	Overfished	<p>SBT is a highly migratory species and is widely distributed throughout the Southern Ocean. As a result, the global SBT fishery is jointly managed by Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Korea and Taiwan under the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, which establishes the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). The Commission sets a total allowable catch (TAC) and determines national allocations for its member countries. The Commission is also responsible for determining management measures and key strategies for the SBT fishery at the international level.</p> <p>As a single straddling stock that is fished by the fishing fleets of other nations, the <i>Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995</i> on its own is not capable of preventing the decline and/or allowing recovery of the species. This can only be achieved through internationally agreed measures.</p> <p>Australia continues to work in the CCSBT to ensure recovery of the stocks.</p>

* This species is listed as conservation dependent under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.