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Boston - NOAA head urges changes in ocean management - Government - VillageSoup

Saturday, 25 July 2009 5:12 PM

**Government**

# NOAA head urges changes in ocean management

By Shlomit Auciello  
*The Herald Gazette Reporter*

BOSTON (July 24): Saying she wanted "to draw attention to the untold story of oceans in the climate dialogue," Dr. Jane Lubchenco, undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, spoke in Boston on Monday, laying out what she called "a grand challenge for the nation."

Advertisement

That challenge, according to Lubchenco, is to reverse the decline along the nation's coastlines and in the oceans, and restore them to a healthy, productive and resilient state.



Dr. Jane Lubchenco, speaking in Washington in April 2008 at the Select

Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. (Image courtesy of U.S. Congress)

"Too much is at stake to continue on our present path," she said of the dependence of the fisheries in the United States on actions taken in the coming decade. "Too much is at risk if we ignore either oceans or climate change."

"As an ecologist, I'm interested in connections," she said. "Connections in the patterns of nature, connections between people and nature, connections across space and through time." She said these interactions also include the ways in which different generations respond to daunting challenges.

Quoting President John F. Kennedy, Lubchenco told those assembled Monday for the Coastal Zone 2009 Conference, "It is an interesting biological fact that all of us have, in our veins, the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and, therefore, we have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea, whether it is to sail or to watch it, we are going back from whence we came."

President Barack Obama issued a proclamation last month laying out his vision for oceans in which he spoke of the country's "stewardship responsibility to maintain healthy, resilient, and sustainable oceans and coasts ... for the benefit of this and future generations." The president also established an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, led by his Council on Environmental Quality.

Lubchenco said the task force, along with NOAA and 17 other departments and agencies, would develop recommendations for a national policy for oceans, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems, a framework for policy coordination, and an implementation strategy that identifies ways to meet the objectives of the national policy.

"There is an ever increasing demand for human uses of the ocean, and with that demand comes greater potential for damage to fragile habitats and loss of ecosystem services and integrity, as well as competition and conflicts among user groups," Lubchenco said. "One of the responsibilities of the task force is to prepare recommendations for a framework on comprehensive coastal and marine spatial planning that will help address this issue."

She said marine spatial planning would ensure healthy, productive, and resilient ocean and coastal ecosystems and support coastal communities and economies.

"Decisions should be informed by science with the goal of sustaining human uses while protecting or restoring ocean ecosystems," she said. She invited comments and suggestions at [oceancomments@ceq.eop.gov](mailto:oceancomments@ceq.eop.gov).

Lubchenco called climate change "a huge threat multiplier," and said it amplifies other stresses on life in oceans, such as nutrient runoff, chemical pollution, marine debris, overfishing, and the introduction of invasive species and habitat destruction.

"Last month the administration released a landmark report: Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States," she said. "It describes in plain language the climate change impacts that have been documented in various regions around the country. Along the coasts, sea level is rising, the oceans are warming, and corals are bleaching. However, the report also makes the critically important point that decisions now will determine whether climate change will result in big changes or smaller ones."

"We should manage and prepare to adapt with the expectation that there will be surprises," Lubchenco said, referring to a number of recent reports that show rapid and unanticipated impacts from climate change. "We must have policies that are flexible and responsive to changes."

"Like the wonderful Indian fable of an elephant being described by blind men touching its component parts, oceans often represent different things to different users," she said, adding that seven specific themes have emerged as Americans express their needs and expectations in regard to ocean ecosystems.

"Americans want and expect clean beaches, healthy seafood, stable fisheries, good jobs, abundant wildlife, vibrant coastal communities and clean energy," she said.

Introducing the new National Climate Service, Lubchenco said NOAA is working toward integrating its modeling, monitoring, observation and mapping capabilities with its diverse place-based management experience to create an integrated service that can deliver climate-relevant information to inform decision making in a time of rapid change. She said the new service has the "potential to be an invaluable source of information to citizens, businesses, cities and states, and national leaders."

Citing the demand for greater opportunities to restore degraded habitats in coastal states, Lubchenco described the allocation, through the American Recovery and Restoration Act of 2009, of \$167 million to NOAA for job-creating projects that would restore coastal habitats.

"NOAA announced an open competition for these funds," she said. "We received 814 project proposals totaling \$3 billion. In New England, \$16.7 million was awarded for seven projects in five coastal states."

Two of those awards were for projects in Maine. One, called Maine Atlantic Salmon Habitat Restoration, will replace impassable culverts at road crossings and decommission unneeded commercial roads in the Machias River watershed, opening 66 miles of river and reconnecting 57 square miles of upper watershed to the lower watershed.

In another project, the Great Works Dam will be removed as part of a broader initiative to restore and open more than 1,000 miles of the Penobscot River and reconnect inland endangered Atlantic salmon habitat to the Gulf of Maine.

"This project will help lead to the restoration of the full assemblage of 11 native migratory fish species to the river, and provide benefits for wildlife, tribal culture, and the Gulf of Maine, as well as spur community and economic development in New England's second largest watershed," Lubchenco said.

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them," she said, quoting Albert Einstein. Lubchenco concluded with a call for creative thinking and innovative approaches.

"And so," she said, "we are here today to focus on the intersection between climate and oceans and to highlight the economic opportunities and societal benefits of healthy oceans and coasts. Life in and above the oceans depends upon us as we depend upon them."

<http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/3576>

Environment and Conservation Minister Jay Weatherill has excluded areas around Port MacDonnell, Carpenter Rocks and Cape Jaffa from the proposed South

☰ Marine park size reduced

Saturday, 25 July 2009 5:11 PM

## **Marine park size reduced**

Posted on July 23, 2009, 1:01pm and updated on July 24, 2009 at 6:50 am

Environment and Conservation Minister Jay Weatherill has excluded areas around Port MacDonnell, Carpenter Rocks and Cape Jaffa from the proposed South Australian marine park.

The total area taken up by marine parks in the South East has changed from 1646sq km to 1266sq km — a reduction of 23pc.

Mr Weatherill told The Border Watch this was in response to representations from a working group that included South Eastern Professional Fishermen's Association president Joel Redman and Kingston District Council chairman Evan Flint.

"We don't pretend that everyone is completely relaxed, but we have gone a long way to demonstrating that we will listen," Mr Weatherill said.

However, Mr Redman said fishermen were "very angry" the government had not adopted their proposal.

"We have ended up with about half the state waters under marine park administration in the South East, when the threats and hence the need have not been identified, and the design principles driving the decisions have been flawed," Mr Redman said.

"No scientific evidence has been produced to show how the proposed marine parks in the South East will contribute substantially to protecting and conserving the marine ecosystem and biota against current and potential threats."

Meanwhile, Mr Weatherill said there was still "a long way to go" before there's any reduction in activity.

"The working group process has been positive and helpful and a similar engagement process will be adopted for each park as we move to developing the zoning arrangements and management plans for the parks," he said.

"While differences still remain, there is much greater understanding of the process of establishing marine parks and this has given people much more confidence in their future."

Mr Weatherill said the zoning process would take place over the next two years and there would be another opportunity to reconsider boundary alterations.

"Until then, activities within these areas will continue as they are and once the parks are in place, the overwhelming majority of the areas will remain open to fishers," he said.

The Wilderness Society welcomed Mr Weatherill's announcement.

The society's marine campaigner Shen Dycer said it was now important to get the zoning right.

"They will be pretend parks until we have sanctuary zones which prohibit mining and fishing," she said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/24/2635413.htm>

The secretary of the South Eastern Professional Fishermen's Association says he is disappointed that the South Australian Government ignored its proposal for marine park boundaries.

☞ Marine park concessions 'not enough' - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Saturday, 25 July 2009 5:11 PM

## Marine park concessions 'not enough'

Posted Fri Jul 24, 2009 12:03pm AEST

- **Map:** [Renmark 5341](#)

The secretary of the South Eastern Professional Fishermen's Association says he is disappointed that the South Australian Government ignored its proposal for marine park boundaries.

Environment Minister Jay Weatherill has announced that the total area of the parks has been reduced from 46 per cent of the state's waters to 44 per cent.

The association's David Manser says the Minister's concessions do not go far enough.

"The threats have never been identified. Fishing is not a threat to anything in the marine environment in the southern zone, so as far as we're concerned they're not really addressing the issues that are there," he said.

"We did put forward a sensible proposal backed by some very relevant science and in agreement with the recreational and local government bodies and we're just disappointed that the Minister chose to ignore that."

Neil MacDonald from Wild Catch Fisheries SA says while the industry is disappointed, it will not give up fighting.

"That process we have been through I guess is the end of phase one from our perspective, the critical part will be the debate over the next two years about getting the design right and therefore coming up with more effective boundaries - I mean we have a great deal to lose," he said.

The Wilderness Society says the number of non-fishing zones allocated to the marine parks will determine how well the area is protected.

Peter Owen says the most important debate will come when each park is zoned for different use.

"The management plans are the important bit, the outer boundaries are a significant first step, but the plans will determine where the sanctuary zones go and they are ultimately the real marine protected areas," he said.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/stories/2009/07/24/1245bc7a4fd0>

☞ Radio New Zealand News : Stories : 2009 : 07 : 24 : Plan to create areas for non-commerical fishers

Saturday, 25 July 2009 5:09 PM

## Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley has outlined a plan to set up fishing areas throughout New Zealand solely for recreational and customary fishers.

Mr Heatley says he is committed to fulfilling a National Party promise for the exclusive areas.

Recreational fishers say it is important to have significant areas where they can catch a fish and where stocks are protected from large-scale commercial activity.

But Mr Heatley says the economic impact on commercial fishers must be minimised.

He says the plan is in its early stages but could be operational within two years.

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<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/24/2635165.htm>

Western Australia's rock lobster industry could face even tougher restrictions next season to protect the already depleted stocks.

Rock lobster rules 'could be harsher' - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Saturday, 25 July 2009 5:05 PM

## Rock lobster rules 'could be harsher'

Posted Fri Jul 24, 2009 9:22am AEST  
Updated Fri Jul 24, 2009 10:49am AEST



Rock lobster fishing is already limited to five days a week. (ABC News: Michael Brooks)

Western Australia's rock lobster industry could face even tougher restrictions next season to protect the already depleted stocks.

The State Government imposed a 30 per cent pot reduction last season and limited fishing to five days a week after research showed lobster numbers were perilously low.

The Western Rock Lobster Council is holding its biennale conference in Perth today to discuss issues affecting the fishery and the future of the industry.

The council's Dexter Davies says it is likely the issue of fishing restrictions will dominate the conference.

"The departmental science that's available now has been indicating that they could well be more severe next year," he said.

"We'll go through what that science says, why it says that and explain it to all the participants."

Mr Davies says the fishers will be presented with a range of future management options for the fishery.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200907/s2634113.htm>

Coverage of rural industries and issues.

Fishing industry seeking compo for oil spill - 23/07/2009

Saturday, 25 July 2009 5:02 PM

## Fishing industry seeking compo for oil spill

Thursday, 23/07/2009

A million dollars in compensation claims have been submitted by the fishing industry over an oil spill off Queensland's coast in March.

The Queensland Government yesterday rejected an offer from the company involved in the spill, Swire Shipping, saying it wasn't enough to cover clean-up costs.

Solicitor Chris Thompson, who's representing the seafood industry, isn't sure whether those negotiations included damage to fishing operators.

"There would literally be a lot of people out there that could make a valid claim that must be in my opinion impacted to some degree yet they maybe sitting on the fence," he says.

"But they should really come forward and explore their options."

<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,25824443-2682,00.html>

MARINE park boundaries in key fishing regions of the state have been reduced, but conservationists are happy the park network will remain largely intact.

## New marine park boundaries released

Article from: **TheAdvertiser**

CARA JENKIN, ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

July 23, 2009 02:41pm

### **MARINE park boundaries in key fishing regions of the state have been reduced, but conservationists are happy the park network will remain largely intact.**

Waters off Port Macdonnell and Cape Jaffa in the South East, mainly used by crayfishermen, have been excluded from the new marine park regions in response to public consultation and a local working group formed to review the boundaries.

Waters off Point Lowly and Whyalla, Thevenard, Port Pirie, Port Giles and Ardrossan, in the north and west of the state, have also been excluded from the marine parks because of existing commercial ports.

Marine parks are being established to protect the state's pristine sea environments from damage.

Environment and Conservation Minister Jay Weatherill said the changes would accommodate industry and community concerns about sensitive sites, while conserving marine habitats in need of protection.

"It understands there are existing users, (that) we're not working with a blank sheet of paper here," he said.

"There's aquaculture, ports and infrastructure that we're not seeking to disturb."

Marine parks now cover 44 per cent of South Australian waters, down from 46 per cent when the parks were first revealed in January.

Areas off Port Lincoln were also reviewed but the park boundaries remain unchanged.

Wilderness Society SA marine campaigner Shen Dycer said the outer boundaries were a good start but zoning within the parks needed to be done right.

"We will continue to work constructively with industry representatives and local communities to make sure that marine park zoning plans deliver great conservation and sustainability outcomes," she said.

<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,27574,25825862-2682,00.html>

FISHERMEN in the South East are outraged at a State Government decision to reduce the size of marine parks does not go far enough.

## Sea park size angers fishermen

Article from: **TheAdvertiser**

CARA JENKIN

July 24, 2009 12:01am

### **FISHERMEN in the South East are outraged at a State Government decision to reduce the size of marine parks does not go far enough.**

Marine parks have been proclaimed in 44 per cent of the state's waters, two per cent less of an area than was first proposed by the Government in January.

Six ports across the state, including the fishing ports of Port Macdonnell and Cape Jaffa in the South East, have been excluded from marine parks in the new network after public consultation.

Professional and recreational fishermen will still be able to fish in the "overwhelming majority" of the parks, with only small pockets, such as fish spawning grounds, to be fully protected.

The no-take zones will be developed in consultation with the community in the next two years.

But the South Eastern Professional Fishermans Association is still angry minimal boundaries have not been adopted by the Government.

President Joel Redman said there was no scientific evidence to show the marine parks would substantially protect and conserve the marine ecosystem of the South East.

"We're very much in the same boat as the Government when it comes to looking after the ocean and preserving the habitats of our unique species because the on-going livelihood of our fishery, fishing families and their kids depend on it," he said.

"We have been very public that we will never agree to massive general use areas tied up in marine parks, as they just create long term confusion, uncertainty and unnecessary cost."

Environment and Conservation Minister Jay Weatherill said the marine parks would ensure SA has a prosperous fishing industry as well as a prosperous environment in the future.

"We've always thought that the fishing industry has nothing to fear from marine parks," he said.

"There's a range of things we can do to help our marine environment, without affecting fishing."

He said marine parks could be an asset to professional fishers, who would be able to market their produce from marine parks as being "clean and green".

Conservation Council of SA chief executive Julie Pettett said Mr Weatherill should be congratulated for putting the state's coasts and oceans ahead of opposition from vested interests.

"Well-designed marine parks with adequate sanctuary zones help replenish fish stocks and provide a big boost to the tourism sector," she said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/23/2634151.htm>

A smaller area than first proposed will be set aside as protected marine parks in South Australian coastal waters.

SA marine parks area reduced - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) Saturday, 25 July 2009 5:00 PM

## SA marine parks area reduced

Posted Thu Jul 23, 2009 11:25am AEST

Updated Thu Jul 23, 2009 4:37pm AEST



Marine parks to cover 44pc of SA coastal waters (ABC TV News - file image)

- **Video:** [SA's marine environment debate \(ABC News\)](#)
- **Audio:** [Neil MacDonald from Wild Catch Fisheries SA says marine boundaries are still too big. \(ABC News\)](#)

A smaller area than first proposed will be set aside as protected marine parks in South Australian coastal waters.

Planned boundaries have been changed after public consultation with the fishing industry, recreational fishing groups, councils and environment groups.

The South Australian Government says 44 per cent of the state's waters will be in parks instead of 46 per cent.

SA Environment and Conservation Minister Jay Weatherill thinks a good compromise has been reached, to protect various interests.

"These changes will accommodate industry and community concerns about sensitive sites while helping conserve the habitats we need to protect," he said.

"I'm also very confident that we can have a very prosperous fishing industry, we can have recreational

fishers enjoying all of the things they used to do and making sure that all of those uses can continue to occur at the same time.

"It has been good to get the various interest groups working together and I look forward to that co-operation continuing through the next stage of developing the marine parks system."

Peter Owen from the Wilderness Society says the compromise is welcome.

"I think today's announcement is a very positive step for marine conservation in South Australia," he said.

"We've still got a long way to go. These are just the outer boundaries - the sanctuary zones have yet to be determined, but this is a fantastic first step."

The changes have been proclaimed by the Governor.

<http://www.canada.com/Plans+Krill+Take+Despite/1816107/story.html>

Canada has no plans to prohibit krill harvesting off the West Coast, despite last week's decision by

 No Plans to End Krill Take, Despite U.S.

Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:59 PM

## No Plans to End Krill Take, Despite U.S.

Canwest News Service July 22, 2009

Canada has no plans to prohibit krill harvesting off the West Coast, despite last week's decision by the United States to ban the harvesting of the tiny, shrimp-like creatures off the coast of California, Washington and Oregon.

The three states had previously banned krill fishing within five kilometres of their coastline, but the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has now prohibited krill harvesting in the economic zone, which stretches from five kilometres to 320 kilometres.

Krill are regarded as a vital building block in the marine food chain.

Humpback whales, blue whales, salmon and seabirds are among the species that rely on the small crustaceans for food.

But krill harvests in areas such as Antarctica and Japan are ballooning as demand grows for fishmeal. Some environmental groups are concerned that overharvesting will lead to the collapse of endangered species.

Fishmeal made from krill is used in some fish-farming operations, home aquariums and pet foods.

Russell Mylchreest, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' shellfish co-ordinator for fisheries management and assessment, said there is a small krill fishery in inlets off the Strait of Georgia and there is no plan for a ban.

"The allowable catch is a very low percentage of the total krill stock. It is a pretty precautionary approach," he said. "There has been research, but no one is recommending a ban."


The krill fishery takes place in Knight, Bute, Jervis and Toba Inlets and the total allowable catch is 500 tonnes a year.

However, in recent years, fishermen have not been taking the total catch because of low prices and there is no talk of expanding the fishery, Mylchreest said.

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[www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/bumper-season-f...](http://www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/bumper-season-f...)

THE sardine industry is on track for a bumper season with most of the 12 boats in the fleet having already caught their quota. Of the 30,000 tonne total allowable catch (TAC), about 27,000 tonnes h...

 Bumper season for sardine industry - Local News - News - General - Port Lincoln Times

Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:56 PM

## Bumper season for sardine industry

SOPHIE WANDEL  
22/07/2009 11:30:00 PM



TASTY: Marcus White from Port Lincoln Sardine holding a quick freeze sardine that is destined for the Melbourne Fish Market along with natural and crumbed fillets.



TASTY: Marcus White from Port Lincoln Sardine shows a crumbed and natural fillet as well as a quick freeze sardine.

THE sardine industry is on track for a bumper season with most of the 12 boats in the fleet having already caught their quota.

Of the 30,000 tonne total allowable catch (TAC), about 27,000 tonnes has already been caught.

South Australian Sardine Industry Association executive officer Christian Pyke said this catching season had been good.

"Just a couple of boats will stay out now to concentrate on catching product to focus on developing human consumption markets," he said.

Around 98 per cent of sardines caught have been used as feed for local tuna farms with the remainder split between recreational fishing bait, the Melbourne fresh fish market and toward developing different product ranges for human consumption.

Another positive was the creation of 12 new land-based jobs in the fishery this year. This was the result of one local operator investing in processing equipment for human consumption markets.

Port Lincoln Sardine invested in filleting equipment about seven months ago to diversify its operation and as a result employed 12 extra people in its Port Lincoln factory, taking the number of people directly employed in the catching and processing of sardines to above 260 people in the Lower Eyre region.

Marcus White from Port Lincoln Sardine said sardines were being sold to fresh fish markets in Melbourne,

Adelaide and Perth with plans to expand.

Already they offer natural and crumbed fillets as well as sardines frozen whole with plans to marinate and eventually can the fish.

Meanwhile, also this season the fishery has been effective in reducing its interactions with dolphins, seals and sharks.

"Results from the independent observer coverage in the fishery have proved the Code of Practice has been effective in reducing interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species," Mr Pyke said.

[www.3news.co.nz/News/BusinessNews/Ministry-reports-longer-squid-sea...](http://www.3news.co.nz/News/BusinessNews/Ministry-reports-longer-squid-sea...)

Ministry reports longer squid season, fewer sea lion deaths A longer than usual squid fishing season has finished around the sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands, says the Ministry of Fisheries. Breaking Business News and online streaming news videos from TV3, New Zealand's continuous news desk

3 News > Business > Story > Ministry reports longer squid season, fewer sea lion deaths Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:54 PM

## Ministry reports longer squid season, fewer sea lion deaths



This year's squid fishing season lasted longer than normal due to unusually large numbers  
Wed, 22 Jul 2009 8:57p.m.

A longer than usual squid fishing season has finished around the sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands, says the Ministry of Fisheries.

Despite the longer season, fewer sea lions were observed killed in nets from more trawls, and fishers left the area before reaching the assumed limit of 95 sea lion deaths, according to the ministry.

The squid fishery around the sub-Antarctic Auckland and Campbell Islands starts in February and generally finishes in May, or when the fishing-related mortality limit for sea lions is reached.

"This year the squid fishing season has lasted longer than normal due to unusually large numbers of squid in the area," said ministry chief executive Wayne McNee.

The New Zealand sea lion, formerly known as the Hooker's sea lion, is classified as threatened under the Marine Mammals Protection Act. It primarily breeds in the Auckland Islands.

Each year the Minister of Fisheries sets a fishing-related mortality limit, a maximum allowable number of assumed sea lion deaths from trawling, as sea lions chase their squid prey into trawl nets.

This year the limit was set at 113 and voluntarily reduced to 95 when the latest information on pup numbers became available.

The season resulted in 72 assumed accidental deaths and four sea lions reported as accidentally killed by fishing vessels.

There were over 1900 individual trawls. Last season there were five reported accidental deaths from 1250 trawls.

Numbers of actual observed sea lion captures have been steadily declining in recent years and the improvement was put down to the joint commitment and high level of co-operation between the fishing industry and the ministry.

Deepwater Group chief executive George Clement said on behalf of squid fishery operators the industry had improved its methods for reducing the bycatch of sea lions.

All trawlers in the area used an approved sea lion exclusion device that allows sea lions to escape from trawl nets if they swim inside.

Squid brought in over \$71 million in export earnings in 2008.

NZPA

<http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/3557>

Car parks are almost invariably under the control of the closest principal stakeholder and owner- be that a shopping centre, housing block, government

A marine park is not a car park

Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:51 PM

## A marine park is not a car park

Posted on July 22, 2009, 7:07pm

Car parks are almost invariably under the control of the closest principal stakeholder and owner- be that a shopping centre, housing block, government department or airport- and reserved for one use and that one only which is to deposit vehicles whose owners are not inside driving them around.

Such is not the case with Marine Parks, such as the one about to be enacted in the Great Bight of South Australia; here we have multiple stakeholders whose interests and needs often compete if not collide but no actual owner in a real estate sense.

Yet, unless drivers, ie users, of a car park can be made to both park and move their vehicles in the prescribed manner and direction, there will be combined 'car-nage', coupled with wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The planning and future use of the combined marine park, with its intended zones and use models, may likewise be cause equally strong emotions, unless reason not only prevails but can be made to see areas and aspects that everyone can benefit from, like the users of a reasonably laid-out car park.

Fishermen will continue to be allowed to fish, snorkellers to snorkel, bathers to bathe and researchers to research; in fact, they will be welcome to do so, in certain spaces and, perhaps, at certain times of the year if not of the day.

To return to the analogy of the car park: not only are cars not meant to be parked on top of, or too close to, each other but certain car parks may actually be closed after hours or have access otherwise restricted.

When it is granted -- under the condition that it is -- everyone benefits from being able to park their car and go about their business, leisure or rest. Likewise ought to be the case with the new marine park whose purpose is to benefit the entire littoral community and put no actual or potential user to lasting disadvantage or discomfort.

While the designers of car parks achieve this with well-chosen physical features, a few traffic signs and the presence of written rules and, possibly, an attendant, more human, material and organisational resources are needed to look after a conglomerate of seaspace, coastline and underwater resources within notional boundaries.

That does not mean that it has not been, and cannot be, done

A fish affected by EUS, a disease that has been decimating fish stocks of the Zambeze

Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:49 PM

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=33167&ndb=1&df=0>



A fish affected by EUS, a disease that has been decimating fish stocks of the Zambeze river. (Photo: FAO/C. Reports)

Fatal fish disease on the rise in Zambeze river



**ZAMBIA**

**Wednesday, July 22, 2009, 03:50 (GMT + 9)**

The Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) has issued an alert indicating that the Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) caused by the fungus *Aphanomyces invadans* is wiping out finfish stocks in the Zambeze river basin.

The System, a dependency of the United Nation’s (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) discloses that the aquatic disease forms severe lesions on fish and has a high rate of mortality. The disease also purportedly puts specimens from other African areas at risk.

“If not properly contained there is the risk of the disease spreading to other countries surrounding the Zambezi River as well as river systems in the region,” said Rohana Subasinghe, Senior Fishery Resources Officer of the FAO.

This African river boasts a surface area of 1,390,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is home to some 32 million people, 80 per cent of which are dependent on agriculture, fishing and aquaculture.

According to the GIEWS report, Zambia is the most affected nation, encompassing two-thirds of the Zambezi River Basin.

In addition to serving as a source of protein, fish serves as the source of revenue in many rural areas. Now, more than 2,000 villages and some 700,000 people are threatened by food insecurity.

Experts recommend not consuming contaminated fish unless it is “thoroughly” cooked, FAO explains.

Some 50 species of finfish are susceptible to being infected with EUS.

The first case of this syndrome appeared in Japan in the early 1970s. It later spread to Australia, much of Asia, and to the United States in 1984.

It can now be found in at least 24 countries around the world, specialists say.

Since 2007, FAO has contributed to building capacities for managing the disease in the seven Zambezi River Basin countries: Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This initiative “includes basic EUS diagnosis, targeted EUS surveillance and basic aquatic animal health management.” FAO adds.

Even though the UN organisation acknowledges that “Control of EUS in natural waters such as rivers is impossible,” it explains that it is relatively simple to do it in fish farming activities, through the implementation of a series of biosecurity measures that can minimise or prevent its spread.

Some of the precautionary measures recommended include preventing possible carriers or vectors from contaminating water bodies or fish ponds, removing dead fish promptly and improving water quality.

By *Analia Murias*  
[editorial@fis.com](mailto:editorial@fis.com)  
[www.fis.com](http://www.fis.com)

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Local News - Waikato Times

☰ Council split on seaweed - news - waikato-times | Stuff.co.nz

Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:42 PM

## Council split on seaweed

By BRUCE HOLLOWAY - Waikato  
 Last updated 12:33 21/07/2009

Environment Waikato's regional pest management committee is split over how it should respond to possible increased commercial harvesting of the highly invasive Japanese seaweed *Undaria pinnatifida*.

Maf Biosecurity New Zealand is seeking feedback before the end of the month on whether to allow greater commercial utilisation of undaria now found in many parts of New Zealand, including the Firth of Thames

than is permitted under existing regulations.

Undaria is one of the world's top 100 most invasive species.

However, potential commercial market opportunities also exist, and Biosecurity New Zealand appears to be leaning towards freeing up harvest rules.

But at last week's regional pest management committee meeting, members and attending councillors were split three ways on what approach Environment Waikato should recommend in its submission.

Five supported harvesting where undaria was a byproduct of existing operations (such as clearing fouled lines).

Four supported further undaria harvesting in forms such as allowing it to be scraped off rocks in areas where it had become naturalised, while three supported commercial harvesting in areas where undaria was already heavily infested.

Councillor Andra Neeley said there were inevitable conflicts when a market was established for a pest.

"It gets into a really murky area when you give something an economic benefit," she said. "It mitigates against ever getting rid of it."

But councillor Norm Barker said he had spent a lifetime trying to eradicate weeds such as ragwort from his farm.

"Many times I have thought 'if only there was value in ragwort'. Here is a weed with value. We should be using it."

The committee resolved council staff should provide a draft submission, based on only harvesting as a byproduct where the seaweed was already present.

<http://www.gisborneherald.co.nz/article/?id=13073>

Regional fisheries management OK » The Gisborne Herald | Gisborne's latest News, Sport, Family Notices, Photos and Events

Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:39 PM

Regional fisheries management OK

Some years ago when I lived in Gisborne, we were rated the second fishing port in New Zealand.

And in those days it was generally thought that there should be a regional fishing administration in the South Pacific. It is interesting to see that it might happen at last.

Representatives from Chile and the European Union have discussed the matter recently.

Chilean officials expressed interest in holding negotiations on fishing at a meeting in Auckland in November within a framework of the proposed South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation. Former Fisheries Minister, Jim Anderton, battled for years to establish a regional fisheries management organisation in the South Pacific.

In 2007, New Zealand agreed to host and fund an interim secretariat for a regional fisheries management organisation aimed at limiting bottom trawling.

The secretariat was set up in Wellington to oversee interim rules on bottom fishing for the first two years. It could be a good move again.

Joe Johnson, Auckland

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200907/s2631991.htm>

Coverage of rural industries and issues.

Fishing earnings fall as aquaculture booms - 21/07/2009

Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:35 PM

## Fishing earnings fall as aquaculture booms

Tuesday, 21/07/2009

The value of Australia's fishing industry has fallen more than 20 per cent in the last decade.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics says it's mainly due to a \$600 million drop in the value of rock lobster, prawn, abalone and tuna.

Over the same period, there's been a boom in aquaculture production, with salmon overtaking tuna as

Australia's most valuable finfish species.

But the Mayor of the West Coast of Tasmania, Darryl Gerrity, says the aquaculture boom isn't all good.

"A lot of the aquaculture people come in, work for 10 days, or for five, much like in the mining industry, whereas in the traditional fishing industry, the families actually lived in Strahan," he says.

"And now there's probably only five or six families fishing out of Strahan, where there used to be 10 or 15 families."

[www.northernadvocate.co.nz/local/news/turbines-threaten-to-doom-sna...](http://www.northernadvocate.co.nz/local/news/turbines-threaten-to-doom-sna...)

An electricity generation proposal seen as threatening the spawning grounds of 98 per cent of New Zealand snapper will be strenuously opposed by some people in the Kaipara district. Kaipara Mayor Neil Tiller, Te Uri o Hau leaders and others involved with the Kaipara Harbour last week launched a campaign ...

Turbines 'threaten to doom' snapper - Local News - Northland Northern Advocate Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:32 PM

## Turbines 'threaten to doom' snapper

Mike Barrington | 20th July 2009



### Snapper like this could be doomed according to the proposal. Picture/File

An electricity generation proposal seen as threatening the spawning grounds of 98 per cent of New Zealand snapper will be strenuously opposed by some people in the Kaipara district.

Kaipara Mayor Neil Tiller, Te Uri o Hau leaders and others involved with the Kaipara Harbour last week launched a campaign to stop Crest Energy gaining government clearance to install 200 tidal turbines on the seabed at the harbour entrance.

The battle plan was drawn up at a public meeting which Te Tai Tokerau MP Hone Harawira called at the Naumai Marae at Ruawai on Friday to air issues involved with the controversial scheme.

Mr Harawira told the Northern Advocate the tidal turbine technology was untested in any major Western country and the project could destroy Ngati Whatua and its Te Uri o Hau hapu.

About 60 people voiced similar fears as they questioned two Crest Energy consultants who attended the meeting to explain environmental aspects of the company's proposal.

Crest lodged an application for a resource consent to install the 200 turbines three years ago, later modifying its plans to a staged installation starting with 20 turbines and the balance over the following nine years.

A Northland Regional Council hearings committee approved the project with conditions last year.

A Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust appeal against that decision was heard in the Environment Court in Whangarei last month.

Crest consultants Garry Venus and Luke Gowing, a presentation by the trust's Environs Holdings manager Julieane Chetham, and information raised by the audience informed the meeting that:

Each of the 200-tonne turbines would be 24m high. Their vane turbines would rotate five or six times a minute, generating a total of 200 megawatts, enough to meet Northland demand for the next 10 years.

The turbines would go into the main harbour channel off North Head, which is about 31m deep at low tide. The 200 turbines would extend about 5km along the channel in an area estimated to cover 900ha where fishing would not be permitted.

A tidal turbine 20 per cent the size of those Crest proposes is being trialled in open ocean at the Orkney Isles. People at the meeting suspected easy access at the Kaipara Harbour entrance made it a cheaper prospect

than an ocean installation.

Messrs Venus and Gowing said marine experts, including NIWA and DoC staff, had assured the Environment Court the power generation project would not harm orca and other whales or disturb the spawning beds that provided 98 per cent of New Zealand snapper.

Crest experts were also convinced the turbines would not cause scouring that would alter the seabed.

But former Kaipara mayor Graeme Ramsey said: "You can have any scientific theory you are prepared to pay for."

Present Mayor Mr Tiller said that if the court approved the Crest scheme, opponents would have only 20 days after the decision was released to convince Conservation Minister Tim Groser not to give the project a green light. He suggested Mr Harawira should line up Mr Groser and Prime Minister John Key for a Kaipara visit as soon as the decision was out.

"As soon as they hear the Kaipara breeds 98 per cent of the snapper, people from Invercargill north will support you fellas. New Zealand without snapper - it's a scary thought," he said.

[www.marinebusinessnews.com/Fremantle-Port-welcomes-\\$98m-upgrade/59232](http://www.marinebusinessnews.com/Fremantle-Port-welcomes-$98m-upgrade/59232)

Sail boats, sailors, yachts, yachting, boats, boating Australia, New Zealand, Asia Pacific. Regatta, racing news, offshore, inshore sail boat racing.

Marine Business News - Sail World - Powerboat-world: Sail and sailing, cruising, boating news Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:30 PM

## Fremantle Port welcomes \$98m upgrade



'Fremantle forms a protective and spacious harbour.'

**Larger container ships will be able to berth at Fremantle Port's inner harbour as part of a multi-million dollar infrastructure program.**

Reconstruction of Berth 10 is underway and will be used for container shipping, vessels and general cargo ships, with future works at North Quay in discussion.

The berth works are part of a \$98.5 million project, which Minister Simon O'Brien

said would enable increased operational efficiency for ships using North Quay.

O'Brien said the average size of container shipping calling at Fremantle has increased by about 85 per cent in the past 15 years, and it was necessary to ensure the harbour could accommodate bigger ships at full cargo carrying capacity. He added there would be increased flow on benefits for imports, exporters and the community.

The Minister said the Port was a significant contributor to employment in Fremantle, as each ship which visited represented 3.3 full time jobs while almost 6000 jobs are linked to port activities.

Subject to enviromental approvals, harbour and channel deepening works at Fremantle are expected to begin in November and be complete by the end of 2010.

More at [www.fremantleports.com.au](http://www.fremantleports.com.au)

by Jeni Bone 4:52 AM Mon 20 Jul 2009 GMT

[www.inquisitr.com/29722/nomura-s-jellyfish-threatens-japanese-fis...](http://www.inquisitr.com/29722/nomura-s-jellyfish-threatens-japanese-fis...)

Swarms of giant Nomura's jellyfish are about to descend on the waters off Japan, putting the country's fishing industry at serious risk. Nomura's jellyfish grow up to 2 meters (6 feet 7 inches) in diameter and weigh up to 220 kilograms (450 pounds)...

📄 Nomura's jellyfish threatens Japanese fishing industry

Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:22 PM

## Nomura's jellyfish threatens Japanese fishing industry



Swarms of giant Nomura's jellyfish are about to descend on the waters off Japan, putting the country's fishing industry at serious risk.

Nomura's jellyfish grow up to 2 meters (6 feet 7 inches) in diameter and weigh up to 220 kilograms (450 pounds), and are commonly found in the waters between China and Japan. Scientists have detected unprecedented numbers heading to Japan, in what local media has described as a "jellyfish typhoon."

Nomura's jellyfish populations have surged previously during 1958 and 1995, dealing a huge blow to

Japan's fishing industry. The jellyfish, which are as large as a man, damage nets and kill fish with venom, decreasing available fish stocks. They also sting fisherman, creating an often risky situation when caught.

Although numbers this year aren't known yet, during the 2005 surge an estimated 300 to 500 million Nomura's jelly fish passed through the Tsushima Strait between South Korea and Japan every day. They're also hard to get rid off, releasing millions of offspring into the water when they are attacked or killed.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/20/2630564.htm?site=eyre>

ABC West Coast SA - 'Long way to go' with marine parks

Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:21 PM



Related Media

## 'Long way to go' with marine parks

Posted July 20, 2009 11:00:00

- **Map:** [Port Lincoln 5606](#)

The Liberal candidate for Flinders says a lot of negotiation is needed before the fishing industry will view marine parks as beneficial.

Environment Minister Jay Weatherill said he believes fishing industries working within marine park zones will view the parks as marketing tools.

The Flinders candidate, Peter Treloar, says there is a lot to be done before that will be the case.

"Well I think that's probably a long way off, I mean we've got a long way to go with these marine parks, the outer boundaries are about to be proclaimed and put in place but the discussion and negotiation with regard to the exclusion zones and sanctuary zones is still going to take quite a bit of time yet I think," he said.

[http://www.abareconomics.com/interactive/09\\_afs/](http://www.abareconomics.com/interactive/09_afs/)

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE, [abare.gov.au](http://abare.gov.au)) is an Australian government economic research agency noted for its professionally independent research and analysis. Our objective is to contribute to the competitiveness of Australia's agricultural, fishing, forestry, energy and minerals industries and the quality of the Australian environment by providing rigorous and independent economic research analysis and forecasting.

abare.gov.au - Australian fisheries statistics 2008

Saturday, 25 July 2009 4:19 PM

## Australian fisheries statistics 2008

### Production

#### Fast facts

#### In 2007-08

- the total volume of Australian fisheries production fell by 3 per cent (7800 tonnes) to 236 000 tonnes;
- the gross value of production decreased by 1 per cent (\$24 million) to \$2.19 billion;
- of all the Commonwealth managed fisheries, the northern prawn fishery was the most valuable fishery in value terms, contributing \$74 million of the gross value of production, followed by the Commonwealth trawl sector (\$46 million) of the southern and eastern scalefish and shark fishery and the southern bluefin tuna fishery (\$45 million);
- Tasmania accounted for the largest share of gross value of production (22 per cent), followed by South Australia (21 per cent) and Western Australia (20 per cent).
- the gross value of aquaculture production increased by 8 per cent (\$62.7 million), to \$868 million, and accounted for 40 per cent of the gross value of Australian fisheries production (includes SBT wildcatch input to the South Australian tuna ranching sector). The volume of aquaculture production was 62 500 tonnes, accounting for 26 per cent of total Australian fisheries production, and;
- the gross value of production for the wildcatch sector decreased by 6 per cent (\$82.6 million) to \$1.3 billion. The volume of production decreased by 5 per cent (10 400 tonnes) to 178 400 tonnes.

#### Top five by volume (wildcatch and aquaculture – tables 2 and 17)

Australian sardine 33 600 tonnes  
 Salmonids 25 500 tonnes  
 Prawns 22 400 tonnes  
 Tuna 14 700 tonnes  
 Rock lobster 13 800 tonnes

**Since 1998-1999**

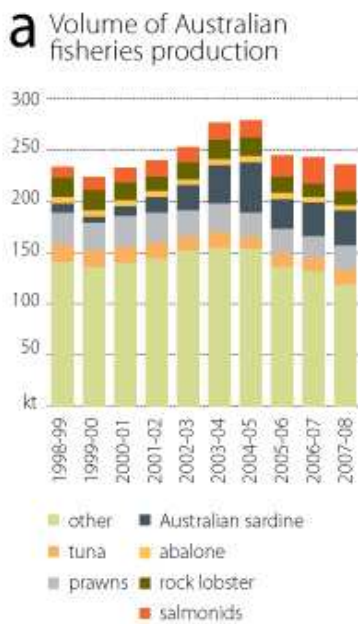
- the total volume of fisheries production has increased by 2900 tonnes (1 per cent), while the real gross value of production has fallen by \$0.6 billion (22 per cent);
- the increase in production volume is the result of growth in the production of Australian sardines;
- the driving factor behind the fall in production value has been the decline in the value of rock lobster, prawns, abalone and tuna. The combined value of these four species has fallen by \$0.6 billion (in real terms) over this period, and;
- farmed salmonids from Tasmania have emerged as a key production species in terms of value, surpassing tuna as Australia’s most valuable finfish species group.

**Top five by value  
 (wildcatch and aquaculture – tables 2 and 17)**

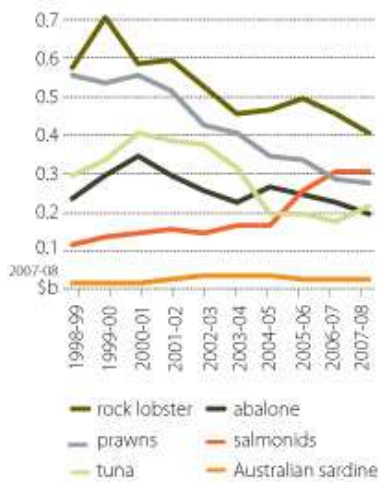
Rock lobster \$407 million  
 Salmonids \$299 million  
 Prawns \$268 million  
 Tuna \$210 million  
 Abalone \$189 million

**Production by species**

The gross volume and value of Australian fisheries production, by species, is presented in tables 3-5. Production and value summaries are also presented in table 2 (wildcatch sector), tables 7-14 (individual jurisdictions) and tables 15-17 (aquaculture sector).



**b** Real value of Australian fisheries production, by key species



The volume of Australian fisheries production over the past decade has remained relatively stable, particularly for key species such as rock lobster and abalone (figure a). In 2007-08, the total volume of Australian fisheries production was 236 000 tonnes, approximately the same level as in 1998-99. Although production was relatively high during 2003-04 and 2004-05, averaging 278 000 tonnes over this period, Australian fisheries production volume averaged around 246 000 tonnes during the past decade.

In recent years, sardines (pilchards) have emerged as one of the major production species in Australian fisheries in volume terms. Sardines are used for feed in tuna ranching enterprises and are also being supplied to the recreational bait and pet food markets. Following the development of tuna ranching in the Port Lincoln region of South Australia, there has been an increase in demand for sardines. The production of the Australian sardine fishery rose by more than 700 per cent between 1999-2000 and 2004-05, from 5600 tonnes to 49 000 tonnes. In 2007-08, sardine production was about 33 600 tonnes, and accounted for 14 per cent of the Australian total volume of fisheries production. As a low-valued species, changes in prices and the gross value of production of sardines have negligible effects on Australian gross value of fisheries production.

Farmed salmonids, comprising salmon and trout species, have also emerged as a key production species group in recent years, accounting for 11 per cent of total fisheries production in 2007-08. The increase in production of farmed salmonids, combined with higher unit prices, has resulted in a significant increase in this group's value of production, which increased by 175 per cent (\$191 million) to \$300 million over the period 1998-99 to 2006-07 in real terms. In 2007-08, although the production volume remained stable, the value of salmonids production increased by 3 per cent as a result of an increase in the unit price of farmed salmonids (figure b).

However, the increase in the production value of salmonids has not been sufficient to offset the decline in the gross value of production of other key species. Over the period 1998-99 to 2007-08 the gross value of Australian fisheries production fell by 22 per cent (\$607 million) in real terms (figure c).

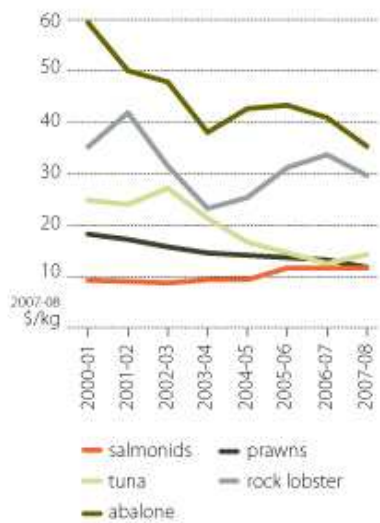
Driving this decline are reductions in the value of other key species, particularly rock lobster, prawns, abalone and tuna. The combined value of these four species, which typically account for at least half of Australia's gross value of fisheries production, has fallen by 53 per cent (\$571 million) in real terms since 1998-99 (figure b). This is largely the result of falling unit prices (figure d). Since the production of these species is export oriented, prices are strongly influenced by exchange rate movements. The strength of the Australian dollar against the currencies of major trading partners, particularly the US dollar and the Japanese yen, has reduced the competitiveness of Australian fisheries exports in recent years (box 1).

In 2007-08, rock lobster remained Australia's highest valued production species, valued at \$407 million, followed by salmonids (\$299 million), prawns (\$268 million), tuna (\$210 million) and abalone (\$189 million) (figure f). Australian sardines accounted for the highest individual catch by volume (14 per cent), followed by salmonids (11 per cent), prawns (10 per cent), tuna (6 per cent) and rock lobster (6 per cent).

**c** Real gross value of Australian fisheries production



**d** Real unit prices for key species



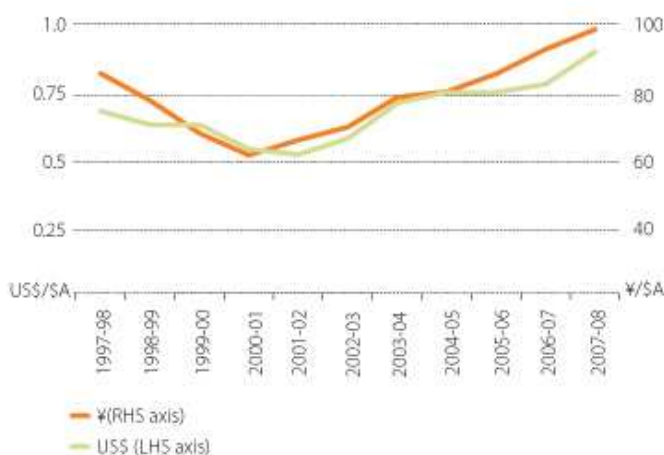
**box 1**

**Exchange rates and unit value**

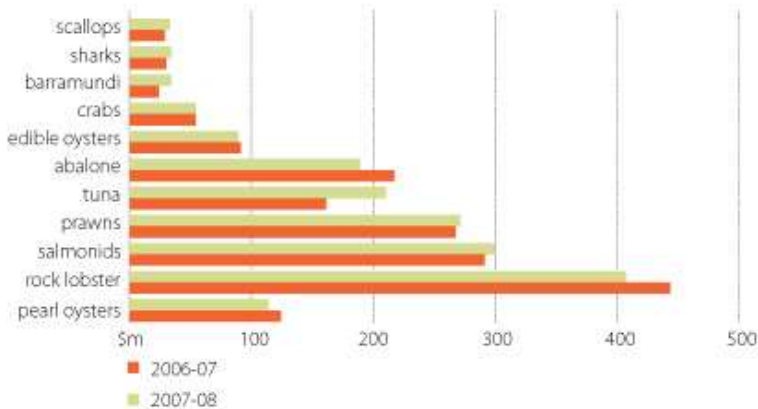
Because Australia is a small producer and exporter of fisheries products, prices received by an Australian producer are generally set on world markets in foreign currencies. Other things being equal, a depreciating Australian dollar results in producers receiving a higher export price in Australian dollar terms, while an appreciating Australian dollar results in a lower export price.

In recent years, the strong appreciation of the Australian dollar has simultaneously made exports less competitive and imports more attractive to domestic consumers. In 2007-08, the Australian dollar continued to appreciate against the US dollar and the Japanese yen, rising by 14 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively (figure e). These exchange rate increases may partially explain the general trend towards lower unit value for export oriented fisheries products such as prawns, rock lobster and abalone in 2007-08.

**e** US-Australian and Yen-Australian exchange rates



f Value of Australian fisheries production, by product



## Rock lobster

### Key jurisdictions: Western Australia (w), South Australia (w), Tasmania (w) and Victoria (w)

In 2007-08, rock lobster production increased by 2 per cent (285 tonnes) to 13 800 tonnes. Despite this increase in production volume, the gross value of rock lobster production in Australia fell by 8 per cent (\$36 million) to \$407 million as a result of lower unit prices, which fell by 9 per cent on average in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria. Approximately two-thirds of Australia's rock lobster production is from Western Australia, where average catches are around 11 000 tonnes. However, in recent years, catch levels from the state have been lower than historical average at only 8961 tonnes in 2007-08. In 2007-08, the value of Western Australia's rock lobster production fell by 12 per cent (\$30 million) to \$217 million.

The majority of rock lobster production is exported. Major export markets include Hong Kong, Japan and the United States. Prices in overseas markets rose over the period 2003-04 to 2006-07 because of stronger demand and a reduction in supply from competing producers such as the United States. In 2007-08 beach prices fell by around 9 per cent because of the appreciation of the Australian dollar against the US dollar. Although domestic prices for rock lobster have recovered in recent years, they are still approximately 20 per cent lower in real terms than the peak in 2001-02 (figure d).

## Salmonids

### Key jurisdiction: Tasmania (a)

Since salmon farming started in 1998, salmonids production has increased significantly, with most of this growth occurring in the period 2002-03 to 2006-07. Farmed salmonids have become one of the key species of Australian fisheries production. More than 95 per cent of Australia's farmed salmonids production occurs in Tasmania.

Between 2002-03 and 2006-07, farmed Australian salmonids production rose by 66 per cent (10 200 tonnes) in volume and 121 per cent (\$164.6 million) in real value to reach 25 600 tonnes and \$300.6 million, respectively. In 2007-08 farmed salmonids production remained stable in terms of production volume.

Tasmania producers supply most of their salmonids to the domestic market. A key factor contributing to the rapid growth in recent years has been a strong focus on marketing salmon to Australian consumers. Another factor behind the sector's strong growth is the role of research and development, which has allowed the sector to adopt improved feeding techniques and apply better disease control measures.

## Prawns

### Key jurisdictions: Queensland (w, a), Commonwealth northern and Torres Strait prawn fisheries (w), Western Australia (w) and South Australia (w)

In 2007-08 Australian prawn production rose by 8 per cent (1600 tonnes) to 22 400 tonnes. This was largely the result of higher catches in the Commonwealth prawn fisheries, which increased by 28 per cent (1700 tonnes) compared with 2006-07. The gross value of Australian prawn production remained stable at \$268 million despite an 8 per cent decrease in average unit prices received by fishers. The volume of aquaculture prawn production was 3100 tonnes in 2007-08 and was valued at \$44.2 million. Over the past five years, aquaculture prawns accounted, on average, for around 14 per cent of the total volume of Australian prawn production.

Since 2000-01, the real value of prawn production has fallen by half in real value terms (\$286 million). Most of this decline is attributed to a fall in production volumes of 26 per cent (7700 tonnes) over the period to 2007-08, and to a lesser extent, also to lower unit prices, which declined by 35 per cent in real terms over the same period. In particular, production in two main prawn fisheries, the Northern Prawn fishery and the Queensland fishery, fell by 30 per cent (2900 tonnes) and 17 per cent (1600 tonnes), respectively, over this period.

One factor contributing to the decline in production was the appreciation of the Australian dollar, which resulted in local producers facing strong competition from imported prawns, particularly from Viet Nam and China. Over the 10 years to 2007-08, the quantity of imported prawns more than doubled, while average unit import prices (in real terms) nearly halved. The appreciation of the Australian dollar in recent years has reduced the price domestic producers receive for their product in export markets, placing pressure on the profitability of prawn operations. More recently, growth in prawn production has been moderated by the structural changes occurring in the northern prawn fishery, as a result of the Securing Our Fishing Future package, and higher fuel costs.

## **Abalone**

### **Key jurisdictions: Tasmania (w, a), Victoria (w, a) and South Australia (w, a)**

During the period 2000-01 to 2007-08, abalone average unit prices fell by 40 per cent in real terms. Average unit prices partially recovered in 2004-05 and 2005-06 before falling again in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Abalone production also decreased by 6 per cent (353 tonnes) during the period. The combined effect of declining production volumes and lower unit prices resulted in the real gross value of abalone production falling by 44 per cent (\$149 million) over this period. In 2007-08 Australian abalone production was 5300 tonnes, worth an estimated \$188.5 million.

A key driving factor of lower production volumes has been lower prices caused by the appreciation of the Australian exchange rate, changed management arrangements and adverse environmental conditions affecting production. A large proportion of abalone is exported, to Hong Kong, China and Japan. Therefore the appreciation of the Australian dollar from 2000-01 to 2007-08 had a significant effect on abalone exports, resulting in lower prices for producers. Furthermore, lower total allowable catch (TAC) settings and the outbreak of disease in Victorian wild stocks in recent years has reduced abalone wildcatch production in Australia, which declined by 14 per cent (799 tonnes) over this period.

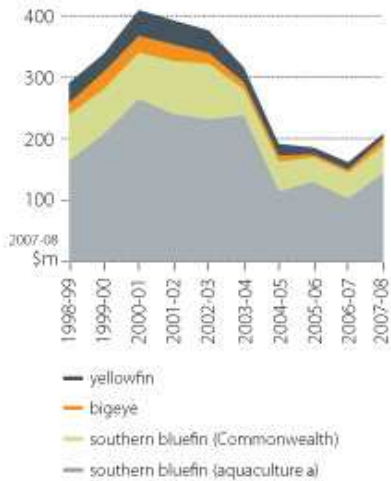
However, increased production in the aquaculture sector in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia has to some extent offset the decreased production in the wildcatch sector.

## **Tuna**

### **Key jurisdictions: South Australia (a) and Commonwealth southern bluefin tuna and eastern tuna and billfish fishery (w)**

The value of tuna production rose by 30 per cent (\$49 million) to \$210 million in 2007-08 after falling significantly in 2006-07. This was mainly the result of a 16 per cent increase in average unit prices in most of the tuna fisheries. This was despite the dampening effect on unit prices from the appreciation of the Australian dollar against the Japanese yen and a 30 per cent and 95 per cent increase in farmed southern bluefin tuna and bigeye tuna production, respectively. Compared to 2006-07, the total volume of tuna production increased by 12 per cent (1600 tonnes) to 14 700 tonnes in 2007-08. The increases in southern bluefin tuna and bigeye tuna production offset decreases in the volume of yellowfin tuna and billfish production, which declined by 30 per cent (550 tonnes) to 1300 tonnes and 5 per cent (100 tonnes) to 1800 tonnes, respectively, in 2007-08.

**g** Real value of Australian tuna production



<sup>a</sup> Excludes the value of farm input from the Commonwealth's southern bluefin tuna industry.

Approximately 90 per cent of Australia's tuna production is exported, mostly to the Japanese sashimi market. Most of this tuna is produced in South Australia's aquaculture sector, which takes most of the Commonwealth southern bluefin tuna's output for fattening in purpose built tuna ranches.

The sharp rise in the value of production of tuna in 2007-08 follows a period of sharply lower production since 2000-01. After peaking at \$407 million in 2000-01, the real value of tuna production almost halved over the period to 2007-08 (figure g). Average unit prices fell by 42 per cent in real terms over this period, which was compounded by a 9 per cent fall in the volume of production.

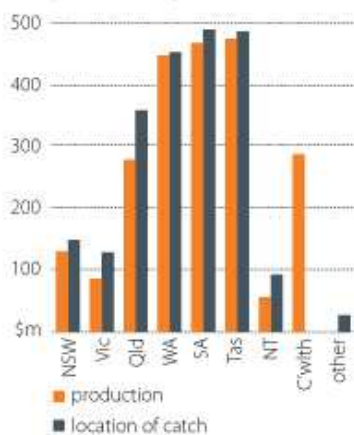
In recent years, beach prices for tuna have been strongly influenced by export prices received from tuna exports to Japan. Besides the negative effect of the Australian dollar-Japanese yen exchange rate on domestic prices, Australian producers have also faced increased competition from Mediterranean and Mexican farmed northern bluefin tuna in the export market.

### Production by jurisdiction

The gross volume and value of Australian fisheries production, by jurisdiction and location of catch, is given in tables 3-6. Production and value summaries for each jurisdiction are given in tables 7-14.

In 2007-08, Tasmania had the largest gross value of production (\$475 million), accounting for 22 per cent of total fisheries production, followed closely by South Australia (\$468 million, representing 21 per cent) and Western Australia (\$448 million, representing 20 per cent) (figure h).

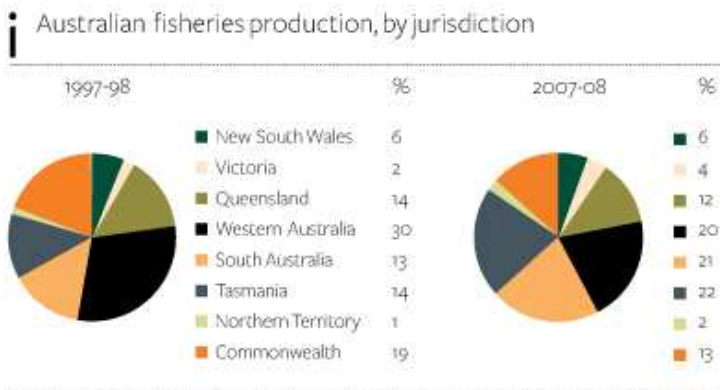
**h** Value of Australian fisheries products, by state, 2007-08



By location of catch - where Commonwealth catch is distributed to the states according to where it was caught - Western Australia, Tasmania and South Australia accounted for 63 per cent of Australia's gross value of production.

From 1997-98 to 2007-08 Western Australia's share of gross value of production declined significantly, falling from 30 per cent in 1997-98 to 20 per cent in 2007-08 (figure i). Over the same period, Tasmania's and South Australia's share of total Australian fishery gross value of production increased significantly,

reflecting the strong growth in aquaculture production in these states over this period. In 2007-08, aquaculture production in Tasmania was more than six times the production in 1997-98 (increasing by 24 000 tonnes), while South Australia's production was more than double that of 1997-98 (increasing by 14 700 tonnes). Over the same period, the share of Commonwealth fisheries production fell from 19 per cent to 13 per cent in value terms.



### New South Wales table 7

#### Key species: oysters (a), prawns (w), sea mullet (w) and rock lobster (w)

In 2007-08, the gross value of fisheries production in New South Wales fell slightly, by 1 per cent (\$1.7 million) to \$130 million. This decline was driven by a significant decrease in production volume, which fell by 8 per cent to 19 800 tonnes. Most of the fall in production volumes and value occurred in the wildcatch sector, where production volume and value decreased by 11 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively. Contributing most to this decline were falls in production volume and unit value of particular species, especially sea mullet and breams. However, the effect of a decline in production value of key fish species was offset to some extent by increases in the production value of crustacean species, particularly rock lobsters and king prawns.

The gross value of aquaculture production in New South Wales increased by 5 per cent (\$2.1 million) to \$48 million in 2007-08. This was driven mostly by a \$2.6 million increase in the value of oyster production, which offset a decline of \$0.5 million in the value of farmed trout, silver perch and mussel production. Production remained relatively unchanged at 5200 tonnes in both 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Oysters, prawns and silver perch were the major contributors to the gross value of production of aquaculture in New South Wales. In 2007-08 these species accounted for 91 per cent of the state's gross value of aquaculture production. The remainder of aquaculture value of production came from barramundi, snapper, yabbies and trout.

### Victoria table 8

#### Key species: abalone (w), rock lobster (w) and trout (a)

In 2007-08 the gross value of fisheries production in Victoria fell by 10 per cent (\$9 million) to \$86 million. This decline was mainly driven by the decline in the value of production for rock lobster and abalone, which fell by 11 per cent and 13 per cent respectively, as a result of lower production volumes in the case of rock lobster, and lower unit values in the case of abalone. Rock lobster production fell by 10 per cent, while unit value for abalone fell by 15 per cent. Volume and value of production of wildcatch crustaceans and molluscs also decreased considerably. In contrast, production of wildcatch fish species (especially Australian sardine, bream and King George whiting) increased by 14 per cent by volume and 15 per cent by value. Overall, there was a significant increase (12 per cent) in production volume in 2007-08, with most of this increase in catch coming from lower valued fish species.

The value of aquaculture production fell by 7 per cent, from \$19.9 million in 2006-07 to \$18.5 million in 2007-08. The fall in the gross value of aquaculture production was the result of a falling value of production for most of the cultured species, with the exception of ornamental fish and abalone. The value of salmonids production, the main aquaculture species, fell by 3 per cent to \$6.7 million as a result of a 17 per cent decrease in production. In contrast, the value of farmed abalone production rose significantly by \$1.6 million to \$6 million in 2007-08 as the result of an increase in abalone production by 45 tonnes.

### Queensland table 9

#### Key species: prawns (w,a), coral trout (w), crabs (w) and barramundi (a)

In 2007-08, the gross value of fisheries production in Queensland remained stable at \$278.6 million but the

production volume fell by 4 per cent to 29 000 tonnes. In the wildcatch sector, production value declined by \$3 million to \$203 million. However, this was offset by a \$3.4 million increase in the value of aquaculture production.

The greatest fall in production volumes was for wild caught tiger and endeavour prawns, with their combined value falling by \$8.3 million. Offsetting these falls were rises in the production value of other prawn species, particularly king prawns (\$3.3 million) and the production value of coral trout (\$2.9 million). These increases were the result of higher production. In 2007-08, the value of aquaculture production for most species decreased substantially. The value of production for prawns, the most valuable cultured species in Queensland, fell by 2 per cent (\$1 million) to \$41.5 million. The value of production for pearls and redclaw fell by 24 per cent each. However, this was offset by a significant 31 per cent (\$5.8 million) increase in barramundi production value, resulting in an increase in the gross value of aquaculture production by 5 per cent to \$75.5 million in 2007-08.

## **Western Australia table 10**

### **Key species: rock lobster (w), pearls (a), prawns (w), scallop (w) and abalone (w)**

The gross value of production in Western Australia fell by 7 per cent (\$33 million) to \$448 million in 2007-08 despite a 5 per cent increase in fisheries production volume. This decline was the result of a significant decrease in the value of production (mainly from weaker prices) of wild caught crustaceans, especially rock lobster and prawns. The unit value of rock lobster and prawns fell by 15 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, between 2006-07 and 2007-08. As a result, the gross value of production of these species fell by 12 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively, in 2007-08.

The decline in the gross value of production in Western Australia also reflected a 5 per cent decline in the value of aquaculture production. This fall was the result of a significant decrease in the value of pearls, the most valuable cultured species in the state. The value of pearl production fell by 7 per cent from \$122 million in 2006-07 to \$113 million in 2007-08. However, the decline in the gross value of pearl production was offset by a significant increase in the gross value of other aquaculture species. In 2007-08, the gross value of other aquaculture production (excluding pearls) increased by 41 per cent (\$2.9 million) to \$9.8 million in 2007-08. This increase was driven mainly by the increase in both volume and value of cultured fish.

## **South Australia table 11**

### **Key species: southern bluefin tuna (a), rock lobster (w), prawns (w), abalone (w) and oysters (a)**

The gross value of fisheries production in South Australia rose by 10 per cent (\$41.6 million) to \$468 million in 2007-08. In the wildcatch sector, production decreased by \$12.7 million to \$206 million in 2007-08. This was largely attributable to the decline in the value of rock lobster and prawn production, which decreased by \$5.1 million and \$6.8 million, respectively. Lower unit values, especially for rock lobster and prawns, were the main driver of this fall. In 2007-08, the unit values of rock lobster and prawns declined by 2 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively.

The value of South Australian aquaculture production rose by 26 per cent (\$54.3 million) to \$262.2 million in 2007-08. The value of southern bluefin tuna production rose significantly by 36 per cent (\$49 million) to \$186.7 million. This largely offset a 20 per cent decrease in the value of oyster production as a result of a 29 per cent decrease in the volume of oyster production.

The observed increase in southern bluefin tuna aquaculture production in 2007-08 is the result of harvesting being carried out later than normal in the calendar year 2007. Therefore, the sale of the remaining tuna is recorded against the 2007-08 financial year. This accounts for the difference between the increase in production in the Commonwealth southern bluefin tuna fishery and the increase in tuna production in the South Australian aquaculture sector in 2007-08.

The majority of southern bluefin tuna caught in Australia is captured by Commonwealth endorsed boats that net juvenile fish in the Great Australian Bight and tow them to aquaculture farms off Port Lincoln in South Australia for fattening. Almost all of the farmed tuna is exported to Japan. In recent years, the strong appreciation of the Australian dollar against the Japanese yen by 6 per cent and competition from farmed northern bluefin tuna from the Mediterranean and Mexico have reduced the price received by Australian producers in the Japanese market. The real unit price of southern bluefin tuna from South Australian aquaculture farms has almost halved to \$19 a kilogram since 2000-01, with production value falling by \$135.3 million (in real terms) over the period 2000-01 to 2007-08.

## **Tasmania table 12**

### **Key species: salmonids (a), abalone (w, a) and rock lobster (w)**

The gross value of Tasmanian production was \$475.5 million in 2007-08, a decrease of 3 per cent from 2006-07. This decline was the result of a 15 per cent (\$27 million) decrease in the value of wildcatch production, which was compensated by a 4 per cent (\$12.4 million) increase in the value of aquaculture production.

In 2007-08, the production of the Tasmanian wildcatch sector was valued at \$156.7 million, a decrease of 15 per cent from 2006-07. Rock lobster and abalone accounted for 94 per cent of this value, contributing \$147 million. In 2007-08, the value of rock lobster production and abalone production fell by \$2 million and \$17 million, respectively, as a result of decreases in production volume. Wildcaught finfish also decreased by \$2 million.

In 2007-08 the value of Tasmanian aquaculture production was \$319 million, accounting for 67 per cent of the gross value of Tasmanian production. The most valuable species produced were salmonids, abalone and oysters. These species accounted for about 99 per cent (\$316 million) of the gross value of Tasmanian aquaculture production in 2007-08.

### **Northern Territory table 13**

**Key species: gold band snapper (w), crabs (w), barramundi (w) and mackerel (w)**

The gross value of production in the Northern Territory was \$55.5 million and the catch was 5900 tonnes in 2007-08. The gross value of production increased by 4 per cent because of a significant increase in catch and average unit value of major species, especially gold band snapper. The value of gold band snapper catch increased by 80 per cent and value of production increased by 108 per cent in 2007-08. Other major species such as crabs and barramundi also experienced higher unit prices compared with the previous year.

#### **Top five fisheries, by value**

Northern prawn fishery \$74 million  
SESS Commonwealth trawl sector \$46 million  
Southern bluefin tuna \$45 million  
Eastern tuna and billfish \$32 million  
SESS gillnet, hook and trap sector \$28 million

The gross value of aquaculture production fell by 8 per cent (\$2 million) to \$22.6 million in 2007-08.

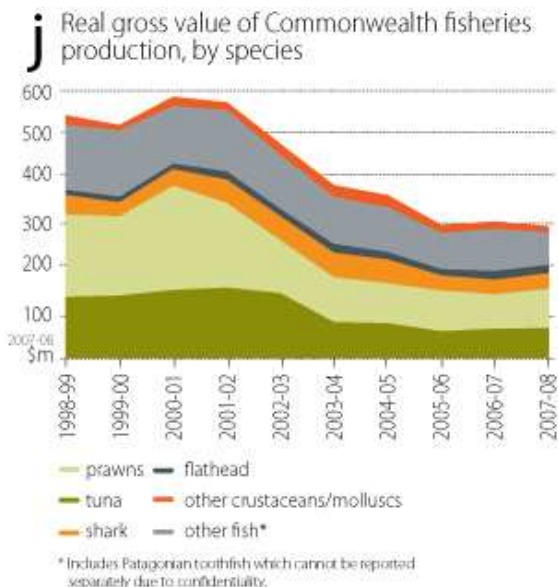
### **Commonwealth table 14**

**Key species: prawns, tuna and sharks**

In 2007-08, the gross value of Commonwealth fisheries production fell by 2 per cent to \$288 million, almost half the level of \$582 million in 2000-01 (figure j). Commonwealth fisheries production also declined significantly since 2000-01, falling by 28 per cent, from 72 300 tonnes in 2000-01 to 52 200 tonnes in 2007-08. The decline in production coincided with a period of lower beach prices, which on an average unit value basis, decreased by 31 per cent in real terms across all species from 2000-01 to 2007-08.

The northern prawn fishery remained the most valuable fishery in 2007-08, with a gross value of production of \$74 million. In 2007-08, the fishery experienced a 34 per cent increase in production and 16 per cent increase in the gross value of production. The strong growth in production is attributed to favourable seasonal conditions for banana prawns, which resulted in banana prawn production rising by 100 per cent (2700 tonnes) to 5300 tonnes. Despite a 2 per cent decrease in the average unit price, the value of banana prawn production increased by 95 per cent. In contrast, the tiger prawn catch and production value declined to one-third of the catch and value in 2006-07.

In 2007-08, the gross value of production in the Commonwealth trawl sector of the southern and eastern scalefish and shark fishery fell by 15 per cent to \$46 million and production fell by 7 per cent to 15 000 tonnes. Species caught in the sector mostly comprised of tiger flathead, ling, blue grenadier and spotted warehou. The largest falls in production were from blue grenadier and spotted warehou. The value of production of blue grenadier fell by 23 per cent to \$11 million. Spotted warehou production was valued at \$3 million, a reduction of 31 per cent (\$1.4 million). Tiger flathead production increased by 14 per cent while the value of production fell slightly by 1 per cent. Prices decreased for most of the major species, resulting in an average 7 per cent decrease in unit value across all species in the sector.



The southern bluefin tuna fishery was the third most valuable of the Commonwealth managed fisheries in 2007-08. The fishery experienced an increase in gross value of production of 9 per cent to reach \$45 million in 2007-08.

In 2007-08, the gross value of production in the eastern tuna and billfish decreased by 2 per cent to \$32 million.

The major species caught in the fishery remained yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and billfish, accounting for 86 per cent of the gross value of production of the fishery. In recent years there has been a significant increase in the share of albacore tuna in the gross value of production of the fishery. The total catch of albacore tuna during the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 was 5500 tonnes, which was equivalent to the volume of albacore tuna caught in the fishery in the 10 years prior to 2005-06.

The Commonwealth gillnet, hook and trap sector of the southern and eastern scalefish and shark fishery is a multi-species fishery, but the major species are sharks (mainly gummy and school shark), blue eye trevalla and ling. These species accounted for 88 per cent of the fishery's gross value of production in 2007-08. Shark catches (gummy and school) accounted for 69 per cent of the total gross value of production, followed by blue eye (11 per cent) and ling (8 per cent). The gross value of production of the Commonwealth gillnet, hook and trap fishery increased by 16 per cent (\$3.8 million) to \$27.5 million in 2007-08 as a result of a 13 per cent increase in production. The catch of gummy shark increased by 21 per cent and the gross value of production increased by 34 per cent. The catch of school shark increased by 48 per cent (124 tonnes) to 380 tonnes and the gross value of production increased by 36 per cent (\$600 000) despite an 8 per cent decrease in the unit price.

In 2007-08, prawns remained the most valuable species caught in the Commonwealth fisheries, with the gross value of prawn production rising by 13 per cent (\$9.6 million) to \$83.7 million. This increase was driven by a 26 per cent (1600 tonnes) increase in prawn production to 7900 tonnes in 2007-08, which offset the negative effect of an 11 per cent decrease in average unit price on the gross value of prawn production. The northern prawn fishery accounted for around 90 per cent of the Commonwealth prawn production in 2007-08.

The second most valuable species in 2007-08 was tuna. Although catch fell by 7 per cent compared with the previous year, the gross value of production increased by 5 per cent to \$67.2 million as a result of increased unit prices.

The value of shark production, the next most valuable species, was \$23 million in 2007-08. The gillnet, hook and trap sector and the Commonwealth trawl sector of the southern and eastern scalefish and shark fishery contributed 95 per cent of the total value of shark catches. The major catches were gummy sharks (\$18 million) and school sharks (\$2.3 million). The remainder was mainly from the Great Australian Bight sector of the southern and eastern scalefish and shark fishery.

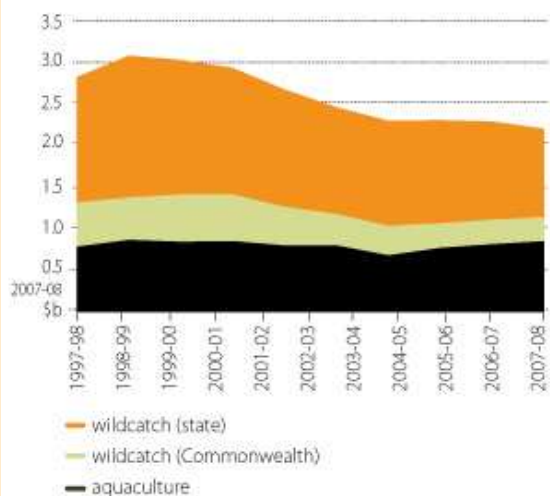
Other valuable species landed from Commonwealth fisheries in 2007-08 included flathead (valued at \$17.8 million); blue grenadier (\$10.9 million); rock lobster (\$9.4 million); broadbill swordfish (\$7.8 million); and ling (\$6.5 million).

## Production by sector

The gross volume and value of Australian production, by sector, is given in table 1. Production and value summaries for each sector are given in table 2 (wildcatch) and tables 15 to 17 (aquaculture).

In 2007-08, the total volume of Australian fisheries production fell by 3 per cent (7800 tonnes) to 236 000 tonnes. This fall was driven by lower production in the Commonwealth and state wildcatch sectors, where production declined by 8 per cent (4600 tonnes) and 6 per cent (10 500 tonnes), respectively. This fall was partially offset by an increase of 4 per cent (2400 tonnes) in the production volume in the aquaculture sector.

**k** Real value of Australian fisheries production, by sector <sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Excludes the value of farm input from the Commonwealth's southern bluefin tuna industry.

Despite a large fall in production volume, the gross value of production fell by only 1 per cent (\$24 million) to \$2.19 billion (figure k). The gross value of aquaculture production rose by 8 per cent (\$62.7 million). Meanwhile the gross value of production of the Commonwealth wildcatch fisheries fell by 2 per cent.

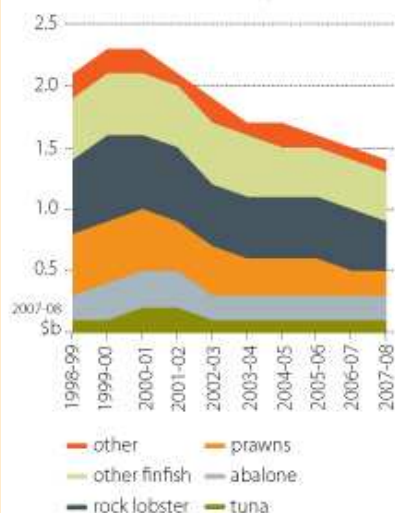
Aquaculture accounted for 40 per cent of the gross value of fisheries production in 2007-08, up from 29 per cent in 1998-99. Over the same period, the contribution of state fisheries to total wildcatch production value decreased from 55 per cent to 50 per cent. Commonwealth fisheries contribution to gross value of fisheries production steadily declined over this period from around 19 per cent in 1997-98 to 13 per cent in 2007-08.

## Wildcatch table 2

### Key species: prawns, rock lobster, tuna and abalone

In 2007-08, the total production volume of the wildcatch sector declined significantly, by 5 per cent (10 300 tonnes) to 178 000 tonnes. Most of this decline reflected falls in the production of fish and molluscs, by 7 per cent (9000 tonnes) and 14 per cent (3000 tonnes), respectively. Offsetting these declines was an increase in crustacean production of 5 per cent (1800 tonnes), driven largely by an 11 per cent (1900 tonnes) increase in prawn production.

**l** Real gross value of Australian wildcatch fisheries production



As a result of lower production in 2007-08, the gross value of production of the wildcatch sector fell by 6 per cent (\$83.2 million) to \$1.3 billion. The value of finfish production fell by 3 per cent to \$431.8 million, being driven by lower unit values for Australian salmon, Australian sardine and flathead, as well as decreased production of tuna, Australian salmon and whiting. The value of mollusc production fell by \$30.4 million, driven largely by the fall in abalone production and unit value. The value of crustacean production fell by 38.4 million to \$696 million as a result of lower prices for prawns and rock lobster.

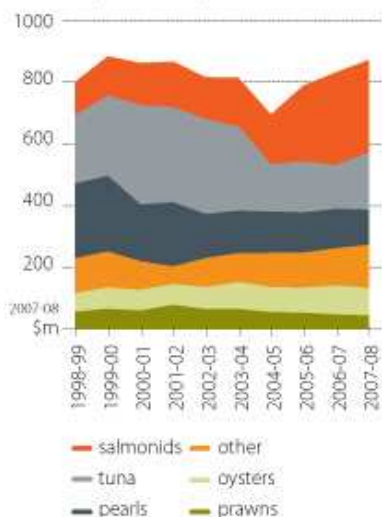
Despite an 11 per cent (\$48.5 million) decrease in production value in 2007-08, rock lobster (\$407 million) remained the most valuable wildcatch species, followed by prawns (\$223 million). Rock lobster and prawns accounted for 30 per cent and 17 per cent of total value of wildcatch production, respectively. Other key species included abalone (\$172 million) and tuna (\$68 million).

During 2000-01 to 2007-08 the gross value of production of the wildcatch sector fell by 39 per cent (\$856 million) in real terms (figure l). This fall was a result of the decline in the value of production for all major wildcatch species such as rock lobster, prawns, tuna and abalone. In particular, the value of prawn and rock lobster production fell by \$270 million and \$183 million, respectively. The value of tuna and abalone production fell by \$84 million and \$162 million, respectively, over this period. These falls were the result of declining export unit prices, largely reflecting the strong appreciation of the Australian dollar against the currencies of major trading partners.

## Aquaculture table 15-17

### Key species: prawns, oyster, tuna, salmonids

**m** Real gross value of Australian aquaculture production



The gross value of aquaculture production continued to rise in 2007-08, by \$62.7 million to \$868 million (figure m). The value of finfish aquaculture rose by \$83.7 million to \$546.3 million. In particular, the value of tuna production increased by \$49.1 million, followed by barramundi (\$10.1 million) and salmonids (\$8.5 million). These species accounted for 95 per cent of the gross value of Australian aquaculture finfish production in 2007-08. The value of crustacean production fell by \$1.7 million as a result of declining prawn production. The value of mollusc production also fell by \$12.3 million, driven by an 8 per cent decrease in the production of pearl oysters.

In 2007-08, the most valuable aquaculture species was farmed salmonids, accounting for 34 per cent of total production value and 41 per cent of total production volume. The emergence of farmed salmonids as a key species, in terms of aquaculture production and fisheries production overall, follows several years of rapid growth in Tasmania. During the period 2002-03 to 2007-08 the real value of farmed salmonids production more than doubled in real terms (increasing by \$163.3 million) to reach \$299.3 million in 2007-08.

The value of farmed tuna production in South Australia, the second most valuable aquaculture species, rose by \$49 million to \$186.7 million in 2007-08 with production increasing by 30 per cent (2300 tonnes) to 9800 tonnes. Higher prices also contributed to the increase in the value of production.



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