



Commonwealth Fact Sheet



FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

If your project involves fishery related activities within Commonwealth waters or likely to impact a Commonwealth protected fishery, you may require approvals that demonstrate ecologically sustainable management practices of fishing resources.

1. What approvals do I need?

An authorisation is required to use fishing resources in Commonwealth waters (generally beyond 3 nautical miles from the Australian coastline). The following types of authorisation may be needed:

- Statutory Fishing Rights
- Fishing Permits
- Fish Receiver Permits
- Scientific Permits.

More information is available on the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) [website](#).

Fishing rights and permits depend on the fishery's management plan, species of fish, fishing equipment used and the nominated fishing boat.

2. Who provides approvals?

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) regulates fishery activities in Commonwealth waters under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

AFMA ensures that any broad-scale impacts of offshore petroleum industry development on commercial fishing in Commonwealth waters are considered. Guidance is provided on AFMA's [website](#) to assist the Australian petroleum industry to consult with the commercial fishing industry around offshore activities including seismic surveys, exploration,

drilling, pipeline construction and oil and gas production.

Activity within 3 nautical miles of the Australian coastline is generally regulated by the relevant State and Territory authorities. Additional approvals may be required.

3. How do I get Commonwealth approval?

Guidelines and application forms are available on the Australian Fisheries Management Authority [website](#).

4. More information

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For more information, visit the Australian Fisheries Management Authority [website](#) or contact:

Phone: 1300 723 621

Email: licensing@afma.gov.au.

Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify the regulatory obligations for your project, please visit our [Online Tool](#) or contact us:

Phone: 02 6243 7121

Email: contact@mpfa.gov.au