

## **AFMA Observer Program 2009/10 Budget Overview**

The AFMA Observer Program provides a data collection and verification service to fisheries management, research organisations, environmental agencies, the fishing industry and the wider community. The observer's role is to collect independent, accurate and reliable data on Commonwealth fishing operations, catches and interactions with the environment by the vessel and its fishing gear. The program includes training and deploying observers, reporting and data management.

The program and budget for the 2009/10 financial year is based on consultation with the fisheries manager and the requirements for that particular fishery is set taking into account data requirements for stock assessment, TAP and TEP species commitments in the respective fisheries.

The 2009/10 observer program budget is 100% cost recovered from industry under the Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS). Previously this has been recovered at 80% industry 20% Government.

The program forecast for 2009/10 is 2960 days across 18 fisheries and the high seas, this compares to a budgeted program of 3561 days programmed in the 2008/9 financial year. Observer program costs are generally recovered through levy but may be recovered by invoicing operators for observer services. The total projected cost of the program is approximately \$3.14m.

### **Administration**

To manage this program there is a section of six staff based in Canberra consists of a Manager, Observer Coordinator, Assistant Observer Coordinator, Data Analyst, ISMP Data Analyst (apportioned to ISMP fisheries only) and Observer Administrator. These costs include costs for training of observers, travel of administration staff and data entry. The cost of this administration is split across the fisheries in the program. The total cost of administration is \$921,667 not including fisheries specific overheads.

### **Observers**

We employ 25 field observers on a casual basis to carry out the at sea component of the program that are paid in accordance to AFMA Remuneration Policy. Observers are paid only for the days they work or in transit to the port of departure. There are approximately two land days associated with every 10 days at sea, this primarily associated with days traveling to and from port of departure and report preparation. The cost of travel and

travel allowances to move observers to and from ports of departure is calculated based on the number of trips that will be required to undertake the coverage that is required across the different fisheries. The amount of travel varies from fishery to fishery depending on the length of the fishing trips that are undertaken.

### **Torres Strait**

The Torres Strait prawn budget is based on an at sea coverage of 180 sea days as it was in the previous year. The following table provides a comparison between the 2008/09 and 2009/10 budget for Torres Strait prawn.

**Table 1. Budget**

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
Salaries + on costs	\$77124	\$77902
Admin	\$45164	\$31483
Overheads	\$23010	\$24919
General Costs	\$400	\$400
Travel	\$13500	\$13665
Total	\$145516	\$162049

**Table 2. Program Forecast 2009/10**

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Sea days</b>
Observers - ISMP GAB	35
Observers - ISMP GHAT	200
Observers - ISMP SET	352
Observers - Coral Sea	70
Observers - WDWT	25
Observers - Eastern Tuna	850
Observers – Blue Grenadier	60
Observers – GHT (6 km net)	100
Observers - HIMI	460
Observers - SPF	72
Observers - Macquarie	70
Observers - NWS	15
Observers - NPF	186
Observers - SBT	105
Observers – TSPZ (prawn)	180
Observers - WTBF	20
Observers - High Seas	160
Observers - Scallop	10
Total Program	2960

