Sustainability and the environment

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) protects and manages our fisheries so that the Australian people can continue to have a safe, secure and sustainable source of healthy seafood and a profitable fishing industry that supports Australian communities.

AFMA is committed to the conservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity by promoting the sustainable use of our fisheries resources.

How does AFMA make sure fish stocks are maintained?

One of AFMA's most important jobs is to make sure that the number of fish in fisheries is maintained and sustainable. They do this by:

- working with scientists and the fishing industry to set catch quotas (number limits) that allow fish stocks to be maintained
- developing policies and practices that make sure the marine environment, including wildlife, is looked after
- seeking advice from conservation, commercial and recreational fishing and marine science experts to create plans and systems to protect the marine environment.

All of these actions help to ensure that Australia's fisheries are well-managed. This means that consumers can be sure that the seafood they buy comes from a sustainable and environmentally friendly source.

Does Australia have healthy fish stocks?

Yes we do, because Australian fisheries are managed under strict rules. These rules reduce the environmental impacts of fishing and make sure that stocks will remain strong into the future.

Information collected by AFMA tells us that every year the number of fish stocks that are listed as ‘overfished’ or ‘subject to overfishing’ is decreasing. This is good news because it means that AFMA can increase the quota (number limits) in some fisheries, making healthy, sustainable seafood available for Australians.
How does AFMA help the marine environment?

AFMA has an environment section that responds to environmental issues. It helps to make sure that AFMA’s environmental management approaches are among the best in the world. Two of the most important environmental programs are the ‘Bycatch Program’ and the ‘Discard Program’. These help each fishery to develop a plan that focuses on reducing bycatch and caring for threatened, endangered and protected species.

Is there anything I can do to help?

You can support Australia’s sustainable seafood industry by buying Australian seafood at your local fish shop or supermarket.

If you would like to find out more about what AFMA is doing to protect Australia’s fishing future, check out their website www.afma.gov.au