

Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee

Meeting #10 – 19 and 20 May 2026

The Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MSFMAC) held its tenth meeting on 19 and 20 May 2026 at PIRSA, West Beach, and via online video conference call to recommend catch limits for 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 for the Management Tier 1 stocks in the Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF) – Snapper, King George Whiting, Southern Garfish and Southern Calamari and consider other matters relating to the MSF.

Algal bloom

The MSFMAC noted temporary closure arrangements were implemented from 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2027 following consideration of the latest scientific assessment of the impact of the algal bloom on fish stocks, and application of the Algal Bloom Fisheries Management Roadmap (the Roadmap). These arrangements included:

- The continuation of the prohibition of the take of MSF species by the MSF and Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery (NZRLF) licences in the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone (GSV/KIFZ)
- Continuation of reduced recreational and Charter Boat Fishery (CBF) bag and boat limits for key species in the GSV/KIFZ
- A Southern Calamari closure in the GSV/KIFZ and Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone (SGFZ).
- A spawning closure for King George Whiting (KGW) in Southern Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent from 1 April to 31 July.
- Removal of the reduced recreational bag and boat limits for KGW in the SGFZ
- As previously announced, the Snapper closure in GSV/KIFZ, SGFZ and WCFZ has been extended to 30 June 2027.

Recommended catch limits

The MSFMAC Science Subcommittee (SSC) had met and provided recommended catch limits for each stock of the Management Tier 1 stocks to the MSFMAC. The SSC had considered the latest available catch statistics and scientific information, including species/stock summary sheets prepared by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI). The final stock summary sheets are provided as an attachment to this report and include the full MSFMAC recommendations for each stock.

SARDI provided an overview of stock summaries and latest scientific information for relevant stocks, including updated commercial catch and effort trends together with updates on the development of new stock models/assessment methods for King George Whiting, Southern Calamari and Southern Garfish. Important issues were discussed for each stock, summarised below.

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SARDI presented an overview of Stock Synthesis 3 preliminary stock assessment model results. The MSFMAC acknowledged the models require additional work, noting they are under development, and are not suitable for use at this time.

Summary

Considering the available information and discussion on key issues raised, the MSFMAC recommended 2025/26 TACCs be maintained in 2026/27 for KGW and Southern Garfish in SGFZ, that the catch cap of 2025/26 be maintained in 2026/27 for KGW in the West Coast Fishing Zone (WCFZ), and an increase be implemented for the Total Allowable Catch for Snapper in the South East Fishing Zone (SEFZ).

The MSFMAC noted that the Western Victorian Snapper stock is classified as sustainable including within the South Australian South East Fishing Zone (SEFZ). An increasing estimate of biomass was noted with incoming recruitment to the fishery expected and no sustainability concern.

The MSFMAC recommended that TACCs be effectively set at zero for those stocks that are currently temporarily closed until 30 April 2027. The MSFMAC recommended the catch limits outlined in Table 1 be applied for 2026/27. Full recommendations are further outlined in the attached stock summaries.

Table 1. MSFMAC recommended catch limits for 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027

Fishing Zone	King George Whiting TACC (T)	Southern Garfish TACC (T)	Calamari TACC (T)	Snapper TACC / TARC (T)
West Coast	183 (catch cap)	N/A	N/A	0
Spencer Gulf	116.963	103.451	0	0
Gulf St Vincent /	0	0	0	0
South East	N/A	N/A	N/A	91.11 / 29.88*

*Shared amongst the Recreational, Charter, and Aboriginal traditional sectors as per regional catch shares for Snapper in the South East Fishing Zone.

Under-catch and over-catch

For all quota managed stocks, the MSFMAC recommended the default commercial under-catch and over-catch arrangements, being up to 10% of the licence holder's quota entitlement, be implemented for the 2026/26 quota period for KGW in SGFZ, Southern Garfish in SGFZ and Snapper in the SEFZ.

In the case of Snapper in the SEFZ, the MSFMAC noted compliance of mandatory reporting in the recreational sector (excluding Charter) was improved and estimated to be 75% in 2025/26 (provisional). The MSFMAC did not reach consensus regarding application of carry-over / under-catch of the Charter Boat Fishery and recreational non-charter shares of the Total Allowable Recreational Catch (TARC) for 2025/26 to 2026/27.

SE Snapper bag and boat limits

The MSFMAC considered the risks of increasing recreational non-charter bag and boat limits to be low given the increase in estimate of fishable biomass and incoming recruitment however the MSFMAC did

not reach consensus on maintaining the bag limit of 3 or increasing the bag limit to 5 per person for the recreational non-charter sector. The recreational representatives strongly disagreed with mandatory reporting. Increases to the recreational charter boat fishery passenger limits were not proposed for 2026/27, noting uptake of their portion of the 2025/26 TARC.

Yellowfin Whiting (YFW)

The MSFMAC was provided with a stock performance update from SARDI for YFW in SGFZ and GSV/KIFZ. Noting the GSV/KIFZ is currently closed for the commercial sector, all measures of standardised Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) in the SGFZ are above the long-term catch trends and recent stakeholder feedback regarding the SGFZ stock is positive.

Red Tape Reduction in the MSF / Blueprint / SAAP

PIRSA provided an update on Red Tape Reduction (RTR) in the MSF, the Blueprint for the Future Directions of the MSF and the Structural Adjustment Assessment Panel (SAAP).

Salmon Management Review

The MSFMAC received an overview of key outcomes from the FRDC Salmon research project. The MSFMAC noted that the Harvest Strategy Framework would be applied for Management Tier 2/3 species including Salmon. The MSFMAC noted SAAP processes underway could potentially impact fleet dynamics and would need to be considered in finalising a Salmon Management Options paper.

The next MSFMAC meeting was expected to be held in October/November 2026 with a final date to be confirmed out-of-session.

Dr David Smith

A/ Chair of the Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

King George Whiting

WEST COAST



Stock status	2022/23 – Sustainable		2023/24 – Sustainable		2024/25 – Status pending	
Total catches (t)		Commercial	Recreational	RBC	RBCC	TACC
	2020/21	81.0	-	-	-	-
RBC – recommended biological catch	2021/22	78.3	58.9*	-	-	473
RBCC – recommended biological commercial catch	2022/23	85.9	-	-	-	183
	2023/24	84.9	-	-	-	183
	2024/25	88.1	-	-	-	183
TACC – total allowable commercial catch	2025/26	▲48.2 (March 2026)	-	-	-	183
* Based on regional catch (number) and average weight in Beckmann et al. (2023)						
Sector allocations (State-wide)	Commercial		Recreational		Aboriginal	Total
	MSF	49.5%	REC	45.5%	1%	100%
	NZRLF	1.0%	CHARTER	3.0%		
	SZRLF	0.0%				
	Total	50.5%	Total	48.5%	1%	100%
Stock assessment report(s)	- Earl et al. (2025) – assessment of King George Whiting up to 2023/24. - Dennis et al. (in prep.) – general assessment of selected MSF species/stocks up to 2024/25.					
Assessment program	- Annual catch and effort statistics and trends in a stock summary report. - Length and age structures from market (Adelaide) and industry (regional) samples. - Application of a fully integrated assessment model ('WhitEst') and production of a stock assessment report every two or three years. - Recreational catch estimates obtained every several years. - Previous assessments by weight of evidence; currently transitioning to Data Category 1 assessment (with SS3 model development). - No information is currently available for Aboriginal and traditional fishing.					
Fishery-dependent metrics	Catch statistics (2024/25) - Total catch: 88.1 t (5-year maximum) - Target handline effort: 2,952 fisher-days (lowest) - Target handline CPUE: 29.6 kg fisher-day⁻¹ (highest) Catch and effort trends - In 2024/25, target handline effort, and number of licences taking or targeting King George Whiting all continued to decline to be among the lowest recorded. - All measures of target handline CPUE (i.e., nominal and standardised, kg fisher-day⁻¹ and kg line-hour⁻¹) were the highest recorded. 'WhitEst' model outputs (2023/24 assessment) - Fishable biomass: 2,378 t (3rd highest on record) - Harvest fraction: 6% (stable) - Recruitment: +16% (increasing) - Age composition: No significant change					
Assessment summary	- The latest stock assessment report (Earl et al. 2025) provides 'WhitEst' model outputs (estimates of fishable biomass, harvest fraction and recruitment) using information up to 2023/24. - Additionally, low levels of catch and effort in 2024/25, combined with high catch rates, suggest the West Coast stock is being lightly fished.					

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

King George Whiting

WEST COAST

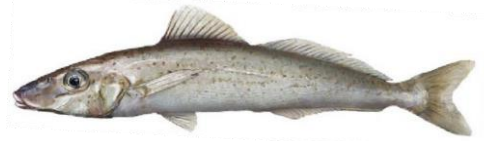


	As the SS3 model is in development for the West Coast, a CPUE-based HCR (Little et al. 2011) was applied; an unadjusted RBC was provided as a precaution, with the buffer not applied.			
2026/27 TACC recommendation by the MSFMAC	MSFMAC meeting 10 minutes: MSFMAC Recommendation #8 to Minister: <i>The MSFMAC recommended the 2025/26 commercial catch cap of 183 t in the WCFZ be maintained for 2026/27.</i>			
2026/27 RBC and RBCC (t) options	‘Est’ model Fishable biomass = 2,378 t (Earl et al., 2025) - Commercial catch share (regional) = 70.9%			
*SS3 model is in development; unadjusted RBC for precaution, buffer not applied. Data up to 2024/25 inclusive. <i>H</i> – Harvest fraction RBC – recommended biological catch RBCC – recommended biological <i>commercial</i> catch	RBC and RBCC options for 2026/27			
		<i>H</i>	RBC	RBCC
	CPUE-based HCR (2024/25)*		244	171
	M = 0.45 (WhitEst)	0.26 (2/3 M)	618.3	438.4
	M = 0.2 (2022/23 approach)	0.125 (2/3 M)	297.3	210.8
	5-yr average catch			83.6
	5-yr maximum catch			88.1
	2022/23–2025/26			183 (TACC)
R&D needs (incl. current initiatives)	- Investigate alternative assessment model outputs for King George Whiting stocks using SS3 (commenced in 2024/25). - Improve assessment through the integration of information on King George Whiting from offshore areas of the West Coast region. - Supplement market sampling with industry-direct sampling in the regions to obtain more representative samples (commenced in 2023/24). - Application of the harvest strategy framework under the new management plan. - More regular and reliable estimates of recreational catch.			
References	Beckmann, C.L., Durante, L.M., Graba-Landry, A., Stark, K.E., Tracey, S.R. (2023). Survey of recreational fishing in South Australia 2021–22. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F2022/000385-1. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1161. 185pp. Dennis, J.D. et al. (in prep.). Assessment of the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery in 2024/25. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. Earl, J., Feenstra, J., Mark, K., Mellin, C., Matthews, D., Bussell, J., Davey, J., Dennis, J., and Noell, C. (2025). King George Whiting (<i>Sillaginodes punctatus</i>) Fishery. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F20007/000843-5. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1263. 101pp. Little, L.R., Wayte, S.E., Tuck, G.N., Smith, A.D.M., Klaer, N., Haddon, M., Punt, A.E., Thomson, R., Day, J., Fuller, M. (2011). Development and evaluation of a cpue-based harvest control rule for the southern and eastern scalefish and shark fishery of Australia. <i>ICES Journal of Marine Science</i> 68: 1699–1705.			

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

King George Whiting

SPENCER GULF



Stock status	2022/23 – Sustainable		2023/24 – Sustainable		2024/25 – Status pending	
Total catches (t)		Commercial	Recreational	RBC	RBCC	TACC
	2020/21	69.2	-	-	-	-
RBC – recommended biological catch	2021/22	71.1	161.2*	-	-	111
RBCC – recommended biological commercial catch	2022/23	78.6	-	-	-	111
	2023/24	83.1	-	-	-	116.963
	2024/25	69.5	-	-	-	116.963
TACC – total allowable commercial catch	2025/26	▲64.8 (March 2026)	-	-	-	116.963
* Based on regional catch (number) and average weight in Beckmann et al. (2023)						
Sector allocations (State-wide)	Commercial		Recreational		Aboriginal	Total
	MSF	49.5%	REC	45.5%	1%	100%
	NZRLF	1.0%	CHARTER	3.0%		
	SZRLF	0.0%				
	Total	50.5%	Total	48.5%	1%	100%
Stock assessment report(s)	- Earl et al. (2025) – assessment of King George Whiting up to 2023/24. - Dennis et al. (in prep.) – general assessment of selected MSF species/stocks up to 2024/25.					
Assessment program	- Annual catch and effort statistics and trends in a stock summary report. - Length and age structures from market (Adelaide) and industry (regional) samples. - Application of a fully integrated assessment model ('WhitEst') and production of a stock assessment report every two or three years. - Recreational catch estimates obtained every several years. - Previous assessments by weight of evidence; currently transitioning to Data Category 1 assessment (with SS3 model development). - No information is currently available for Aboriginal and traditional fishing.					
Fishery-dependent metrics	Catch statistics (2024/25) - Total catch: 69.5 t (2nd lowest) - Target handline effort: 2,496 fisher-days (lowest & decreased over 5 consecutive years) - Target handline CPUE: 20.5 kg fisher-day⁻¹ (-9.6%, greatest % interannual decrease) Catch and effort trends - In 2024/25, total catch, target handline effort, and number of licences taking or targeting King George Whiting decreased to historic lows. - Both measures of nominal target handline CPUE—in kg fisher-day⁻¹ and kg line-hour⁻¹—decreased from a 3-year high (2021/22–2023/24). - While both standardised CPUE measures declined; the CPUE expressed in kg line-hour⁻¹ remained at the long-term mean. 'WhitEst' model outputs (2023/24 assessment) - Fishable biomass: 1,097 t - Harvest fraction: 26% - Recruitment: -18% (5-year average ±10% of long-term average) - Age composition: No significant change					
Assessment summary	- The latest stock assessment report (Earl et al. 2025) provides 'WhitEst' model outputs (estimates of fishable biomass, harvest fraction and recruitment) using information up to 2023/24; all were within operational targets of the 2013 Management Plan. - Additionally, low levels of catch and effort in 2024/25, combined with high catch rates, suggest the Spencer Gulf stock is being lightly fished.					

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

King George Whiting

SPENCER GULF



	As the SS3 model is in development for Spencer Gulf, a CPUE-based HCR (Little et al. 2011) was applied; an unadjusted RBC was provided as a buffer is not applied to assessment category 1.																																
Algal boom impact (Updated 20 March 2026)	- Spencer Gulf catch and catch rate at the zonal level have remained consistent with historical averages. - Post-settlement surveys of King George Whiting were undertaken across GSV and SG in 2025. Across the 18 locations sampled, post-settled King George Whiting densities were at their lowest levels on record, with declines of 37–97% since the previous survey in 2017. The greatest reductions occurred in Lower Eyre Peninsula, Northern GSV and Southern GSV, while Southern SG was the only region to show an increase.																																
2026/27 TACC recommendation by the MSFMAC	MSFMAC meeting 10 minutes: MSFMAC Recommendation #5 to Minister: The MSFMAC recommended that the KGW 2025/26 TACC of 116.963t in the SGFZ be maintained for 2026/27. MSFMAC Recommendation #6 to Minister: The MSFMAC recommended the default commercial under-catch and over-catch arrangements, being up to 10% of the licence holder’s quota entitlement, be implemented for KGW in the SGFZ for the 2026/27 quota period.																																
2026/27 RBC and RBCC (t) options	‘Est’ model Fishable biomass = 1,097 t (2023/24, Earl et al., 2025) - Commercial catch share (regional) = 44.9%																																
SS3 model is in development; buffer not applied to assessment category 1. Data up to 2024/25 inclusive. <i>H</i> – Harvest fraction RBC – recommended biological catch RBCC – recommended biological <i>commercial</i> catch	RBC and RBCC options for 2026/27 <table><tr><th></th><th><i>H</i></th><th>RBC</th><th>RBCC</th></tr><tr><td>CPUE-based HCR (2024/25)</td><td></td><td>710.7</td><td>312.7</td></tr><tr><td>M = 0.45 (WhitEst)</td><td>0.26 (2/3 M)</td><td>284.3</td><td>127.7</td></tr><tr><td>M = 0.2 (2022/23 approach)</td><td>0.125 (2/3 M)</td><td>136.9</td><td>61.5</td></tr><tr><td>5-yr average catch</td><td></td><td></td><td>74.3</td></tr><tr><td>5-yr maximum catch</td><td></td><td></td><td>83.1</td></tr><tr><td>2022/23</td><td></td><td></td><td>111 (TACC)</td></tr><tr><td>2023/24 – 2025/26</td><td></td><td></td><td>116.963 (TACC)</td></tr></table>		<i>H</i>	RBC	RBCC	CPUE-based HCR (2024/25)*		710.7	312.7	M = 0.45 (WhitEst)	0.26 (2/3 M)	284.3	127.7	M = 0.2 (2022/23 approach)	0.125 (2/3 M)	136.9	61.5	5-yr average catch			74.3	5-yr maximum catch			83.1	2022/23			111 (TACC)	2023/24 – 2025/26			116.963 (TACC)
		<i>H</i>	RBC	RBCC																													
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	2022/23			111 (TACC)																													
	2023/24 – 2025/26			116.963 (TACC)																													
R&D needs (incl. current initiatives)	- Investigate alternative assessment model outputs for King George Whiting stocks using Stock Synthesis (commenced in 2024/25). - Evaluate the extent of any algal bloom impacts on King George Whiting stocks (SARDI Algal Bloom response). - Improve our understanding of the contribution of King George Whiting from Coffin Bay to the fishable biomass of the Spencer Gulf fishing zone. - Supplement market sampling with industry-direct sampling in the regions to obtain more representative samples (commenced in 2023/24). - Application of the harvest strategy framework under the new management plan. - More regular and reliable estimates of recreational catch.																																

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

King George Whiting SPENCER GULF



References

Beckmann, C.L., Durante, L.M., Graba-Landry, A., Stark, K.E., Tracey, S.R. (2023). Survey of recreational fishing in South Australia 2021–22. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F2022/000385-1. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1161. 185pp.

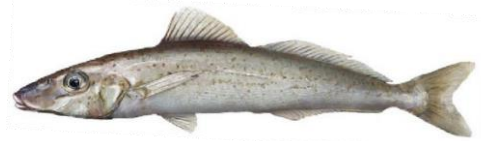
Dennis, J.D. et al. (in prep.). Assessment of the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery in 2024/25. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide.

Earl, J., Feenstra, J., Mark, K., Mellin, C., Matthews, D., Bussell, J., Davey, J. Dennis, J., and Noell, C. (2025). King George Whiting (*Sillaginodes punctatus*) Fishery. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F20007/000843-5. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1263. 101pp.

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

King George Whiting

GULF ST VINCENT AND KANGAROO ISLAND

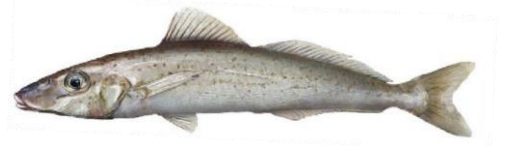


Stock status	2022/23 – Sustainable		2023/24 – Sustainable		2024/25 – Status pending	
Total catches (t)		Commercial	Recreational	RBC	RBCC	TACC
	2020/21	30.8	-	-	-	-
RBC – recommended biological catch	2021/22	26.8	76.3*	-	-	46
RBCC – recommended biological commercial catch	2022/23	27.8	-	-	-	46
	2023/24	27.7	-	-	-	46.334
	2024/25	25.2	-	-	-	46.334
TACC – total allowable commercial catch	2025/26	▼9.1 (March 2026)	-	-	-	46.334
* Based on regional catch (number) and average weight in Beckmann et al. (2023)						
Sector allocations (State-wide)	Commercial		Recreational		Aboriginal	Total
	MSF	49.5%	REC	45.5%	1%	100%
	NZRLF	1.0%	CHARTER	3.0%		
	SZRLF	0.0%				
	Total	50.5%	Total	48.5%	1%	100%
Stock assessment report(s)	- Earl et al. (2025) – assessment of King George Whiting up to 2023/24. - Dennis et al. (in prep.) – general assessment of selected MSF species/stocks up to 2024/25.					
Assessment program	- Annual catch and effort statistics and trends in a stock summary report. - Length and age structures from market (Adelaide) and industry (regional) samples. - Application of a fully integrated assessment model ('WhitEst') and production of a stock assessment report every two or three years. - Recreational catch estimates obtained every several years. - Previous assessments by weight of evidence; currently transitioning to Data Category 1 assessment (with SS3 model development). - No information is currently available for Aboriginal and traditional fishing.					
Fishery-dependent metrics	Catch statistics (2024/25) - Total catch: 25.2 t (2nd lowest) - Target handline effort: 824 fisher-days (lowest) - Target handline effort: -31.79% (greatest % interannual change) - Target handline CPUE: 18.3 kg fisher-day⁻¹ (highest) - Target handline CPUE: +0.73 kg fisher-day⁻¹ year⁻¹ (greatest 5-year trend) Catch and effort trends - In 2024/25, total catch, targeted handline effort, and number of licences taking or targeting King George Whiting declined. - The proportion of total catch of King George Whiting taken using haul nets in 2024/25 increased to 40% (cf. 20% in 2022/23 & 2023/24). - Nominal target handline CPUE in kg fisher-day⁻¹ increased to the highest on record, while CPUE in kg line-hour⁻¹ decreased from the highest, to the second highest on record in 2024/25. - While both standardised CPUE measures declined; the CPUE expressed in kg line-hour⁻¹ was still the second highest on record, while CPUE by kg fisher-day⁻¹ declined to the long-term average from a 24-year high in 2022/23. 'WhitEst' model outputs (2023/24 assessment) - Fishable biomass: 673 t - Harvest fraction: 19% (decreasing trend) - Recruitment: -3% (highly variable)					

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

King George Whiting

GULF ST VINCENT AND KANGAROO ISLAND



	Age composition: No significant change
Assessment summary	- The latest stock assessment report (Earl et al. 2025) provides 'WhitEst' model outputs (estimates of fishable biomass, harvest fraction and recruitment) using information up to 2023/24; all were within operational targets of the 2013 Management Plan. - Additionally, low levels of catch and effort in 2024/25, combined with high catch rates, suggest the Gulf St Vincent/Kangaroo Island stock is being lightly fished.
Algal boom impact (Updated 20 March 2026)	- Monthly catches and catch rates from GSV/KI during the algal bloom period from March–August 2025 remained broadly within recent ranges. The total catch in September and October 2025 declined sharply, as did catch rates from targeted fishing in November 2025 to February 2026. Both are now >80% below baseline at both zonal and regional spatial scales. - Post-settlement surveys of King George Whiting were undertaken across GSV and SG in 2025. Across the 18 locations sampled, post-settled King George Whiting densities were at their lowest levels on record, with declines of 37–97% since the previous survey in 2017. The greatest reductions occurred in Lower Eyre Peninsula, Northern GSV and Southern GSV, while Southern SG was the only region to show an increase.
2026/27 TACC recommendation by the MSFMAC	MSFMAC meeting 10 minutes: MSFMAC Recommendation #9 to Minister: <i>The MSFMAC recommended that the KGW TACC in GSV/KIFZ for 2026/27 be set to zero.</i> MSFMAC Recommendation #10 to Minister: <i>The MSFMAC recommended that the commercial under-catch and over-catch arrangements for KGW in the GSVFZ be set to zero for the 2026/27 quota period.</i>
R&D needs (incl. current initiatives)	- Investigate alternative assessment model outputs for King George Whiting stocks using Stock Synthesis (commenced in 2024/25). - Evaluate the extent of any algal bloom impacts on King George Whiting stocks (SARDI Algal Bloom response). - Supplement market sampling with industry-direct sampling in the regions to obtain more representative samples (commenced in 2023/24). - Application of the harvest strategy framework under the new management plan. - More regular and reliable estimates of recreational catch.
References	Beckmann, C.L., Durante, L.M., Graba-Landry, A., Stark, K.E., Tracey, S.R. (2023). Survey of recreational fishing in South Australia 2021–22. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F2022/000385-1. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1161. 185pp. Dennis, J.D. et al. (in prep.). Assessment of the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery in 2024/25. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. Earl, J., Feenstra, J., Mark, K., Mellin, C., Matthews, D., Bussell, J., Davey, J. Dennis, J., and Noell, C. (2025). King George Whiting (<i>Sillaginodes punctatus</i>) Fishery. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F20007/000843-5. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1263. 101pp.

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Snapper

SOUTH EAST (WESTERN VICTORIA STOCK)



Stock status	2022 – Sustainable (Western Victoria stock)		“Very strong recent juvenile recruitment suggests major increase in biomass expected over the next five years” (Bell et al. 2024)				
Total catches (t) RBC – recommended biological catch RBCC – recommended biological <i>commercial</i> catch TACC – total allowable commercial catch TARC – total allowable recreational catch		Commercial	Recreational		RBC	RBCC	TACC/TARC
			Survey	App^/CHB			
	2020/21	42.9	-	±2.6/0.4	48	36	±21.6/4.8
	2021/22	25.2	8.4*	3.0/1.3	48	36	36/12
	2022/23	29.0	-	2.0/2.8	48	36	36/12
	2023/24	35.5	-	4.1/1.4	70.012	52.509	52.509/17.503
	2024/25	41.2	-	6.2/1.9	70.012	52.509	52.509/17.503
	2025/26	▲42.6 (March 2026)	-	-	70.012	52.509	52.509/17.503
* Based on regional catch (number) and average weight in Beckmann et al. (2023) ^ Estimated catch based on average weight of SE Snapper of 2.20 kg (Beckmann et al. 2023) ▣ Feb–Jun 2020 (ballot system) † Feb–Oct 2020 ‡ Feb–Jun 2021							
Sector allocations (State-wide)	Commercial		Recreational		Aboriginal	Total	
	MSF	79%	REC	8%	1%	100%	
	NZRLF	0.55%	CHARTER	10%			
	SZRLF	1.45%					
	LCF	0.03%					
Total	81%	Total	18%	1%	100%		
Stock assessment report(s)	- Drew et al. (2022) - assessment of Snapper up to 2021/22. - Bell et al. (2024) – general assessment of key Victorian fish stocks up to 2022. - Rogers et al. (in prep.) – assessment of Snapper up to 2024/25. - Dennis et al. (in prep.) – general assessment of selected MSF species/stocks up to 2024/25.						
Assessment program	- Annual catch and effort statistics and trends in a stock summary report. - Length and age structures from market sampling (Adelaide). - Application of a fully integrated assessment model (‘SnapEst’) and production of a stock assessment report every two or three years (expected once the Snapper fishery re-opens in all regions of the State). - Recreational catch estimates obtained through mandatory reporting in the South East via the SA Fishing App and from State-wide surveys every several years. - Previous assessments by weight of evidence; currently transitioning to Data Category 1 assessment (with SS3 model development). - No information is currently available for Aboriginal and traditional fishing.						
Fishery-dependent metrics	Catch statistics (2024/25) - Total catch: 41.2 t - Target longline effort: 876 fisher-days (12-year high) - Target longline CPUE: 46.8 kg fisher-day⁻¹ Catch and effort trends - Total catch has been periodic since 1983/84 (when logbook data became available); it rarely exceeded 10 t until 2004/05, then increased to more than 200 t in 2009/10, before falling to <10 t again in 2015/16, and thereafter remaining at relatively moderate levels (<50 t).						

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Snapper

SOUTH EAST (WESTERN VICTORIA STOCK)



	- In 2024/25, total catch increased by 16%, target effort increased by 10%, and the number of licence holders that caught Snapper decreased from 7 to 6. - All measures of target longline and handline CPUE (nominal and standardised, kg fisher-day⁻¹, kg hook⁻¹ and kg line-hour⁻¹) fluctuate greatly, with no apparent trend; in 2024/25, all indices of handline CPUE were below their historic means, while both measures of nominal longline CPUE were above historic means. - Both standardised LL CPUE measures increased in 2024/25, while still remaining below the long-term mean. Standardised LL CPUE in kg hook⁻¹ has some fluctuation around the long-term mean for the past 7 years, although remains relatively stable. 'SnapEst' model outputs (2021/22 assessment) - Fishable biomass: +27% (3-year average $\pm 10\%$ of previous 3-year average) - Egg production: 6.5% of pristine population - Recruitment: -97% (3-year average $\pm 10\%$ of long-term average) - Age composition: 18.5% (proportion of fish 10+ years of age)
Performance indicators of the Harvest Strategy Framework	'SnapEst' estimated outputs (2024/25) - Unfished total all-size biomass (B_0): 1,743 t - Current total all-size biomass (B): 611 t - Target fishing mortality (F_{arg}): 0.10 Biomass trajectory and performance - Relative total all-size biomass (B/B_0) for 2024/25 is 0.35, which places it above the limit reference point (B_{20}) but below the trigger reference point (B_{40}). - Estimated relative biomass increased from 2015 to 2020 and has remained stable at a moderate to high level from 2020 to 2025 (i.e., 30–40% of unfished levels). HCR application (2024/25) - Relative biomass (B/B_0): 0.35 - Recommended fishing mortality F: 0.075 - Equivalent harvest fraction H: 0.073
Assessment summary	- The previous stock assessment report (Drew et al. 2022) provided 'SnapEst' model outputs (estimates of fishable biomass, egg production, harvest fraction and recruitment) using information up to 2021/22 (inclusive). - Consideration of additional catch and effort data for 2024/25 does not indicate any stock concerns. - Based on provisional 'Est' model outputs using information up to 2024/25 including Rogers et al. (in prep.), the relative biomass is 0.35 under the harvest control rule, and fishing mortality is therefore applied at $F = 0.075$. - Stock status for the South East regional population is determined by the Victorian Fisheries Authority since the South East region represents the western extremity of the Western Victoria stock. - Catch and effort in the South East is largely influenced by the recruitment strength in Port Phillip Bay (VIC), and subsequent growth, mortality, movement and, ultimately, availability of Snapper in the South East at ~5 years of age when they generally reach the legal minimum length (LML) of 38 cm. - High densities of age 0+ juveniles were recorded in PPB in 2018 (highest on record) and 2022 (third highest on record) (Bell et al. 2024). Consequently, it is anticipated that the 2018-year class emerging in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 age structures will persist in the SE Region in coming years and the 2022 year class will begin to enter the fishable biomass from late-2026. - The Western Victoria stock was most recently classified as sustainable (Bell et al. 2024).

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Snapper

SOUTH EAST (WESTERN VICTORIA STOCK)



- Based on provisional SnapEst model outputs, the relative biomass is 0.35 under the harvest control rule, and fishing mortality is therefore applied at 0.075.

2026/27 TACC
recommendation
by the MSFMAC

MSFMAC meeting 10 minutes:

MSFMAC Recommendation #15 to Minister: The MSFMAC recommended a 2026/27 SEFZ TAC of 121 t with a Snapper TACC of 91.113 t and 29,887t TARC (including 1% Aboriginal Traditional). The TACC and TARC reflect the formal regional shares as follows: Commercial TACC 75.3%, TARC 23.7% and Aboriginal Traditional 1%.

MSFMAC Recommendation #17 to Minister: The MSFMAC recommended that the default commercial under-catch and over-catch arrangements, being up to 10% of the licence holder's quota entitlement, be implemented for Snapper in the SEFZ for the 2026/27 quota period.

MSFMAC recommendation #18 to the Minister: The MSFMAC did not come to a consensus with respect to carry-over for recreational fishing sectors for 2026/27, with some members supporting application of 10% carry-over of uncaught 2025/26 TARC whilst others did not support carry-over.

MSFMAC recommendation #20 to the Minister: The MSFMAC did not reach consensus with respect to the CBF over-catch of their portion of the TARC, inclusive of carry-over from 2024/25, should be deducted from the CBF portion of the 2026/27 TARC, or not be applied, noting there was more support for application of over-catch arrangements being applied.

MSFMAC recommendation #21 to the Minister: The MSFMAC did not reach consensus on maintaining the daily bag limit of 3 fish person or increasing the daily bag limit to 5 fish per person for the recreational non-charter sector, and commensurate boat limits.

MSFMAC recommendation #22 to the Minister: The MSFMAC recommended that the 2025/26 charter boat passenger limits be applied in 2026/27.

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Snapper

SOUTH EAST (WESTERN VICTORIA STOCK)



2026/27 RBC, RBCC and RBRC (t) options

* Biomass used for RBC and RBCC options

RBRC – recommended biological *recreational* catch (includes recreational, charter and Aboriginal traditional shares)

H – Harvest fraction

RBC – recommended biological catch

RBCC – recommended biological *commercial* catch

- Current 'Est' model fishable biomass (*B*) = 605 t (Rogers et al. in prep)* ('Est' model 2021/22 Fishable biomass = 349 t; Drew et al. 2022).
- Current 'Est' model unfished total all-size biomass (*B*₀) = 1,743 t
- Catch share (regional) = 75.3% commercial; 23.7% recreational; 1% Aboriginal traditional

RBC and RBCC/RBRC options for 2026/27

	<i>H</i>	RBC	RBCC/RBRC
2025 Management Plan	0.073	43.9	33.0/10.4
<i>M</i> = 0.5 (2022/23 approach)	0.3 (2/3 <i>M</i>)	171.5	129.1/40.6
<i>M</i> = 0.3 (2023/24 approach)	0.20 (2/3 <i>M</i>)	109.7	82.6/26.0
5-yr average catch			34.8/5.1
5-yr maximum catch			42.9/6.2
2022/23			36 (TACC)/12 (TARC)
2023/24–2024/25			52.5 (TACC)/17.5 (TARC)

R&D needs (incl. current initiatives)

- Investigate alternative assessment model outputs for Snapper stocks using Stock Synthesis (commenced in 2024/25).
- Various research themes within the State Government and FRDC-funded Snapper Science Program – see 'Snapper Hub' at pir.sa.gov.au/snapper-recovery for details.
- 'Quantifying post-release survival and movement of Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*): Informing strategies to engage the fishing community in practices to enhance the sustainability of an important multi-sector fishery' (FRDC Project 2019/044) – completed.
- 'Cost-effective, non-destructive solutions to developing a pre-recruit index for Snapper' (FRDC project 2019/046) – completed.
- Application of the harvest strategy framework under the new management plan.
- Ongoing improvements and refinements to the reporting of recreational catch.

References

Beckmann, C.L., Durante, L.M., Graba-Landry, A., Stark, K.E., Tracey, S.R. (2023). Survey of recreational fishing in South Australia 2021–22. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F2022/000385-1. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1161. 185pp.

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MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Southern Garfish

SPENCER GULF



Stock status	2022/23 – Recovering		2023/24 – Recovering		2024/25 – Status pending	
Total catches (t)		Commercial	Recreational	RBC	RBCC	TACC
	2020/21	109.1	-	-	-	-
RBC – recommended biological catch	2021/22	83.8	11.6*	-	-	100
RBCC – recommended biological commercial catch	2022/23	74.1	-	-	-	100
	2023/24	71.3	-	-	-	103.451
	2024/25	81.8	-	-	-	103.451
TACC – total allowable commercial catch	2025/26	▲75.4 (March 2026)	-	-	-	103.451
* Based on regional catch (number) and average weight in Beckmann et al. (2023)						
Sector allocations (State-wide)	Commercial		Recreational		Aboriginal	Total
	MSF	79.33%	19.5%		1%	100%
	NZRLF	0.04%				
	SZRLF	0.13%				
	Total	79.5%	Total	19.5%	1%	100%
Stock assessment report(s)	- Earl et al. (2024) – assessment of Southern Garfish up to 2022/23. - Drew et al. (in prep.) – assessment of Southern Garfish up to 2024/25. - Dennis et al. (in prep.) – general assessment of selected MSF species/stocks up to 2024/25.					
Assessment program	- Annual catch and effort statistics and trends in a stock summary report. - Length and age structures from market (Adelaide) and industry (regional) samples. - Application of a fully integrated assessment model ('GarEst') and production of a stock assessment report every two or three years. - Recreational catch estimates obtained every several years. - Previous assessments by weight of evidence; currently transitioning to Data Category 1 assessment (with SS3 model development). - No information is currently available for Aboriginal and traditional fishing.					
Fishery-dependent metrics	Catch statistics (2024/25) - Total catch: 81.8 t (third lowest) - Target haul net effort: 879 fisher-days (third lowest) - Target dab net effort: 120 fisher-days (lowest) - Target HN CPUE: 65.2 kg fisher-day⁻¹ - Target DN CPUE: 49.3 kg fisher-day⁻¹ Catch and effort trends - In 2024/25, total catch, target haul net effort, and number of licences taking or targeting Southern Garfish increased, while target dab net effort continued to decline. - All measures of target haul net CPUE (nominal and standardised, kg fisher-day⁻¹ and kg haul⁻¹) declined steeply from 2010/11 to 2015/16 but have since recovered to the historic mean. - Both standardised measures of haul net CPUE by kg fisher-day⁻¹ and kg haul⁻¹ have increased for 4 and 5 years respectively, with the measure in kg haul⁻¹ reaching a 10-year high. 'GarEst' model outputs (2024/25 assessment) - Fishable biomass: 311 t (4% greater than long-term average) - Egg production: 17% of pristine population - Recruitment (2023/24): + 27% from previous 5-year average - Harvest fraction: 36%					

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Southern Garfish

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Assessment summary

- The current stock assessment report (Drew et al. in prep) provides 'GarEst' model outputs (estimates of fishable biomass, harvest fraction and recruitment) using information up to 2024/25.
- The 'Est' model fishable biomass in 2024/25 remained stable, while previous assessments suggested fishable biomass at this level may indicate the stock has recovered, although the level at which the stock was depleted, and the extent of the recovery were uncertain given the lack of target and limit biomass reference points.
- Additional catch and effort data for 2024/25 does not indicate any stock concerns; rather the CPUE indices suggest abundance has returned to a long-term average following a period of recovery, and this is consistent with the latest estimates and trajectory for fishable biomass.
- As the SS3 model is in development for Spencer Gulf, a CPUE-based HCR (Little et al. 2011) was applied; an unadjusted RBC was provided as a buffer is not applied to assessment category 1.

Algal boom impact (Updated 20 March 2026)

- For SG from May 2025 to February 2026, catches and CPUE were largely consistent with historical baseline data.

2026/27 TACC recommendation by the MSFMAC

MSFMAC meeting 10 minutes:

The MSFMAC noted:

- The SSC recommendation.
- The recovering status of the stock and the indicators of stable biomass.
- The progress on the SS3 modelling framework.
- The Harvest Strategy in the Management Plan and draft Implementation Plan (IP).

MSFMAC recommendation #1 to Minister: The MSFMAC recommended that the Southern Garfish 2025/26 TACC of 103.451 t in the SGFZ be maintained for 2026/27.

MSFMAC recommendation #2 to Minister: The MSFMAC recommended that the default commercial carry-over and over-catch arrangements, being up to 10% of the licence holder's quota entitlement, be implemented for Southern Garfish in the SGFZ for the 2026/27 quota period.

2026/27 RBC and RBCC (t) options

*SS3 model is in development; buffer not applied to assessment category 1. Data up to 2024/25 inclusive.

H – Harvest fraction

RBC – recommended biological catch

RBCC – recommended biological commercial catch

- 'Est' model Fishable biomass = 311 t (2024/25, Drew et al. in prep)
- Commercial catch share (regional) = 78.5%

RBC and RBCC options for 2026/27

	H	RBC	RBCC
CPUE-based HCR (2024/25)*		408.6	318.7
M = 0.42 (max. age 10)	0.24 (2/3 M)	76.0	59.6
5-yr average catch			84.0
5-yr maximum catch			109.1
2022/23			100 (TACC)
2023/24–2025/26			103.451 (TACC)

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Southern Garfish

SPENCER GULF



R&D needs (incl. current initiatives)

- Investigate alternative assessment model outputs for Southern Garfish stocks using Stock Synthesis (commenced 2024/25).
- Evaluate the extent of any algal bloom impacts on Southern Garfish stocks (SARDI Algal Bloom response).
- Confirm spatial and temporal distribution of Southern Garfish by sex to improve model estimates of spawning biomass (data to support this will be collected during deepwater haul netting trials as part of the red tape reduction initiatives).
- Supplement market sampling with industry-direct sampling in the regions to obtain more representative samples (commenced in 2023/24).
- Application of the harvest strategy framework under the new management plan. More regular and reliable estimates of recreational catch.

References

- Beckmann, C.L., Durante, L.M., Graba-Landry, A., Stark, K.E., Tracey, S.R. (2023). Survey of recreational fishing in South Australia 2021–22. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F2022/000385-1. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1161. 185pp.
- Dennis, J.D. et al. (in prep.). Assessment of the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery in 2024/25. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide.
- Earl, J., Feenstra, J., Mark, K., McGarvey, R., Matthews, D., Noell, C. (2024). Southern Garfish (*Hyporhamphus melanochir*) Fishery. Stock Assessment Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F2007/000720-5. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1223. 106pp.
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MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Southern Garfish

GULF ST VINCENT AND KANGAROO ISLAND



Stock status	2022/23 – Sustainable		2023/24 – Sustainable		2024/25 – Status pending	
Total catches (t)		Commercial	Recreational	RBC	RBCC	TACC
	2020/21	67.5	-	-	-	-
RBC – recommended biological catch	2021/22	68.5	8.9*	-	-	71
RBCC – recommended biological commercial catch	2022/23	64.0	-	-	-	71
	2023/24	69.7	-	-	-	75.289
	2024/25	62.7	-	-	-	75.289
TACC – total allowable commercial catch	2025/26	▼2.8 (March 2026)	-	-	-	75.289
* Based on regional catch (number) and average weight in Beckmann et al. (2023)						
Sector allocations (State-wide)	Commercial		Recreational		Aboriginal	Total
	MSF	79.33%	19.5%		1%	100%
	NZRLF	0.04%				
	SZRLF	0.13%				
	Total	79.5%	Total	19.5%	1%	100%
Stock assessment report(s)	- Earl et al. (2024) – assessment of Southern Garfish up to 2022/23. - Drew et al. (in prep.) – assessment of Southern Garfish up to 2024/25. - Dennis et al. (in prep.) – general assessment of selected MSF species/stocks up to 2024/25.					
Assessment program	- Annual catch and effort statistics and trends in a stock summary report. - Length and age structures from market (Adelaide) and industry (regional) samples. - Application of a fully integrated assessment model ('GarEst') and production of a stock assessment report every two or three years. - Recreational catch estimates obtained every several years. - Previous assessments by weight of evidence; currently transitioning to Data Category 1 assessment (with SS3 model development). - No information is currently available for Aboriginal and traditional fishing.					
Fishery-dependent metrics	Catch statistics (2024/25) - Total catch: 62.7 t (third lowest) - Target haul net effort: 678 fisher-days (lowest) - Target dab net effort: 107 fisher-days (second lowest) - Target HN CPUE: 78.1 kg fisher-day⁻¹ (125.4 kg haul⁻¹) - Target DN CPUE: 42.3 kg fisher-day⁻¹ (9.8 kg net-hour⁻¹) Catch and effort trends - In 2024/25, total catch, target haul net and dab net effort decreased slightly from 2023/24 but remained stable. - Number of licences taking or targeting Southern Garfish using haul nets and dab nets shows a long-term decline, and in 2024/25 are all at historic lows. - All measures of target haul net CPUE (nominal and standardised, kg fisher-day⁻¹ and kg haul⁻¹) are on an increasing trend since 2015/16, and despite a minor decrease for nominal and standardised measures in kg haul⁻¹, in 2024/25 all measures are above historic means. 'GarEst' model outputs (2024/25 assessment) - Fishable biomass: 295 t (+20% of long-term average) - Egg production: 19% of pristine population - Recruitment (2023/24): + 37% from previous 5-year average - Harvest fraction: 25%					

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Southern Garfish

GULF ST VINCENT AND KANGAROO ISLAND



Assessment summary	- The current stock assessment report (Drew et al. in prep.) provided 'GarEst' model outputs (estimates of fishable biomass, harvest fraction and recruitment) using information up to 2024/25. These outputs did not indicate any stock concerns. - Consideration of additional catch and effort data for 2024/25 does not indicate any stock concerns; rather the CPUE indices suggest abundance has returned to above the long-term average following a period of recovery and is consistent with the latest estimates and trajectory for fishable biomass.
Algal boom impact (Updated 20 March 2026)	- Logbook data from GSV/KI indicate strong negative impacts of the algal bloom. From May 2025 to February 2026 catches and CPUE were consistently below the previous three-year average. Both are now >80% below baseline. - At finer spatial scales, the most pronounced declines have been observed in northern and southern GSV, consistent with fisher reports of a near-total absence of Southern Garfish throughout most of this zone. - Fishery independent abundance surveys of Southern Garfish abundance were conducted in November 2025 at Glenelg and North Haven and in February 2026 at Middle Beach and Edithburgh. Compared to similar surveys undertaken in 2016 and 2018, total catch declined by 61% at Glenelg, 88% at North Haven, 84% at Middle Beach and 25% at Edithburgh. Most of the observed Southern Garfish were small and few other species were observed. These surveys were the first in the series to be performed monthly during the new moon, and data must be considered with caution.
2026/27 TACC recommendation by the MSFMAC	MSFMAC meeting 10 minutes: MSFMAC Recommendation #3 to Minister: The MSFMAC recommended the Southern Garfish TACC in the GSV/KIFZ be set at zero for 2026/27. MSFMAC Recommendation #4 to Minister: The MSFMAC recommended commercial carry-over and over-catch arrangements be set at zero for Southern Garfish in the SGFZ for the 2026/27 quota period.
R&D needs (incl. current initiatives)	- Investigate alternative assessment model outputs for Southern Garfish stocks using Stock Synthesis (commenced 2024/25). - Evaluate the extent of any algal bloom impacts on Southern Garfish stocks (SARDI Algal Bloom response). - Confirm spatial and temporal distribution of Southern Garfish by sex to improve model estimates of spawning biomass (data to support this will be collected during deepwater haul netting trials as part of the red tape reduction initiatives). - Supplement market sampling with industry-direct sampling in the regions to obtain more representative samples (commenced in 2023/24). - Application of the harvest strategy framework under the new management plan. - More regular and reliable estimates of recreational catch.
References	Beckmann, C.L., Durante, L.M., Graba-Landry, A., Stark, K.E., Tracey, S.R. (2023). Survey of recreational fishing in South Australia 2021–22. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F2022/000385-1. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1161. 185pp.

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Southern Garfish

GULF ST VINCENT AND KANGAROO ISLAND



Dennis, J.D. et al. (in prep.). Assessment of the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery in 2024/25. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide.

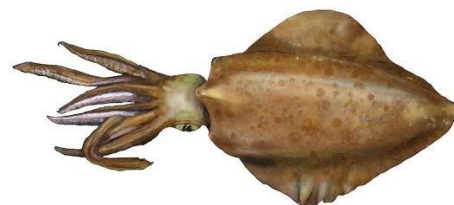
Earl, J., Feenstra, J., Mark, K., McGarvey, R., Matthews, D., Noell, C. (2024). Southern Garfish (*Hyporhamphus melanochir*) Fishery. Stock Assessment Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F2007/000720-5. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1223. 106pp.

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MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Southern Calamari

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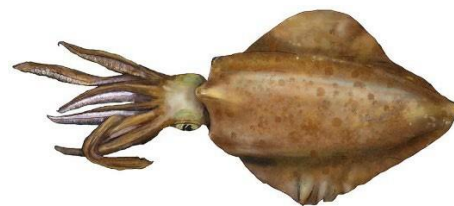


Stock status	2022/23 – Sustainable		2023/24 – Sustainable		2024/25 – Status pending	
Total catches (t)		Commercial	Recreational	RBC	RBCC	TACC
	2020/21	206.3	-	-	-	-
RBC – recommended biological catch	2021/22	151.5	114.8*	-	-	204
RBCC – recommended biological commercial catch	2022/23	147.8	-	-	-	204
	2023/24	156.3	-	-	-	207.52
	2024/25	186.7	-	-	-	207.52
TACC – total allowable commercial catch	2025/26	▼59.1 (March 2026)	-	-	-	176.066
* Based on regional catch (number) and average weight in Beckmann et al. (2023)						
Sector allocations (State-wide)	Commercial		Recreational		Aboriginal	Total
	MSF	56%	37.4%		1%	100%
	NZRLF	0.45%				
	WCPF	0.1%				
	SGPF	4.6%				
	GSVPF	0.45%				
	Total	61.6%	Total	37.4%	1%	100%
Stock assessment report(s)	- Noell et al. (in prep.) – progress update from FRDC Project No. 2021-118 on assessment of Southern Calamari using the latest information available. - Dennis et al. (in prep.) – general assessment of selected MSF species/stocks up to 2024/25.					
Assessment program	- Annual catch and effort statistics and trends in a stock summary report. - Recreational catch estimates obtained every several years. - Previous assessment by application of a CPUE-based harvest control rule (Little et al. 2011) (Assessment Category 5). - No information is currently available for Aboriginal and traditional fishing.					
Fishery-dependent metrics	Catch statistics (2024/25) - Total catch: 186.7 t (third lowest) - Target haul net effort: 610 fisher-days (third highest) - Target squid jig effort: 3,540 fisher-days - Target HN CPUE: 47.6 kg fisher-day⁻¹ - Target squid jig CPUE: 39.8 kg fisher-day⁻¹ (highest) Catch and effort trends - Total catch increased by 19% in 2024/25, following three consecutive years of the lowest total catches since 2008/09. - Target squid jig effort and number of licences taking or targeting Southern Calamari using squid jigs indicate a general decline since 2011/12, with squid jig effort declining slightly in 2024/25, while the number of licences increased slightly. - Since 2003/04, nominal squid jig target CPUE (in kg fisher-day⁻¹ and kg line-hour⁻¹) has fluctuated around or above the historic mean and appeared stable. In 2024/25, nominal squid jig target CPUE (by kg line-hour⁻¹) reached its second highest on record. - An updated CPUE standardisation (for both gears combined; see section below) shows that following an increase in the 2024/25 annual index, a steep but projected decline for 2025/26 (i.e., for a partial year) to the lowest index since 1989/90.					

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Southern Calamari

SPENCER GULF

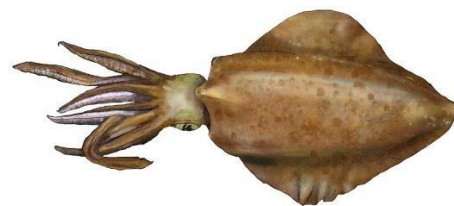


Assessment summary	- In the last stock summary (Dennis et al. 2025), the stock was classified as sustainable. - The complex life-history characteristics of Southern Calamari make assessment of this species (and other cephalopods in general) using conventional fisheries population dynamic models challenging and is the focus of a FRDC-funded project (see R&D needs below). - Traditionally, assessments for Southern Calamari were based on a weight-of-evidence until last year, when the CPUE-based harvest control rule (HCR) of Little et al. (2011) was applied to provide an RBCC for 2025/26.
Algal boom impact (Updated 20 March 2026)	- In SG, catch and CPUE remained broadly consistent with previous years until August 2025. From October 2025 to February 2026, catch declined to >80% below baseline, while CPUE decreased consecutively from 56% to 72% below baseline from December 2025 to February 2026. Declines are widespread across both northern and southern SG regions. - Three fishery-independent surveys for Western King Prawn were undertaken in SG between August 2025 and February 2026. During the August/September and October/November surveys, Southern Calamari comprised low levels of the bycatch composition (0.4%) and showed declines from previous survey years (46% decrease from 2024 and lowest since 2020). The most recent survey (36 shots) undertaken in February 2026 caught a total of 1.6 kg (72 individuals) of Southern Calamari. - Five fishery-independent diver surveys of Southern Calamari egg masses have been completed to date: four in GSV and one in SG. In SG, first-time surveys across four exploratory sites recorded four small egg masses (154 strands) in clear water with normal fauna, suggesting low Southern Calamari abundance rather than localised effects of the algal bloom.
2026/27 TACC recommendation by the MSFMAC	MSFMAC meeting 10 minutes: MSFMAC Recommendation #11 to Minister: The MSFMAC recommended that the 2026/27 SGFZ Calamari TACC be set to zero. MSFMAC Recommendation #12 to Minister: The MSFMAC recommended that the commercial under-catch and over-catch arrangements for Southern Calamari in the SGFZ for the 2026/27 quota period be set to zero.

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Southern Calamari

SPENCER GULF



R&D needs (incl. current initiatives)

- ‘Developing a cost-effective stock assessment program for Southern Calamari fisheries’ (FRDC Project 2021/118).
- Evaluate the extent of any algal bloom impacts on Southern Calamari stocks (SARDI Algal Bloom response).
- Application of the harvest strategy framework (including the stock assessment program being developed) under the new management plan.
- More regular and reliable estimates of recreational catch.

References

Beckmann, C.L., Durante, L.M., Graba-Landry, A., Stark, K.E., Tracey, S.R. (2023). Survey of recreational fishing in South Australia 2021–22. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F2022/000385-1. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1161. 185pp.

Dennis, J.D. et al. (in prep.). Assessment of the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery in 2024/25. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide.

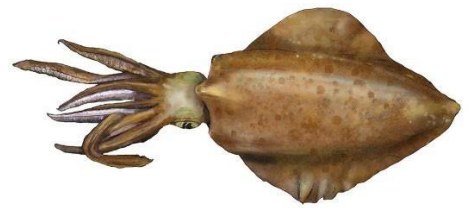
Little, L.R., Wayte, S.E., Tuck, G.N., Smith, A.D.M., Klaer, N., Haddon, M., Punt, A.E., Thomson, R., Day, J., Fuller, M. (2011). Development and evaluation of a cpue-based harvest control rule for the southern and eastern scalefish and shark fishery of Australia. *ICES Journal of Marine Science* **68**: 1699–1705.

Noell, C.J. et al. (in prep.). Developing a cost-effective stock assessment program for Southern Calamari fisheries. FRDC Project No. 2021-118.

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Southern Calamari

GULF ST VINCENT AND KANGAROO ISLAND

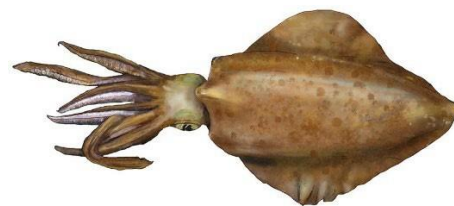


Stock status	2022/23 – Sustainable		2023/24 – Sustainable		2024/25 – Status pending	
Total catches (t)		Commercial	Recreational	RBC	RBCC	TACC
	2020/21	131.1	-	-	-	-
RBC – recommended biological catch	2021/22	118.0	89.9*	-	-	162
RBCC – recommended biological commercial catch	2022/23	135.1	-	-	-	162
	2023/24	115.7	-	-	-	164.837
	2024/25	128.9	-	-	-	164.837
TACC – total allowable commercial catch	2025/26	▼0.035 (March 2026)	-	-	-	146.684
* Based on regional catch (number) and average weight in Beckmann et al. (2023)						
Sector allocations (State-wide)	Commercial		Recreational		Aboriginal	Total
	MSF	56%	37.4%		1%	100%
	NZRLF	0.45%				
	WCPF	0.1%				
	SGPF	4.6%				
	GSVPF	0.45%				
	Total	61.6%	Total	37.4%	1%	100%
Stock assessment report(s)	- Noell et al. (in prep.) – progress update from FRDC Project No. 2021-118 on assessment of Southern Calamari using the latest information available. - Dennis et al. (in prep.) – general assessment of selected MSF species/stocks up to 2024/25.					
Assessment program	- Annual catch and effort statistics and trends in a stock summary report. - Recreational catch estimates obtained every several years. - Previous assessment by application of a CPUE-based harvest control rule (Little et al. 2011) (Assessment Category 5). - No information is currently available for Aboriginal and traditional fishing.					
Fishery-dependent metrics	Catch statistics (2024/25) - Total catch: 128.9 t - Target haul net effort: 826 fisher-days - Target squid jig effort: 2,414 fisher-days (lowest) - Target HN CPUE: 36.8 kg fisher-day⁻¹ - Target squid jig CPUE: 39.3 kg fisher-day⁻¹ (second highest) Catch and effort trends - Total catch has generally declined since 2011/12, and in 2024/25, it increased from the previous year's low, remaining stable at post-reform levels. - In 2024/25, target squid jig effort was the lowest since 1990/91, and the number of licences taking or targeting Southern Calamari using squid jigs was the lowest on record. - Since 2003/04, nominal squid jig target CPUE (in kg fisher-day⁻¹ and kg line-hour⁻¹) has fluctuated around the historic mean and appeared stable, although in 2024/25 increased to the highest in approximately 20 years (but noting this pre-dated the extreme decline in catch and catch rate, and subsequent closure, in 2025/26 due to the algal bloom). - An updated CPUE standardisation (for both gears combined; see section below) shows that following an increase in the 2024/25 annual index, an extreme but projected decline for 2025/26 (i.e., for a partial year) to be the lowest on record.					

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Southern Calamari

GULF ST VINCENT AND KANGAROO ISLAND

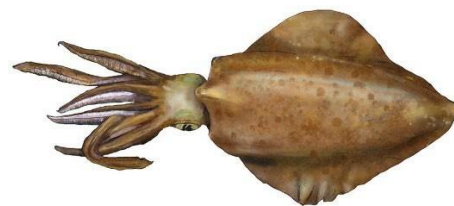


Assessment summary	- In the last stock summary (Dennis et al. 2025), the stock was classified as sustainable. - The complex life-history characteristics of Southern Calamari make assessment of this species (and other cephalopods in general) using conventional fisheries population dynamic models challenging and is the focus of a FRDC-funded project (see R&D needs below). - Traditionally, assessments for Southern Calamari were based on a weight-of-evidence until last year, when the CPUE-based harvest control rule (HCR) of Little et al. (2011) was applied to provide an RBCC for 2025/26.
Algal boom impact (Updated 20 March 2026)	- In GSV/KI, commercial logbook and targeted fishing data from GSV/KI show marked declines, with catch and CPUE from July 2025 to February 2026 negligible relative to the 3-year average. Both are now >80% below baseline at both zonal and regional spatial scales. - Five fishery-independent surveys for Western King Prawn were undertaken in GSV between August and December 2025. While bycatch ranged from 3,908 to 8,174 kg, Southern Calamari were not observed as part of the bycatch in any of these five surveys. - Five fishery-independent diver surveys of Southern Calamari egg masses have been completed to date: four in GSV and one in SG. In GSV, no eggs were observed at either location during October to December 2025 surveys, compared with the ~7,000–10,500 eggs recorded each month in 2005–06.
2026/27 TACC recommendation by the MSFMAC	MSFMAC meeting 10 minutes: MSFMAC Recommendation #13 to Minister: The MSFMAC recommended the 2026/27 TACC for the GSV/KIFZ for Southern Calamari be set to zero. MSFMAC Recommendation #14 to Minister: The MSFMAC recommended that the commercial under-catch and over-catch arrangements for Southern Calamari in the GSV/KIFZ for the 2026/27 quota period be set to zero.

MSF Management Tier 1 stock summaries – 2026

Southern Calamari

GULF ST VINCENT AND KANGAROO ISLAND



	• <i>Noted that there was no allocation breach for the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery (GSVPF) Calamari catch, the use of bycatch reduction devices in the GSVPF, and the low total catch of Calamari by the GSVPF. MSFMAC requests PIRSA and the GSVPF consider mechanisms that may constrain and reduce their catch commensurate with the recommended TACC reductions being applied.</i>
R&D needs (incl. current initiatives)	• 'Developing a cost-effective stock assessment program for Southern Calamari fisheries' (FRDC Project 2021/118). • Evaluate the extent of any algal bloom impacts on Southern Calamari stocks (SARDI Algal Bloom response). • Application of the harvest strategy framework under the new management plan. • More regular and reliable estimates of recreational catch.
References	Beckmann, C.L., Durante, L.M., Graba-Landry, A., Stark, K.E., Tracey, S.R. (2023). Survey of recreational fishing in South Australia 2021–22. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. SARDI Publication No. F2022/000385-1. SARDI Research Report Series No. 1161. 185pp. Dennis, J.D. et al. (in prep.). Assessment of the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery in 2024/25. Report to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic and Livestock Sciences), Adelaide. Little, L.R., Wayte, S.E., Tuck, G.N., Smith, A.D.M., Klaer, N., Haddon, M., Punt, A.E., Thomson, R., Day, J., Fuller, M. (2011). Development and evaluation of a cpue-based harvest control rule for the southern and eastern scalefish and shark fishery of Australia. <i>ICES Journal of Marine Science</i> 68: 1699–1705. Noell, C.J. et al. (in prep.). Developing a cost-effective stock assessment program for Southern Calamari fisheries. FRDC Project No. 2021-118.