

Chair's Report

Allocation Review Committee

Out of Session Meeting (Teams) – 18 June 2026

The Allocation Review Committee (ARC) held a meeting on 18 January 2026 to review status of improved models (stock synthesis - SS3) for the estimation of recommended biological catch (RBC) levels for King George Whiting and Southern Garfish requested for the allocation review of these species, which had been postponed from June 2025 subject to the availability of this data and the finalization of a new harvest strategy and management plan for the Marine Scalefish Fishery.

The Committee noted that the SS3 model outputs required to support RBC estimates are not yet finalised, with advice from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) provided ahead of the meeting indicating full outputs will not be available for use by the ARC until June 2027.

Members discussed whether the Committee should defer further consideration or seek interim model outputs to allow progress against the 2021–22 assessment period, noting that without updated RBC estimates the Committee was in the same place as when the recommendation to defer was made.

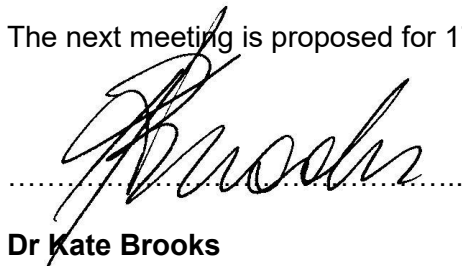
The Committee agreed that simply waiting until final model outputs are available would not provide sufficient certainty for stakeholders and would prolong the process unnecessarily.

Discussion confirmed that the key requirement is a more robust estimate of RBC for 2021–22 for King George Whiting and Southern Garfish, to provide a benchmark for assessing whether a breach occurred against a better modelled estimate. Members noted that any interim outputs provided by SARDI may need to be heavily caveated but may still be an improvement on the information currently available.

Agreed outcomes and next steps

- The Committee agreed to request SARDI provide the best available interim model outputs for 2021–22 statewide RBC estimates for King George Whiting and Southern Garfish.
- The Committee agreed that the September meeting should proceed as a final substantive meeting for the current Committee, either to undertake an assessment using the available information or to provide advice on what needs to occur next. All members agreed the assessment shouldn't be further postponed.

The next meeting is proposed for 17 September 2026 in Adelaide



Dr Kate Brooks

Independent Chair of the Allocation Review Committee