



Challenges for fisheries and aquaculture during the algal bloom - Mechanisms implemented to assist industry

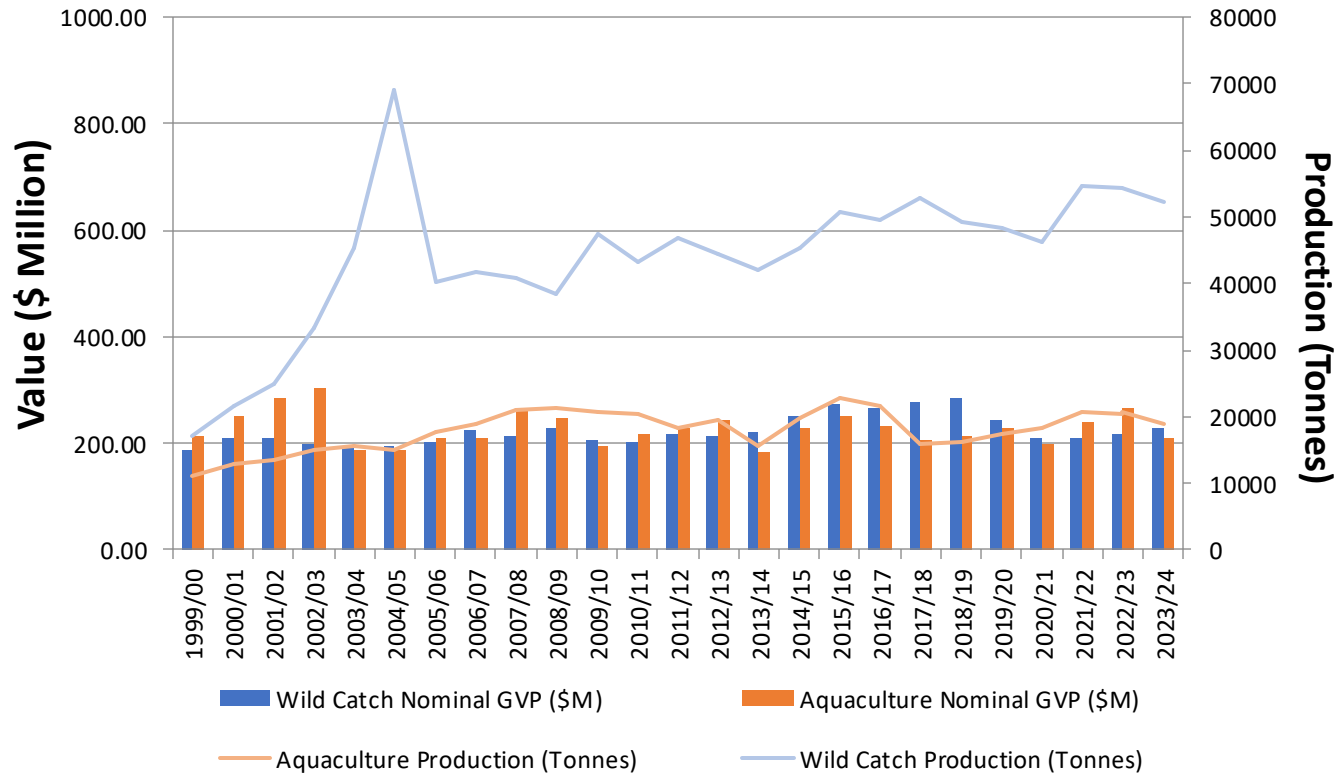
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June 2026



Government
of South Australia

Department of Primary
Industries and Regions

South Australian Seafood



2023/24 (prior to AB)	
Aquaculture	Fisheries
GVP \$209.68M	GVP \$226.9M
18,801t	52,208t
2,321 FTE	2,916 FTE



Aquaculture impacts

Harvest area closures

- Mussels and oysters – Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, KI
- No sale for human consumption
- Restricted sales/movements
- Infrastructure damage

Stock health

- Mortality, growth, condition (marine and land-based)

Economic and social

- Income loss
- Job losses
- Productivity impacts
- Mental and physical impacts
- Associated businesses and wider community



PIRSA Industry assistance



- **Financial**

- Fee relief – lease and licence and SASQAP
- Free transactional applications



- **Regulatory**

- Relaxing of regulation
- Emergency leases
- Extension on reporting obligations
- Pausing of consultation processes



- **Science**

- R&D Workshop
- Research
- Modelling, monitoring & sampling
- Fishkill investigations



- **Wellbeing**

- Regular contact
- Site visits
- Coordinating support – other agencies, Stay Afloat

Response

\$160 million+ support package - State and Federal Govt



Science and monitoring

Fish assessments
Water testing
Testing lab in SA
Response Plan

Communication

Public forums
Public information campaigns
Promote seafood industry & tourism

Community

Community shellfish reefs
Support recreational fishing
Funding beach cleanups

Industry

Fee relief
Business grants
Resilience grants
Mental health support



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Fish assessments

South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)
Assessments use a range of data sources



Spatial/temporary analysis

- Commercial logbook
- Monthly catch and catch rate
- Compared to pre-bloom reference period (Feb 2022-Feb 2025)
- Voluntary recreational reports



Fishery Independent surveys

- Structured fishing surveys
- Routine fish stock assessment surveys
- Dive surveys egg masses, Abalone
- Recruitment surveys



Fishery Dependent surveys

- Targeted commercial fishing in closed areas



Bycatch / biological

- Analysis of bycatch, eg fishery independent prawn trawl survey for elasmobranchs and southern calamari

Fishery Management Response

Roadmap - Framework provides guidelines for pragmatic and repeatable decision-making

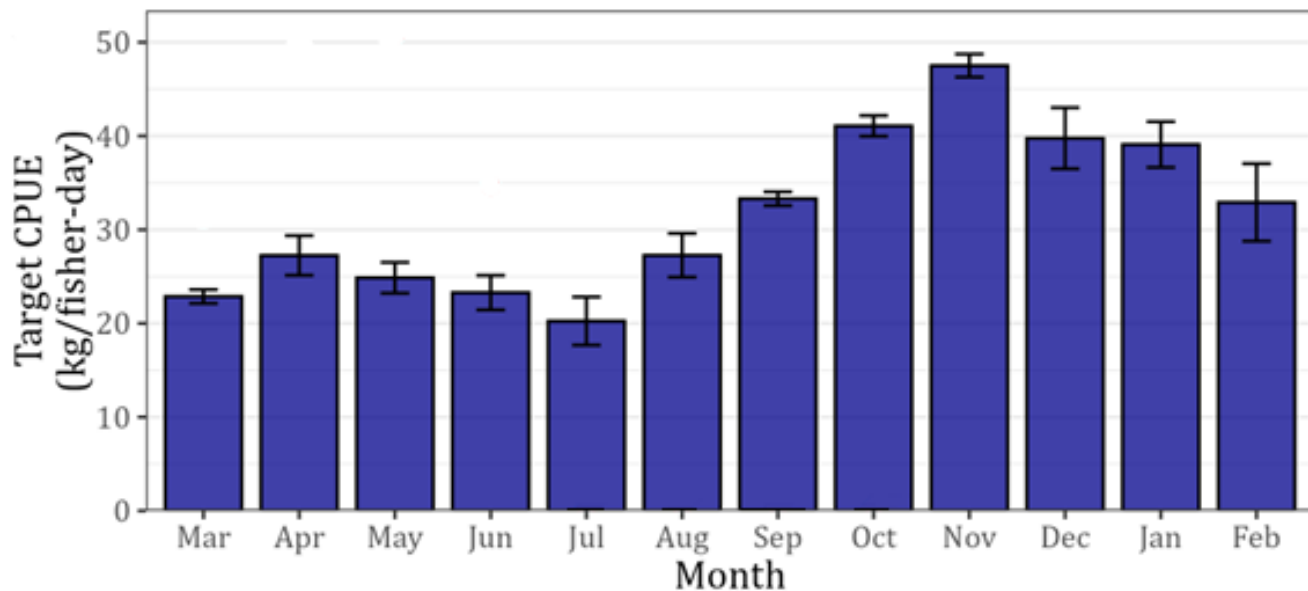
- Can be applied across areas and species (crustaceans, molluscs, fish)
- Sets out performance indicators for fishery or fish stock
- Provides reference levels where:
 - fishing restrictions may be considered; or
 - fishing may recommence
- Temporary management arrangements that may be considered when reference levels are reached/breached



Stock Performance

Pre-Algal Bloom levels

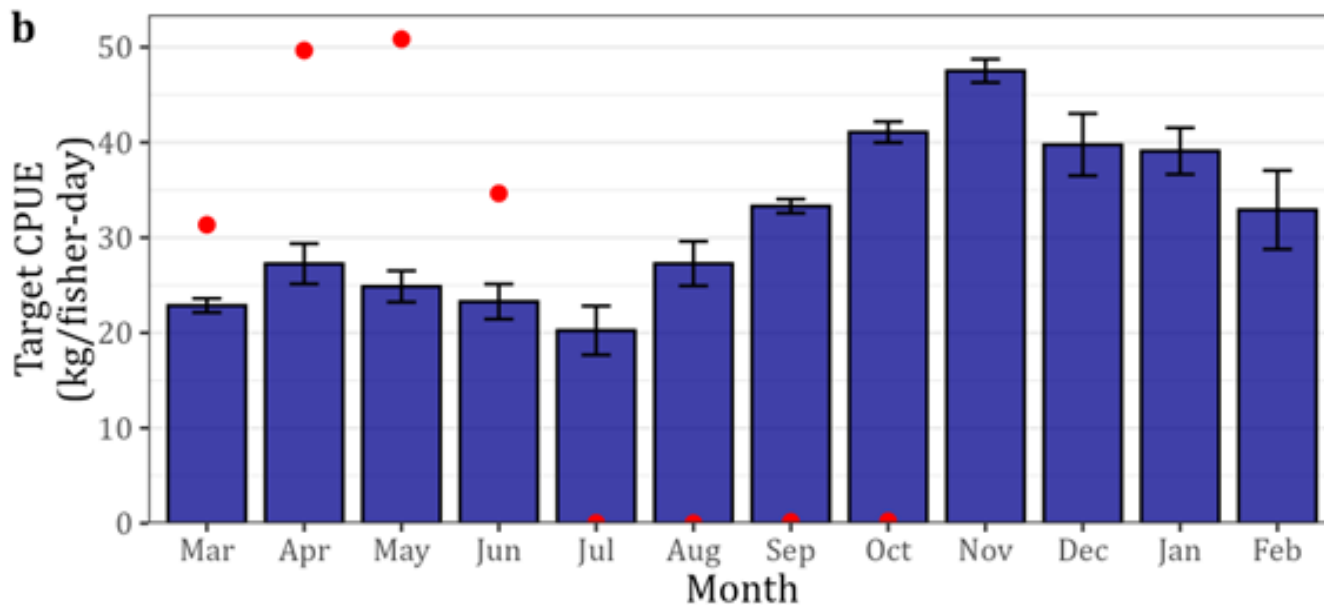
- Eg average catch rate / month from 2022-2025



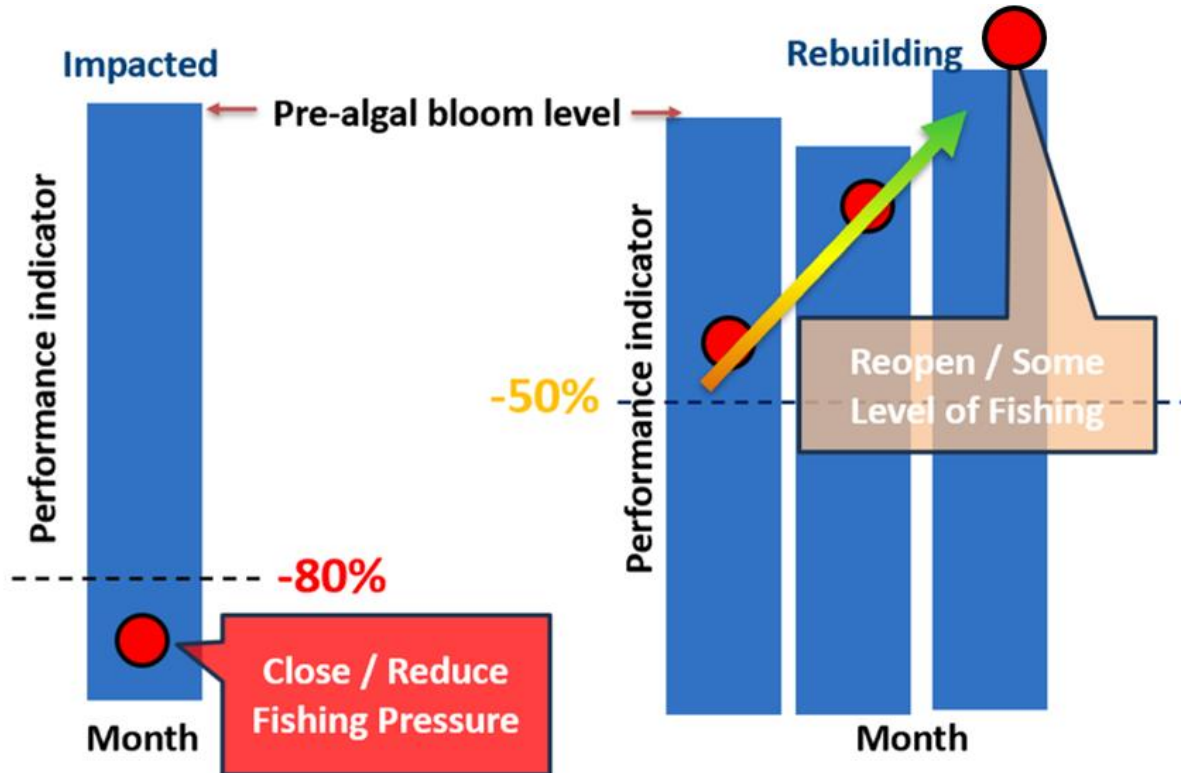
Stock Performance

2025-26 levels

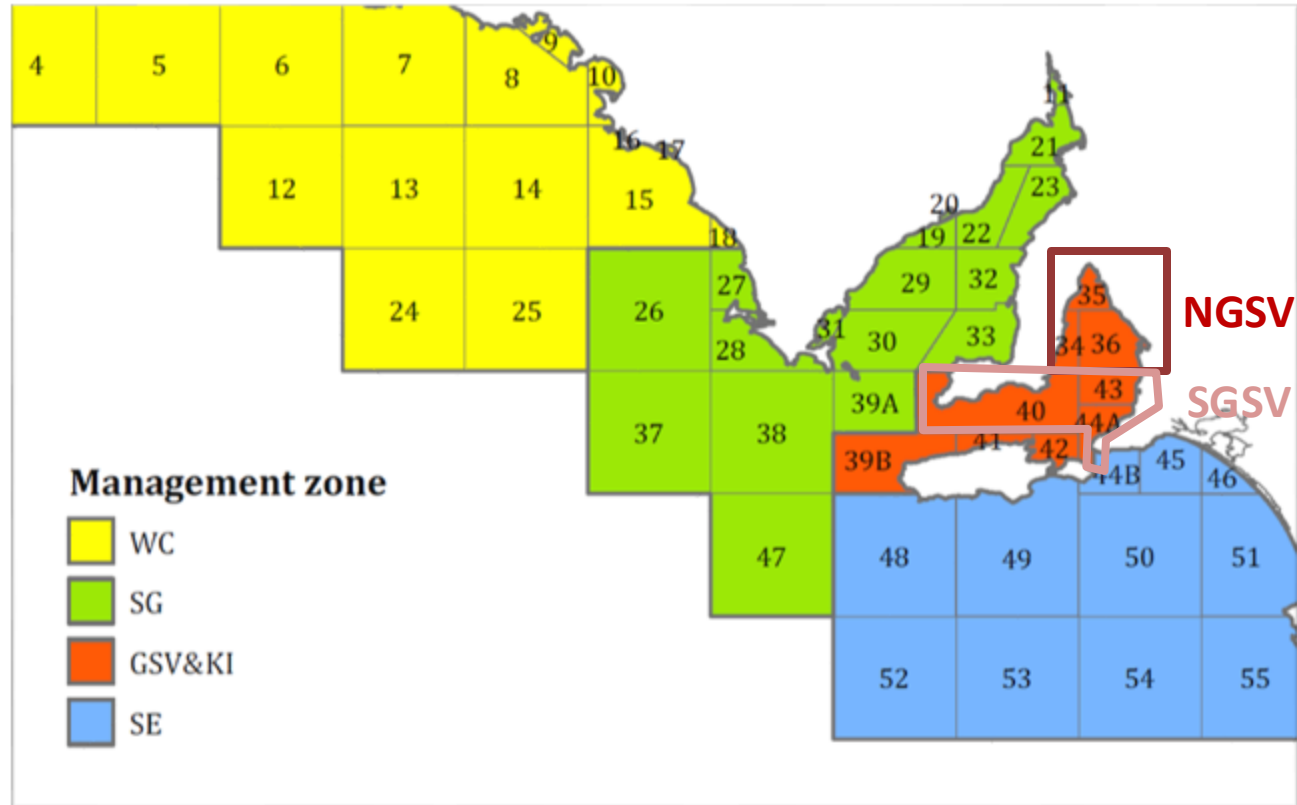
- Eg 2025-26 average catch rate indicated by “ ● ”



Decision Rules



Application



Outcomes - Management

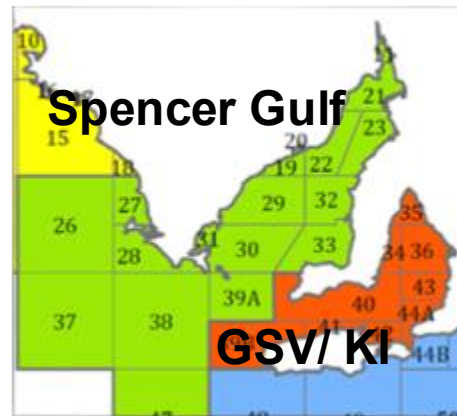
Gulf St Vincent/KI

- Commercial Marine Scalefish and Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fisheries closed
- 50% recreational limits for most species
- Closure for recreational take of Calamari and Garfish
- King George Whiting spawning spatial closure

Spencer Gulf

- Closure for take of Calamari all sectors
- King George Whiting spawning spatial closure

Snapper closure extended



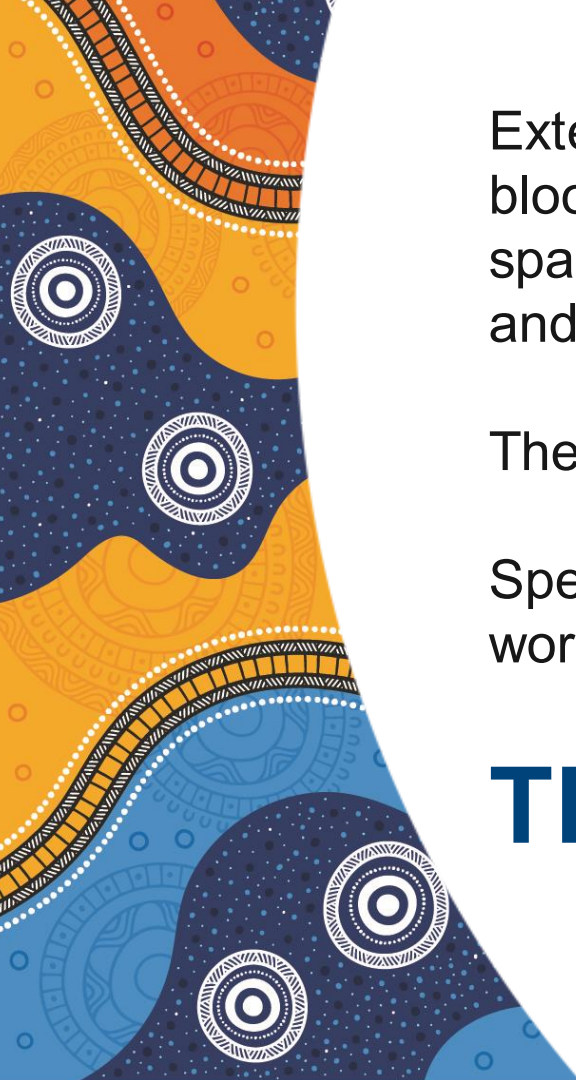
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Next steps

- Continued monitoring
- Fish assessment reports published quarterly
- Snapper assessments
- Applying decision-making framework
- Support impacted industries where possible
- Installing two artificial recreational fishing reefs
- Reservoirs & freshwater fish stocking plan
- Bioeconomic assessment of impacted fisheries





Extensive work has been carried out during this algal bloom through the collective efforts of stakeholders spanning industry, government, community groups, and interested individuals.

The efforts of all involved is highly valued.

Special acknowledgement to SARDI for their tireless work.

Thank you