

Chair's Report

Allocation Review Committee

Meeting #4 – 8 January 2026

The Allocation Review Committee (ARC) held a meeting on 8 January 2026 to conduct a full assessment of the commercial-only allocation of southern calamari.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to undertake a full, Stage 2, assessment of the state-wide commercial-only allocation of southern calamari in 2022/23. This review occurred following a recommendation by the Allocation Working Group (AWG) following an apparent Trigger breach by the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery (SGPF) in 2022/23. Consistent with the 2011 Department of Primary Industries Allocation Policy the allocation was assessed against Recommended Biological Catch (RBC) as a proxy for sustainable yield. For this assessment the breach was evaluated using Recommended Biological Commercial Catch (RBCC) derived using the harvest control rule (HCR) method, as developed by the South Australian Research and Development Institute.

The ARC acknowledged that there had been a persistent breach by the SGPF of catch of southern calamari, as a proportion of the commercial sector RBCC-HCR.

The ARC evaluated options for addressing these persistent breaches of southern calamari allocation by the SGPF, and the merit of each option including 1) no action, 2) management to within current allocation, or 3) reallocation of shares.

An assessment report has been prepared detailing the process, outcomes and recommendations.

The **ARC recommendation** is to adjust commercial-sector-only southern calamari allocations to reflect recent catch trends for the SGPF post-2015.

In adjusting allocations, it is noted the processes described in the PIRSA Allocation Policy should be followed.

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Dr Kate Brooks

Independent Chair of the Allocation Review Committee

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