Allocation Review Committee

Full assessment of the commercial only allocation of southern calamari

The Allocation Review Committee (ARC) held a formal meeting on 8 January 2026 to conduct a full assessment of the commercial-only allocation of southern calamari, and recommend one of the following:

1. No action required; or
2. proceed to adjust shares; or
3. manage each relevant sector(s) to return to within their original allocated shares.

In undertaking a Stage 2, full, allocation assessments, the ARC noted their recommendation for allocation assessments be based on a sector's proportional share of the recommended biological catch (RBC), as a proxy for sustainable yield (see Chair's Assessment Outcomes Report – commercial only allocation of Southern Calamari).

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 method used in this assessment included Recommended Biological Commercial Catch (RBCC) derived using the harvest control rule (HCR) as developed by the South Australian Research and Development Institute.

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

Committee members systematically 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 within current allocations, and 3) reallocation of shares.

After significant deliberation of the potential Social, Economic, and Environmental impacts of each option, the ARC concluded that:

1. SGPF cannot be managed back to within allocation without negatively impacting the prawn catch as southern calamari is difficult to avoid when prawn trawling given the high overlap in species distributions and the current lack of any potential gear-based technology solution.

2. The allocation of shares should reflect recent catch trends for the SGPF post-2015, which more accurately represents contemporary catch attributed to reduced discarding and improved reporting of landed catch rather than an increase in actual catch levels.

3. That if the Minister decides to adjust the shares, the method for adjusting shares should be consistent with the PIRSA Allocation Policy.

4. Based on the updated RBC assessment method, the defined allocation for SGPF's catch of southern calamari has been breached since 2021/22 and therefore reallocation may reduce the risk of further breaches in the future.

Chair's Assessment Outcomes Report

The **ARC recommended** adjusting the 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