

Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee

Out of Session (OOS) Meeting – 4 February 2026

The Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MSFMAC) held an OOS meeting on 4 February 2026 via online video conference call. The meeting considered and endorsed the draft Snapper Rebuilding Plan and draft Implementation Plan for the Marine Scalefish Fishery Harvest Strategy Framework. An Algal Bloom Fisheries Research Program update was discussed.

Rebuilding Plan for Snapper stocks in South Australia

The MSFMAC considered the draft *Rebuilding Plan for Snapper (Chrysophrys auratus) stocks in South Australia* incorporating updates proposed at the MSFMAC meeting on 27 November 2025 and integration of SARDI Advice on proposed spatial closures.

The MSFMAC recommended that the proposed spatial closures to protect aggregating Snapper be a minimum of 1 kilometre and implemented as year-round closures. The MSFMAC requested PIRSA seek further advice from SARDI on the precise locations based on available data to ensure that the proposed spatial closures cover the appropriate structures where Snapper aggregate and the appropriate closure shapes. The MSFMAC requested that PIRSA also seek SARDI input on relative impacts and benefit of continuing prawn survey locations within spatial closure sites should they overlap. Most members were not supportive of continuing trawl surveys within spatial closures given the potential impact on aggregating Snapper.

The MSFMAC supported the proposed mandatory reporting of retained and non-retained Snapper for all sectors. For the recreational sector, there was not a consensus on whether mandatory reporting of non-retained Snapper should apply when the rebuilding plan is adopted or once an area closed to snapper fishing is reopened.

A communication strategy for the plan should be developed including information such as the importance of best practice handling of Snapper to reduce impacts of barotrauma and the importance of catch reporting to understand fishing mortality and contribute to monitoring stock recovery.

Subject to considering and incorporating the additional information requested from SARDI, the MSFMAC recommended that the *Rebuilding Plan for Snapper (Chrysophrys auratus) stocks in South Australia* be endorsed and provided to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Implementation Plan for the Marine Scalefish Fishery Harvest Strategy

The MSFMAC considered the draft *Implementation Plan for the Marine Scalefish Fishery Harvest Strategy* (IP) noting updates had been applied to be consistent with the wording in the final Management

Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery 2025, and to incorporate the latest Calamari assessment approach. After consideration of MSFMAC feedback, the draft IP had been updated to include information about the stock assessment schedule, noting that the MSFMAC would potentially consider the IP on an annual basis. The MSFMAC recommended that the *Implementation Plan for the Marine Scalefish Fishery Harvest Strategy* be endorsed by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Algal Bloom

SARDI provided an update on the Algal Bloom Fish Stock Assessment Program and the *Algal Bloom Fishery Management Roadmap 2025* (the Roadmap), released December 2025. The MSFMAC expressed appreciation for the update and acknowledged the significant work underway to understand and manage the algal bloom impacts on stocks. The MSFMAC noted that consideration of Southern Calamari stocks in SGFZ was continuing including management arrangements. The MSFMAC highlighted that there may be a need to further consider the arrangements in place for Southern Calamari in the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone in light of the updated assessment information.

The MSFMAC discussed the decision framework in the Algal Bloom Fishery Management Roadmap. There was concerned that the framework appears less precautionary than the MSF Management Plan and does not consider the status of stocks prior to the algal bloom. The MSFMAC noted there was an opportunity to better use the expertise of the SSC and MSFMAC to strengthen the framework and management decisions. The MSFMAC recommended that the Science Sub-Committee hold a meeting to provide advice on application of the harvest strategy and consideration of the rapid assessment data in advising on management arrangements relating to TACC setting.

Other Business

The MSFMAC noted correspondence regarding membership of the MSFMAC Science Sub-Committee would be considered by email out of session due to time constraints.

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

Dr Ilona Stobutzki

Chair of the Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee