Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Small Pelagic Fishery Annual Research Statement 2022/23

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Small Pelagic Fishery Annual Research Statement 2022/23

This Annual Research Statement was developed by AFMA, in consultation with the Small Pelagic Fishery Resource Assessment Group (SPFRAG) and South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC). It identifies areas of high priority research for both AFMA and potential FRDC funding in 2022/23 and will be presented to the AFMA Research Committee (ARC) for consideration as part of the 2022/23 funding round.

AFMA funding in 2022/23 (AFMA Research Committee (ARC))

Title	Objectives and component tasks	Evaluation		
		Total cost (approx. only)	Priority/rank	Feasibility
Currently funded projects				
Newly identified research priorities for 2022/23				
Monitoring & assessment of SPF quota species under the SPF Harvest Strategy	1. Conduct annual monitoring and assessment of key target species (requirement of harvest strategy); 2. Identify potential stock status indicators and evaluate the costs/benefits of a range of sampling protocols; 3. Evaluate catch, effort, size and age data for evidence of localised depletion of target species (requirement of harvest strategy);	2022-23 ~$100,000 2023-24 ~$100,000 2024-25 ~$100,000	Essential	High

	Provide the RAG with information needed to establish a reliable and cost effective monitoring and assessment program for the SPF.			
Annual monitoring, reporting and assessment of marine mammal interactions, including effectiveness of mitigation measures.	When there is fishing effort in the SPF, there is a need to ensure that marine mammal bycatch data are collected and assessed. This should include: 1) Synthesis of existing information on marine mammal interactions in the SPF to examine how operational and environmental factors influence interaction rates. 2) Development of appropriate reporting protocols for marine mammal interactions, including key operational and environmental factors, for observers and industry to support on-going assessment and reporting of interactions. 3) Analysis and comparison between different data sources (i.e. EM, observer data and logbook data) to determine congruence of multiple monitoring strategies. These analyses are intended to provide the basis for recommended modifications to fishing practices and the design or	$40,000	High	High

	improvement of Marine Mammal mitigation devices.			
Collection of Adult Samples for Blue Mackerel east	SPFRAG recommended collecting large, spawning fish between now and the next DEPM survey in 2024 to inform estimates of spawning fraction and other parameters used in the calculation to estimate spawning biomass. The major determinant of this in the past has been the ability to successfully collect adult samples of blue mackerel in the Eastern Zone using Midwater Trawl fishing gear. An alternative approach to collect samples for this stock may be required.	Medium	High	High
Daily Egg Production Method Surveys (DEPM) (Jack Mackerel West)	The objective of these surveys is to estimate the spawning biomass of SPF stocks to underpin the determination of Recommended Biological Catches using the agreed SPF Harvest Strategy. Stocks that are of commercial value or those that were surveyed more than five years ago, should be prioritised for surveying.	~$500,000	High (if effort changes the priority increases)	High

FRDC funding in 2022/23 (Commonwealth Research Advisory Committee (ComRAC))

Title	Objectives and component tasks	Evaluation

		Total cost (approx. only)	Priority/rank	Feasibility
Currently funded projects				
Newly identified research priorities for 2022/23				

Evaluation key:

Cost	Priority categories	Feasibility categories
High: >$200,000	Essential	High
Medium: $100,000 - $200,000	High	Medium
Low: <$100,000	Medium	Low
	Low	

Key Documents

- Framework for delivering cost effective research for AFMA
- RAG gap identification form
- AFMA research cycle and timetable
- FRDC research cycle and timetable