



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

# Small Pelagic Fishery Resource Assessment Group/(SPFRAG) Meeting 09

## Meeting minutes

17 December 2024

AFMA Offices/Microsoft Teams

Attendees		Membership	
Max Kitchell		Chair	
Tim Ward		Scientific Member	
Andrew Penney		Scientific Member	
Simon Boag		Industry Member	
Gerry Geen		Industry Member	
Caleb Gardner		Economic Member	
Danielle Ghosn		Recreational Member	
Anissa Lawrence		Conservation Member	
Yvette Lamont		AFMA Member	
Alannah Wood		Executive Officer	
Dan Corrie		AFMA presenter (Climate Change update)	
Steph Brodie		CSIRO presenter (Climate Change report)	
Nicolas Blay		Invited Participant	
Tony Muollo		SPF Concession holder Observer	
Sally Weekes		AFMA	
Steve Hall		AFMA	
John Stewart		State Observer (NSW)	
Andrew Warmbrunn/Rosie		State Observer (Tas)	
Kurt Davis		ABARES Observer	
Day 01			
17 December 2024			
Approximate time	Item	Purpose	Lead presenter
09:30 (30 min)	Agenda item 1. Preliminaries		
	1.1 Welcome and apologies	For action	Chair
	1.2 Declaration of interests	For action	Chair

	1.3 Adoption of agenda	For action	Chair
	1.4 Minutes from previous meeting	For noting	Chair
	1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings	For noting	AFMA
10:00 (45 min)	<b>Agenda item 2. Fishery update</b>	For noting	AFMA
<b>10:45 Morning Tea Break (15 mins)</b>			
11:00 (15 mins)	<b>Agenda item 3. Economics of SPF</b>	For noting	Economic member
11:15 (60 mins)	<b>Agenda item 4. Climate Adaption</b>		
	4.1 Climate and Ecosystem Status Report	For discussion	Steph Brodie
	4.2 Climate Risk Framework: Trial application in Commonwealth Fisheries	For discussion	Dan Corrie
12:15 (45 mins)	<b>Agenda item 5. SPF Harvest Strategy Review</b> 7.1 Final presentation	For Noting/approval	AFMA/IMAS
<b>13:00 Lunch Break (30 mins)</b>			
13:30 (60 min)	<b>Agenda item 6. Annual Fishery Assessment and Jack Mackerel outcomes</b>	For discussion	Tim Ward

14:30 (45 min)	<b>Agenda item 7. RBC advice for all SPF quota species for the 2025-26 fishing season</b>	For Advice	AFMA
<b>15.15 Afternoon Tea Break (15 mins)</b>			
15:30 (30 mins)	<b>Agenda Item 8. Research priorities</b>	For advice	AFMA
16:00 (15 mins)	<b>Agenda item 9. Other Business</b>	For Noting	Chair
16:15	<b>Close</b>		Chair

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:32am AEDT.

## Agenda item 1. Preliminaries

### 1.1 Welcome and apologise

1. The Chair welcomed members and observers and opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.
2. Membership

<i>SPF RAG Members</i>	
Max Kitchell	Chair
Tim Ward	Scientific member
Andrew Penney	Scientific member
Simon Boag	Industry member
Gerry Geen	Industry member
Caleb Gardner	Invited Participant (previous Economic Member)
Anissa Lawrence	Conservation member
Danielle Ghosn	Recreational fishing member
Steve Hall	AFMA member
Yvette Lamont	Executive officer

Invited Participants	
Matt Koopman	Fishwell Consulting (Marine Mammal Project)
Observers	
Sally Weekes	AFMA Observer
John Stewart	State Observer (NSW)
Andrew Warmbrunn	State Observer (Tas)
Rocio Noriega	ABARES Observer
Kurt Davis	ABARES Observer
Nicholas Blay	State Observer (Tas)
Rosie Katunar	State Observer (Tas)

## 1.2 Declarations of interest

3. RAG members followed the conflict of interest declarations as outlined for [Resource Assessment Groups - Fisheries Administration Paper 12](#). Members and participants reviewed and updated the Declarations of Interest included at [Attachment A](#).
4. Regarding potential conflicts with agenda items, the following interests were declared:
  - Mr Simon Boag declared an interest in Agenda items 6 (Fishery assessment) and 7 (RBC advice)
  - A/Prof Tim Ward declared an interest in Agenda item 8 (SPF Annual Research Priorities).
  - Prof Caleb Gardner declared an interest in Agenda item 8 (SPF Annual Research Priorities)
  - Mr Tony Mullo declared an interest in Agenda items 6 (Fishery assessment) and 7 (RBC advice)
5. The RAG agreed that Mr Boag and Mr Mullo should participate in the discussion for agenda items 4 and 5, however should not take part in the formation of any recommendations for agenda item 5.
6. The RAG agreed that A/Prof Tim Ward and Prof Caleb Gardner should participate in the discussion for agenda item 8, however should not take part in the formation of any recommendations.

## 1.3 Adoption of agenda

7. An alternate agenda was suggested to ensure that the crucial agenda items were seen to in the limited time. It was noted that the climate change agenda item should be considered before the TAC.
8. The agenda order was amended to the following;
  - Item 4.1 Climate and Ecosystem Status Report
  - Item 5: SPF Harvest Strategy Review
  - Item 6: Annual Fishery Assessment and Jack Mackerel outcomes
  - Item 7: RBC advice for all SPF quota species for the 2025-26 fishing season

- Item 8: Research priorities
- Item 4.2: climate change framework
- Item 2: Fishery update
- Item 3: Economics of the SPF

9. The RAG agreed to adopt changes to the agenda.

#### **1.4 Minutes of previous meeting**

10. The RAG noted that the minutes of SPFRAG 8 which were circulated to members be adopted and made available on the [AFMA website](#).

#### **1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings**

11. The RAG noted the action items from previous meetings and the updates provided by the AFMA member.

12. There will be some comments from the ARC on the research project that will be distributed. The action is completed.

13. Actions arising from this meeting (SPFRAG 08) can be found at [Attachment B](#).

### **Agenda item 2 – Fishery Update**

14. AFMA introduced the agenda item and provided an update to the RAG and opened it to industry and recreation for an update.

- The ERA was presented to SEMAC and was approved with some minor caveats to be included in addition to the RAG's suggestions.
- There will be a MSC audit in 2025 which is another motivator for the updated harvest strategy to be finalised.

15. The chair requested updates from other RAG members and other jurisdictions.

16. Other jurisdictions

- The representative from Tasmania advised that the guidelines for the new sardine fishery have been published and consultation will begin in early 2025. These guidelines outline principles and challenges for the fishery detailing the economics, ecosystem/sustainability aspects and management arrangements.
- The representative from NSW advised there is quota management for state waters including Sardine, Blue mackerel and Yellowtail scad. Much of the small pelagic catch is used for human consumption, with a small portion used for bait, Industry commented that Blue mackerel currently seems to be caught year-round rather than seasonally.

### **Agenda item 3 – Economics of SPF**

17. The Chair introduced the agenda item, asking the RAG and attendees to note the economic update paper.

### **Agenda item 4 – Climate change adaptation**

18. AFMA introduced the agenda item, asking the RAG and attendees to note the program of work being undertaken by AFMA to ensure that climate impacts are routinely incorporated into the management

of Commonwealth fisheries, discuss the draft 'Climate and Ecosystem Status Report', and provide feedback regarding the usefulness of the report and what indicators might be important for the SPF.

19. Presentation was given by Steph Brodie (CSIRO) which included a climate science summary and preliminary projections for the SPF, and the climate ecosystem status report. The RAG noted the following:

- Australian waters have warmed significantly over time. The last decade has been ~0.5°C warmer than the 1960-1990 average, with South-east Australia having warmed more rapidly than other regions.
- Sea surface temperatures indicated moderate-severe marine heatwaves off east-Tasmania in summer. Cool water in the GAB and strong Bonney Upwelling occurred throughout summer which coincides with high chlorophyll-a and cool waters
- Shelf bottom temperature anomaly indicates monthly bottom temperature anomalies on the shelf (<500) (C°)<sup>2</sup> relative to 1993-2016. East coast and Bass Strait had anomalously warm temperatures with the GAB and Bonney coast recording very cool temperatures during the summer.
- The national reference stations show that diatoms which form part of the base of the food-web for many fished species, indicates that the ratio of diatoms has increased off Tasmania, but has been relative stable in New South Wales and South Australia.
- Outlook prediction models forecast neutral conditions until February 2025, while other models forecast La Nina forming from October (2024/25 summer). La Nina conditions can strengthen the Leeuwin current leading to warmer waters in the GAB, with the forecast for sea surface temperature predicting significantly high temperatures in the GAB but less severe off the east coast of Tasmania.
- Forecast of sea surface temperatures anomalies indicate warmer conditions for most of southern Australia.

#### Discussion

- Mr Mullo noted that the behaviour of fish has changed with Blue mackerel spawning earlier and moving south following the optimal water temperature, with a record number of fish being caught with no change in effort.
- It was discussed whether a specific indicator could be used to predict fish patterns, and how temperature may be used to improve models although different temperatures are preferred by certain species.

20. The chair thanked Steph for the presentation and introduced Dan Corrie to present the climate risk framework (CRF):

- AFMA's Climate Adaptation Program is implementing a range of measures to incorporate climate change information and risks into decision making frameworks, to ensure that management of Commonwealth fisheries is adaptive to the impacts of climate change.
- This includes development of the Climate Risk Framework, available on AFMA's website - <https://www.afma.gov.au/climate-change>.

- AFMA established a Working Group to support the trial implementation of the CRF and provide strategic advice to the AFMA Commission and AFMA management on the development, coordination and implementation of the CRF across Commonwealth fisheries.
21. The RAG supported ongoing development of the framework acknowledging that the SPF fishery already has in place adaptive and responsive management strategies including regular surveys of SPF quota species.

## Agenda item 5 – SPF Harvest Strategy Review

22. AFMA introduced the agenda item, seeking endorsement from the RAG on the harvest strategy review that includes changes to the exploitation rates for three of the quota species.
- In June the RAG endorsed the harvest control rules which have been incorporated into the harvest strategy A copy of this updated document was circulated prior to the meeting and AFMA sought the RAG's to endorsement for the final version which would then go to SEMAC and the Commission.
  - The RAG agreed to the revised HS, noting the additional inclusion of a sentence to make it clear that where more than one biomass estimate is available, the highest robust estimate will be used as the proxy for  $B_0$  (Section 6.2, p8):  
*In applying the HCRs, the highest robust estimate of spawning biomass available for each stock is used as the proxy for  $B_0$  against which other estimates of spawning biomass are compared.*
  - SPFRAG reiterated that the HS is precautionary and robust to dealing with the impact of climate changes.
  - The RAG recommended that the new exploitation rates should be applied to all stocks for the 2025-26 fishing season.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** The proposed exploitation rates be adopted and come into effect when calculating the recommended biological catch (RBC) for the 2025-26 fishing season.

## Agenda item 6 – Annual fishery assessment

23. Assoc. Prof. Tim Ward presented the Annual Fishery Assessment including catch and effort data for SPF quota species and results of the recent DEPM surveys for Jack Mackerel east and west.
24. Members noted/discussed the following:
- An explanation of the survey process was provided including the plankton survey and how mean daily egg production (DEPM) is calculated. The methodology used has been refined over time through a number of research projects and was adapted to fit the Jack Mackerel survey.
  - Peak spawning for the eastern stock was thought to take place mid-January however, the Jack Mackerel survey conducted in early 2024 resulted in only 385 eggs being collected. In addition, the number of spawning fish collected was so low it was not measurable. Consequently, the model cannot, with any level of confidence, predict the mean annual egg production and calculate a robust biomass estimate. Due to a possible change in the timing of the peak spawning period, future surveys will require additional sampling to identify when fish are spawning and the timing conducting the survey.



- The RAG agreed that the biomass estimate was not robust enough to use for management advice and queried if there was another measure that could be used to estimate biomass for this year, however, Dr Tim Ward confirmed there is not currently another reliable measure to be used with the information available.
- Given the interest of the commercial sector in maintain the stock at Tier 1, the RAG discussed as the potential solution to delay the Redbait survey scheduled for 2025-26 and undertake another Jack Mackerel east survey. The RAG discussed the need for an additional component to the Jack Mackerel east survey to ensure it was conducted during the peak spawning period noting it would likely require both fishery-dependant and independent sampling.
- Given the urgency of beginning the project the RAG discussed whether to recommend the current provider be contracted however, as a matter of transparency the RAG agreed it should be circulated to all potential research providers.

#### Jack Mackerel West

- A DEPM survey funded by FRDC and conducted by IMAS for other species was used opportunistically to provide an updated biomass estimate for the eastern part of the western Jack Mackerel stock. This survey resulted in a similar egg production to that of the 2016 survey however, there was a limited number of adults caught that did add some uncertainty to the spawning biomass estimate.
- The RAG discussed the uncertainty in the biomass estimate and agreed that while there was some uncertainty given limited adults samples, the estimate was suitably conservative and should be used for this year's RBC calculations.

#### Annual Fishery assessment

- In the most recent season, catch was almost entirely taken by trawl, however the catch per unit of effort (CPUE) remained stable with the highest catch rates reported around the season turnover in April and May.
- Spatial distribution of effort has expanded over the last ten fishing seasons; however fishing effort is predominately concentrated off the east coast of NSW.
- The age structure for Jack mackerel east remains mostly unchanged with the majority of mature fish sampled predicted to be approximately four years of age.
- Blue mackerel east had its highest catch on record for the 2023-24, season with only a small increase in CPUE. There was no evidence of any localised depletion for this species.
- Redbait east highest catch was in the 2019-20 fishing season with the CPUE remaining stable. High catch has been reported however this is sporadic with nothing to indicate a decline of this species which is mainly caught incidentally and not as a targeted species. The size at maturity is approximately 150mm with the average 190mm which has remained stable over time.
- The Commonwealth Sardine fishery has a small purse seine sector with the majority of catch caught in the NSW Ocean haul fishery (473tonnes for last season).
- Jack mackerel west had only 19 tonnes of reported catch for the 2023-24 fishing season with Industry commenting on the difficulty of targeting commercially viable catch in the west, therefore fishing is limited.

- Blue mackerel west had 25 tonnes of reported catch for the 2023-24 fishing season with a large proportion of the fishing area unsurveyed. This species is thought to spawn at the same time as sardine.
- Redbait west catch was 10 tonnes for the 2023-24 fishing season with a greater need to understand distribution and abundance west of the area previously surveyed.

## Agenda item 7 – Recommended Biological Catch (RBC) advice for SPF quota species

25. The Chair introduced the agenda item seeking RBC advice for all SPF quota species.

26. The RAG noted:

- A DEPM survey was undertaken for Jack mackerel east and the eastern part of the western stock in January 2024, and the RAG was asked to provide advice on the RBC for the 2025-26 season based on these outcomes.
- The RAG considered that the spawning period for the western stock was appropriately captured, and the new biomass estimate considered conservative. Given that the western stock is fished sporadically it was agreed there would be no material effect if the RBC for this stock was increased.
- Regarding the Jack mackerel (East) biomass survey result, the RAG noted that it considers the uncertain result as a consequence of poor timing of the survey rather than an indication that there is problem with the stock. Further, the RAG noted that a new DEPM survey was being scheduled as a matter of priority for 2025-26 which would mean a new biomass estimate would be available in two years' time.
- Due to the unexpected result, the RAG considered an interim exploitation rate could be considered until a new survey was completed rather than dropping this species directly down to Tier 2 for the 2025-26 season noting that catches of up to 13 000 tonnes would be sustainable The RAG discussed ways of achieving this:
  - Use of the meta rule in the SPF Harvest Strategy could be a way to achieve an interim rate rather than a drop to Tier 2.
  - An exploitation rate between Tiers one and two could be an interim approach to address the lack of biomass estimate and reduce the impact of a TAC reduction on operators.
- Sardine and Blue mackerel East remain at Tier 1 for the fifth year, with the results of a DEPM to be considered by the RAG in 2025.
- Subject to any issues being identified by the annual fishery assessment, all other SPF stocks are expected to remain at the same Tier level as 2024-25.

27. Mr Boag and Mr Mullo, Industry Members, left the room for the formulation of the RBC advice.

28. The Chair asked the RAG to consider the recommended RBCs for SPF quota species outlined in Table 1

**Table 1.** RBC recommendations for each of the seven SPF stocks for the 2025-26 fishing season.

Species	Spawning Biomass (tonnes)	Exploitation rate (%)	RBC (tonnes)
Australian sardine ( <i>Sardinops sagax</i> )	42,724	20%	8,545

Blue mackerel east ( <i>Scomber australasicus</i> )	80,000	20%	16,000
Blue mackerel west ( <i>Scomber australasicus</i> )	86,500	5%	4325
Jack mackerel east ( <i>Trachurus declivis</i> , <i>T. murphyi</i> )	156,292	7%	10,940 plus a 20% undercatch allowance
Jack mackerel west ( <i>Trachurus declivis</i> , <i>T. murphyi</i> )	60,661 (new biomass estimate)	14%	8,493
Redbait east ( <i>Emmelichthys nitidus</i> )	54,000	12%	6,480
Redbait west ( <i>Emmelichthys nitidus</i> )	66,787	6%	4,007

- The SPF Harvest Strategy meta rule - *If SEMAC or the AFMA Commission consider there is sound scientific evidence that the application of the SPF Harvest Strategy Framework does not support the objectives of the HSP, Harvest Strategy or other policies or legislation relevant to the fishery (e.g. Bycatch Policy, EPBC Act), SPF RAG may be asked to provide additional advice about altering catch limits and other controls that may be necessary to support the relevant management objectives. This may include additional information from the Annual Fishery Assessment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 and a review of available catch and effort data for Tier 3.*

29. The economic member pointed out that where it is sustainable to do so, there is a greater economic benefit to allow for more catch as reducing the catch equates to a large risk for business and a higher catch overall has greater economic benefit to Australia.
30. Reducing the exploitation rate would be the most precautionary path given that the reported catch of Jack mackerel east has been under caught for the past 3 years, last year catching 53% of the TAC.
31. A proposal was put forward to increase the overcatch or undercatch percentage from 10% to 20% to allowed for increased catch in the 2025-26 season to alleviate the pressure on industry, rather than changing the exploitation rate.
32. AFMA noted that the under/over percentages are determined at the start of the fishing season therefore a Commission decision would be required prior to the start of the next season to allow for undercatch (or overcatch) from the current season to be taken in the 2025-26 season. to the RAG noted that catches up to approximately 13,000 tonnes could be caught using this approach which would be sustainable and should be enough to alleviate pressure on industry considering recent catches.
33. After much discussion, the RAG agreed that the harvest strategy should be applied to Jack mackerel east, placing the stock in Tier 2 at the revised exploitation rate of 7% (agreed earlier), with the provision to amend the undercatch from 10% to 20% to partially offset the decrease in RBC for the 2025-25 season, noting that catches up to 13 000 tonnes would be sustainable.
34. SPFRAG considered climate change impacts discussed at agenda item 4, noting it is predicted that increased environmental variability due to climate change will increase variability in the SPF. The RAG considered that the annual RBC/TAC setting process enables AFMA to respond to any potential changes

in the fishery and that the recommended RBCs are sufficiently precautionary to account for any potential risks currently posed by climate change.

35. The RAG supported the recommended RBCs for SPF quota species for the 2025-26 fishing season with caveats to Jack mackerel east.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** The SPFRAG supported Jack mackerel east dropping to Tier two, as per the harvest strategy, with the provision to amend under catch from 10 to 20% to partially offset the decrease in RBC for the 2025-26 season noting that catches up to 13 000 t would be sustainable.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** The SPFRAG supported the recommended RBCs for SPF quota species for the 2024-25 fishing season as outlined in Table 1.

## Agenda item 8 – SPF Annual research priorities

36. AFMA introduced the agenda item, seeking advice from the RAG on annual research priorities, including providing feedback on:

- the draft 2024-25 Annual Research Statement;
- research proposals received for consideration by the ARC for funding in 2024-25;
- research project priorities for 2025-26; and

37. Research priorities

- The MEY project has been presented to the ARC who have provided feedback on the scope, these comments will be reviewed, the scope updated and submitted to FRDC for potential funding.

## Agenda item 9 – Other business

38. No other business was raised.

## Close of meeting

39. The Chair thanked attendees for their contribution and closed the meeting at 1615 AEDST.

Attachment A - Register of interest

**Table 2. Members, invited participants and observers declarations of interests.**

Name	Membership	Declared interests
Max Kitchell	Chair	No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the SPF. Chair of the Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee.
Tim Ward	Scientific Member	<p>Institute Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, Associate Professor, Fisheries Scientist</p> <p>AFMA Small Pelagic Fishery Resource Assessment Group, Scientific Member</p> <p>AFMA Sub-Antarctic Resource Assessment Group, Independent Scientific Member</p> <p>AFMA Great Australian Bight Management Advisory Committee, Conservation Scientist</p> <p>AFMA Research Projects (SPF Monitoring, Blue Mackerel Spawning Fraction, Jack Mackerel DEPM), Principal Investigator</p> <p>Natural Environment and Resources, Tasmania (Developmental Tasmanian Sardine Fishery), Scientific Advisor, Principal Investigator</p> <p>South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee, Independent Conservation Scientist, Member</p> <p>Updated via email 24 February 2025.</p>
Andrew Penney	Scientific Member	Director of Pisces Australis (Pty) Ltd which has a potential interest in research in relation to the SPF.
Simon Boag	Industry Member	<p>Industry member on SERAG.</p> <p>Executive Officers to SETFIA, SSIA and SPFIA.</p> <p>SETFIA and SSIA receives funding from AFMA to complete projects under co-management agreements.</p> <p>Undertakes contracts as an independent consultant.</p>
Gerry Geen	Industry Member	No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the SPF
Caleb Gardner	Economic Member	No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the SPF. Employee of Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), which conducts research on a range of fisheries issues including at times the SPF
Danielle Ghosn	Recreational/Charter Fishing Member	Sole trader under Ghosn Consulting Services with ongoing funding from the NSW Recreational Saltwater Fishing Trust, NSW Game Fishing Association, Game Fishing Association of Australia and Australian Fishing Museum. Declared 18 Oct 2024.
Anissa Lawrence	Conservation Member	<p>No interest, pecuniary or otherwise in the SPF. Declared via email 7 November 2023.</p> <p>Director of TierraMar Ltd (trading as OceanEarth Foundation) Chair, Ocean Future Fund Inc.</p>

		<p>Independent consultant</p> <p>Undertakes contracts for several Conservation NGOs, government departments, non-government agencies and the private sector on a range of fishery related matters</p> <p>Conservation member on SPFRAG, SEMAC, SHARKRAG, Spencer Gulf Prawn Trawl RSC and the South Australian Rock Lobster MAC</p>
<b>Yvette Lamont</b>	<b>AFMA Member</b>	AFMA – Manager, Small Pelagic, Squid and Scallop Fisheries- no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
<b>Alannah Wood</b>	<b>Executive Officer</b>	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Small Pelagic Fishery. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
<b>Sally Weekes</b>	<b>AFMA</b>	AFMA – Senior Manager, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
<b>Steve Hall</b>	<b>Hall</b>	AFMA – Manager, Small Pelagic, Squid and Scallop Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
<b>Dan Corrie</b>	<b>AFMA</b>	AFMA – Senior Program Manager, Climate Adaptation. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the SPF
<b>Steph Brodie</b>	<b>CSIRO</b>	Employed by the CSIRO and through the organisation either has in the past or in the future, receive funding for research related to the fishery. Completed confidentiality and declared interest document via email 10 December 2024.
<b>Tony Muollo</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<p>Managing director of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Three Friends Fishing Pty Ltd – fishing vessel operating in SPF</li> <li>•Three Friends Quota Holdings – Quota owner in SPF</li> <li>•Muollo Fishing Pty Ltd – Fishing vessel operating in SPF and quota owner</li> </ul> <p>Declared 2 May 2024.</p>
<b>Kurt Davis</b>	<b>Observer</b>	Employed by ABARES. No interest pecuniary or otherwise, in the SPF. completed confidentiality and declared interest document via email 9 December 2024.
<b>Dr John Stewart</b>	<b>State Observer</b>	Employee of the NSW Department of Primary Industries that manages shared stocks in state waters. No interest pecuniary or otherwise in the SPF. Completed confidentiality and declared interest document via email 11 December 2024.
<b>Nicolas Blay</b>	<b>Invited Participant</b>	No interest pecuniary or otherwise in the SPF. Completed confidentiality and declared interest document via email 9 December 2024.
<b>Rosie Kutunar</b>	<b>State Observer</b>	
<b>Andrew Warmbrunn</b>	<b>State Observer</b>	No interest pecuniary or otherwise in the SPF. Completed confidentiality and declared interest document via email 9

		December 2024.
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### Attachment B- Action items

Table 3. New recommendations from SPFRAG09

Agenda Item	No.	Action Item
5	1	The proposed exploitation rates be adopted and come into effect when calculating the recommended biological catch (RBC) for the 2025-26 fishing season.
7	2	The SPFRAG supported Jack mackerel east dropping to Tier two, as per the harvest strategy, with the provision to amend under catch from 10% to 20% to partially offset the decrease in RBC for the 2025-26 season noting that catches up to 13 000 t would be sustainable.
7	3	The SPFRAG supported the recommended RBCs for SPF quota species for the 2024 25 fishing season as outlined in Table 1.