

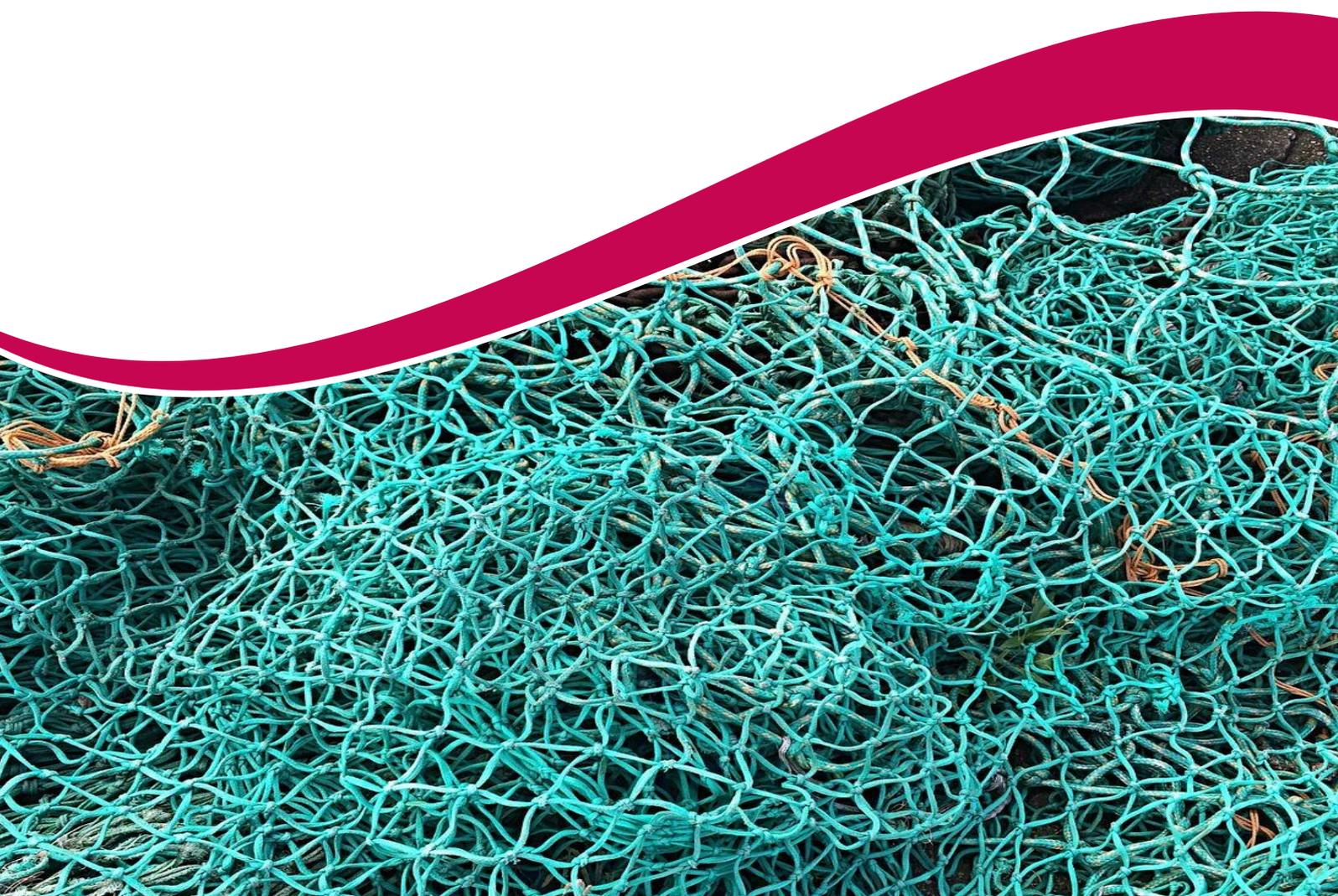


**Australian Government**

**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

## **Small Pelagic Fishery**

**Species Summaries 2026**

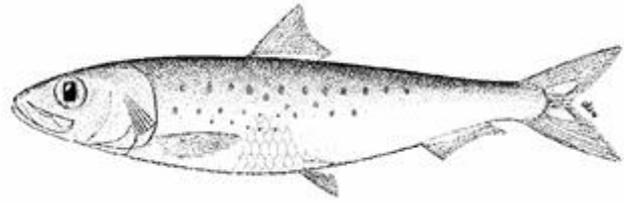


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# Australian sardine

*Sardinops sagax*

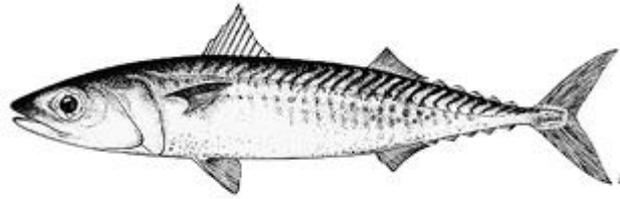


Species Summary			
<b>Stock assessment</b>	A DEPM Survey was conducted in 2024, the results of which were considered for the 2026-27 SPF fishing season. Tier 1 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Season		
<b>Exploitation Rate *2026-27 Tier Level</b>	<b>*Tier 1 – 20% (5 seasons)</b>	Tier 2 – 10% (5 seasons)	Tier 3 – 5% (no limit)
<b>Estimated biomass</b>	<b>46,600 tonnes [t] (2024-25 DEPM Survey)</b> 42,724 t (2019-20 DEPM Survey) 49,575 t (2015 DEPM Survey)		
<b>Stock Structure</b>	Several studies have found evidence of stock structuring of Australian sardine across temperate and sub-tropical Australia (Dixon, Worland & Chan 1993; Izzo, Gillanders & Ward 2012; Yardin et al. 1998); however, the boundaries were not defined conclusively. Izzo et al. (2017), using an integrated assessment that included genetic, morphological, otolith, growth, reproductive and fishery data, found evidence for at least four isolated stocks. The Status of Australian Fish Stocks Reports ( <a href="https://www.fish.gov.au/">https://www.fish.gov.au/</a> ) recognises four Australian stocks: South-western (Western Australia), Southern (South Australia), South-eastern (Victoria, Tasmania and southern NSW), and eastern Australia (southern Queensland to central NSW). Since the Sardine subarea (off eastern Australia) is the only area of the SPF where Commonwealth vessels take Australian sardine, the sardine sub-area is assessed and managed as a single management unit.		
<b>Historical Catch &amp; TAC data (Commonwealth fisheries)</b>	<p>Figure 1. Commonwealth Australian Sardine (sub-area only) catch and TAC in the SPF, fishing seasons 2001-02 to 2023-24 (from Butler et al. 2024)</p>		

	Year	Agreed TAC (t)	TAC after unders/overs (t)	Catch(t) / % TAC Caught
<b>Catch and TAC (t)</b> <b>* Incomplete season</b>	2025-26*	8,100	8,910	121 (1.3%)
	2024-25	8,130	8,943	389 (4.3%)
	2023-24	8,060	8,866	55 (<1%)
	2022-23	7,970	8,767	73 (<1%)
<b>Climate Sensitivity – Preliminary Projections to 2040</b>	<b>Neutral.</b> Preliminary projections indicate (with low-med confidence) abundance will remain steady to 2040.		<b>No additional comments on projections for this species</b> (Fulton et al., 2021)	
<b>Climate Change</b>	Further information on climate sensitivity analyses and biomass trajectories, are reported in <a href="#">Summary of Commonwealth Fishery Climate Sensitivity</a> (Appendix to 'Fulton, E.A. et al (2021) Guidance on Adaptation of Commonwealth Fisheries management to climate change. CSIRO Report for FRDC. Hobart.'), as well as the Atlantis ecosystem modelling of the effect of climate on key fishery species.			
<b>ABARES Status</b>	<b>Biomass: Not overfished</b>		<b>Fishing mortality: Not subject to overfishing</b>	
<b>Annual Fishery Assessment Summary</b>				
<b>Key model technical assumptions/ parameters</b>	<p>DEPM estimates spawning biomass by combining egg production data (eggs/m<sup>2</sup>/day) from plankton surveys with adult reproductive parameters (spawning fraction, sex ratio, and relative fecundity). Spawning area is the most reliable abundance index, as on its own egg density is highly variable.</p> <p>Surveys in the sardine sub-area of the SPF in 2014, 2019, and 2024 identified a spawning area of 14,200–24,000 km<sup>2</sup> that appears to be shifting southwards.</p> <p>The 2024 biomass estimate was derived by applying a revised methodology that pools data across years for mean daily egg production. Three outliers were removed. Adult parameters are sourced (as in previous years), from adjacent stocks (South Australia and the 'southern' stock) and pooled. The most conservative estimate for spawning fraction was used. Pooling data from multiple years improves precision.</p> <p>Using this approach the 2024 spawning biomass is estimated at ~46,600 t. The Tier 1 exploitation rate of 20 per cent is conservative as shown by the MSE testing by Smith et al. (2015) and accounts for uncertainties in the assessment.</p>			
<b>Weekly CPUE Trends</b>	The weekly CPUE is monitored for evidence of localised depletion. If a general decrease in CPUE occurs after consistent effort within a given grid cell, this may be evidence of localised depletion. However, there are a number of factors, not just fishing effort, which can also influence CPUE. SPFRAG review this information annually. There were no discernible trends in the most recent CPUE data.			
<b>RAG Comments</b>	<p>SPFRAG (<a href="#">December 2025</a>) adopted the revised methodology of pooling data across years for egg production and adult parameters, recognising this approach is consistent with the approach in other jurisdictions where there is a time series of DEPM surveys and that it reduces sampling error and improves estimate reliability.</p> <p>The RAG recommended the biomass estimate of 46,600 t be adopted as the RBC, with the Tier 1 exploitation rate applied for the 2026–27 fishing season.</p> <p>The RAG noted the biomass is around 31 per cent lower compared to 2014 but considered that this is likely climate driven rather than fishing related.</p>			

SPFRAG Recommendations				
<b>RBC (t)</b>	9,320	1st Season at Tier 1 (2024-25 DEPM estimate) 46,600 t x 20% = 9,320 t		
Deductions to obtain Provisional TAC				
<b>State Catch (t)</b>	447	Four-year weighted average, rounded to nearest tonne (NSW Data only - representative of the Sardine sub area)		
<b>Recreational Catch (t)</b>	0	No data available		
<b>Discards (t)</b>	0.03	Rate based on previous three years, by method and applied to the RBC to get tonnage. If one method is not expected to fish in upcoming year, the discard amount attributed to that method does not get deducted from the RBC.		
<b>Other Commonwealth Fisheries Catch (t)</b>	0.43	Three-year average (CTS)		
<b>Research Catch Allowance (t)</b>	0	No reported catch for 2025		
<b>Provisional TAC</b>	<b>8,870 t</b> (rounded to the nearest 10 t)			
SEMAC Recommendations				
<b>Commercial fishers' interests</b>	No specific commercial fisher interests have been identified, NSW commercial sector catches sardines and this is deducted off the RBC.			
<b>Species specific management (target, companion and bycatch)</b>	There are no identified implications for target, companion or bycatch species.			
<b>SEMAC advice and any dissenting views</b>	<b>2026-27 TAC recommendation - 8,870 t</b>			
<b>Undercatch (%)</b>	<b>Overcatch (%)</b>	<b>Determined amount (t)</b>	<b>TAC (t)</b>	
10	10	2	8,870	
AFMA Advice				
AFMA Management recommends a TAC of 8,870 t for the 2026-27 fishing year with undercatch and overcatch provisions set at 10 per cent, and a determined amount of 2 t.				
The AFMA Commission adopted the recommendations from both SEMAC and AFMA Management as outlined below.				
<b>2025-26 Agreed TAC (t)</b>	<b>2026-27 Agreed TAC (t)</b>	<b>Overcatch &amp; Undercatch (%)</b>	<b>Determined amount (t)</b>	<b>Change in TAC (t)</b>
8,100	8,870	10	2	+770

# Blue mackerel east



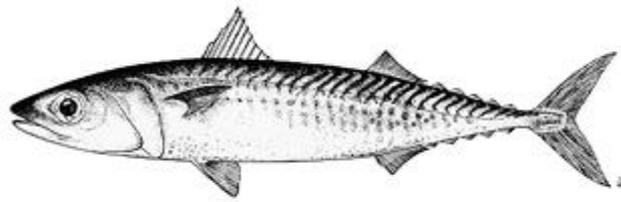
*Scomber australasicus*

Species Summary																																																																					
<b>Stock assessment</b>	A DEPM Survey was conducted in 2024 (Sep), the result of which were considered for the 2026-27 SPF fishing season. Tier 1 – 1 <sup>st</sup> season.																																																																				
<b>Exploitation Rate *2026-27 Tier Level</b>	*Tier 1 – 20% (5 seasons)	Tier 2 – 10% (5 seasons)	Tier 3 – 5% (no limit)																																																																		
<b>Estimated biomass</b>	<b>80,200 t (2024-25 DEPM Survey)</b> 80,000 t (2019-20 DEPM Survey) 83,300 t (2014 DEPM survey)																																																																				
<b>Stock Structure</b>	The stock structure of blue mackerel is uncertain. Genetic analysis of samples from southern Qld, WA and NZ indicates population subdivisions. Genetic differences were detected between WA and Qld, and between WA and NZ, but not between Qld and NZ (Schmarr et al. 2012). Blue mackerel within the SPF is assessed and managed as separate stocks in the eastern and western subareas.																																																																				
<b>Historical Catch data (Commonwealth fisheries)</b>	<table border="1"> <caption>Estimated data for Figure 2</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Fishing Season</th> <th>Catch (tonnes)</th> <th>TAC (tonnes)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2003-04</td><td>~200</td><td>~5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2004-05</td><td>~300</td><td>~3,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2005-06</td><td>~200</td><td>~3,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2006-07</td><td>~200</td><td>~3,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2007-08</td><td>~200</td><td>~2,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2008-09</td><td>~200</td><td>~2,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2009-10</td><td>~200</td><td>~2,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2010-11</td><td>~200</td><td>~2,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2011-12</td><td>~200</td><td>~2,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2012-13</td><td>~200</td><td>~2,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2013-14</td><td>~200</td><td>~2,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2014-15</td><td>~200</td><td>~2,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2015-16</td><td>~2,000</td><td>~2,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2016-17</td><td>~1,500</td><td>~2,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2017-18</td><td>~3,000</td><td>~12,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2018-19</td><td>~4,000</td><td>~12,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2019-20</td><td>~6,000</td><td>~12,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2020-21</td><td>~10,000</td><td>~12,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2021-22</td><td>~9,500</td><td>~11,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2022-23</td><td>~11,000</td><td>~11,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2023-24</td><td>~11,000</td><td>~11,500</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Figure 2. Commonwealth Blue Mackerel East catch and TAC in the SPF, fishing seasons 2001-02 to 2023-24 (from Butler et al. 2024)</p>			Fishing Season	Catch (tonnes)	TAC (tonnes)	2003-04	~200	~5,000	2004-05	~300	~3,500	2005-06	~200	~3,500	2006-07	~200	~3,000	2007-08	~200	~2,500	2008-09	~200	~2,500	2009-10	~200	~2,500	2010-11	~200	~2,500	2011-12	~200	~2,500	2012-13	~200	~2,500	2013-14	~200	~2,500	2014-15	~200	~2,500	2015-16	~2,000	~2,500	2016-17	~1,500	~2,500	2017-18	~3,000	~12,000	2018-19	~4,000	~12,000	2019-20	~6,000	~12,000	2020-21	~10,000	~12,000	2021-22	~9,500	~11,500	2022-23	~11,000	~11,500	2023-24	~11,000	~11,500
Fishing Season	Catch (tonnes)	TAC (tonnes)																																																																			
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	Year	Agreed TAC (t)	TAC after unders/overs (t)	Catch(t) / % TAC Caught
<b>Catch and TAC (t) * incomplete season</b>	2025-26*	15,510	17,061	3,756/ (24%)
	2024-25	11,530	12,683	12,792 / (110%)
	2023-24	11,610	11,716	11,082 / (95%)
	2022-23	11,450	12,595	9,627 / (76%)
<b>Climate Sensitivity – Preliminary Projections to 2040</b>	<b>Medium.</b> Preliminary projections indicate (with low-med confidence) a 15-20% decrease in abundance to 2040.		Decrease in many areas, especially to the northern end of historical distribution, but increase around Tasmania (Fulton et al., 2021)	
<b>Climate Change</b>	Further information on climate sensitivity analyses and biomass trajectories, are reported in <a href="#">Summary of Commonwealth Fishery Climate Sensitivity</a> (Appendix to ‘Fulton, E.A. et al (2021) Guidance on Adaptation of Commonwealth Fisheries management to climate change. CSIRO Report for FRDC. Hobart.’), as well as the Atlantis ecosystem modelling of the effect of climate on key fishery species.			
<b>ABARES Status</b>	<b>Biomass: Not overfished</b>		<b>Fishing Mortality: Not subject to overfishing</b>	
<b>Annual Fishery Assessment Summary</b>				
<b>Key model technical assumptions/ parameters</b>	<p>The Daily Egg Production Method (DEPM) estimates spawning biomass by combining egg production data (eggs m<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>) from plankton surveys with adult reproductive parameters, including spawning fraction, sex ratio, and relative fecundity, and spawning area. Spawning area is considered a more reliable abundance index than egg density alone due to high variability is egg density.</p> <p>DEPM surveys for Blue Mackerel in the Eastern sub-area of the SPF were conducted in 2014, 2019, and 2024, with a marked increase of spawning area in 2024 to ~31,000 km<sup>2</sup>, suggesting stock expansion.</p> <p>The 2024 biomass estimate was derived by applying a revised methodology that pools data across years for mean daily egg production. Adult parameters are sourced from the Blue Mackerel Spawning Fraction project and the most conservative estimate of spawning fraction, 0.13, is used. This approach estimates the spawning biomass of ~80,200 t.</p>			
<b>Weekly CPUE Trends</b>	<p>The weekly CPUE is monitored for evidence of localised depletion. If a general decrease in CPUE occurs after consistent effort within a given grid cell, this may be evidence of localised depletion. However, there are a number of factors, not just fishing effort, which can also influence CPUE. SPFRAG review this information annually.</p> <p>There were no discernible trends in the most recent CPUE data.</p>			
<b>RAG Comments</b>	<p>SPFRAG (<a href="#">December 2025</a>) adopted the revised methodology of pooling data across years for egg production and adult parameters, recognising this approach is consistent with the approach in other jurisdictions where there is a time series of DEPM surveys and that it reduces sampling error and improves estimate reliability.</p> <p>The RAG recommended the biomass estimate of 80,200 t be used for the RBC, with the Tier 1 exploitation rate applied for the 2026–27 fishing season.</p> <p>The RAG noted stable biomass estimates across survey years and increased confidence in these results given the information provided by the blue mackerel spawning fraction study. That stock status remains positive is also supported by the increase in spawning area in 2024 that suggests stock expansion, and the results of the 2024-2025 <a href="#">SEAMES</a> trawl surveys that shows a seven-fold increase in CPUE since the 1990s.</p>			

SPFRAG Recommendations				
RBC (t)	16,040	1 <sup>st</sup> Season at Tier 1 (2024-25 DEPM) 80,200 x 20% = 16,040 t		
Deductions to obtain Provisional TAC				
State Catch (t)	288	Four-year weighted average, rounded to nearest tonne (NSW, Tas and Vic data)		
State Recreational Catch (t)	141	NSW data only (Average 2017/18 and 2019/20 Recreational surveys scaled as per Stewart, 2023)		
Discards (t)	54	Rate based on previous three years, by method and applied to the RBC to get tonnage. If one method is not expected to fish in upcoming year, the discard amount attributed to that method does not get deducted from the RBC.		
Other Commonwealth Fishery Catch (t)	4	Three-year average (CTS only)		
Research Catch Allowance (t)	0	Reported catch <0.1 t for 2024		
Provisional TAC	15,550 t (rounded to the nearest 10 t)			
SEMAC Recommendations				
Commercial fishers' interests	Industry has MSC certification for the harvest of Blue Mackerel East through the <a href="#">South East Australia Small Pelagic Fishery (Commonwealth) mid-water trawl for Blue Mackerel, Jack Mackerel and Redbait</a> . NSW commercial sector has some catch that is deducted from the RBC.			
Species specific management (target, companion and bycatch)	There are no identified implications for target, companion or bycatch species.			
SEMAC advice and any dissenting views	2026-27 TAC recommendation - 15,550 t			
Undercatch (%)	Overcatch (%)	Determined amount (t)	TAC (t)	
10	10	2	15,550	
AFMA Advice				
AFMA Management recommends a TAC of 15,550 t for the 2026-27 fishing year with undercatch and overcatch provisions set at 10 per cent, and a determined amount of 2 t.				
The AFMA Commission adopted the recommendations from both SEMAC and AFMA Management as outlined below.				
2025-26 Agreed TAC (t)	2026-27 Agreed TAC (t)	Overcatch & Undercatch (%)	Determined amount (t)	Change in TAC (t)
15,510	15,550	10	2	+40

# Blue mackerel west



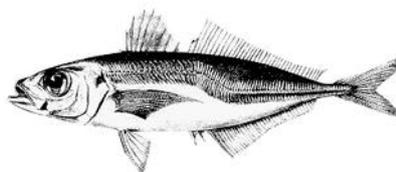
*Scomber australasicus*

Species Summary			
<b>Stock assessment</b>	A DEPM Survey was conducted in 2005-06 (Feb Mar), the result of which were first considered for the 2006-07 SPF fishing season. Tier 3 – 10 <sup>th</sup> season.		
<b>Exploitation Rate *2026 - 27 Tier Level</b>	Tier 1 – 20% (5 seasons)	Tier 2 – 10% (5 seasons)	<b>*Tier 3 – 5% (no time limit)</b>
<b>Estimated biomass</b>	<b>86,500 t (2006 DEPM)</b> 56,228 t (2005 DEPM)		
<b>Stock Structure</b>	The stock structure of blue mackerel is uncertain. Genetic analysis of samples from southern Queensland, Western Australia and New Zealand indicates population subdivisions. Genetic differences were detected between Western Australia and Queensland, and between Western Australia and New Zealand, but not between Queensland and New Zealand (Schmarr et al. 2012). No finer-scale analyses of blue mackerel have been undertaken to further define stock structure. Blue mackerel within the SPF is assessed and managed as separate stocks in the eastern and western subareas		
<b>Historical Catch data (Commonwealth fisheries)</b>	<p>Figure 3. Commonwealth Blue Mackerel West catch and TAC in the SPF, fishing seasons 2001-02 to 2023-24 (from Butler et al. 2024).</p>		

	Year	Agreed TAC (t)	TAC after unders/overs (t)	Catch(t) / % TAC Caught
<b>Catch and TAC (t)</b> <b>* incomplete season</b>	2025-26*	4,320	4,752	n/a
	2024-25	3,240	3,564	n/a
	2023-24	3,240	3,564	25 / >1
	2022-23	3,240	3,564	n/a
<b>Climate Sensitivity – Preliminary Projections to 2040</b>	<b>Medium.</b> Preliminary projections indicate (with low-med confidence) a 15-20% decrease in abundance through to 2040.		Decrease in many areas, especially to the northern end of historical distribution, but increase around Tasmania (Fulton et al., 2021)	
<b>Climate Change</b>	Further information on climate sensitivity analyses and biomass trajectories, are reported in <a href="#">Summary of Commonwealth Fishery Climate Sensitivity</a> (Appendix to 'Fulton, E.A. et al (2021) Guidance on Adaptation of Commonwealth Fisheries management to climate change. CSIRO Report for FRDC. Hobart.'), as well as the Atlantis ecosystem modelling of the effect of climate on key fishery species.			
<b>ABARES Status</b>	<b>Biomass: Not overfished</b>		<b>Fishing Mortality: Not subject to overfishing</b>	
<b>Annual Fisheries Assessment Summary</b>				
<b>Key model technical assumptions/ parameters</b>	<p>The most recent DEPM surveys for Blue mackerel west was in 2005.</p> <p>The 2005 Survey produced a biomass estimate of 56,228 t.</p> <p>A survey was completed in 2006 off Western Australia (out of Esperance) where almost all samples had eggs and larvae. SPFRAG agreed the biomass to be greater than that of the 2005 survey and agreed to an estimate of 86,500 t.</p>			
<b>Weekly CPUE Trends</b>	<p>The weekly CPUE is monitored for evidence of localised depletion. If a general decrease in CPUE occurs after consistent effort within a given grid cell, this may be evidence of localised depletion. However, there are a number of factors, not just fishing effort, which can also influence CPUE. SPFRAG review this information annually.</p> <p>There was no data to review trends in recent CPUE.</p>			
<b>RAG Comments</b>	<p>There was no new data for this stock presented with no catch reported and limited fishing undertaken in the western sub-area during the 2025-26 season.</p> <p>The annual assessment provided no basis to change previous advice for this stock.</p> <p>SPF RAG (<a href="#">December 2025</a>) recommended the 2005/06 (Feb-Mar) biomass estimate of 86,500 t be used for the RBC based on the weight of evidence provided by the previous survey for blue mackerel west and that it was appropriate to apply the Tier 3 exploitation rate for the 2026-27 season.</p>			

SPFRAG Recommendations				
RBC (t)	4,325	10 <sup>th</sup> Season at Tier 3 86,500 x 5% = 4,325 t		
Deductions to obtain Provisional TAC				
State Catch (t)	2	Four-year weighted average, rounded to nearest tonne (SA and WA)		
Recreational Catch (t)	< 1	WA and SA data (Most recent data available averaged over two years)		
Discards (t)	< 1	Rate based on previous three years, by method and applied to the RBC to get tonnage. If one method is not expected to fish in upcoming year, the discard amount attributed to that method does not get deducted from the RBC.		
Other Commonwealth Fishery Catch (t)	< 1	Three-year average		
Research Catch Allowance (t)	0	Reported catch <0.1 t for 2024		
Provisional TAC	4,320 t (rounded to the nearest 10 t)			
SEMAC Recommendations				
Commercial fishers' interests	No specific commercial fisher interests have been identified.			
Species specific management (target, companion and bycatch)	There are no identified implications for target, companion or bycatch species.			
SEMAC advice and any dissenting views	2026-27 TAC recommendation - 4,320 t			
Undercatch (%)	Overcatch (%)	Determined amount (t)	TAC (t)	
10	10	2	4,320	
AFMA Advice				
AFMA Management recommends a TAC of 4,320 t for the 2026-27 fishing year with undercatch and overcatch provisions set at 10 per cent, and a determined amount of 2 t. The AFMA Commission adopted the recommendations from both SEMAC and AFMA Management as outlined below.				
2025-26 Agreed TAC (t)	2026-27 Agreed TAC (t)	Overcatch & Undercatch (%)	Determined amount (t)	Change in TAC (t)
4,320	4,320	10	2	0

# Jack mackerel east



*Trachurus declivis*

Species Summary			
<b>Stock assessment</b>	<p>A DEPM Survey was conducted in 2023-24 but did not provide a robust estimate of biomass that could be used for management advice in 2024-25.</p> <p>The methodology for estimating biomass was refined in 2025 and combines estimates of egg production from all surveys, not just the recent one, and uses the most conservative spawning fraction values to set a precautionary spawning biomass estimate in the range of 98,000-112,000 t (with 14% exploitation rate). The most conservative biomass estimate of 98,000 t from the refined methodology is used as the basis for management advice for the 2026-27 fishing season.</p> <p>Tier 1 – 2nd season.</p>		
<b>Exploitation Rate *2026-27 Tier Level</b>	<b>*Tier 1 – 14% (5 Seasons)</b>	Tier 2 – 7% (10 seasons)	Tier 3 – 3.5% (no limit)
<b>Estimated biomass</b>	<p><b>98,000 t (revised using multi-year egg production and conservative spawning fraction values)</b></p> <p>156,292 t (2019 biomass estimate)</p> <p>157,800 t (2014 biomass estimate)</p>		
<b>Stock Structure</b>	<p>The stock structure of jack mackerel is unclear. Richardson (1982) found evidence of population subdivision between Western Australia, including the Great Australia Bight, and eastern Australia. Richardson (1982) also found evidence of a Wahlund effect (where multiple populations are detected in a single sample) in east coast samples, suggesting some additional structuring. Similarly, Smolenski, Ovenden &amp; White (1994) found evidence of structuring between New South Wales and south-eastern Tasmania, although the differences appeared not to be temporally consistent.</p> <p>A DEPM survey of western jack mackerel appeared to show some stock separation around the Bonney Coast west of Bass Strait (AFMA 2017d). Recent evidence from DEPM surveys showing that jack mackerel spawns throughout Bass Strait suggest that further investigation of stock structure is warranted. Currently, jack mackerel in the SPF is assessed and managed as separate stocks in the eastern and western subarea.</p>		

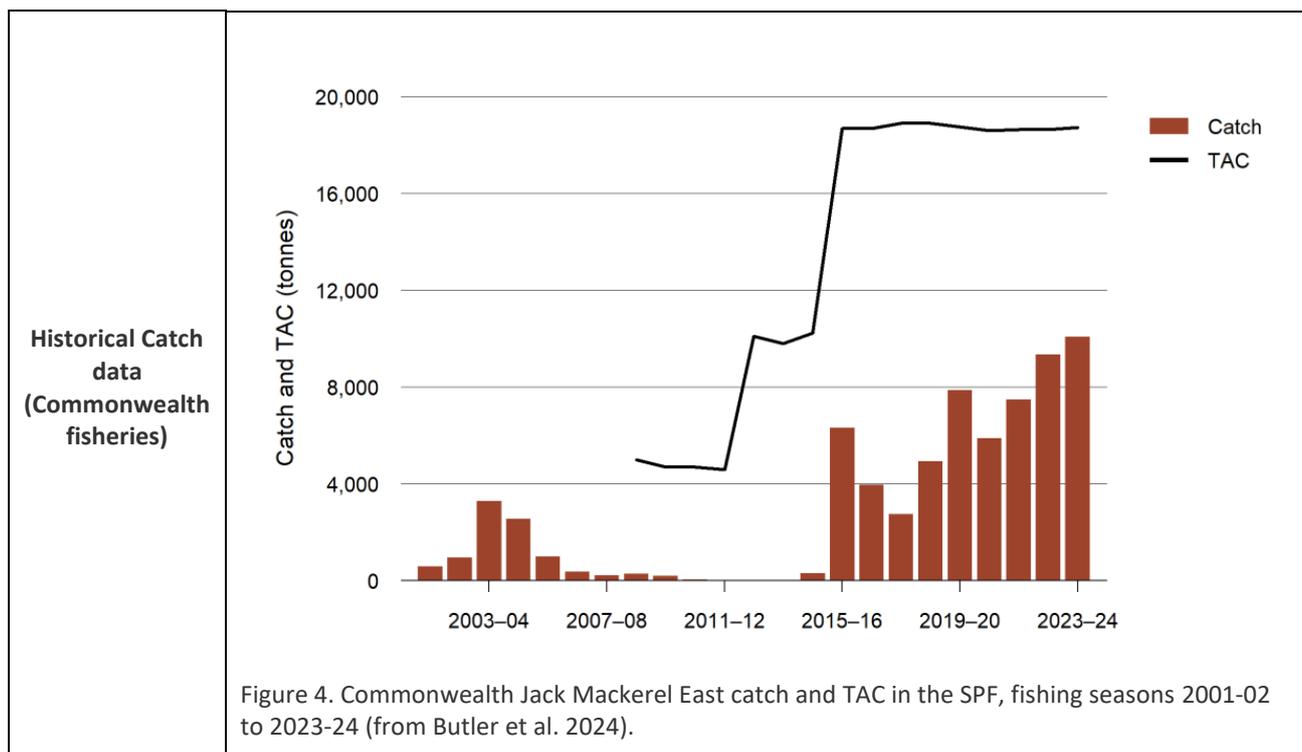


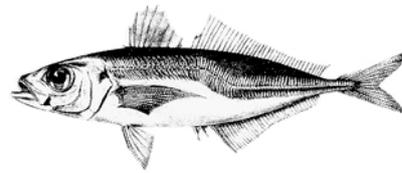
Figure 4. Commonwealth Jack Mackerel East catch and TAC in the SPF, fishing seasons 2001-02 to 2023-24 (from Butler et al. 2024).

	Year	Agreed TAC (t)	TAC after unders/overs (t)	Catch(t) / % TAC Caught
<b>Catch and TAC (t)</b> * Incomplete season	2025-26*	13,000	14,300	2,492 / (19%)
	2024-25	18,650	20,515	12,592 / (68%)
	2023-24	18,720	20,603	10,083 / (53%)
	2022-23	18,620	20,482	9,289 / (45%)
<b>Climate Sensitivity – Preliminary Projections to 2040</b>	<b>Neutral.</b> Preliminary projections indicate (with low-med confidence) abundance will remain steady through to 2040.		Trajectory depends on trophic interactions and tuna biomass (Fulton et al., 2021).	
<b>Climate Change</b>	Further information on climate sensitivity analyses and biomass trajectories, are reported in <a href="#">Summary of Commonwealth Fishery Climate Sensitivity</a> (Appendix to ‘Fulton, E.A. et al (2021) Guidance on Adaptation of Commonwealth Fisheries management to climate change. CSIRO Report for FRDC. Hobart.’), as well as the Atlantis ecosystem modelling of the effect of climate on key fishery species.			
<b>ABARES Status</b>	<b>Biomass: Not overfished</b>		<b>Fishing Mortality: Not subject to overfishing</b>	

Annual Fisheries Assessment Summary	
<b>Key model technical assumptions/ parameters</b>	<p>The Daily Egg Production Method (DEPM) estimates spawning biomass by combining egg production data (eggs m<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>) from plankton surveys with adult reproductive parameters, including spawning fraction, sex ratio, and relative fecundity, and spawning area. Spawning area is considered a more reliable abundance index as egg density alone tends to be highly variable.</p> <p>Surveys have been conducted for Jack Mackerel Eastern sub-area of the SPF in 2014, 2019, and 2024. In the 2024 survey, spawning area was 22% smaller than 2019 and had very low egg counts which were attributed to survey timing and/or climate related changes.</p> <p>The 2024 DEPM did not provide a biomass estimate robust enough to be used for management advice, primarily driven by no samples of spawning fish that meant the estimate of spawning fraction was highly uncertain. SPFRAG considered that the most likely reason for lack of spawning fish samples related to the survey missing the spawning period. This is supported by evidence from fishers that the fish spawned well before the survey was undertaken in 2024 and samples collected from the CSIRO SEAMES surveys.</p> <p>In 2025, SPFRAG adopted a revised methodology for estimating biomass that pools data across years for egg production and adult parameters. The biomass estimate is derived from using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined egg production data across all years.</li> <li>• Applying the most conservative spawning fraction (.056 from 2014).</li> <li>• Using spawning area from 2024 survey.</li> </ul> <p>The estimate of spawning biomass based on this methodology is 98,000 t.</p>
<b>Weekly CPUE Trends</b>	<p>The weekly CPUE is monitored for evidence of localised depletion. If a general decrease in CPUE occurs after consistent effort within a given grid cell, this may be evidence of localised depletion. However, there are a number of factors, not just fishing effort, which can also influence CPUE. SPFRAG review this information annually.</p> <p>There were no discernible trends in the most recent CPUE data.</p>
<b>RAG Comments</b>	<p>SPFRAG (<a href="#">December 2025</a>) adopted a revised methodology for calculating spawning biomass, that involves pooling data across years for egg production and adult parameters, recognising this approach is consistent with the approach in other jurisdictions where there is a time series of DEPM surveys, and that it reduces fluctuations in biomass resulting from sampling error.</p> <p>The revised methodology, that has also been adopted for sardine and blue mackerel east, enables the 2024 survey results for jack mackerel east to be utilised and reduces the risk of ‘failed’ surveys in future arising from one missing parameter. The stock should be placed in Tier 1 but for its second year given it is now two years since the survey was undertaken.</p> <p>Notwithstanding a level of uncertainty remains, SPFRAG considered this approach precautionary as spawning area remains large, additional biomass exists in the western sub-area that is likely associated with the eastern stock but not accounted for in eastern TAC, CPUE data from recent CSIRO SEAMES trawl surveys show a ~1.8× increase compared to the 1990s.</p>

SPFRAG Recommendations				
<b>RBC (t)</b>	13,720	2nd season at Tier 1 98,000 x 14% = 13,720 t		
Deductions to obtain Provisional TAC				
<b>State Catch (t)</b>	9	Four-year weighted average, rounded to nearest tonne (NSW, Tas and Vic)		
<b>State Recreational Catch (t)</b>	5	Tasmania data only (A/Prof. Tim Ward as per Survey of Recreational Fishing in Tasmania, Lyle et al., 2014; 2019)		
<b>Discards (t)</b>	39	Rate based on previous three years, by method and applied to the RBC to get tonnage. If one method is not expected to fish in upcoming year, the discard amount attributed to that method does not get deducted from the RBC.		
<b>Other Commonwealth Fishery Catch (t)</b>	19	Three-year average (CTS)		
<b>Research Catch Allowance (t)</b>	0	Reported for 2025		
<b>Provisional TAC</b>	<b>13,650 t</b> (rounded to the nearest 10 t)			
SEMAC Recommendations				
<b>Commercial fishers' interests</b>	Industry has MSC certification for the harvest of Jack Mackerel East through the <a href="#">South East Australia Small Pelagic Fishery (Commonwealth) mid-water trawl for Blue Mackerel, Jack Mackerel and Redbait</a> .			
<b>Species specific management (target, companion and bycatch)</b>	There are no identified implications for target, companion or bycatch species.			
<b>SEMAC advice and any dissenting views</b>	<b>2026-27 TAC recommendation - 13,650 t</b>			
<b>Undercatch (%)</b>	<b>Overcatch (%)</b>	<b>Determined amount (t)</b>	<b>TAC (t)</b>	
10	10	2	13,650	
AFMA Advice				
AFMA Management recommended a TAC of 13,650 t for the 2026-27 fishing year with undercatch and overcatch provisions set at 10 per cent, and a determined amount of 2 t.				
The AFMA Commission adopted the recommendations from both SEMAC and AFMA Management as outlined below.				
<b>2025-26 Agreed TAC (t)</b>	<b>2026-27 Agreed TAC (t)</b>	<b>Overcatch &amp; Undercatch (%)</b>	<b>Determined amount (t)</b>	<b>Change in TAC (t)</b>
13,000	13,650	10	2	+650

# Jack mackerel west



*Trachurus declivis*

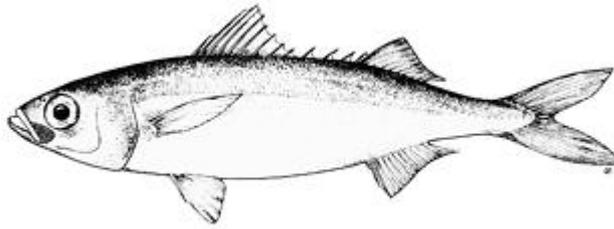
Species Summary																																																																					
<b>Stock assessment</b>	A DEPM Survey was conducted in 2016-17 (Dec-Feb) and 2024, the result the most recent survey and the adult parameters obtained in 2014 were considered for the 2025-26 SPF fishing season. Tier 1 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Season																																																																				
<b>Exploitation Rate *2026-27 Tier Level</b>	*Tier 1 – 14% (5 seasons)	Tier 2 – 7% (10 seasons)	Tier 3 – 3.5% (no limit)																																																																		
<b>Estimated biomass</b>	60,661 t (2024 survey) 34,978 t (2017 DEPM Survey)																																																																				
<b>Stock Structure</b>	The stock structure of jack mackerel is unclear. Richardson (1982) found evidence of population subdivision between Western Australia, including the Great Australia Bight, and eastern Australia. However, DEPM surveys suggest that jack mackerel spawns throughout Bass Strait and that separation of eastern and western stocks may occur around the Bonney Coast (AFMA 2017c). Richardson (1982) also found evidence of a Wahlund effect (where multiple populations are detected in a single sample) in east coast samples, suggesting some additional structuring. Smolenski, Ovenden & White (1994) also found evidence of structuring between New South Wales and south-eastern Tasmania, although the differences were not temporally consistent. These studies suggest that further investigation of stock structure in jack mackerel is warranted. Currently, jack mackerel in the SPF is assessed and managed as separate stocks in the eastern and western subareas.																																																																				
<b>Historical Catch data (Commonwealth fisheries)</b>	<table border="1"> <caption>Estimated data for Figure 5</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Fishing Season</th> <th>Catch (tonnes)</th> <th>TAC (tonnes)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2003-04</td><td>200</td><td>5000</td></tr> <tr><td>2004-05</td><td>200</td><td>5000</td></tr> <tr><td>2005-06</td><td>200</td><td>5000</td></tr> <tr><td>2006-07</td><td>300</td><td>5000</td></tr> <tr><td>2007-08</td><td>200</td><td>5000</td></tr> <tr><td>2008-09</td><td>100</td><td>5000</td></tr> <tr><td>2009-10</td><td>200</td><td>5000</td></tr> <tr><td>2010-11</td><td>0</td><td>5000</td></tr> <tr><td>2011-12</td><td>0</td><td>5000</td></tr> <tr><td>2012-13</td><td>0</td><td>5000</td></tr> <tr><td>2013-14</td><td>0</td><td>3600</td></tr> <tr><td>2014-15</td><td>0</td><td>3600</td></tr> <tr><td>2015-16</td><td>600</td><td>1000</td></tr> <tr><td>2016-17</td><td>600</td><td>1000</td></tr> <tr><td>2017-18</td><td>0</td><td>4200</td></tr> <tr><td>2018-19</td><td>0</td><td>4200</td></tr> <tr><td>2019-20</td><td>0</td><td>4200</td></tr> <tr><td>2020-21</td><td>0</td><td>4200</td></tr> <tr><td>2021-22</td><td>0</td><td>4200</td></tr> <tr><td>2022-23</td><td>0</td><td>4200</td></tr> <tr><td>2023-24</td><td>0</td><td>2100</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Fishing Season	Catch (tonnes)	TAC (tonnes)	2003-04	200	5000	2004-05	200	5000	2005-06	200	5000	2006-07	300	5000	2007-08	200	5000	2008-09	100	5000	2009-10	200	5000	2010-11	0	5000	2011-12	0	5000	2012-13	0	5000	2013-14	0	3600	2014-15	0	3600	2015-16	600	1000	2016-17	600	1000	2017-18	0	4200	2018-19	0	4200	2019-20	0	4200	2020-21	0	4200	2021-22	0	4200	2022-23	0	4200	2023-24	0	2100
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	<p>Figure 5. Commonwealth Jack Mackerel West catch and TAC in the SPF, fishing seasons 2001-02 to 2023-24 (from Butler et al. 2024).</p>																																																																				

	Year	Agreed TAC (t)	TAC after unders/overs (t)	Catch(t) / % TAC Caught
<b>Catch and TAC (t)</b>  <b>* Incomplete season</b>	*2025-26	8,100	2,310	0 / (0%)
	2024-25	2,100	2,310	0 / (0%)
	2023-24	2,100	2,310	19 / (<1%)
	2022-23	4,190	4,609	0 / (0%)
<b>Climate Sensitivity – Preliminary Projections to 2040</b>	<b>Neutral.</b> Preliminary projections indicate (with low-med confidence) abundance will remain steady through to 2040.		Trajectory depends on trophic interactions and tuna biomass (Fulton et al., 2021).	
<b>Climate Change</b>	Further information on climate sensitivity analyses and biomass trajectories, are reported in <a href="#">Summary of Commonwealth Fishery Climate Sensitivity</a> (Appendix to ‘Fulton, E.A. et al (2021) Guidance on Adaptation of Commonwealth Fisheries management to climate change. CSIRO Report for FRDC. Hobart.’), as well as the Atlantis ecosystem modelling of the effect of climate on key fishery species.			
<b>ABARES Status</b>	<b>Biomass: Not overfished</b>		<b>Fishing Mortality: Not subject to overfishing</b>	
<b>Annual Fisheries Assessment Summary</b>				
<b>Key model technical assumptions/ parameters</b>	A limited number of adult samples were collected during the 2017 and 2024 jack mackerel west DEPM survey, hence adult parameters obtained from the 2014 eastern jack mackerel survey were used as input into the biomass calculation for the western stock. Both the 2024 DEPM survey only covered the very eastern portion of the western stock and for this reason the estimate is considered conservative.			
<b>Weekly CPUE Trends</b>	The weekly CPUE is monitored for evidence of localised depletion. If a general decrease in CPUE occurs after consistent effort within a given grid cell, this may be evidence of localised depletion. However, there are a number of factors, not just fishing effort, which can also influence CPUE. SPFRAG review this information annually.  There was no data to review trends in the most recent CPUE.			
<b>RAG Comments</b>	SPFRAG ( <a href="#">December 2025</a> ) considered the 2024 survey for the western stock was appropriately captured and the new biomass estimate (60,661 t) was considered conservative; and should be used as the basis for the RBC returning Jack mackerel West to the Tier 1 exploitation rate for the 2025-26 season.			

SPFRAG Recommendations				
RBC (t)	8,493	2 <sup>nd</sup> Season at Tier 1 60,661 x 14% = 8,493 t		
Deductions to obtain the Provisional TAC				
State Catch (t)	1	Four-year weighted average, rounded to nearest tonne (SA and WA minimal data available)		
Recreational Catch (t)	0	No recreational catch available		
Discards (t)	< 1	Rate based on previous three years, by method and applied to the RBC to get tonnage. If one method is not expected to fish in upcoming year, the discard amount attributed to that method does not get deducted from the RBC.		
Other Commonwealth Fishery Catch (t)	0	Three-year average		
Research Catch Allowance (t)	0	Reported catch <0.1 t for 2024		
Provisional TAC	8,490 t (rounded to the nearest 10 t)			
SEMAC Recommendations				
Commercial fishers' interests	No specific commercial fisher interests have been identified.			
Species specific management (target, companion and bycatch)	There are no identified implications for target, companion or bycatch species.			
SEMAC advice and any dissenting views	2026-27 TAC recommendation - 8,490 t			
Undercatch (%)	Overcatch (%)	Determined amount (t)	TAC (t)	
10	10	2	8,490	
AFMA Advice				
AFMA Management recommends a TAC of 8,490 t for the 2026-27 fishing year with undercatch and overcatch provisions set at 10 per cent, and a determined amount of 2 t.				
The AFMA Commission adopted the recommendations from both SEMAC and AFMA Management as outlined below.				
2025-26 Agreed TAC (t)	2026-27 Agreed TAC (t)	Overcatch & Undercatch (%)	Determined amount (t)	Change in TAC (t)
8,490	8,490	10	2	0

## Redbait east

*Emmelichthys nitidus*



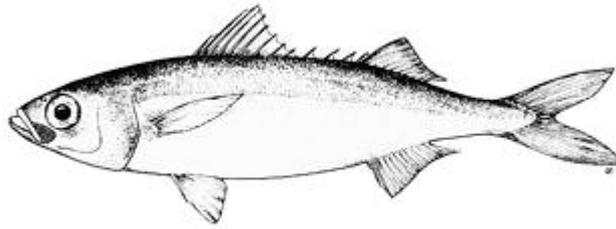
Species Summary			
<b>Stock assessment</b>	A DEPM Survey was conducted in 2020-21 (Oct), the result of which were first considered for the 2022-23 SPF fishing season. Tier 1 – 5 <sup>th</sup> season.		
<b>Exploitation Rate *2026-27 Tier Level</b>	*Tier 1 – 12% (5 Seasons)	Tier 2 – 6% (10 Seasons)	Tier 3 – 3% (no limit)
<b>Estimated biomass</b>	54,000 t (2020-21 (Oct) DEPM survey) 68,886 t (2005 DEPM survey)		
<b>Stock Structure</b>	The stock structure of redbait in Australia has not been studied. Recent DEPM surveys that suggest redbait spawns continuously around southern Tasmania, indicating that the stock structure of this species needs to be investigated. Redbait within the SPF is assessed and managed as separate stocks in the eastern and western subareas		
<b>Historical Catch data (Commonwealth fisheries)</b>	<p>Figure 6. Commonwealth Redbait East catch and TAC in the SPF, fishing seasons 2001-02 to 2023-24 (from Butler et al. 2024).</p>		

	Year	Agreed TAC (t)	TAC after unders/overs (t)	Catch(t) / % TAC Caught
<b>Catch and TAC (t) * incomplete season</b>	2025-26*	6,470	7,117	1,339/ (21%)
	2024-25	5,390	5,929	2,183 / (40%)
	2023-24	5,380	5,918	1,788 / (33%)
	2022-23	5,370	5,907	1,948 / (33%)
<b>Climate Sensitivity – Preliminary Projections to 2040</b>	<b>Medium.</b> Preliminary projections indicate (with low-med confidence) a 30% decrease in abundance through to 2040.		Strongest declines expected in the central Great Australian Bight (Fulton et al., 2021).	
<b>Climate Change</b>	Further information on climate sensitivity analyses and biomass trajectories, are reported in <a href="#">Summary of Commonwealth Fishery Climate Sensitivity</a> (Appendix to ‘Fulton, E.A. et al (2021) Guidance on Adaptation of Commonwealth Fisheries management to climate change. CSIRO Report for FRDC. Hobart.’), as well as the Atlantis ecosystem modelling of the effect of climate on key fishery species.			
<b>ABARES Status</b>	<b>Biomass: Not overfished</b>		<b>Fishing Mortality: Not subject to overfishing</b>	
<b>Annual Fisheries Assessment Summary</b>				
<b>Key model technical assumptions/ parameters</b>	<p>The most recent DEPM survey results for the redbait east stock is from 2020 (RBC 54,000 t)</p> <p>The previous DEPM survey results are from 2005 and 2006. The DEPM surveys gave biomass estimates of 86,990 t (2005) and 50,782 t (2006). The biomass estimate for this stock was the average biomass estimate from the 2005 and 2006 DEPM surveys (68,886 t).</p>			
<b>Weekly CPUE Trends</b>	<p>The weekly CPUE is monitored for evidence of localised depletion. If a general decrease in CPUE occurs after consistent effort within a given grid cell, this may be evidence of localised depletion. However, there are a number of factors, not just fishing effort, which can also influence CPUE. SPFRAG review this information annually.</p> <p>There was no discernible trend in the most recent CPUE data.</p>			
<b>RAG Comments</b>	<p>The annual assessment provided no basis to change previous advice for this stock.</p> <p>SPFRAG (<a href="#">December 2025</a>) recommended the 2020-21 (Oct) biomass estimate of 54,000 t be used for the RBC based on the weight of evidence provided by the previous survey for Redbait east and that it was appropriate to apply the Tier 1 exploitation rate for the 2026-27 season.</p> <p>The RAG supported a Redbait DEPM research project which will be considered by the AFMA Research Committee for funding in 2026-27.</p>			

SPFRAG Recommendations				
RBC (t)	6,480	5 <sup>th</sup> Season at Tier 1 54,000 t x 12% = 6,480 t		
Deductions to obtain Provisional TAC				
State Catch (t)	0	Less than one tonne of state catch for Tas and NSW last four years		
Recreational Catch (t)	0	No recreational catch available		
Discards (t)	9	Rate based on previous three years, by method and applied to the RBC to get tonnage. If one method is not expected to fish in upcoming year, the discard amount attributed to that method does not get deducted from the RBC.		
Other Commonwealth Fishery Catch (t)	3	Three-year average (CTS)		
Research Catch Allowance (t)	0	Reported catch >0.1 t for 2024		
Provisional TAC	6,470 t (rounded to the nearest 10 t)			
SEMAC Recommendations				
Commercial fishers' interests	The Redbait East stock is part of the MSC certified <a href="#">South East Australia small pelagic fishery (commonwealth) mid-water trawl for blue mackerel, jack mackerel and redbait</a> .			
Species specific management (target, companion and bycatch)	There are no identified implications for target, companion or bycatch species.			
SEMAC advice and any dissenting views	2026-27 TAC recommendation: 6,470 t			
Undercatch (%)	Overcatch (%)	Determined amount (t)	TAC (t)	
10	10	2	6,470	
AFMA Advice				
AFMA Management recommends a TAC of 6,470 t for the 2026-27 fishing year with undercatch and overcatch provisions set at 10 per cent, and a determined amount of 2 t.				
The AFMA Commission adopted the recommendations from both SEMAC and AFMA Management as outlined below.				
2025-26 Agreed TAC (t)	2026-27 Agreed TAC (t)	Overcatch & Undercatch (%)	Determined amount (t)	Change in TAC (t)
6,470	6,470	10	2	0

## Redbait west

*Emmelichthys nitidus*



Species Summary																																																																					
<b>Stock assessment</b>	A DEPM Survey was conducted in 2017-18 (Oct), the result of which were first considered for the 2019-20 SPF fishing season. Tier 2 – 3rd season.																																																																				
<b>Exploitation Rate *2026-27 Tier Level</b>	Tier 1 – 12% (5 Seasons)	<b>*Tier 2 – 6% (10 seasons)</b>	Tier 3 – 3% (No limit)																																																																		
<b>Estimated biomass</b>	<b>66,787 t (2017-18 (Oct) DEPM Survey)</b>																																																																				
<b>Stock Structure</b>	The stock structure of redbait in Australia has not been studied. Recent DEPM surveys that suggest redbait spawns continuously around southern Tasmania indicate that the stock structure of this species needs to be investigated. Redbait within the SPF is assessed and managed as separate stocks in the eastern and western subareas.																																																																				
<b>Historical Catch data (Commonwealth fisheries)</b>	<table border="1"> <caption>Estimated data for Figure 6</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Fishing Season</th> <th>Catch (tonnes)</th> <th>TAC (tonnes)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2003-04</td><td>1,100</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2004-05</td><td>1,300</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2005-06</td><td>200</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2006-07</td><td>2,500</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2007-08</td><td>3,100</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2008-09</td><td>3,300</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2009-10</td><td>1,400</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2010-11</td><td>600</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2011-12</td><td>300</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2012-13</td><td>0</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2013-14</td><td>0</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2014-15</td><td>0</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2015-16</td><td>1,200</td><td>3,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2016-17</td><td>1,200</td><td>3,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2017-18</td><td>0</td><td>1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2018-19</td><td>0</td><td>1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2019-20</td><td>0</td><td>6,700</td></tr> <tr><td>2020-21</td><td>0</td><td>6,700</td></tr> <tr><td>2021-22</td><td>0</td><td>6,700</td></tr> <tr><td>2022-23</td><td>0</td><td>6,700</td></tr> <tr><td>2023-24</td><td>0</td><td>6,700</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Fishing Season	Catch (tonnes)	TAC (tonnes)	2003-04	1,100	5,000	2004-05	1,300	5,000	2005-06	200	5,000	2006-07	2,500	5,000	2007-08	3,100	5,000	2008-09	3,300	5,000	2009-10	1,400	5,000	2010-11	600	5,000	2011-12	300	5,000	2012-13	0	5,000	2013-14	0	5,000	2014-15	0	5,000	2015-16	1,200	3,000	2016-17	1,200	3,000	2017-18	0	1,000	2018-19	0	1,000	2019-20	0	6,700	2020-21	0	6,700	2021-22	0	6,700	2022-23	0	6,700	2023-24	0	6,700
Fishing Season	Catch (tonnes)	TAC (tonnes)																																																																			
2003-04	1,100	5,000																																																																			
2004-05	1,300	5,000																																																																			
2005-06	200	5,000																																																																			
2006-07	2,500	5,000																																																																			
2007-08	3,100	5,000																																																																			
2008-09	3,300	5,000																																																																			
2009-10	1,400	5,000																																																																			
2010-11	600	5,000																																																																			
2011-12	300	5,000																																																																			
2012-13	0	5,000																																																																			
2013-14	0	5,000																																																																			
2014-15	0	5,000																																																																			
2015-16	1,200	3,000																																																																			
2016-17	1,200	3,000																																																																			
2017-18	0	1,000																																																																			
2018-19	0	1,000																																																																			
2019-20	0	6,700																																																																			
2020-21	0	6,700																																																																			
2021-22	0	6,700																																																																			
2022-23	0	6,700																																																																			
2023-24	0	6,700																																																																			
	<p>Figure 6. Commonwealth Redbait West catch and TAC in the SPF, fishing seasons 2001-02 to 2023-24 (from Butler et al. 2024).</p>																																																																				

	Year	Agreed TAC (t)	TAC after unders/overs (t)	Catch(t) / % TAC Caught
<b>Catch and TAC (t) *incomplete season</b>	2025-26*	4,010	4,411	n/a
	2024-25	3,340	3,674	n/a
	2023-24	6,680	7,348	10 / (>1%)
	2022-23	6,680	7,348	n/a
<b>Climate Sensitivity – Preliminary Projections to 2040</b>	<b>Medium.</b> Preliminary projections indicate (with low-med confidence) a 30% decrease in abundance through to 2040.		Strongest declines expected in the central Great Australian Bight (Fulton et al., 2021).	
<b>Climate Change</b>	Further information on climate sensitivity analyses and biomass trajectories, are reported in <a href="#">Summary of Commonwealth Fishery Climate Sensitivity</a> (Appendix to ‘Fulton, E.A. et al (2021) Guidance on Adaptation of Commonwealth Fisheries management to climate change. CSIRO Report for FRDC. Hobart.’), as well as the Atlantis ecosystem modelling of the effect of climate on key fishery species.			
<b>ABARES Status</b>	<b>Biomass: Not overfished</b>		<b>Fishing Mortality: Not subject to overfishing</b>	
<b>Assessment Summary</b>				
<b>Key model technical assumptions/ parameters</b>	The most plausible model biomass estimate ranged between 51,765 t and 102,867 t. With no solid reason to reject either estimate and for consistency with the approach taken with other stocks, the median biomass estimate of 66,787 t was used as the basis for the Scientific Panel’s (now replaced by SPFRAG) recommended biological catch level.			
<b>Weekly CPUE Trends</b>	The weekly CPUE is monitored for evidence of localised depletion. If a general decrease in CPUE occurs after consistent effort within a given grid cell, this may be evidence of localised depletion. However, there are a number of factors, not just fishing effort, which can also influence CPUE. SPFRAG review this information annually.  There was no data to review recent trends in the CPUE.			
<b>RAG Comments</b>	No new information was available for this stock in December 2025.  SPFRAG ( <a href="#">December 2025</a> ) Recommended the 2017-18 (Oct) biomass estimate of 66,787 t be used for the RBC, based on the weight of evidence provided by the previous survey for Redbait east and that it was appropriate to apply the Tier 2 exploitation rate for the 2026-27 season.			

SPFRAG Recommendations				
RBC (t)	4,007	3 <sup>rd</sup> season at Tier 2 66,787 x 6% = 4,007 t		
Deductions to obtain Provisional TAC				
State Catch (t)	0	No reported catch for redbait		
State Recreational Catch (t)	0	No data available		
Discards (t)	< 1	Rate based on previous three years, by method and applied to the RBC to get tonnage. If one method is not expected to fish in upcoming year, the discard amount attributed to that method does not get deducted from the RBC (<1.0)		
Other Commonwealth Fishery Catch (t)	0	Three-year average		
Research Catch Allowance (t)	0	Reported catch < 0.1 t for 2024		
Provisional TAC	4,010 t (rounded to the nearest 10 t)			
SEMAC Recommendations				
Commercial fishers' interests	No specific commercial fisher interests have been identified.			
Species specific management (target, companion and bycatch)	There are no identified implications for target, companion or bycatch species.			
SEMAC advice and any dissenting views	2026-27 TAC recommendation - 4,010 t			
Undercatch (%)	Overcatch (%)	Determined Amount (t)	TAC (t)	
10	10	2	4,010	
AFMA Advice				
AFMA Management recommends a TAC of 4,010 t for the 2026-27 fishing year with undercatch and overcatch provisions set at 10 per cent, and a determined amount of 2 t.				
The AFMA Commission adopted the recommendations from both SEMAC and AFMA Management as outlined below.				
2025-2026 Agreed TAC (t)	2026-27 Agreed TAC (t)	Overcatch & Undercatch (%)	Determined amount (t)	Change in TAC (t)
4,010	4,010	10	2	0

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