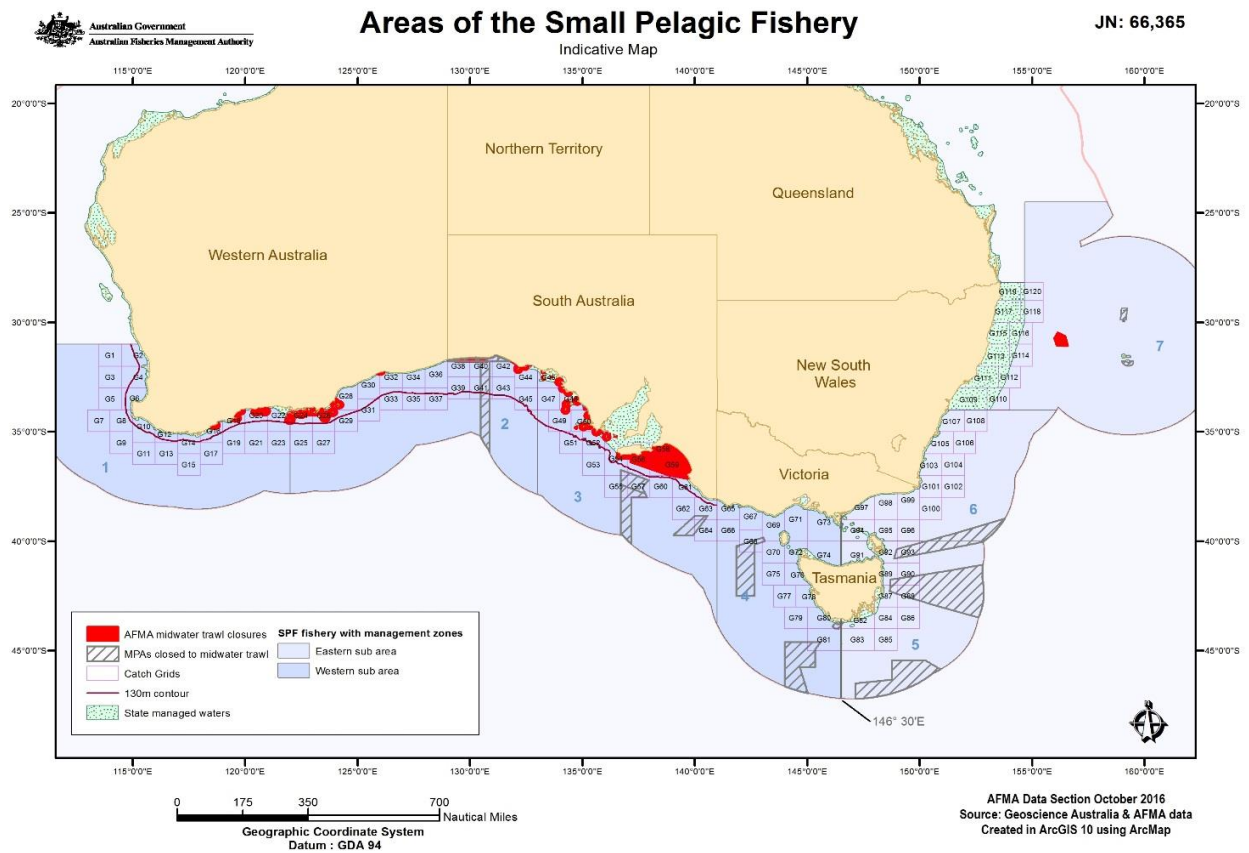




## Agenda item 2.1 AFMA update

Small Pelagic Fishery  
Informal stakeholder teleconference  
10 December 2018

### Overview of the Small Pelagic Fishery



**Target species:** Jack Mackerel, Blue Mackerel, Redbait, Sardines (split east and west into seven stocks)

**Methods:** Purse seine, midwater trawl

**Ports:** Iluka, Geelong, south coast NSW

**Markets:** Domestic and international for human consumption, bait for recreational fishing and fishmeal for aquaculture

**Fishing season:** 12 month season, beginning on 1 May

## Management

- *Small Pelagic Fishery Management Plan 2009*
- Quota and TACs set under Harvest Strategy (revised 2017)
- Risk based approach to bycatch – Ecological risk assessments, bycatch management plans (to be incorporated into Fishery Management Strategy which is under development)
- Consultation (advisory)
  - SPF Scientific Panel and Forum for economic and scientific advice (SPF Resource Assessment Group post 30 June 2019);
  - South East Management Advisory Committee – management advice
  - AFMA decision maker
- To fish in the fishery must be an Australian boat. All boats fishing are subject to:
  - Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) 24/7,
  - catch reporting,
  - bycatch mitigation,
  - monitoring via observers and/or Electronic Monitoring (EM),
  - spatial closures,
  - compliance program

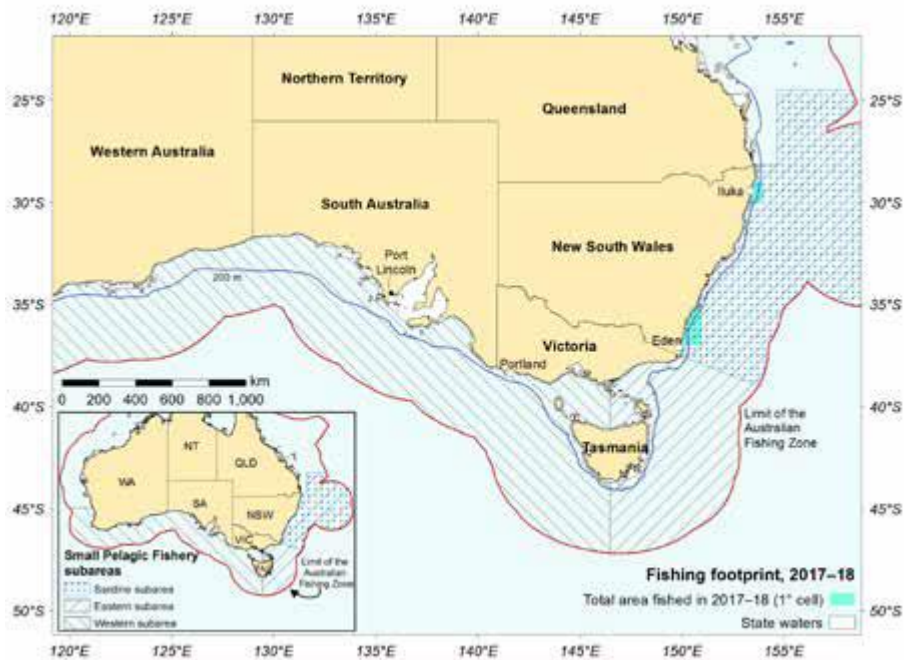
## SPF 2017-18 fishing season

### Target Species

**Table 1.** Catch of target species versus Total Allowable Catch (TAC) (tonnes) in the Small Pelagic Fishery for the 2017-18 fishing season (1 May 2017 to 30 April 2018).

Species	2017-18 TAC (tonnes)	2017-18 Catch (tonnes)	2018-19 TAC (tonnes)
Australian sardine	9 550	104 1 % of TAC	9 510
Blue mackerel - eastern sub-area	12 090	2890 24 % of TAC	12 090
Blue mackerel - western sub-area	3 230	0	3 230
Jack mackerel (eastern sub-area)	18 880	2699 14 % of TAC	18 890
Jack mackerel (western sub-area)	920	0	4 190
Redbait - eastern sub-area	3 410	15 0.4 % of TAC	3 420
Redbait - western sub-area	820	0	820

**Figure 1.** Map of fishing effort in the Small Pelagic Fishery in 2017-18 (Source: ABARES Fishery Status Report 2018).



**Note:** Some effort data are not shown on this map for confidentiality reasons.

### Bycatch summary (excluding protected species) (Table 2)

- 33 species / species groups retained and discarded.
- 5765 tonnes retained; 132 tonnes discarded
- % discarded = 2.24 %
- Most discarded species are target species
- ~ 8.5 tonnes ocean sunfish
- ~1.2 tonnes yellow tail scad
- All other species < 1 tonne

**Table 2.** Retained and discarded catch (kg) in the Small Pelagic Fishery (all methods) for the 2017-18 fishing season by species. Source: logbooks, weights are estimates only. Data is ranked by 'discarded' column, highest to lowest kg.

<b>2017-18 (kg)</b>		
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>RETAINED</b>	<b>DISCARDED</b>
Jack Mackerels	2747691	69870
Blue Mackerel	2857716	49883
Ocean Sunfish		8450
Yellowtail Scad	90	1250
Ocean Jacket	6326	806
Gould's Squid	7973	536
Shortfin Mako		245
Sharks (mixed)		180
Redbait	9520	163
Reef Ocean Perch	1227	150
Alfonsino		150
Eastern Orange Perch	2167	104
Redfish	1483	100
Fish (mixed)		100
Giant Manta Ray		100
Tang's Snapper		100
Latchet	72	50
Ruby Snapper		50
Barracouta	60	17
Gemfish	2172	13
Toadfishes unspecified		4
Yellowspotted Boarfish		2
Australian Sardine	99418	
Maray	22680	
Australian Anchovy	5310	
Silver Warehou	1030	
Splendid Perch	239	
Striped Marlin	180	
Dusky Whaler	160	
Tiger Flathead	118	
King Dory	94	
Red Gurnard	73	
Jackass Morwong	31	

## Protected species

- All midwater trawl boats operating in the SPF are required to:
  - use a marine mammal excluder device
  - use seabird mitigation devices (bird bafflers and tori lines)
- Dolphin interactions are managed under the SPF Dolphin Mitigation Strategy. This strategy is currently undergoing its first review since being implemented in May 2017.
- Interactions with protected species are publically reported quarterly on AFMA's website <https://www.afma.gov.au/sustainability-environment/protected-species-management/protected-species-interaction-reports>

## Other items of general interest

- The Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy were released 21 November 2018
  - HSP [http://www.agriculture.gov.au/fisheries/domestic/harvest\\_strategy\\_policy](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/fisheries/domestic/harvest_strategy_policy)
  - Bycatch Policy <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/fisheries/environment/bycatch/review>
- Post 30 June 2019, the SPF Scientific Panel and Stakeholder Forum model will be replaced by a Resource Assessment Group (RAG). This is following the Commission's consideration of a review of the Panel / Forum model trial. For more information regarding the Commission's decision <https://www.afma.gov.au/61st-afma-commission-meeting-chairmans-summary>
- AFMA is currently seeking applications for Chair positions for a number of RAG and Management Advisory Committees, including the SPF RAG and the South East MAC. Applications for membership will be sought early in 2019, after the appointment of the Chairs. For more information please see <https://www.afma.gov.au/news-media/news/chairs-sought-management-advisory-committees-and-resource-assessment-groups>