

SPF Alternative Fishing Methods: Mackerel Jigging



SPF Scientific Panel
December 2017

SPF Mackerel jigging application

- AFMA has received an application to use jigging methods in the small pelagic fishery, along with enquires regarding the use of minor line methods.
- The interest in using these methods is currently from the Western area of the fishery.
- Jigging and line fishing is intended to be used to target blue mackerel in small volumes for human consumption.

Mackerel fishing methods

- Mackerel jigging is a line fishing method that developed from rod and reel line fishing.
- Minor line methods are used in other Commonwealth fisheries (e.g. handline, dropline, trolling, rod and reel)



Rod and reel line fishing for blue mackerel

- Similar in concept to the automated lines used for deepwater species and the jigging systems used for squid, mackerel jigging gear uses automated reels to deploy and haul lines with multiple unbaited hooks or jigs.



Hydraulic line hauler for deepwater fishing for wreckfish

Mackerel jigging vessels and gear



Purpose-designed jigging gear has been used for decades to target blue mackerel elsewhere, particularly in the North Sea region. Mackerel jigging gear can be deployed off small vessels and typically lands high-quality mackerel intended for human consumption.

Multiple-rig mackerel jigging gear - Iceland

Panel advice to AFMA

- The Panel supported the proposal for the use of jigging and line methods in the SPF on the basis that:
 - the fishery is largely undeveloped;
 - these methods do not pose any risk to the ecological sustainability of the target species, as catches will be within the TAC;
 - both methods are highly selective and pose a low risk of bycatch and protected species interactions than the currently permitted methods.
- The Panel identified seabirds as the most likely species group to interact with either method but noted that effective mitigation options are available if an issue is identified.
- The Panel recommended that observer coverage for the initial five trips would be adequate to get an indication of any potential bycatch species, including protected species.

Questions?

