

Scalefish Fishery Advisory Committee (SFAC)

SFAC 74 Meeting minutes

Date: 02 June 2021

Attendees

Name	Membership Position
Mr Max KITCHELL	Chair
Mr Brendan EMMETT	Industry member
Mr Todd FRANCIS	Industry member
Mr Craig GARLAND	Industry member
Mr Alan JARVIS	Industry member (via Teams)
Mr Nicholas MARTIN	Industry member
Mrs Colleen OSBORNE	Industry member
Mr Steve CROCKER	Processor member
Mr Julian HARRINGTON	TSIC member
Hon. Rene HIDDING	TRLFA member
Mr Jon BRYAN	Community and Conservation member
Constable Ashley KENT	Tasmania Police member (apology)
Senior Constable Karina BREEN	Alternate Tasmania Police member
Dr Nils KRUECK	Scientific member
Dr Emily OGIER	IMAS presenter – item 2
Dr James HADDY	IMAS presenter – item 4
Mr Grant PULLEN	DPIPWE Fishery Manager
Ms Angela ILES	DPIPWE Compliance and Licensing
Ms Frances SEABORN	DPIPWE Executive Officer
Mr Rod PEARN	DPIPWE Observer – items 3 and 4
Mrs Jane GALLICHAN	Observer TARFish – items 3 and 4 (via Teams)
Mr Sunny JANG	Observer RecFAC – items 3 and 4 (via Teams)
Ms Dianne ANDONI	Observer RecFAC – items 3 and 4 (via Teams)
Mrs Sharna RAINER	DPIPWE Observer

Meeting Minutes

1. Preliminaries

1.1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:05 am. Members noted there were no apologies. Alan Jarvis attended the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

1.2. Declaration of interests

The declarations of material personal interest table ([Attachment A](#)) was reviewed and Mr Jon Bryan again noted that he no longer represented the Tasmanian Conservation Trust as the Community and Conservation representative. There were no changes made to the table (Attachment A).

1.3. Adoption of agenda

SFAC adopted the Agenda ([Attachment B](#)).

1.4. Actions Arising

The FAC noted that action 1.1 is complete as FRDC has formed a [Tasmania Research Advisory Committee \(TasRAC\)](#). Action 2.1 will be marked complete and removed from the action table. It was noted that this proposal would not be resolved by the FAC as it requires a formal review of the relevant legislation. TSIC will pursue this through the Minister's office. Action 2.3 is ongoing as it is subject to the Minister directing a review of endorsements. It was noted that the Minister had not yet made a decision to review endorsements and was awaiting the outcomes of the Recreational Fishing Strategy. The FAC expressed concern that they were not formally notified of Ministerial decisions of recommendations made. It was agreed that a standing item would be added to the agenda to facilitate this at future meetings. Actions 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 are complete. Action 3.6 was dealt with under the current agenda. For action 3.5, IMAS advised that due to staffing constraints this project is unlikely to proceed until 2022. IMAS is still awaiting the outcome of the funding application through ARC and advised that if this is not successful then they will reapply for funding through FRDC.

The action table ([Attachment C](#)) was updated accordingly.

Action Item 1: That a standing item notifying the FAC of the outcome of Ministerial decisions is added to the agenda of future meetings.

2. FRDC Project no. 2018-067: Socio-economic Scalefish Fishery project update

Dr Emily Ogier detailed what progress has been made in the project so far. Refer to Attachment E for a copy of the presentation.

The FAC noted the following key points:

- Project is now in stage 4 which aims to identify strategies and opportunities to improve economic returns and flow-on benefits.
- Fishers were classified in four categories:
 - Low/Low – don't fish a lot and don't catch much
 - High/Low – fish a lot but don't catch much
 - High/High – fish a lot and catch a lot
 - Low/High – don't fish a lot but catch a lot

- An industry workshop was held on 1 June 2021 that focussed on opportunities to improve performance.

Tasmanian Scalefish Fishery (TSF) Futures: opportunities to improve performance

Seven strategies came out of the workshop, including management factors.

1. *Increase levels of collaborative producer aggregation for sale to interstate (Sydney, Melbourne) markets* [strong support by industry as this is needed to support other areas of growth—e.g., underutilised species]
2. *Increase collaborative producer aggregation to retail fish to local Tasmanian communities* [already happening in some places. Consistency of supply is one issue. Management conditions also affect supply]
3. *Increase capacity for value-added packaged retail seafood lines* [strong support as this is needed to support other areas of growth such as underutilised species and smoothing out supply]
4. *Targeted local seafood consumer research, branding and marketing campaign* [strong support for branding and marketing of TSF product as Tasmanian, building on what is already being done]
5. *Establish markets for underutilised species* [strong support noting it needs other supporting strategies and developments such as market research, value adding etc]
6. *Minimise barriers due to management settings.* Issues include recreational only access areas, latent effort, strategic and investor behaviour, complexity in licence packages and limits and costs to fishers relating to seal interactions. The FAC acknowledged that this needs documenting regardless of whether change possible or not.
7. *Increase capability of TSF fishers in financial literacy and product handling* [TSIC and the Tasmanian Smarter Seafood Partnership are looking into this]

FAC members not present at the workshop were asked to provide feedback on the seven strategies to enable the project team to further refine them. Respondents were asked to identify what sector to come from from—for example, DPIPWE, Research, Police etc—on the feedback form.

Next steps include:

1. Incorporating feedback from SFAC Industry Workshop and SFAC meeting 74
2. More quantitative assessment of the top 4-5 strategies
3. Report this back to SFAC at meeting 75 and seek final feedback
4. Draft final report
5. Circulate and present summary findings and recommendations to SFAC for feedback
6. Finalise and publish report, plus summary sections for different users
7. Share findings with SFAC, Scalefish Fishery licence holders, TSIC and DPIPWE.

3. Preliminary 2019/20 scalefish assessment summary

Nils Krueck (IMAS) presented information on the preliminary assessment of the 2019/20 Scalefish Fishery. Refer to Attachment F for a copy of the presentation. RecFAC members Rod Pearn (DPIPWE), Jane Gallichan (TARFish CEO), Sunny Jang and Dianne Andoni observed this agenda item.

The following key points were noted:

- The new protocols for reviewing the data (correcting data in FILMS rather than IMAS having a separated 'clean' database).
- Summarised the stock status definition (depleting = stock ok but trend is worrying)
- Striped trumpeter not yet given a stock status, but likely to be classified as 'depleted'
- King George whiting – first time assessed (sustainable)

- Described Catch-MSY (a data poor stock assessment approach) which is based on
 - an estimate of resilience, i.e., the likely range of intrinsic population growth rates (r)
 - time series of catch
 - biomass dynamic model.
- The Catch-MSY output is an estimate of the maximum sustainable yield and depletion through time (B/K). Nine species were excluded from the 2019/20 Catch-MSY assessment approach. These were:
 - mixed species groups such as Flounders and Leatherjackets
 - species that are not fully fished—i.e., Yellow-Eye Mullet, Australian Sardine, King George Whiting and Longsnout Boarfish
 - where catch is highly variable and unlikely to reflect abundance due to fundamental changes in management or highly dynamic fishing effort—Australian Salmon and Barracouta
 - where the commercial catch is insignificant—Sand Flathead.
- Additionally, a risk of recruitment impairment (MSC) methodology was used to assess the stock status and recruitment capacity of State managed commercial target species.

The State assessed species were classified as follows, noting Striped Trumpeter is yet to receive a classification:

Sustainable: Yelloweye Mullet, Eastern Australian Salmon, Wrasse, Australian Sardine, King George Whiting and Snook.

Depleting: Southern Sand Flathead and Southern Calamari

Depleted: Southern Garfish and Bastard Trumpeter

Undefined: Leatherjackets and Barracouta

The Commonwealth assessed species were classified as follows:

Sustainable: Jackass Morwong, Gould's squid, Tiger Flathead, Eastern School Whiting and Jack Mackerel

Depleted: Blue Warehou

The State managed species assessed for 'risk of recruitment impairment (MSC)' had the following results:

Pass (with low risk to recruitment): Australian Sardine, Barracouta, Bluethroat Wrasse, Purple Wrasse, Eastern Australian Salmon, Greenback Flounder and Yellow-Eye Mullet

Pass (with a moderate risk to recruitment): Snook and King George Whiting

Fail (with a high risk to recruitment): Bastard Trumpeter, Sand Flathead, Southern Calamari, Southern Garfish, Striped Trumpeter and Pale Octopus¹.

The FAC noted the following:

- Research is recommended for **Bastard Trumpeter** (sourcing heads and frames from commercial banded morwong fishers or a dedicated project)
- Additional management actions would be needed to assist recovering the stock of Bastard Trumpeter. There is potential for closing the fishery for a period to see if it recovers.
- It was suggested that habitat loss may also be a factor impacting on **Southern Garfish** (in addition to fishing) as there is no longer the presence of string kelp (*macrocystis*) on the east coast, North Bruny, Slopem Main etc. Spawning used to occur in this habitat where stick eggs were laid across the string kelp. Garfish still lay eggs on other types of kelp.
- Anecdotally fishers have large numbers of small garfish (never any at the large market size) and in offshore waters (~10nm).
- The recreational sector is the dominant catcher of **Sand Flathead**. A new FRDC project [2020-005: Developing a cost-effective monitoring regime and stock assessment for Sand Flathead in Tasmania] will extend sampling to other areas (north coast).
- It was noted that it would be useful to know what the minimum size limit need to increase to, to potentially reduce the relatively high catch of female sand flathead.
- Concern was expressed around high catches of **Striped Trumpeter** reported in rock lobster logbooks on top of the catch reported in scalefish logbooks. However, discussions were based on a figure that represented catch weights for all bycatch species reported in the rock lobster fishery, which commonly exceed 10 tonnes. IMAS has subsequently advised that Striped Trumpeter generally accounts for less than 1 tonne of this total. It was noted that any catches on scalefish gear should be reported in the scalefish rather than RL logbook.
- It was noted that Striped Trumpeter are smaller on the east coast and larger on the west coast, indicating the potential for assessing this species regionally.
- Potential for striped trumpeter to be assessed as depleted, although this is yet to be confirmed. IMAS would like to increase the sample size of frame collection for both Striped Trumpeter and Bastard Trumpeter.
- The decline in **wrasse** catch is likely linked to impacts on markets due to Covid-19 rather than any issue with the stock.
- **Leatherjackets** are difficult to assess as they are grouped as “leatherjackets” rather than to a species level. It was noted by an industry member that there are 3-4 different species that are generally caught, and these would vary by region. Industry would need guidance on properly identifying leatherjackets to a species level.
- IMAS suggested that two of the main species on the east coast are likely to be southern leatherjacket and toothbrush leatherjacket.
- It was also suggested that the leatherjacket minimum size limit is too small.

4. King George Whiting research

Dr James Haddy (IMAS) presented research on King George Whiting (KGW) highlighting that this species has been present in Tasmanian waters for around 100 years. RecFAC members Rod

¹ Pale Octopus is assessed annually in a separate report and is not included in the main Tasmanian Scalefish Fishery assessment report

Pearn (DPIPWE), Jane Gallichan (TARFish CEO), Sunny Jang and Dianne Andoni observed this agenda item.

The FAC noted

- [FRDC Project number: 2011-017 Jenkins et. al. 2016 Spawning sources, movement patterns, and nursery area replenishment of spawning populations of King George Whiting in south-eastern Australia - closing the life history loop.](#)

This research

- determined the KGW found in Tasmania are genetically distinct from KGW in South Australian and Victorian populations.
- observed that in Tasmania, KGW on the north west coast are genetically distinct from those found on the north east coast—and potentially represent discrete breeding populations.
- gave a preliminary description of growth and reproductive seasonality.
- reported the oldest known Tasmanian KGW is 19 years of age.
- was the first to confirm presence of spawning KGW in Tasmania.
- Master of Applied Science (Marine Environment) Research Thesis by Nicholls, A. 2018 King George Whiting (*Sillaginodes punctatus*): Growth, age and reproductive biology in Northern and Eastern Tasmania. This research looked at sex specific growth rates, population structure, reproductive seasonality and mortality rates and provided improved regional and sex specific understanding.
- FRDC Project number: [2018-070 Tracey et. al \[unpublished\] Opportunities and impacts of range extending scalefish species: understanding population dynamics, ecosystem impacts and management needs.](#)

This research looked at

- improved regional and sex specific understanding.
- growth rates, population structure, reproductive seasonality and mortality rates.
- was the first sampling of undersized KGW and improved size at maturity estimates.
- ongoing monitoring of cohort progression.

The FAC discussed if there was a need for additional management to be adopted to ensure that King George Whiting (KGW) remains sustainable. The following was noted

- spawning is likely to occur in Autumn (most likely April) and fish move offshore to spawn—noting temperature potentially has a role to play in the spawning opportunity (colder water = reduced opportunity).
- there was a spawning closure implemented in South Australia²
- Tasmania has the most conservative minimum size limit—only allowing 3+ year olds to be taken—and a low recreational bag limit in place compared to other jurisdictions.
- another industry member noted that KGW caught in Georges Bay are different to those caught Ansons Bay, and both are different again to those caught in open water. Another industry member advised they had caught a KGW in mid-May further south than Swansea that looked roed up but spent. IMAS have an ongoing frame collection and monitoring

²[King George Whiting fishing closure changed - PIRSA, SA re-opens areas for King George Whiting fishing - Department for Infrastructure and Transport - South Australia \(dpti.sa.gov.au\)](#) and [Whiting closure lifted as numbers sustainable | Stock Journal | South Australia](#)

program and are keen to collect frames from King George Whiting taken in open waters, particularly from the east coast.

- an industry member suggested that in the NW King George Whiting are spawning between Rocky Cape and Woolnorth—and has caught hydrated fish in this area. Concern that as this a developing fishery and KGW is high value that there is potential for it to go a similar way to calamari and believes that there should be a spawning closure as a precaution. Suggested that there was no need to shut the whole north coast down, as haven't caught any spawning (hydrated) fish east of Rocky Cape. Another industry member stated that they have caught spawning hydrated KGW 20 km east of the Tamar.
- James Haddy (presenter) stated that KGW are spawning throughout the deeper waters of Bass Strait and Tasmania has two distinct stocks, so there must be a spawning ground off Flinders Island as well. We have data that indicates there are no fish around in April anywhere and would suggest that they are going to deeper water somewhere in April (which is consistent with their biology on the mainland). Closing April would be easy as no one is catching them anyway—but then if they are not being caught what would the closure achieve.
- KGW are easy to catch on a rod (no need to use nets). Will catch more with a rod and bait than with a net.
- Sean Tracey (IMAS) noted that while KGW have been around in Tasmania for a long time it is a developing fishery in both the commercial and recreational sectors—and is a very popular recreational species in South Australia and Victoria. In Tasmania, while we are not presently targeting KGW offshore where they are potentially spawning, we are observing that the recreational sector is quite good at expanding opportunities in some fisheries—for example the snapper fishery in the south. This is a unique situation where we are dealing with a growing fishery rather than a declining fishery and it's an opportunity to put in some conservative management measures before we run into problems, and while we have less political pressure.
- DPIPWE noted that this species is mentioned in the Recreational Fishing Strategy. This is a shared stock (between sectors) and work needs to be done to determine a way forward. Not convinced that a spawning closure in April would it do anything.
- James Haddy stated that a positive is that maturing fish that are 3.8 years of age are starting to migrate out of bays and inlets to coastal waters. These fish then become coastal residents. Ideally, we would give the maturing fish an opportunity to move out and spawn before being exploited. They would need to protection in March/early April to achieve this. Suggest a Statewide closure would be more beneficial than discrete area closures.
- It was noted that on the east coast there is no commercial activity in Georges Bay and Ansons Bay—these are essentially recreational only areas.
- There was discussion regarding increasing the minimum size limit to 50% size of maturity as the current minimum is well under this. It was acknowledged that the socio-economic impact would be to essentially shut down the recreational fishery. There are a number of fisheries where juveniles are exploited providing that the spawning population are protected.

In summary, there is consensus that while KGW is sustainable now we want to ensure it stays that way. In terms of management approaches, are conservative in terms of our recreational bag limit and minimum size limit. The FAC will leave it to DPIPWE and IMAS to discuss possible additional management options and bring these back to both SFAC and RecFACs for discussion at a future meeting.

5. Calamari management

5.1. Review of calamari management paper

The DPIPWE manager reminded the FAC of the process so far and advised that the Wild Fisheries Management Branch will undergo a two phase public consultation process (non-statutory and statutory) to ensure that stakeholders are familiar with the issues and have opportunity to provide comment before the formal statutory process begins.

The following key points were noted:

- As per agenda item 3, calamari have been assessed as ‘depleting’ in the 2019/20 fishery assessment—no change from previous assessment.
- There will be a two phase consultation process implemented (non-statutory and statutory)
- The aim is to have the discussion paper released publicly this year to provide opportunity for both commercial and recreational fishers an opportunity to provide comment before moving to the statutory process—noting both stages would be subject to Ministerial approval.
- For the non-statutory phase, it is intended that the paper will be publicly released for comment from interested stakeholders for a period of 30 days in the latter half of 2021.
- Once comment is received DPIPWE would provide a summary of the comments at the next meeting before providing a report to the Minister.
- Changes to legislation would then be drafted for the statutory consultation phase.
- Once the statutory consultation phase is complete DPIPWE would provide a final report to the Minister for final approval.
- If the Minister approves the proposed changes then ideally the statutory phase would be completed by 1 November 2022 so that any recreational changes would apply from that date and any new calamari licence would be in place by 1 March 2023.

The FAC noted the following:

- TSIC member agreed that the two stage process is reasonable and accepts the timeframe—noting the State election slowed the process—but ideally would like to see this process finalised as fast as possible, acknowledging the different views within and between both sectors. Supports the two phase process but understands that some would like it to move faster than that.
- Two other industry members also supported the two phase process.
- Another industry member noted that while would like to see this done properly but is seeing the fishery getting absolutely hammered with new entrants—active after the investment warning of 23 August 2018—who believe that if they spend the most time on the water and catch the most they can’t not give us a licence.
- Need to maximise the chances of success to introduce new licences—hence the two state consultation process—and possibly reaffirm to commercial fishers that catch history passed 23 August 2018 will not qualify for a licence. Need to progress management action as quickly as possible to honour the investment warning date.
- Need a simple overarching message around the status of the calamari stocks for both commercial and recreational fishers—i.e., emphasise that calamari have been assessed as depleting, stocks potentially on a knife edge on the north coast and it’s time for management action. Do not want to see the fishery collapse due to inaction.

RECOMMENDATION

The FAC recommends that public consultation on the review of calamari management be undertaken through a two-stage process with the first non-statutory phase being completed by the end of 2021 and the second statutory phase completed by 1 November 2022.

There was further discussion regarding the proposed seine trip limit included in the paper

- An industry member stated that fishers in the north west strongly objected to the proposed 100 kg trip limit to seine and that this trip limit should not be applicable to the north west. There is very little catch history for seine fishing in the north west and why are we advocating bringing more activity into an already depleted stock. The area east of Robbins Island (block 4E31) is the main calamari area and is open to seine nets. Propose that the trip limit for seine be the same as for everyone else to meet our sustainability objectives. The 100kg is twice the average daily squid jig catch.
- Another industry member advised that this would be an issue for the seine operators in the north east, particularly around Flinders Island for times when there are no garfish, they have a multi species shot such as whiting and calamari and average 50-60 kg of calamari. The 100 kg gives them a buffer if the tides a bit low and they get further out. They are not going to go over 100 kg.
- DPIPWE noted that this number came from what might be representative of mixed catch that are being taken now. If that number is going to be reduced, then the equity in that sector arises in terms of if they've been doing this activity for a long period then we would need to have a process for recognising them also. Whether the number itself is appropriate is another issue.
- The north west industry member strongly disagreed with the proposed seine trip limit being applied to the north west coast and was of the understanding that this was to apply to the Flinders Island seine netters only.³
- DPIPWE emphasised that we don't want seine netters putting a seine around an aggregation of calamari. One way is to ban gear in certain places, we have shut a lot of the shallow waters to seine such as Robbins Passage. It was emphasised that seine licence holders already have unlimited access to calamari now, so the question is how we would limit their access in the future. The proposal is to put a trip limit on them all.
- It was clarified that the rule currently in place that stops the holder of a seine licence from possessing or using squid jigs when also in possession or using a purse seine net, beach seine net or Danish seine net only applies to the existing calamari licence area—South East Waters—if not also the holder of a fishing licence (calamari) [\[Rule 116\]](#). This rule would need to be modified to include any new licence areas.
- TSIC wanted to know how many seine licences report calamari catch and was advised that not all seine licence holders report catch of calamari, so there would be latent effort. TSIC not supportive of allowing all seine licences a trip limit of 100kg/day. This needs to be reviewed as this as unacceptable due to so much latent effort in the seine fishery and inequity to the general trip limit.
- It was observed that purse seine is the most devastating method to take calamari an example is 3 shots for 900 kg over 3 hours. You can't do that using a squid jig. A beach seine on a fishing licence (beach seine B) isn't long enough to be that efficient in catching calamari, whereas a beach seine on a fishing licence (beach seine A) licence would be.

³ DPIPWE advised that this proposal had been in every document relating to calamari management and applied to all types of seine licence including beach seine, purse seine and Danish seine.

Also noted that those beach seine operators on Flinders Island operate their beach seines as a semi purse seine.

In summary if the seine trip limit was to be adopted and if the latent effort was to be activated then there would be a potential sustainability impact, which is what we are trying to avoid. DPIPWE can deal with this in the redrafting of this proposal in the document or through the consultation process that will follow.

The north west industry member also stated that qualifying catch history criteria 2 and 3 are unacceptable and would not meet the sustainability objectives. Believes that we would be running a lottery that will allow fishers who do not have a long history in the fishery access potentially doubling the number of licences for the north west. Criteria 1 is the only option that should be applied. The Chair declined to further review these criteria as they were endorsed by the FAC at a previous meeting (but not by this member) and suggested they go out for comment as is, noting this industry member's objection to it, and expect that submissions will be received by this industry member and others that support retaining criteria 1 only.

5.2. North Coast Calamari Spawning Closure

The FAC noted that the recommendation for the north coast calamari closed season from 1-31 October 2021 made at SFAC 73 was not a formal recommendation progressed to the Minister due to the State election. The FAC is now required to make a formal recommendation at this meeting.

DPIPWE proposed that the seasonal closure of October (that was predominantly supported at SFAC 73) be also extended to 2022 to cover the statutory review period, observing that the timing is fairly well understood by the recreational sector and noting there had been discussion at SFAC 73 about moving the closed period two weeks earlier.

An industry member suggested that the fact that the October closure is well understood is not taking the species into consideration. Egg mops have been observed on the bottom in August/September along the north east and is concerned that the peak spawning time is being missed. Another industry member noted that in the north west over the last three years that calamari start to come in from the last week of September.

DPIPWE observed that as the timing of the closure had been fairly stable since introduced it was thought that if it could be rolled over for an extra year—i.e., 2021 and 2022—it would be one less thing for DPIPWE to deal with while undergoing this management change process as it does take time and resources to do it.

DPIPWE observed that it would be difficult to make a change to the timing of the closed season this year for the recreational fishers. We can look at the data and potentially make a change for next year. Propose that we leave the closure for this year at 1-31 October 2021 and review the timing for 2022. Potential for asking for comment on the timing of the closure during the non-statutory consultation phase.

The FAC noted the following in their discussion

- The season is essentially eight weeks long so a two week change could make a big difference to the spawning calamari—i.e., retain a four week closure but shift the timing.
- It was observed that in the NE, the years the spawning calamari are heavily fished in September are the years they don't seem to aggregate the best. If they are left due to bad weather at the start those times seem to have the better fishing years.
- From a compliance perspective the dates don't matter, but if multiple discrete areas were closed this would make compliance more difficult.

- TSIC highlighted past meeting discussion of the importance of the first run of calamari coming into spawn compared to the later run of calamari. The industry preference is to protect the bigger, stronger first run of fish in September.
- TSIC noted the science is not stating its critical to change the season for this year.
- One industry member believes that now is the time to act and strongly supported moving the closure dates. Three other industry members supported this.
- The processor member noted we have different dates commercial and recreational fishers for the rock lobster fishery and asked why a similar option couldn't be utilised for north coast calamari. DPIPWE highlighted that for rock lobster this was a resource access issue and not about resource protection.
- Industry members proposed that the closure should be for the last two weeks of September and the first two weeks of October—i.e., from 21 September to 20 October. Five industry members supported this proposal.
- The TSIC member clarified that they were not saying “no” to September and had highlighted the importance of that first run of calamari but was about being understanding of the issues around recreational fishers if the closure dates moved this year. Fishers are telling TSIC that the first run should be protected.
- DPIPWE noted that if the change in dates applied to commercials only then this proposal could be supported [industry members wanted these dates to apply to both sectors]. The advantage of having the closure apply to both sectors is that the calamari are left alone for that period, which gives them an opportunity to spawn and lay their eggs, whereas if you had two weeks difference in the closure dates for the commercial and recreational sectors then this halves the time the calamari are left alone. We don't know what the impact of that would be. The theory of moving the season is not a problem, it's mechanisms and timing which is highly problematic for DPIPWE this year. Additionally, RecFAC have not had a chance to discuss the alternative proposal.
- IMAS representative noted that if you try and capture that first period of the spawning activity while we know that it has been variable over five years, there is a risk this period will cover a time where there is no spawning activity. Which is why the current spawning closure timing was moved towards the centre so we had some certainty that some spawning would be covered.
- DPIPWE noted that the initial three month east coast closure was brought in to cover all of the main spawning activity period and emphasised that a shorter closure will not be able to guarantee this.

RECOMMENDATION

That the closed season for Southern Calamari on the north coast is from

- 15 September 2021⁴ to 14 October 2021 (inclusive); and from
- 15 September 2022 to 14 October 2022 (inclusive).

Industry members and the community and conservation member support this proposal.

⁴ Note for the draft Minutes only - the previous closure in October applied for 31 days. Would suggest that any future closure apply for at least 30 days, so from the 15 September rather than the 17 September as originally discussed during the meeting.

6. Research priorities

The FAC reviewed the table of research priorities and updated where necessary. Refer to [Attachment D](#) for the updated table.

7. Reports

Verbal reports were provided.

7.1. Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)

Dr Nils Krueck reported that:

- There is a new website currently under development for the stock assessments—[Tasmanian Wild Fisheries Assessments](#)—which will integrate information we have from research projects which complement assessments as well as the assessments themselves. The Scalefish component of this website is not yet complete, but users will soon be able to click on a species and access all relevant assessment and research information in one place. Future plans include the addition of new species — even if they are not routinely [annually] assessed so that all information relevant to that species would be available.
- With regard to species assessments, only certain sections containing new catch and effort data and associated analyses will contain updated text, including IMAS interpretation and status assessments. Other sections will be updated only once new information becomes available (e.g. through research projects). With a vision to reduce time needed generating written reports, there will be a shortened version of the scalefish assessment report for the 2019/20 season and potentially the following season. From then on, written reports will be phased out altogether to invest more time on stock status analyses published online.
- As shown in the item 3 presentation IMAS have introduced two new data poor stock assessment approaches. More novel assessment approaches are likely to be added as IMAS revisits ongoing scale research activities and continues ongoing discussions with leading experts, including local colleagues at CSIRO, about data-poor stock assessments.
- As there is so much variability locally it is increasingly important that we look at the regional trends for relevant species and IMAS will be relying on advice from both commercial fishers and DPIPWE to clarify regional trends and management opportunities, aiming to improve decisions on how we spatially define the units that we'd like to assess and what might be the key drivers of trends in those regions (work in progress).
- Jeremy Lyle retiring is a big loss due his extensive knowledge of scalefish and recreational fisheries. IMAS has identified a candidate as his replacement, but is awaiting clarification of the position start date. Until that position is filled Sean Tracey, Nils Krueck and support staff will take over Jeremy's work in the interim. We hope to have this position filled in the next few months.

DPIPWE noted that it would be appropriate for the Chair on behalf of the FAC write a letter of thanks for his representation on this FAC. It was noted that he has been a member since this FAC began. The FAC supported this.

<p>Action Item 2: SFAC Executive Officer to draft letter of thanks to retired IMAS representative Jeremy Lyle on behalf of the SFAC for the Chair's signature.</p>

7.2. Tasmania Police – Marine Division

Constable Ashley Kent reported that it is a quiet time of year on the water but have been kept busy with Covid-19 activities etc.

- Vessel replacement program still on track and the Dauntless replacement is apparently due in October 2021. This new on call vessel is being built by Hart Marine and will be similar style to the pilot vessels.
- Vessel patrols are locked in for the next 12 months, subject to any date changes.

7.3. Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC)

- After four months have finally recruited a new Project Officer – Courtney. She has good capacity to run projects (founded and ran the Ginuary Festival for 3 years). Courtney is coming in to support our Seafood Industry News magazine, some of our workforce development work, seafood trails and all other projects underway under our project manager Emma.
- Coming out of Covid-19 market disruption things are setting down but not resolved and now that tourists are coming back to Tassie we are ramping up work on Seafood Trails platform to connect tourists with where they can purchase seafood, but more importantly the seafood story—about fishermen, videos information about the seafood industry etc. Have funding through the election commitments for these projects.
- Under the broad umbrella of our “Eat More Seafood” campaign we are ramping up effort in market research to better understand consumer preferences—i.e., what drives consumers to choose seafood (funding through State Growth for that).
- AMSA issue – have had four larger vessels believing they had valid certificates of survey or certificates of operation when in fact they didn't. are complete and approved. Two of them had surveys done, paperwork was submitted from the private surveyor but the secondary set of paperwork from the owner into AMSA was never completed. AMSA never flagged it out to the owner of the vessel (they claimed there were letters). The survey is not complete unless that secondary administrative paperwork is submitted. One operator has now been out of survey for longer than two years, which under the law triggers his grandfathering is lost—so no longer a grandfathered vessel—and will have to become transitional (stability booklet for vessel, fire suppressant system, appropriate safety equipment including height of railings) and that can get up to \$80K. The current financial climate makes it difficult for vessel owner to cover the cost of doing this.
- Recommend that all vessel owners contact AMSA and make sure your survey and certificate of operation are current and approved as AMSA is ramping up in this space. AMSA systems are finally getting better and they can check up on things. Checks of Safety Management Systems (SMS) becoming more frequent and many vessels are failing which will be problematic for some operators. These have been a requirement since 1 July 2019.

7.4. Community and Conservation

Brief comment regarding the picture of the stocks, including those not looking so good, and noted it would be in the best interest of the fishery and the government to turn those trends around. Need to have strategies in place to do something about it. It's a bad look for the fishery and a bad look for DPIWPE and the Government. Emphasises that Bastard Trumpeter are depleted and some of those other species are also declining, and we need to change our management structure to deal with it.

7.5. Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association (TRLFA)

- Rock Lobster Fishery is buying in around \$3M of bait annually primarily from New Zealand and Western Australia.
- Would be great to be able to purchase this locally, but are aware that \$2.80/kg is not viable in the quantities that would be supplied locally when factoring in catching, freezing, boxing etc. If there were scalefish operators who would like to discuss the supply of bait at any level, particularly the seine fishers, we would be keen to support Tasmanian fishers.
- It was noted that a couple of scalefish fishers already supply a couple of rock lobster fishers. The uncertainty of endorsements makes it difficult to commit to supply at a larger scale.
- Local product is fresher and catches better. Potential for processors to supply frames.
- The TSIC member stated imported bait is a potential issue. Notes that product brought in for human consumption that is then used as bait is a significant risk to our Marine environment (white spot). The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) is not aware of product brought in as bait. Would like the rock lobster to ensure the product coming is classified for use as bait as this is quite a different product than that coming in for human consumption.

7.6. DPIPWE – Marine Resources Division

Grant Pullen reported

- With the finalisation of the State election we now have a new Government and they have made several commitments during that process and those will be our priority—including the 100 day undertaking—we are in the process of determining what they are and how they are going to be progressed. Not the least being the money that was talked about this morning in how that might be allocated noting not much of that is for fisheries management, but for marketing and training.
- There is a degree of continuity with having the same Minister, although new advisor Will Jocelyn.

8. Other Business

There was no “other business” tabled for this meeting.

9. Dates for next meeting

The next meeting of SFAC is scheduled tentatively for August 2021 will be subject to first stage of consultation.

Meeting closed 3:22 pm.

Attachments

All attachments have been updated to reflect discussion at this meeting.

[Attachment A – Declarations of SFAC members' Material Personal Interest](#)

[Attachment B – SFAC 73 Agenda](#)

[Attachment C – SFAC Action Items](#)

[Attachment D – SFAC Research Priorities](#)

The following will be separate attachments available on request.

Attachment E – FRDC Project Update: Socio-economic characteristics and future strategies for the Tasmanian Scalefish Fishery presentation by Dr Emily Ogier

Attachment F – Preliminary Scalefish Fishery Assessment 20019/20 presentation by Dr Nils Krueck

Attachment G – King George Whiting presentation by Dr James Haddy

ATTACHMENT A – Declarations of SFAC members’ Material Personal Interest

Declared Interest - Last updated: March 2021	
Members	
Mr Jon BRYAN (Community & Conservation member)	Member of other Tasmanian FACs, TARFish Committee, and two recreational diving clubs. Member of “Stop the Trawler”. No interest in any fishery.
Mr Steve CROCKER (Processor member)	Processor of live abalone, rock lobster, live banded morwong and wrasse. Owns a scalefish licence package with banded morwong and quota.
Mr Brendan EMMETT (Industry member)	Owns and operates a licence package with scalefish, banded morwong and wrasse licences.
Mr Todd FRANCIS (Industry member)	Owns and operates two scalefish licence packages. Package 1: scalefish B on a 0-<10m vessel. Package 2: scalefish B, purse seine net (non-transferable), wrasse, southern calamari licences on a 0-<6m vessel. Mainly targets calamari and wrasse.
Mr Craig GARLAND (Industry member)	Owner operator. Holder of a scalefish licence package with a scalefish A and beach seine B. Small mesh gillnet licence. Is endorsed to use small mesh gillnets on the north coast. Targets calamari and all inshore scalefish species of the NW region both commercially and recreationally.
Mr Alan JARVIS (Industry member)	Owns and operates a licence package with a scalefish B, wrasse, small mesh gillnet on a 0-<10m vessel.
Mr Julian HARRINGTON (TSIC member)	Chief Executive of Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council. Member of all Tasmanian commercial FACs, all RAGs, SMRCA committee, ShellMAP and Biosecurity Advisory Committee. No financial interest in the Scalefish Fishery.
Mr Rene HIDDING (TRLFA member)	Chief Executive Office of the Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishermen’s Association.
Constable Ashley KENT (Tas. Police member)	Marine Police Officer. Holds recreational licences. No interest.
Mr Max KITCHELL (Chair)	No interest, material or otherwise, in the Tasmanian Scalefish Fishery.
Snr Constable Karina LANE	Alternate member (proxy) for Ashley KENT. Marine Police Officer. Holds recreational licences. No interest.
Dr Nils KRUECK	Research Fellow at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS). Interest in securing funding relevant to research into Tasmania’s commercial and recreational fisheries.
Mr Nicholas MARTIN (Industry member)	Operates two licence packages. Package 1 is wrasse, scalefish B, beach seine A and 0-<20m vessel. Package 2 is scalefish B and 0-<10m. Targets calamari, garfish, pike and looking to progress into banded morwong.
Mrs Colleen OSBORNE (Industry member)	Husband, David Osborne, is a commercial scalefish fisherman. Owns 2 x fishing licence (vessels), beach seine A [with an endorsement to use beach seine on NW coast between Stanley and Point Sorell], scalefish B, small mesh gillnet.
Mr Grant PULLEN	DPIPWE – Manager (Wild Fisheries Management Branch). No interest.
Invited participant	
Ms Angela ILES	DPIPWE – Senior Officer (Fisheries Licensing). No interest.
Dr Emily OGIER	IMAS Marine Social Science Research Fellow. Presenting in item 2. Interest in securing research funding and interest in Tasmanian Rock Lobster Industry as a Director on a Family Trust involved in commercial fishing.
Dr James HADDY	IMAS/UTAS lecturer. Presenting in item 4.
Executive Officer	
Ms Frances SEABORN	DPIPWE – Senior Fisheries Management Officer, Scalefish Fishery (including squid and octopus). No interest.
Observers	
Mr Rod PEARN	DPIPWE – Recreational Fisheries manager (for items 3 and 4)
Mrs Sharna RAINER	DPIPWE – Graduate fisheries manager (for items 3 and 4)
Mrs Jane GALLICHAN	TARFish CEO (for items 3 and 4)

ATTACHMENT B – Updated SFAC 73 Agenda

30 March 2021 | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM AEST

Agenda item	Purpose	Presenter	Time (AEDT)
1. Preliminaries			15 mins (9:00 – 9:15)
1.1 Welcome and apologies	For information	Chair	
1.2 Declarations of interest	For action	All participants	
1.3 Adoption of agenda	For action	Chair	
1.4 Actions arising	For information	AFMA	
2. FRDC Project no. 2018-067: Socio-economic Scalefish Fishery project update			45 mins (9:15 – 10:00)
2.1 Presentation of project progress	For information	Emily Ogier	
2.2 Steering Committee	For advice	All members	
MORNING TEA BREAK ~15 mins (10:00 – 10:15)			
3. Preliminary 2019/20 scalefish assessment summary	For information and advice	Nils Krueck	1.5 hours (10:15 – 12:15)
4. Presentation of fishery performance – 2020/21 season	For information	James Haddy	30 mins (12:15 – 12:45)
LUNCH BREAK ~ 40 mins (12:45-1:15)			
4. Calamari management			1.5 hours (1:15 – 2:45)
4.1 Draft calamari management discussion paper	For information	DPIPWE	
4.2 North coast calamari closure	For advice	DPIPWE	
6. Research Priorities (Attachment 6D)		All members	20 mins (2:45 – 3:05)
7. Reports (paper or verbal)	For information		30 mins (3:05 – 3:35)
7.1 IMAS		Nils Krueck	
7.2 Tasmania Police		Ashley Kent	
7.3 TSIC		Julian Harrington	
7.4 Community & Conservation		Jon Bryan	
7.5 TRLFA		Rene Hidding	
7.6 DPIPWE		Grant Pullen	
7. Other business			5 mins (3:35 – 3:40)
7.1			
8. Next meeting dates (proposed) SFAC 75 – August 2021 SFAC 76 – November 2021 SFAC 77 – Early 2022	For discussion	Frances Seaborn	5 mins (3:40 – 3:45)
Meeting close			

ATTACHMENT C – SFAC Action Items

Complete	Underway	Yet to start	SFAC advice required / for noting
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	Meeting	Agenda item reference	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	SFAC 67 (26/07/2019)	2(ii)	1.1	IMAS and DPIPWE to determine structure of Scalefish RAG going forward and bring back to the next meeting for discussion.	IMAS/DPIPWE		Complete. FRDC has formed a Tasmania Research Advisory Committee (TasRAC)
	SFAC 71 (4/09/2020)	7	2.1	TSIC to discuss Interest Register proposal with the owners of fishing licence (banded morwong) and will provide a proposal for consideration by DPIPWE before tabling at a future meeting.	TSIC		Complete. Would be subject to schedule for relevant legislation review. TSIC to pursue this through the Minister's office.
	SFAC 71 (4/09/2020)	10.2	2.3	Industry member Brendan Emmett to work with TSIC and provide a paper on the proposal to allow access to Mercury Passage by all holders of a fishing licence (banded morwong) via endorsement.	Brendan Emmett & TSIC		Ongoing. Subject to the Minister directing a review of endorsements. It was noted that the Minister had not yet made a decision to review endorsements and was awaiting the outcomes of the Recreational Fishing Strategy.
	SFAC 73 (30/03/2021)	3	3.3	TRLFA member to provide the SFAC with broad numbers of volume and price of Australian salmon utilised by the Rock Lobster Fishery for bait and these will be factored into the scalefish fishery socio-economic project.	TRLFA	ASAP	Complete. On average 1 tonne of bait is required to catch 1 tonne of rock lobster. The cost of bait ranges from \$2.50 to \$3.20 per kilo. It was noted by industry that this cost is not viable for the small amounts that most operators would deliver when factoring in processing, packaging, freezing and delivery on top of catching. DPIPWE to pass this information of to Emily Ogier.
	SFAC 73 (30/03/2021)	4.1	3.4	Sean Tracey (IMAS) to check with his IMAS dive crew re calamari sites surveyed at Low Head and provide this information to the FAC.	Sean Tracey (IMAS)	SFAC 74	Complete. Summary of survey sites provided by IMAS tabled during item 1.4.

	SFAC 73 (30/03/2021)	5	3.5	SFAC indicate strong support of IMAS utilising SMRCA contingency funds to start banded morwong research in 2021 rather than waiting on the outcome of the ARC funding application. IMAS to confirm if possible. Outcome of ARC funding application expected in June 2021.	IMAS	ASAP	Complete. Due to staffing constraints IMAS advised that it is unlikely that any research would commence before 2022 due to existing resources already assigned to other work. IMAS is still awaiting the outcome of the funding application through ARC and advised that if this is not successful then they will reapply for funding through FRDC.
	SFAC 73 (30/03/2021)	7	3.6	For the FAC's consideration at its April meeting, IMAS to present both SFAC [and RecFAC] with the most up to date research on King George whiting before further discussion on if a spawning closure is appropriate for this species.	DPIPWE	SFAC 74	Complete. Agenda item for SFAC 74
	SFAC 74	1.4	4.1	That a standing item notifying the FAC of the outcome of Ministerial decisions is added to the agenda of future meetings.	DPIPWE	SFAC 75	
	SFAC 74	7.1	4.2	SFAC Executive Officer to draft letter of thanks to retired IMAS representative Jeremy Lyle on behalf of the SFAC for the Chair's signature.	DPIPWE	ASAP	

ATTACHMENT D – SFAC Research Priorities

Research complete	Underway	Yet to start	Awaiting funding or more information
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Meeting	Species or fishery	Description of research need	Priority	Funding source	Status
SFAC 61 3/10/2016 [updated at SFAC 73 - 2021)	Garfish	Better understanding of if the fishery is undergoing availability issues or recruitment failure. Review existing closures and determine if timing and zones are appropriate, particularly for the north. Age and growth, age structure	High	SMRCA	Recent honours project has highlighted discrepancies with the aging work (related to interpretation) and this has an impact on how the stock is assessed and what is going on with the stocks themselves. Issues now and in the past is that due to closures IMAS seeking samples of fish when they are potentially spawning. Assessed as depleted, although assessment may not reflect state of stock due to lack of fishing.
SFAC 61 3/10/2016 [updated at SFAC 73 - 2021)	Wrasse	UPDATE SFAC 74: Suggest a dedicated project that investigates spatial dynamics, potentially funded by FRDC Status of wrasse stocks: assessing the impacts of fishing at localised and regional scales. The known research on these species is not current. This is an important component of the Scalefish Fishery. Likely to be the highest value species in the scalefish fishery. Anecdotal reports received from industry that localised depletions and serial depletions have occurred in some regions. Transitional size will give indication of fishing pressure.	High	TasRAC UTAS	SFAC 74 UPDATE: there is no update on the status of the PhD project IMAS has submitted an EOI for the following PhD project Project Title: <i>Capturing local data in Tasmanian reef fishery management</i> The movements of most reef fishes are confined to a few patches of reef habitat, which causes small-scale variability in life history characteristics and a high sensitivity to localized fishing pressure. However, traditional reef fishery assessments in Tasmania aggregate data on catch and abundance across the whole state, thereby ignoring the potential for uncovering localised

						depletion. The project will address this problem by integrating complementary datasets on local fish and fisheries to identify appropriate spatial management units, helping to ensure sustainable production of increasingly important fishery resources. Specifically, the research will support the resilience of both fish and fisher communities in regional Tasmania (“Environmental Resilience” domain) by enhancing the capacity to assess and predict local-scale fishery depletion and productivity. It will further embrace data-based decision making (“Industry 4.0” – “Sustainable Communities & Economies” domain) by capitalising on the wealth of currently underutilised local information available through routine fisher logbook records and citizen science programs (Reef Life Survey).
	<p>SFAC 61 3/10/2016 [updated at SFAC 73 - 2021)</p>	Striped Trumpeter	<p>Require more information to enable determination of the size and age structure of the stock.</p> <p>Increasing interest in this species from the rock lobster sector</p>		SMRCA	<p>Acknowledge issues with sourcing samples. Possibility of a small project to repeat a similar project on striped trumpeter done a few years ago—i.e., targeted sampling during the closed season in a number of locations (including tagging).</p> <p>IMAS has started some work through frames collection programs and a new biological survey. New data will be either published in a stand alone report or incorporated as a summary in the Scalefish Fishery Assessment.</p>

	Meeting	Species or fishery	Description of research need	Priority	Funding source	Status
	SFAC 63 8/11/2017 [updated at SFAC 73 - 2021]	Bastard Trumpeter & Blue Warehou	Both classified as “depleted”. Recreational sector is main catcher of both species and require targeted research specifically on the recreational gillnet fishery. Population biology of, and status of bastard trumpeter to enable improved management and a review of suitability of existing management measures in achieving long term sustainability. Blue warehou is predominantly a Commonwealth managed species – although managed by Tasmania in State waters. Is currently managed under a bycatch TAC limit in the SESSF.		SMRCA	Bastard trumpeter - Frame program is continuing, primarily from rec sector. Would like to expand this to commercial sector. State catch comprised of juveniles/sub adults. Potential for survey in gillnet free areas such as the Derwent. Unaware of any research being undertaken on blue warehou in the Commonwealth IMAS included a proposal on their proposed Scalefish RAG Research Priorities list that was tabled at the July 2019 TasRAC meeting. Still nothing progressed for either species.
	SFAC 64 13/04/2018 [updated at SFAC 73 - 2021]	Southern calamari	Scope out required research for statewide and potentially a regional assessment.	High	SMRCA	SFAC discussed if north coast calamari research should be continued considering this species is under management review. Is 5 years of data enough to determine a long term trend? IMAS to discuss internally if necessary
	SFAC 65 29/08/2018 [updated at SFAC 73 - 2021]	All species currently assessed as “undefined”	Improving the Tasmanian Scalefish Fishery Assessment by addressing gaps in the understanding of key biological processes for certain species. Related to this diversity and the limited economic value of individual species, there is a general paucity of basic biological information directly relevant to Tasmania populations for many species. Such information is necessary to underpin stock status determinations and assess the likely impacts of fishing, and is either absent or inferred from populations outside of Tasmania.		Funded FRDC	FRDC Project 2018-070 : Opportunities and impacts of range extending scalefish species: understanding population dynamics, ecosystem impacts and management needs. FRDC project 2018-070 includes King George whiting, Snapper and Yellowtail Kingfish. Need to confirm if potential for determining timing of a spawning closure for King George whiting is part of this project. Project due to finish in early 2022. IMAS to provide a project update to the FAC at a future meeting. Send final report to SFAC members when published

	Meeting	Species or fishery	Description of research need	Priority	Funding source	Status
	SFAC 65 29/08/2018 [updated at SFAC 73 - 2021]	Assessing the impacts and implications of seal- fishery interactions in Tasmania	<p>Anecdotally, interactions between seals and fishers (commercial and recreational) are increasing across the State. However, these interactions remain poorly quantified, and their effect on fishery performance and abundance is poorly understood.</p> <p>In terms of fisheries assessment, seals pose two confounding issues – alterations in catch rates caused by fishers trying to reduce interactions (e.g. through the deployment of ‘dummy’ fishing gear), and increased rates of mortality of fish from seals preying on captured individuals (either those to be retained or discards).</p> <p>Research components could include: documenting nature of interactions to better quantify this in logbooks; trialling activities and gear to reduce interactions, or assessing the fate of discards under increasing seal interactions.</p>			<p>Improved species assessments through better understanding of interactions and seal-induced mortality, better-informed management of commercially and recreationally exploited species.</p> <p>IMAS included a proposal on their proposed Scalefish RAG Research Priorities list that was tabled at the July 2019 TasRAC meeting, but nothing yet progressed.</p> <p>Potential for Masters project investigating seal degradation on all relevant fisheries.</p>

	Meeting	Species or fishery	Description of research need	Priority	Funding source	Status
	SFAC 71 4/09/2020	Banded Morwong	An ongoing review of the Banded Morwong assessment model helped identify key sensitivities around biomass predictions which need to be addressed for more robust parameterisation and a potential update of the model structure. Research needs to address key sensitivities include a better understanding of (1) population sizes and movements across shallow and deep water reef habitats, (2) gear selectivity, and (3) the growth of young fish.	High	ARC (will know if successful in July 2021). If not successful then FRDC Potential for SMRCA contingency fund to get project started quicker.	SFAC 74 Update: IMAS advised that due to current workplan commitments and reduced capacity since Jeremy Lyle's retirement. It is unlikely that this project would start before 2022. The review of the assessment model started in 2019 and is aimed to be completed in 2021. Key model sensitivities are identified by assessing and ranking modelling parameters in terms of (1) their impact on spawning biomass predictions and (2) the potential to address associated uncertainties by reviewing existing and collecting new empirical data. Also IMAS potential capacity for Jeremy Lyle's replacement position which will be a little different to current. But this is yet to be resolved. Jeremy retires on 7 May 2021.
	SFAC 72 20/10/2020	Danish seine	Small project that would provide a snapshot of the Danish seine sector as we don't collect discard data in the scalefish logbook. Have observers on Danish seine vessels to record catch retained, discarded, interactions etc and provide a short report that we could make available publicly.	High	SMRCA	This sector is heavily scrutinised and information in that space is better than no information. It would be ideal to provide information that is verifiable, that can be placed on the public record. Project will start late 2021 after current projects data collection has been completed.

