

Pink Ling (2020)

Genypterus blacodes



Timothy Emery: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), **Amy Smoothey:** NSW Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries Research

STOCK STATUS OVERVIEW

Jurisdiction	Stock	Stock status	Indicators
Commonwealth	Western	Sustainable	Spawning stock biomass, current and historical fishing mortality
Commonwealth, New South Wales	Eastern	Sustainable	Spawning stock biomass, current and historical fishing mortality

STOCK STRUCTURE

Clear and persistent differences in size and age composition and differences in trends in catch rates indicate the existence of different stocks east and west of South Cape, Tasmania (147° east) [Morison et al. 2013]. However, no genetic differences have been identified between these areas [Ward et al. 2001, Emery et al. 2020]. The stocks were previously managed as a single stock, but in 2013 it was agreed that they would be managed separately.

Here, assessment of stock status is presented at the biological stock level—Western and Eastern.

STOCK STATUS

Eastern Eastern Pink Ling is primarily caught by the Commonwealth managed Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) with small catches from New South Wales. The stock status classification reported here is based on stock assessments conducted for the SESSF, which include reported state catches.

In New South Wales, for three years from 1998–99, reported catches of Pink Ling were greater than 40 tonnes (t) per year. Over the following nine years, from 2000–01 to 2008–09, annual catches were < 25 t per year and averaged 16 t per year. Between 2008–09 and 2009–10, the total annual catch increased approximately 30 t to 54.9 t and since 2009–10 annual catches have remained above 40 t per year [Chick 2018]. Since 2015–16 the annual catch of Pink Ling in New South Wales has exceeded 56.9 t per year, with 57 t reported in 2018–19. In New South Wales, Pink Ling are landed almost exclusively in the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery (range 40–68 t per year). Catches of Pink Ling outside the

commercial fishing sector are likely to have been negligible.

Eastern Pink Ling in the SESSF is managed as a Tier 1 stock under the SESSF Harvest Strategy Framework [AFMA 2019]. The 2018 Tier 1 stock assessment [Cordue 2018] informed the management of the stock for the 2019–20 fishing season.

The 2018 assessment estimated that the spawning stock biomass at the start of 2018 was 30 per cent of the unfished spawning stock biomass (0.30SB0) [Cordue 2018]. This led to a Recommended Biological Catch (RBC) of 260 t for 2019. The eastern biological stock is therefore unlikely to be depleted and recruitment is unlikely to be impaired.

Projections of the stock response to various constant-catch scenarios indicated that catches up to 550 t posed a little (<5 per cent) risk to the stock falling below the limit reference point (0.20SB0) by 2028 [Cordue 2018]. The stock is expected to be rebuilt to the target reference point (0.48SB0) with at least a 50 per cent probability in a reasonable timeframe (before 2050) for catches up to 500 t per year [Cordue 2018]. This led to AFMA setting a notional eastern catch limit of 428 t for the eastern stock in the 2019–20 fishing season.

Commonwealth logbook-reported catch for Eastern Pink Ling in the SESSF was 346 t in the 2019–20 fishing season (372.2 t in 2018–19 fishing season) [Emery et al. 2020]. Discards have been estimated to be 22.7 t based on the weighted average of the previous four calendar years (2015 to 2018) [Burch et al. 2019]. When estimated discards are combined with average NSW state catch and Commonwealth logbook catch for 2019–20, the total is below 500 t per year. This level of fishing mortality should allow the eastern biological stock to rebuild to the management target within a reasonable timeframe. This level of fishing mortality is unlikely to cause Eastern Pink Ling to become recruitment impaired.

On the basis of the evidence provided above, the eastern biological stock is classified as a **sustainable stock**.

Western

Western Pink Ling in Commonwealth fisheries is managed as a Tier 1 stock under the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) Harvest Strategy Framework [AFMA 2019]. The 2018 Tier 1 stock assessment [Cordue 2018] informed the management of the stock for the 2019–20 fishing season.

The 2018 assessment estimated that the spawning stock biomass at the start of 2018 was 84 per cent of the unfished spawning stock biomass (0.84SB0) [Cordue 2018]. This led to a RBC of 1 150 t for 2019. The western biological stock is therefore unlikely to be depleted and recruitment is unlikely to be impaired.

Projections of stock response to various constant-catch scenarios indicated that catches up to 1 000 t pose little (<5 per cent) risk to the stock falling below the limit reference point (0.20SB0) by 2028 [Cordue 2018].

Commonwealth logbook-reported catch for Western Pink Ling in the SESSF was 415 t in the 2019–20 fishing season (479.9 t in 2018–19 fishing season) [Emery et al. 2020]. Discards have been estimated to be 20.8 t based on the weighted average of the previous four calendar years (2015 to 2018) [Burch et al. 2019]. When estimated discards are combined with Commonwealth logbook catch for 2019–20, the total is below 1 000 t per year. This level of fishing mortality is unlikely to cause Western Pink Ling to become recruitment impaired.

On the basis of the evidence provided above, the western biological stock is classified as a **sustainable stock**.

BIOLOGY

Pink Ling biology [Morison et al. 1999, Smith and Wayte 2004]

Species	Longevity / Maximum Size	Maturity (50 per cent)
Pink Ling	25–30 years, 1600–1 750 mm TL	7–12 years, 700–1 000 mm TL

DISTRIBUTION



Distribution of reported commercial catch of Pink Ling

TABLES

Fishing methods	Commonwealth	New South Wales
Charter		
Hook and Line		✓
Commercial		
Danish Seine	✓	
Demersal Longline	✓	
Otter Trawl	✓	
Various		✓
Recreational		
Hook and Line		✓

Management Methods	Commonwealth	New South Wales
Commercial		

Gear restrictions	✓	✓
Limited entry	✓	✓
Quota	✓	
Spatial closures	✓	✓
Total allowable catch	✓	
Trip limits	✓	
Recreational		
Bag limits		✓
Licence		✓
Spatial closures		✓

Catch		
	Commonwealth	New South Wales
Commercial	967.444 t	56.9996 t
Indigenous		Unknown
Recreational		Unknown

Commonwealth – Commercial (Management Methods/Catch) Trip limits apply to the Eastern stock. Data provided for the Commonwealth align with the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery for the 2018-19 financial year.

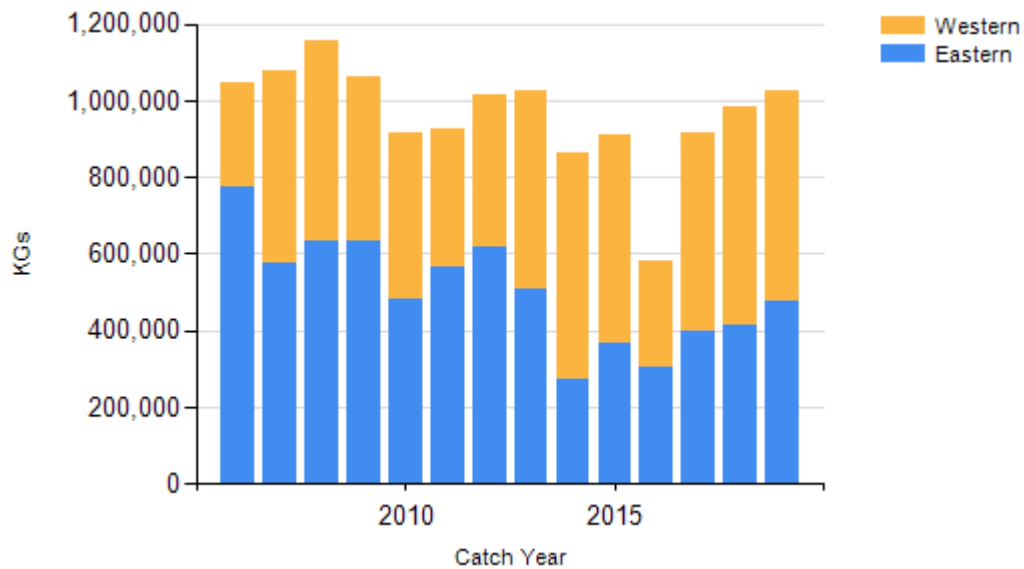
Commonwealth – Recreational The Commonwealth does not manage recreational fishing in Commonwealth waters. Recreational fishing in Commonwealth waters is managed by the state or territory immediately adjacent to those waters, under its management regulations.

Commonwealth – Indigenous The Australian government does not manage non-commercial Indigenous fishing in Commonwealth waters, with the exception of Torres Strait. In general, non-commercial Indigenous fishing in Commonwealth waters is managed by the state or territory immediately adjacent to those waters.

New South Wales – Indigenous (Management Methods)
<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aboriginal-fishing>

New South Wales – Recreational (Catch) Murphy et al. [2020].

CATCH CHART



Commercial catch of Pink Ling - note confidential catch not shown

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