

Ribaldo (2023)

Mora moro



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STOCK STATUS OVERVIEW

Jurisdiction	Stock	Stock status	Indicators
Commonwealth, New South Wales	South Eastern Australia	Sustainable	CPUE, catch

STOCK STRUCTURE

Ribaldo inhabit temperate deepwater areas on the continental shelf. They occur close to the seabed at depths of 450–2,500 metres and are most commonly found at depths of 500–1,000 metres. Ribaldo are associated with sea mounts and rough sea beds. Juveniles may be pelagic. One stock of Ribaldo, in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery and adjacent waters off New South Wales, is assumed for assessment and management purposes [AFMA 2022].

Here, assessment of stock status is presented at the biological stock level—South Eastern Australia.

STOCK STATUS

South Eastern Australia

This cross jurisdictional stock has components in the Commonwealth and New South Wales. The stock status classification reported here is based on analyses conducted for the SESSF, which includes state catches.

Historical catches increased from low levels in 1990 to a peak of more than 200 t in 2003. Commonwealth-landed catch dropped in 2005 to about 100 t, following implementation of a TAC, and has remained around this level since then.

In New South Wales, commercial fishery data, including catch of Ribaldo, is available from 2009–10, although in a number of years the data are classified as

confidential. The total reported annual commercial catch of Ribaldo has been less than 5 t, with less than 3 t being reported annually in the last seven years and 775 kg reported during 2021–22. Recreational and Indigenous catches of Ribaldo in New South Wales are unknown. Surveys of recreational and Indigenous catches have either not specified catches of Ribaldo [West et al. 2015, Murphy et al. 2022] or reported them into a broader ‘finfish– other’ category [Henry and Lyle 2003].

Ribaldo in Commonwealth fisheries is managed as a Tier 4 stock under the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) Harvest Strategy Framework [AFMA 2021]. The 2020 Tier 4 analysis [Sporcic 2020] informed the management of the stock for the 2021–22 fishing season.

The 2020 Tier 4 analysis [Sporcic 2020] estimated that the recent average standardised catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) was above the target reference point and the limit reference point, producing an RBC of 405 t for the 2021–22 fishing season. The above evidence indicates that the biomass of the stock is unlikely to be depleted and that recruitment is unlikely to be impaired.

Commonwealth-landed catch in 2021–22 was 98.4 t, based on catch disposal records. The weighted average of 4 calendar years (2017 to 2020) was calculated and used to estimate discards and state catches of 7.1 t and 1.3 t, respectively [Althaus et al. 2021]. For the 2021–22 fishing season, total catch and discards were estimated to be 106.8 t [Emery et al. 2022], which was below the RBC of 405 t for 2021–22 [Sporcic 2020]. The above evidence indicates that the current level of fishing mortality is unlikely to cause the stock to become recruitment impaired.

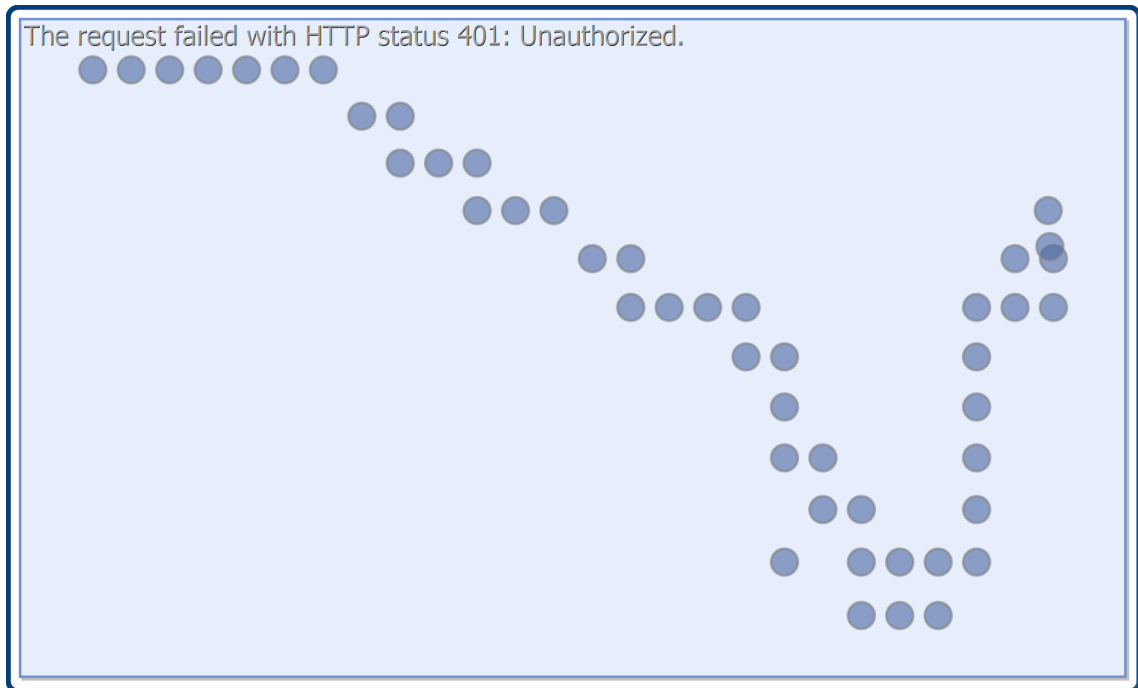
On the basis of the evidence provided above, the South Eastern Australia biological stock is classified as a **sustainable stock**.

BIOLOGY

Ribaldo biology [Gomon 2008; Sutton et al. 2010]

Species	Longevity / Maximum Size	Maturity (50 per cent)
Ribaldo	30 years, 400–700 mm	Female 14 years Male 8 years

DISTRIBUTION



Distribution of reported commercial catch of Ribaldo

TABLES

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

STATUS OF AUSTRALIAN FISH STOCKS REPORT
Ribaldo (2023)

Management Methods		
	Commonwealth	New South Wales
Charter		
Bag and possession limits		✓
Gear restrictions		✓
Licence		✓
Marine park closures		✓
Spatial closures		✓
Commercial		
Gear restrictions	✓	✓
Limited entry	✓	✓
Marine park closures	✓	✓
Quota	✓	
Spatial closures	✓	✓
Total allowable catch	✓	
Recreational		
Bag and possession limits		✓
Gear restrictions		✓
Licence		✓
Marine park closures		✓
Spatial closures		✓

Catch		
	Commonwealth	New South Wales
Commercial	109.693 t	0.77685 t
Indigenous		Unknown

Recreational Unknown

Commonwealth – Commercial (Management Methods/Catch). Data provided for the Commonwealth align with the Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery for the 2021–22 financial year.

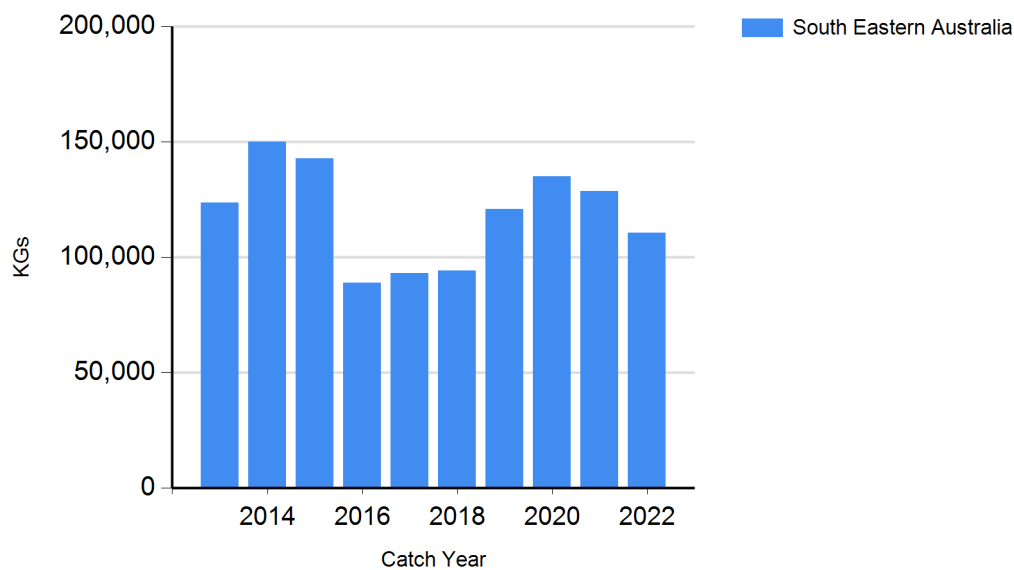
Commonwealth – Recreational. The Australian government does not manage recreational fishing in Commonwealth waters. Recreational fishing in Commonwealth waters is managed by the state or territory immediately adjacent to those waters, under its management regulations.

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 – Recreational (Catch). Murphy et al. [2022].

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

CATCH CHART



Commercial catch of Ribaldo - note confidential catch not shown

References	
AFMA 2021	AFMA 2021, Harvest strategy framework for the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (amended 2021), Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Canberra.
Henry and Lyle 2003	Henry, GW and Lyle JM 2003, The National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey. Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, Hobart. FRDC 99/158.

STATUS OF AUSTRALIAN FISH STOCKS REPORT
Ribaldo (2023)

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Murphy et al. 2022	Murphy, JJ, Ochwada-Doyle, FA, West, LD, Stark, KE, Hughes, JM and Taylor, MD 2022, Survey of recreational fishing in NSW, 2019/20 – Key Results. NSW DPI – Fisheries Final Report Series No. 161. ISSN 2204-8669.
AFMA 2022	AFMA 2022, Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery species summaries 2022, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Canberra.
Sporcic 2020	Sporcic 2020, Draft tier 4 assessments for selected SESSF species (data to 2019), CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere, Hobart.
Althaus et al. 2021	Althaus, F, Thomson, R and Sutton, C 2021, Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery catches and discards for TAC purposes using data until 2020, CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere, Hobart.
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