



Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy

Review: draft findings and recommendations



A framework for sustainable Commonwealth fisheries

The Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy (CHSP) works with the Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy to provide a framework for the sustainable management of fisheries managed by the Australian government (Figure 1).

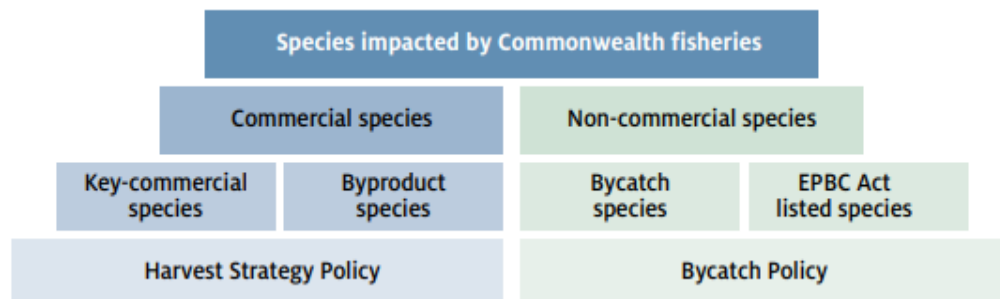


Figure 1 Relationship between the CHSP and the Bycatch Policy

Improved stock status under the CHSP, but with recent declines

- The number of stocks 'not subject to overfishing' (green) increased after the introduction of the CHSP in 2007. However, recently the number of stocks 'subject to overfishing' (red) has increased.
- Some policy settings have become more challenging to implement due to decreasing data quality and changing environmental conditions.

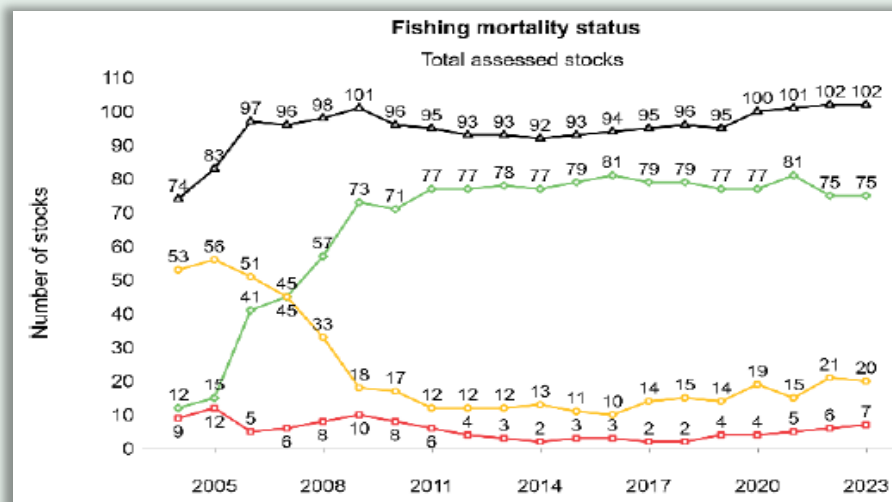
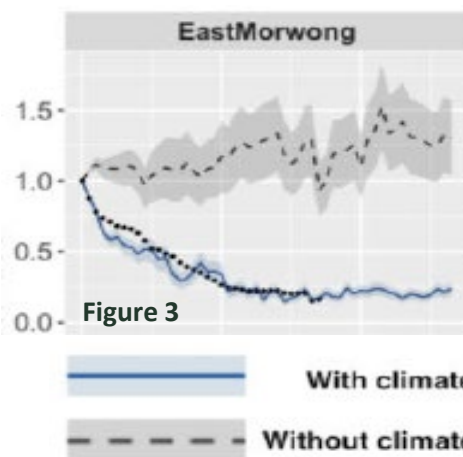


Figure 2 Fishing mortality status - Commonwealth commercial species

Commonwealth fisheries should benefit all Australians

- The review considers fisheries should be managed to benefit all Australians—including commercial, Indigenous, recreational and Australian consumers.
- Where there is information available about non-commercial interests, this should be considered when setting catch levels.

Climate change is likely to be impacting some stocks



- Figure 3 shows the simulated historical relative biomass trajectory for the Jackass Morwong (eastern zone) species from 1980, with and without the influence of climate change (Source*).
- Provisions are needed in the CHSP to ensure the risk associated with changing ocean conditions is well understood and managed appropriately.

Options for non-recovering stocks need to be explored

Further work is needed to understand why some stocks are not recovering as expected and to consider management options to protect stocks when failure to recover is primarily caused by factors other than fishing such as climate change.

Data to inform stock assessments is in decline – measures are needed to manage this risk

- Loss of commercial catch data due to access restrictions (e.g. fishery closures, marine parks, offshore energy) is reducing certainty in stock assessments.
- Methods to assess stocks with reduced data need development.
- Improving estimates of non-commercial sources of fish mortality, and discarded catch, will improve accuracy of stock assessments.

Better engagement with First Nations interests

- The CHSP should include principles and priorities for engagement with First Nations people.
- Engagement will improve understanding of First Nations interests and how these can be taken into account when developing harvest strategies.

Review timeline

- June 2023 - review commenced
- October 2023 – Initial Have Your Say process
- April 2024 – Stakeholder workshop
- May- Sept 2024 – Further consultations
- Nov 2024 – Draft review report released for public consultation (via Have Your Say)
- Early 2025 – Final report to Minister
- 2025 – Policy revisions (if required)

Review Inputs

- Technical Review (Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, UTAS)
- Implementation Review (ABARES)
- Stakeholder feedback