

Greenback horse mackerel Western Australia

IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Trachurus declivis

SPECIES NAME(S)

Greenback horse mackerel, Jack mackerel

COMMON NAMES

Common jack mackerel, Cowanyoung

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Greenback horse mackerel (*Trachurus declivis*) are an important commercial species with the main fishing grounds off the west coast of the North of New Zealand. Caught commercially with trawls, purse seines, traps and on line gear. The common jack mackerel or cowanyoung is found in coastal waters of southern Australia from Wide Bay, Queensland to Shark Bay, WA, including Tasmania (Wilson et al. 2009).

There are three jack mackerel subpopulations in Australian waters: one in the Great Australian Bight, another in NSW waters, and the third off Tasmania. They are pelagic, forming schools over the continental shelf and outer shelf margin. Individuals have been found in depths of 460 m but this species is more commonly found between 20 m and 300 m (Wilson et al. 2009).

There is evidence of at least two biological stocks of Common Jack Mackerel in Australian waters: one off eastern mainland Australia, including eastern Tasmania, and the other extending from western Tasmania through to southern Western Australia. A separate biological stock also exists in New Zealand waters. These conclusions are based on morphological and meristic differences between fish from the Great Australian Bight and eastern Australia, genetic differences between fish from the Great Australian Bight and New Zealand, and a lack of genetic difference between fish from eastern Tasmania and New South Wales. While not conclusive, the above evidence was considered sufficient for the Common Jack Mackerel in the Small Pelagic Fishery (Commonwealth) to be managed as separate eastern and western biological stocks (Moore and Mazur 2016).

The bulk of the catch is caught by purse-seine (Ocean Hauling fishery) with small quantities landed by trawlers; most is sold for aquaculture feed or bait. This species was the subject of a large fishery off Tasmania in the 1980s, but recent catches have been very small. A lack of assessment data has led to the status of the jack mackerel stock being classified as 'uncertain' (Moore and Mazur 2016).



RELATED LINKS:

- [Australian Fisheries Management Authority \(AFMA\)](#), [Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development \(DPIRD\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

No related analysis

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
NOT YET SCORED	NOT YET SCORED	NOT YET SCORED

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
NOT YET SCORED	NOT YET SCORED

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

- Australian small pelagic fishery:
Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- This profile is not currently high on our priority list for development, and we can't at this time provide an accurate prediction of when it will be developed. To speed up an evaluation of the sustainability status of lower priority fisheries we have initiated a program whereby industry can directly contract SFP-approved analysts to develop a FishSource profile on a fishery. More information on this External Contributor Program is available at <https://www.sustainablefish.org/Programs/Science/External-Contributor-Program>.

Fisheries

Within FishSource, the term "fishery" is used to indicate each unique combination of a flag country with a fishing gear, operating within a particular management unit, upon a resource. That resource may have a known biological stock structure and/or may be assessed at another level for practical or jurisdictional reasons. A fishery is the finest scale of resolution captured in FishSource profiles, as it is generally the scale at which sustainability can most fairly and practically be evaluated.

 ASSESSMENT UNIT	 MANAGEMENT UNIT	 FLAG COUNTRY	 FISHING GEAR
Western Australia	Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Australia	Single boat bottom otter trawls
	Great Australian Bight Trawl	Australia	Single boat bottom otter trawls
	Scalefish Fishery (TAS)	Australia	Midwater trawls
	Small Pelagic Fishery	Australia	Purse seines

Management Unit

 MANAGEMENT UNIT	ORGANIZATION	FISHING AREA
Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)	FAO 57
Great Australian Bight Trawl	Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)	FAO 57
Scalefish Fishery (TAS)	Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)	FAO 572
Small Pelagic Fishery	Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)	FAO 572