



## Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water

On 25 September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, global objectives expected to guide the actions of the international community over the next 15 years (2016-2030).

### Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

**The Status of Australian Fisheries Stocks (SAFS) Reports form the basis of the Australian Government's response to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal – 14 Life Below Water, indicator 14.4.1.**

The SAFS Reports provide the most scientifically robust, up-to-date information on the sustainability of Australia's wild catch fish stocks. Facilitated by the FRDC in collaboration with agencies from all jurisdictions across Australia, the Reports are designed to inform government, industry, seafood consumers, retailers and the general community of the stock status of Australia's fish populations.

The SAFS Reports provide a simple guide to understand how Australia's fish stocks are performing and also assist in highlighting priorities for research and management to address species and stocks of concern.

Fish stocks are part of a dynamic ecosystem that is constantly changing, and to effectively manage it requires constant monitoring. The SAFS Reports are undertaken every two years to provide a constant and consistent view. The 2018 SAFS Reports were launched in March 2019 by Senator Richard Colbeck in his opening address of the ABARES Outlook Conference.

Adding to the coverage Stephen Mayfield (SARDI Aquatic Sciences) presented at the FRDC Fisheries session (<https://youtu.be/ZUoolBUYGtK>), speaking about the role and production of the reports. The latest edition of SAFS Reports are available online at [www.fish.gov.au](http://www.fish.gov.au) and via the app <http://fish.gov.au/app>. Status assessments were carried out on 406 individual biological stock; management unit or jurisdictional levels.

- 255 stocks were classified as sustainable
- 22 stocks were classified as depleting
- 18 stocks were classified as recovering
- 29 stocks were classified as depleted.
- 54 stocks were deemed undefined
- 28 negligible

THE RESULTS PROVIDE A CLEAR MECHANISM TO PRIORITISE AREAS OF FUTURE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT NEED.

### In total 120 species made up of 406 stocks were assessed in this Report, including 37 new species.

The results are that the majority of Australia's fish stocks are well managed and healthy. The Reports cover the majority of the Australian caught fish that Australians will eat and of the stocks assessed almost 80% were sustainable (excluding Undefined and Negligible).

Stock status	Number of stocks			Total stocks	Catch (t)	% of catch species
	Biological stock	Management unit	Jurisdiction			
Sustainable	99	99	57	255	128,893	90.5
Depleting	6	12	4	22	4,199	3.1
Recovering	8	8	2	18	6,547	4.6
Depleted	11	13	5	29	1,115	0.8
Undefined	12	22	20	54	1,573	1
Negligible	3	3	22	28	721	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>142,328</b>	<b>100</b>

See how Australia is progressing towards achieving Goal 14 at the United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre at [www.sdgdata.gov.au/goals/life-below-water](http://www.sdgdata.gov.au/goals/life-below-water)