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Mr Sean Sloan
Executive Director
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5 February 2018

Dear Sean

Management options for Black bream (*Acanthopagrus butcheri*) in the Lakes and Coorong.

RecFish SA, the Peak Body for Recreational Fishing in SA thanks you for this opportunity to provide input into the management of Black bream in the Lakes and Coorong.

Having now had the opportunity to examine the background scientific information and the opinions of other stakeholders, RecFish SA submit that we agree with the assessment of SARDI Aquatic Sciences (Earl et al., 2016) which assigns the Black bream stock status classification as 'overfished'. Consequently, RecFish SA on behalf of the recreational fishing community of SA, supports the development and implementation of management actions that aim to reduce fishing pressure and ensure that the Black bream stock biomass does not decline further and recovers to sustainable levels.

RecFish SA have undertaken consultation with recreational fishers to determine their opinion on the fishery and the management options to recover Black bream stocks. The results of the survey are shown in Attachment 1.

The paper 'Management Options for Black bream (*Acanthopagrus butcheri*) in the Lakes and Coorong', presents three broad options for managing the fishery to achieve stock status objectives however, RecFish SA believe additional management options are available that will lead to positive long-term outcomes for the fishery. In consideration of this, RecFish SA advocate that the following management approaches be implemented.

1. A closed season for Black bream be implemented, that applies to both the recreational and commercial sectors, for the period September 1 to November 30.
2. The Black bream recreational bag limit be reduced from 10 to 2 until stocks recover. Once recovered to agreed levels, the bag limit should then be raised to 5.
3. Remove the use of large mesh nets from fishing blocks 6, 7 and 8 of the Coorong.

4. Remove Black bream from the commercial fishery permissible species list and allocate the species entirely to the recreational and indigenous sectors.
5. The minimum size limit for Mulloway be increased to 82 cm and that the commercial fishery adjust gear accordingly to prevent the bycatch of Black bream.

The rationale for RecFish SA's proposal is attached.

We look forward to further discussing this matter with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Simpson', is centered on a light blue rectangular background.

Danny Simpson
Executive Director

CC. Richard Stevens