



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture
ABARES

Progress on the Australian recreational catch survey

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Survey scope

The survey aims to assess the daytime recreational boat catch (retained and released) of Southern Bluefin Tuna in Australia over a 12 month period. Total estimated catch will be reported for each state and summed for a national estimate. ABARES will have oversight of the project and will contract out the on-site and off-site components.

Geographic scope

Surveys will be conducted in South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales. On-site access point surveys will be used to assess catch in South Australia and Victoria. Off-site telephone diary surveys will be used in Tasmania and a telephone recall survey will be used in New South Wales. The estimated catch from Western Australia will be provided via a boat based phone diary survey conducted by the Western Australian Government.

Progress

The University of Tasmania was engaged in 2018 to undertake the survey based on the methodology outlined in Moore et al. 2015. The on-site survey commenced on 1 December 2018 and is due to finish on 30 November 2019. The University is scheduled to complete the off-site diary components of the survey in November 2019. On-site and off-site survey sampling is not be required for a full 12 months and was scaled according to the availability of fish and fishing effort. The off-site wash up survey will be undertaken from November 2019 to February 2020.

The University of Tasmania will also undertake the statistical analysis of the results, which are due to be provided to ABARES in March 2020. Both organisations will undertake the write up of the final report, which is due in the second half of 2020.