

West Coast Demersal Scalefish Ministerial Advisory Committee – meeting #1

26 February 2026

Today, the West Coast Demersal Ministerial Advisory Council met for the first time at Dumas House, in Perth.

The Minister for Fisheries, the Hon. Jackie Jarvis, welcomed the committee, thanked them for their participation and outlined her expectations over the coming months.

The committee reviewed and agreed to the Terms of Reference and the objective and scope of the committee which will be to provide advice on recreational fishing management arrangements to support the recovery of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource through a set of recommendations by June 2027, and any other matters at the request of the Minister.

The scope of the advisory committee will be to focus primarily on:

- level of spawning protection for key demersal scalefish species to support the recovery of the WCDSR.
- locations to establish demersal scalefish recovery zones.
- recreational management arrangements to commence in Spring 2027.
- priority areas around key recreational boat ramps in the South Coast Bioregion.

The Committee also received a briefing about the demersal stock assessment and management decisions, and the \$3.3 million tackle rebate program.

The next meeting will be held on March 25.

Matt Gillett

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