



# The Landings Lie

## Key references

1. **Australian Government - Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy Guidelines**  
**URL:** <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/fisheries/domestic/harvest-strategy-policy-guidelines.pdf>  
**Brief note:** Defines an evidence-based harvest strategy framework and recognises indicators such as CPUE alongside formal biomass and fishing mortality outputs. Useful for grounding what 'transparent' decision-making should include.
2. **ABARES - Fishery status reports 2025**  
**URL:** <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/fisheries/fishery-status>  
**Brief note:** Annual reports summarising stock status and supporting evidence for Commonwealth-managed (or jointly managed) stocks. Helpful for assessing what information is published and what is not.
3. **ABARES - Fishery status reports 2025 stock status data dashboard**  
**URL:** <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/fisheries/fishery-status/stock-status-dashboard>  
**Brief note:** Public dashboard showing stock status data over time. Useful for tracking classification changes and checking how narrative shifts align with published status outcomes.
4. **NSW DPIRD - Stock Status Summary 2024-25: Silver Trevally (PDF)**  
**URL:** [https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/1631747/Stock-Status-Summary-2024-25-Silver-Trevally.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1631747/Stock-Status-Summary-2024-25-Silver-Trevally.pdf)  
**Brief note:** NSW case study referenced in the article. Supports the call to publish participation, effort, CPUE standardisation, and discard assumptions centrally, not as optional background.



5. **NSW DPIRD - Stock Status Summary 2024-25: Blue Swimmer Crab (PDF)**  
**URL:** [https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/1634025/Stock-Status-Summary-2024-25-Blue-Swimmer-Crab.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1634025/Stock-Status-Summary-2024-25-Blue-Swimmer-Crab.pdf)  
**Brief note:** Relevant to the point that rule changes (such as minimum legal size) can alter retained catch and discards, producing landings shocks that do not automatically imply abundance change.
6. **NSW DPI - Stock Status Summary 2023-24: Mulloway (PDF)**  
**URL:** [https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/1574504/Mulloway-Stock-Status-Summary-2023-24.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1574504/Mulloway-Stock-Status-Summary-2023-24.pdf)  
**Brief note:** Useful example where interpreting trends requires more than landings alone, especially when access and operating conditions change. Supports the argument for CPUE and effort context.
7. **NSW Rebuilding Programs for New South Wales Fish Stocks (PDF)**  
**URL:** [https://hdp-au-prod-app-nsw-haveyoursay-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/9117/6394/1409/Rebuilding\\_Programs\\_for\\_New\\_South\\_Wales\\_Fish\\_Stocks.pdf](https://hdp-au-prod-app-nsw-haveyoursay-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/9117/6394/1409/Rebuilding_Programs_for_New_South_Wales_Fish_Stocks.pdf)  
**Brief note:** Shows how 'depleted' or 'recovering' labels flow through to formal rebuilding actions. Relevant to governance, incentives, and the need for a fully transparent evidence chain.
8. **FRDC - Stock Assessment Toolbox**  
**URL:** <https://toolbox.frdc.com.au/toolbox/>  
**Brief note:** Developed after a review of Australia's stock assessment practices, highlighting opportunities to use well tested, peer-reviewed tools and workflows. Supports calls for standardisation and openness.
9. **FAO Fisheries Management - Conceptual clarifications on catch rates and selectivity**  
**URL:** <https://www.fao.org/4/y4593e/y4593e03.htm>  
**Brief note:** Explains why catch rates used as abundance indices are affected by gear selectivity and operational factors. Supports the claim that catch and landings are behaviourally driven, not direct biomass measures.
10. **Alonso-Fernandez et al. (2019) - Weak correlation between landings and abundance indices (abstract page)**  
**URL:** <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0165783618302467>  
**Brief note:** Peer-reviewed example cautioning that landings can be a poor stand-alone indicator of abundance when compared with standardised indices.