



Conditioning Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) tools for assessing management arrangements for a closed abalone fishery

Lead Agency: IMAS

Funding: \$15,800.00

Start Date: 1 December 2025

End Date: 31 December 2026

Status: CURRENT

Aims and Objectives:

1. Integrate relevant biological and fishery-dependent data into the aMSE management strategy framework to condition the model for East Coast abalone populations.
2. Assess the effectiveness of alternative management arrangements in achieving stock rebuilding and sustainability targets defined in the Recovery Plan.
3. Develop a sustainable management framework for the East Coast that optimises the balance between harvest levels and long-term resource viability.

This project will enable the development of a robust reopening strategy for the Eastern Zone abalone fishery through simulation-based scenario testing. By leveraging the aMSE framework, we aim to identify sustainable catch levels and management arrangements that support stock recovery, without risking further depletion. This approach allows for informed decision-making well in advance of what could otherwise take decades to observe through conservative management and empirical monitoring alone.

The project will provide critical insights into the levels at which East Coast abalone populations can support a sustainable commercial harvest into the future. It will also define the management settings required to meet various rebuilding targets, ensuring that reopening decisions are aligned with ecological sustainability and long-term economic viability.

By conditioning the aMSE model for Eastern Zone SAUs, the project will build internal capacity among staff to apply the modelling framework across the remaining SAUs in the fishery. This knowledge transfer supports the broader implementation of the revised Tasmanian Abalone Harvest Strategy and strengthens the strategic management of the fishery at a statewide scale.