

2026 REPORT CARD

# FISH RECRUITMENT

Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership

## *What is fish recruitment?*

Fish are one of the most important social, economic and ecological resources in Gladstone Harbour. They play a multitude of roles in aquatic ecosystems including nutrient cycling and ecosystem regulation.

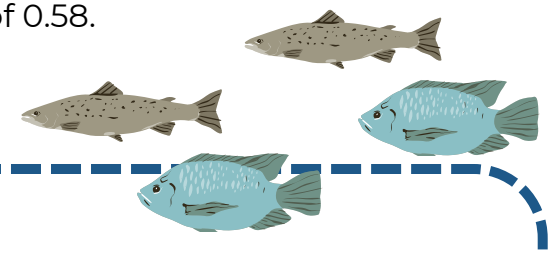
Fish recruitment is one of the key dynamic functions that affects fish populations. It reflects the annual number of juvenile fish entering the mature population.

In 2025, 824 fish were captured and released for this indicator.

| 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | D | C | B | C |

Fish recruitment declined from a Good (B) in 2025 to a Satisfactory (C) in 2026.

A score of 0.50 indicates a season at the median reference level, with no increase or decrease from the long-term average. Fish recruitment received a score of 0.58.



## *How is it measured?*

Fish recruitment surveys are conducted using cast nets to collect samples, covering the upper tidal limit and daily tidal influence. Data is collected from 26 sites across 12 harbour zones, during December, January, and February.

Scores in the report card are based on the abundance of Yellowfin Bream and Pikey Bream, though other fish and prawns are also collected and released.

An annually-updated statistical model, incorporating previous results, annual catch rates, and environmental variables, determines the recruitment scores.

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