

## NSW SPANNER CRAB HARVEST STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

Chair's Summary - 7th Meeting - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

The seventh meeting of the NSW Spanner Crab Harvest Strategy Working Group was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2023. The meeting was to allow the working group to review submissions received during the public consultation period, with discussion focused on finalising the draft harvest strategy for review by CommFish NSW and subsequent adoption by the Minister.

The meeting commenced with reviewing submissions received during the public submission period. The submissions received were in support of the harvest strategy and no changes were recommended based on submissions.

Since the last meeting, DPI received combined Queensland (QLD) and New South Wales (NSW) fisheries independent survey (FIS) data, with scenario testing supporting further consideration of options to finalise the reference level for the indicator based on combined NSW and QLD FIS results for legal-sized crabs per ground line. The working group reviewed options and agreed on a reference level to allow the harvest strategy to be more responsive to changes in the spanner crab stock and allow fishers to maximise their potential to harvest spanner crabs when the stock is performing well.

The group reviewed and endorsed the final draft harvest strategy and recommended it be sent to CommFish NSW for their review, and if endorsed, being provided to the Minister for adoption. The working group is commended for their commitment and input in developing and finalising the draft Spanner Crab Harvest Strategy.

Dr James Findlay, Chair, NSW Spanner Crab HSWG.