

## Chair's Summary – Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group Meeting 4

The fourth meeting of the Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group (the Working Group) was held on 13–14 November 2023. The Working Group is continuing to develop the harvest strategies and meeting 4 saw the Working Group consider the final FishPath outputs which led to detailed discussions around harvest control options for the Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*) and Yellowtail Kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*) harvest strategies.

The Working Group began to explore potential management options that could be incorporated into the harvest strategies to manage harvest under the full spectrum of stock health through the decision rules. Whilst discussion focussed on some options, the Working Group requires further detail to provide informed recommendations, with all options having a range of benefits and complexities. To assist the Working Group's decision on which harvest controls should be built into the decision rules, NSW DPI will present a range of analyses and documents around the fisheries and their management options at meeting 5 (27–28 February 2024).

The Working Group briefly discussed harvest strategy reference points, and a target reference point of 50% of unfished biomass was proposed for both the Snapper and Kingfish harvest strategies as a starting point, as it seeks to balance the broad objectives of commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal cultural fishing sectors. This is not currently proposed as a definitive target, as it will be subject to ongoing discussion as the harvest strategies develop and further engage with the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council and broader NSW stakeholders.

Guest presenters from NSW DPI briefed the Working Group on the ongoing Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) development, and how it will contribute to the risk cognisance of the harvest strategies. Additionally, an update on the ongoing project *Fishing Management Strategy for Recreational Fishing in NSW Guided by an Environmental Assessment* was provided, which may also have implications for the risk landscape of the harvest strategies.

Prior to meeting 4, NSW DPI requested the Working Group's advice on how to proceed with fishery level harvest strategy development. This resulted in considerable discussion at the meeting, with the Working Group recommending prioritising the development of the Snapper and Kingfish harvest strategies while considering implications for fishery level management. Once the Working Group has progressed the Snapper and Kingfish harvest strategies, it will revisit the fishery level harvest strategy and provide advice to NSW DPI on the issue.

I look forward to considering the detailed information being prepared for the next meeting and working with the group to begin designing the harvest strategy decision rules.

Ian Cartwright, Chair, Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group

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