

Chair's Summary – Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group Meeting 3

The third meeting of the Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group (the Working Group) was held on 11–12 September 2023. The Working Group is proceeding well through the harvest strategy development process and meeting 3 saw the Working Group revisit the FishPath process which was initially introduced at meeting 2 (29–30 May). The Working Group considered shortlisted results from the data collection and management option questionnaires, and NSW DPI are completing the 'results narrowing' process prior to meeting 4 (13–14 November). This will allow consideration of a final set of data collection and management options for the Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*) and Yellowtail Kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*) harvest strategies by the Working Group.

Guest presenters from the NSW DPI Recreational Fisheries Research Team provided the Working Group with an overview of the NSW Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program (RFMP). This content was well received and filled many gaps in the Working Group's knowledge of the Surveys of Recreational Fishing in NSW and broader RFMP.

Both the FishPath agenda item and the presentation on the NSW RFMP prompted extensive discussion around data collection and management for both commercial and recreational sectors. Specifically, the Working Group discussed harvest strategy reference points and management arrangements in the context of stock rebuilding and catch reductions where required. Commercial fishing members provided the strong view that quota is their least preferred management option for Snapper or Kingfish. Recreational fishing members also described the recreational fishing community's growing view that urgent management changes are needed for Snapper and Kingfish and that a petition is circulating requesting recreational management changes for Kingfish.

The Working Group held its first discussion around options for a fishery level harvest strategy and noted that there may be a future need to incorporate simple fishery level harvest strategies into a broader harvest strategy framework. The Working Group has requested an update on key NSW projects at meeting 4, which will help to understand how current and ongoing work at a species level may fit within a higher fisheries level harvest strategy.

The meeting has set the trajectory for the further development of key harvest strategy components and the direction for further discussion of these components at future meetings. I look forward to working on these harvest strategy components with the Working Group members in future meetings.

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

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