

## Chair's Summary – Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group Meeting 2

The second meeting of the Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group (the Working Group) was held on 29–30 May 2023. The aim of this meeting was to use the FishPath process for Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*) and Yellowtail Kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*), enabling the Working Group to begin considering the most appropriate options for data collection, assessment and management for the Snapper and Kingfish harvest strategies. The Working Group also had preliminary discussions around harvest strategy scope, goals, and objectives, to inform the drafting of these components.

The Working Group completed the FishPath questionnaires, characterising information around fishery dynamics, data collection, assessment, and management. NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) are now completing a process to produce a more focused set of FishPath outputs, which will be presented at the third meeting. This will allow the Working Group to begin discussing what data collection and management measures are best suited to the Snapper and Kingfish harvest strategies.

The FishPath questionnaires also prompted productive discussions throughout the meeting with cross-jurisdictional management and recreational data collection being recurring themes. NSW DPI will provide further information on recreational data collection initiatives at the third meeting.

The meeting included a presentation by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QLD DAF) observer, relating to QLD's management of Snapper, harvest strategy development and the Rocky Reef Working Group. The presentation highlighted the complexities of cross jurisdictional stock assessments and stock dynamics and provided the Working Group with an example of how two jurisdictions can engage in information sharing and collaboration to achieve mutually beneficial management goals. The presentation also provided an insight into the challenges and benefits of enacting various management strategies in QLD.

To initiate discussion around harvest strategy scopes, goals and objectives, NSW DPI provided the Working Group with an overview of the envisaged scope of these harvest strategies, existing objectives, and the role of objectives in harvest strategies. This triggered early discussions around the objectives and values that commercial and recreational fishers hold for Kingfish and Snapper. Based on the Working Group's discussion, NSW DPI will draft these harvest strategy components prior to the third meeting, thus making a start on the first drafts of the Snapper and Kingfish harvest strategies.

To further complement discussion around scope, goals and objectives, NSW DPI presented the progress of a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) research project, aimed at defining the objectives of recreational fishers who target Kingfish, Snapper, and Mulloway (*Argyrosomus japonicus*). This provided some concrete examples of the goals of a wide spectrum of the recreational stakeholder base and additional information which will be considered in the development of the harvest strategy.

The meeting was a valuable opportunity for Working Group members to contribute their combined knowledge base when completing FishPath questionnaires, characterising the views and issues associated with management of recreational and commercial Snapper and Kingfish fisheries. Furthermore, it was encouraging to see early components of the strategies being drafted in the second meeting. I look forward to the Working Group's next meeting and seeing the discussion and strategies develop further.

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

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