

NSW SPANNER CRAB HARVEST STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

Chair's Summary - 5th Meeting - 9th September 2022

The fifth meeting of the NSW Spanner Crab Harvest Strategy Working Group was held online on the 9th of September 2022. This meeting continued the review of the developing draft, with a focus of discussion of draft decision rules developed since the last meeting.

The meeting commenced with revisiting previous meetings discussions and reviewing the various elements of the developing draft of the harvest strategy. Once more members have demonstrated a good understanding of the fishery and the potential operation of the strategy, noting several observations for improvement to the draft.

The main topic of discussion for the meeting was a first draft of decision rules and a decision rule flow chart designed to guide determinations of Total Allowable Catch for Spanner Crab. The group evaluated and tested several scenarios based on previous years catch data against the decision rules and will later consider further scenarios designed to test operation of the decision rules against further potential scenarios of fishery performance.

The working group aim to refine the decision rules, indicators and reference levels with assistance of Management Strategy Evaluation work to be undertaken between this and the next meeting.

The working group has made good progress with the major harvest strategy components now in draft. The next meeting will continue to evaluate and test the robustness of the draft strategy and fine tune the harvest strategy elements as necessary.

Dr James Findlay, Chair, NSW Spanner Crab HSWG.