

NSW MULLOWAY HARVEST STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

Chair's Summary - 7th Meeting - 3rd and 4th of November 2022

The Seventh meeting of the NSW Mulloway Harvest Strategy Working Group was held on the 3rd and 4th of November 2022. This meeting proposed to continued development of the draft harvest strategy and continue discussion around decision rule options.

Following preliminary meeting updates from DPI on the harvest strategy support measures, the working group discussed methods for improving data to expand on available indicators for monitoring harvest strategy performance. Members are showing great commitment towards establishing a rigorous set of assessment measures to accompany the harvest strategy and to relieve any uncertainty around stock health.

As requested by the working group at previous meetings, DPI presented information on commercial fishing entitlements and harvest for Mulloway. This information gave good insight for the groups consideration and is likely to be extremely valuable for the development of the harvest strategy decision rules and bringing together the various components of the draft harvest strategy.

The main focus for this meeting was discussion around rebuilding of the Mulloway stock as the first stage of the harvest strategy objectives, including considering a potential stock biomass target and a time frame to achieve it. Members discussed numerous potential measures for rebuilding through either controlling catch or fishing effort across all fishing sectors.

The meeting saw many new ideas with members open to suggestions and willing to participate in meaningful discussions towards achieving harvest strategy objectives. Again, discussions have demonstrated good knowledge and understanding towards the complexities and challenges for this species with members able to negotiate possible opportunities and anticipate potential hurdles the harvest strategy may face from all concepts shared between the group.

The next meeting is set for mid-March 2023 where the working group is required to put further consideration into the potential decision rules to work towards development of a draft rebuilding harvest strategy.

Dr James Findlay, Chair, NSW Mulloway HSWG.