

NSW Lobster Harvest Strategy Working Group

Adoption of the NSW Lobster Fishery Harvest Strategy

Chair's Summary

At our last formal meeting held in February 2022, the Working Group approved the draft harvest strategy in principle, and submission to the Commercial Fishing Advisory Council (CommFish NSW) for final review and the Minister for adoption.

The draft was considered by CommFish NSW and endorsed for submission to the Minister for adoption without change. The Minister has now adopted and finalised the harvest strategy, permitting its use for the setting of Total Allowable Catch for the lobster fishery for the life of the strategy.

This is a new and significant step for the ongoing successful management of the lobster fishery. The harvest strategy will provide guidance for determining Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) for Eastern Rock Lobster, as well as guidance for changes to harvest in non-commercial sectors.

Recognising increased stock health and TACC's over time, the harvest strategy incorporates an approved increase to the recreational bag limit for lobsters which will commence from 1 August 2022. The harvest strategy also recognises the importance of this species to Aboriginal cultural fishers, providing a mechanism to allow cultural fishing arrangements to continue under all potential future stock conditions.

I wish to thank all members and staff for their contributions to the working group and development of this strategy, particularly noting the value of trust, communication and respect across all sectors of the fishery and those responsible for its management and assessment.

Ian Cartwright

Chair, Lobster Harvest Strategy Working Group

June 2022