

NSW MULLOWAY HARVEST STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

Chair's Summary - 8th Meeting - 13th and 14th of March 2023

The eighth meeting of the NSW Mulloway Harvest Strategy Working Group was held on the 13th and 14th of March 2023. This meeting proposed to continue review and development of the draft harvest strategy and bring together previous meeting discussions to determine the decision rules or management actions to control catch of Mulloway.

As part of the harvest strategy's supporting measures, DPI presented information on progress towards developing improved reporting systems for Mulloway and other species as well as an update on the focused Mulloway compliance program 'Mulloway Assist' that commenced in July 2022. Members expressed appreciation for the progress on both programs, and recognised the importance of stakeholder education to improve support for data collection and compliance with management arrangements.

Members again showed commitment and understanding of key concepts becoming embedded in the developing draft harvest strategy to ensure the future rebuilding of the Mulloway stock. Reducing uncertainty around harvest volumes and mortality estimates continued to be key topics for discussion. Members further discussed options to monitor fishery health and performance, and manage catch taken in each harvest sector.

This meeting considered decision rule options that will support rebuilding and longer term health of the Mulloway stock, with members recognising the potential benefits of a constant catch level to support the initial rebuilding stage. Members also considered options for longer term management targets and setting catch levels once rebuilding is achieved.

The next meeting is set for mid-May 2023 where the working group is required to further develop the potential decision rules and consider and refine the draft strategy.

Dr James Findlay, Chair, NSW Mulloway HSWG.