

Chair's Summary – First meeting of the Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group

The first meeting of the Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group (the Working Group) was held on the 8th and 9th of May 2023. The aim of this meeting was to provide introductory information on the Working Group's timeline and work schedule, as well as information relating to Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*) and Yellowtail Kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*), the two focus species of the Working Group.

NSW DPI provided management, data and stock assessment information for Snapper and Kingfish. Both species are currently assessed as sustainable in NSW under the Status of Australian Fish Stocks and both species are extremely valuable for recreational and commercial fishing sectors (noting there is limited information available on the importance of Snapper and Kingfish to the Aboriginal cultural fishing sector) and are harvested by a range of methods from both sectors. Snapper and Kingfish are distributed from southern Queensland to Western Australia across multiple stocks, making consideration of cross jurisdictional management important. The group acknowledged that an observer from Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is on the Working Group and welcomed productive discussion and perspectives from Queensland.

The Working Group also discussed the fishery level harvest strategy described in the Working Group's terms of reference. A detailed definition of the 'fishery' and a timeline for this work has not yet been established. This is expected to be determined as the Working Group discusses the complex multi sector and multi gear issues surrounding Snapper and Kingfish and harvest strategies that will be developed for each of these species. Broader issues and ecological risk assessment outcomes may be considered in the fishery level strategy.

The meeting included a presentation from Dr Ian Knuckey (Fishwell Consulting), who presented background to fisheries management and scientific information, harvest strategies and progress with the ongoing Aboriginal cultural fishing harvest strategy framework project. These presentations were valuable and well received by the Working Group and stimulated further discussion around how best to ensure Aboriginal cultural fishing interests are included in the harvest strategy development process.

NSW DPI also presented the Working Group with background relating to FishPath, a decision support tool for developing harvest strategies, and potential options for using it to guide the development of the Snapper and Kingfish harvest strategies. The Working Group agreed to complete FishPath questionnaires as a group at the second meeting, scheduled for 29–30 May. This will also lead into developing the scopes, goals and objectives of the Snapper and Kingfish harvest strategies.

The meeting provided the Working Group with a sound introduction and set clear expectations for the work ahead and the process for considering harvest strategies for Snapper, Kingfish and a broader fishery level strategy. I look forward to continuing discussion with the Working Group at the upcoming meeting.

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

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