

Chair's Summary – Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group Meeting 10

The tenth meeting of the Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group (the Working Group) was held on 3–4 March 2026. At the previous meeting 9 (14–15 August 2025), the Working Group considered developing assessment modelling for Snapper and Yellowtail Kingfish and discussed management changes associated with each species, noting that DPIRD was preparing for the assessments to be independently reviewed, potentially affecting results.

At the commencement of meeting 10 the Working Group were updated regarding the status of the 2 independent assessment reviews:

- The review of the Snapper assessment had been completed. The assessment outputs remained unchanged since meeting 9 and DPIRD were provided with some recommendations which will be incorporated into the next update of the assessment model.
- The first stage of the Kingfish assessment review had been completed and DPIRD have updated the assessment model to incorporate key recommendations. The Working Group discussed the status of the model and updated outputs, noting the updated draft assessment will be provided to the reviewer again for final feedback.

Following assessment updates, the Working Group's understanding of the 2 stocks included:

- Snapper have been building upwards from lower biomass levels with current catches, however, still require stock building to be near target levels.
- Kingfish biomass is lower than previously thought and has been at a constant low level for around 2 decades. Consequently, there is stronger imperative for measures that will increase the biomass levels, with a high level of confidence.

The Working Group discussed and recommended management arrangements to support building both Snapper and Kingfish biomass, including initial catch levels (Recommended Biological Catches) derived from assessment modelling to support building biomasses towards target levels.

DPIRD are now finalising the draft harvest strategies to progress them to public consultation. I look forward to hearing how the consultation process progresses and reviewing submissions at an eleventh Working Group meeting.

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

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