

NEW SOUTH WALES TRAWL WHITING HARVEST STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

8TH MEETING - HELD ONLINE - 4 AUGUST 2021

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The meeting's purpose was to agree to the content of the final draft of the Trawl Whiting Harvest Strategy and deal with any items arising from that discussion.

The Harvest Strategy as presented was endorsed by the Working Group following agreement on a number of minor revisions and additions which have now been included in the final draft.

One additional issue which did arise concerned the fact that the Harvest Strategy's decision rules refer, in part, to the implementation of a Rebuilding Strategy should the stock fall below B20 i.e.. be categorised as depleted. However, while the Strategy contains elements of a Rebuilding Strategy (i.e. quota reducing to zero), there are other elements which may need to be included to assist in rebuilding stocks

The meeting then agreed to discuss a range of management measures which could be used, over and above quota changes themselves, in order to rebuild stocks out of the depleted category and eventually towards the original Target level, as required by the Harvest Strategy.

The meeting felt that it would be necessary to firstly understand the reasons behind the failure to protect the stock by the other measures currently in the Harvest Strategy. Otherwise it would not possible to be too prescriptive of the likely content of a Rebuilding Strategy. There was also debate about when work on a Rebuilding Strategy should be commenced, e.g. now, with stock at B35, or at B25. DPI proposed a B25 trigger, as a balance between not starting the exercise too early (as biomass may vary naturally) or too late.

There was agreement that in the interests of greater transparency, industry confirmed they would like to know beforehand what such a Rebuilding Strategy might contain.

The meeting agreed that the draft Harvest Strategy as endorsed at this meeting should not be held up by this issue, which could receive attention, for example, as part of the public consultation phase of the adoption of the Harvest Strategy or otherwise.

PETER NEVILLE,

CHAIR, TWHSWG.

13 AUGUST 2021

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