

Chair's Summary – Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group Meeting 9

The ninth meeting of the Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group (the Working Group) was held on 14–15 August 2025. At the previous meeting 8, DPIRD presented a well-developed Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*) stock assessment, and a developing Yellowtail Kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*) stock assessment.

Between meetings 8 and 9, DPIRD made substantial progress on the Kingfish assessment, and presented updates at meeting 9. This included model biomass projections under various catch levels, which made it apparent that the Kingfish biomass in NSW is well below the target reference point (B_{50}). Consequently, catch reductions may be required from all sectors to elevate the NSW Kingfish biomass to more productive levels. DPIRD has initiated an independent review process for both the Snapper and Kingfish assessments, which will be provided to the Working Group, and subsequently contribute to the consultation process. This will ensure the most robust consultation package possible.

As the draft harvest strategies for Kingfish and Snapper are being developed, explanatory papers to accompany each strategy are being simultaneously developed. These will assist stakeholders to understand how the harvest strategies have evolved, the options considered during their development and the way in which they will be applied in these fisheries.

The Working Group continued productive discussions around finalising the commercial and recreational management arrangements in the harvest strategies. This discussion was particularly important for Kingfish, which could need catch reductions pending final stock assessment results.

The Working Group also gave thought to further details of the harvest strategies, and discussed:

- Thresholds for when catch shares are considered “exceeded”, how rigid catch shares should be and what new information could lead to them changing.
- Management for fisheries which incidentally harvest Snapper and Kingfish as a byproduct.
- When the harvest strategies should adopt dynamic harvest control rules.

Noting that considerable discussion occurred in meeting 9 around stock assessments, the form of the decision rules and management arrangements, the Working Group will need to be presented final updated versions of the harvest strategies and stock assessments at a tenth meeting, prior to the release of the draft harvest strategies for public consultation.

I look forward to meeting 10, and seeing the strategies released for consultation soon.

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

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