

Chair's Summary – Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group Meeting 6

The sixth meeting of the Line & Trap Harvest Strategy Working Group (the Working Group) was held on 11–12 June 2024. The Working Group continued to work through the design of the decision rules for the Yellowtail Kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*) and Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*) harvest strategies.

The Working Group thoroughly discussed management options and decision rules for Snapper and Kingfish at meetings 4–5. Although good progress was made, the Working Group requested DPIRD to deliver further supporting information and expertise at meeting 6, to provide context to previous discussions, prior to making any recommendations. This included a range of data analyses which simulated the effects of various management controls, with discussion usefully informed by the participation of two commercial Kingfish specialists.

The Working Group received detailed information on the costs and benefits of various commercial management options. Due to the complexities associated with these options, and the need to consider each option thoroughly, the Working Group has requested some additional analyses from DPIRD. Final recommendations on commercial Snapper and Kingfish management will be made at a future meeting.

After examining the impact of most management controls (such as bag limits), recreational members noted that substantial changes to those controls are necessary to achieve significant reductions in harvest. Despite this, different management changes can be applied simultaneously if needed to achieve the desired management outcome. The issues around the effective management of recreational fishing will be examined further to find the optimum approach to effectively managing recreational harvest within defined limits.

DPIRD is continuing to develop the Snapper and Kingfish assessments in collaboration with internal Department expertise and the Working Group's Independent Scientist. The assessment results may affect the final decision-making framework. The Working Group has requested that the assessments be completed prior to the next meetings in order to support its discussions and finalise recommendations for decision rules and draft harvest strategies, which will then be subject to public consultation.

I look forward to seeing the continued development of these final and critical components of the Snapper and Kingfish harvest strategies at the upcoming Working Group meetings.

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