

Harvest Strategy Working Group
Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Resource

Meeting No. 2 - 22 June 2016

The second meeting of the HSWG was held in Perth on Wednesday 22 June 2016. The HSWG continued with their focus on the development of suitable economic and social management objectives to be included in the Harvest Strategy.

As part of that process the Department of Fisheries had prepared case studies of four other Western Australian fisheries with Harvest Strategies already in place. The case studies included a summary of the management systems and harvest control rule elements. For completeness they also included the sustainability objectives as well as the economic and social objectives, how they were measured and what happens if a reference level is not met. The HSWG considered these case studies and there was a good discussion around the detail included in each case study and in particular when the control rules apply. It was a useful exercise as it enabled the HSWG to understand how other WA fisheries have dealt with similar issues.

The HSWG then considered the economic and social objectives that might be appropriate for inclusion in the GDSR Harvest. WAFIC (on behalf of the commercial sector) and Recfishwest (on behalf of the recreational sector) tabled draft economic and social objectives for consideration by the working group. They did so in the spirit of co-operation and a desire to progress these elements in the Harvest Strategy. Consistent with that approach it was clear that both sectors were conscious of putting forward objectives which would not impede or detract from other sectors opportunities. There was a lengthy discussion on what had been proposed, how they could be measured and the control rules that might apply.

It was agreed that each sector would separately meet with the Department of Fisheries who would provide assistance to further develop these proposals. These would then be further considered by the HSWG at its next meeting. The Department of Fisheries will also update the draft Harvest Strategy in preparation for that meeting.

To assist in making the process transparent, this summary together with other relevant background information is available on the Department of Fisheries' website and can be accessed by following the attached link to the Department's Consultation Corner. <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Public-Comment/Pages/Consultation.aspx>. To allow sufficient time for the further development of the proposals the next meeting will be held in about 6 weeks.



Bardy McFarlane

HSWG Chair