

Harvest Strategy Working Group
Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Resource
Meeting No. 3 – 15 August 2016

The third meeting of the HSWG was held in Perth on Monday 15 August 2016. It reviewed the latest draft of the GDSR Harvest Strategy (version 11).

In the period between the second and third meetings of the HSWG, the commercial and recreational sectors met separately with the Department of Fisheries on three occasions to further develop and refine the Harvest Strategy. While the main focus in each of those out-of-session meetings was the economic and social objectives, how they would be measured and the control rules that would apply, each of the meetings reviewed the entire document.

At the meeting on 15 August, the HSWG worked through the draft document. Many of the sections remained unchanged from earlier versions and these did not attract any significant discussion beyond ensuring consistency in the use of terminology and that these terms mean. For example the use of the terms “non-indicator species” and “other retained species” in relation to fish stock. There was however extensive discussion about how the various elements of the Harvest Strategy interact. This included putting forward numerous practical “what if” examples to test the robustness of the objectives, the performance indicators, the reference levels and the control rules in the document.

At the conclusion of the meeting the HSWG agreed that the GDSR Harvest Strategy should be released for public comment.

The next meeting of the HSWG has been scheduled for early October 2016. The meeting will consider the comments received during the 4 week period that the Harvest Strategy has been out for Public Comment. It is anticipated that the meeting will then recommend the final form of the GDSR Harvest Strategy.

To assist in making the process as 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 page at: <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Public-Comment/Pages/Consultation.aspx>.

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HSWG Chair