

Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee

Out-of-Session Meeting – 18 August 2023

The Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MSFMAC or 'the Committee') held an Out-of-Session meeting on 18 August 2023 via an online video conference call to consider two key matters: the draft Harvest Strategy Framework for the Marine Scalefish Fishery; and management arrangements for recreational and charter fishing for Snapper in the South East Fishing Zone (SEFZ).

Draft Harvest Strategy Framework

The MSFMAC was provided with an updated draft Harvest Strategy Framework to consider endorsing as the version on which to commence wider stakeholder consultation. The updated draft included changes made to the objectives and other sections following consideration of comments provided by MSFMAC meeting # 4. The MSFMAC requested actions to enhance the draft, including: worked examples of the application of the framework; clarification of the Harvest Strategy Framework's role in supporting ESD; reflecting Aboriginal traditional stakeholders explicitly in the objectives; inclusion of the current social and economic monitoring; and the process for stakeholder input to be considered.

The MSFMAC endorsed the draft Harvest Strategy Framework as the version to commence stakeholder consultation with, subject to completing the action items being completed.

South East Snapper Rec and Charter Management arrangements

As an action from the May MSFMAC meeting, and considering the increase in the SEFZ Snapper Total Allowable Catch (TAC) from 48 tonnes in 2022/23 to 70 tonnes in 2023/24, and significant under catch of the total allowable recreational catch (TARC), PIRSA had met with the Charter Boat Association of South Australia (CBASA) and RecFish SA to discuss the appropriateness of the current management arrangements for Snapper in the SEFZ for these sectors. CBASA and RecFish SA subsequently provided proposals to PIRSA which had provided them to the MSFMAC to consider and provide recommendations.

RecFish SA had proposed a carry-over of 10% of the 2022/23 catch limit that applied to the recreational sector (providing it was uncaught), and increases to the recreational bag and boat limits. CBASA had proposed a carry-over of 10% of the 2022/23 catch limit that applied to the Charter Boat Fishery (providing it was uncaught).

The South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) had provided an advice note to PIRSA which indicated a low risk to the sustainable status of Snapper in the SEFZ / wider Western Victorian Snapper Stock associated with the proposals from CBASA and RecFish SA.

The MSFMAC considered the sustainable status of the Snapper stock in the South East Fishing Zone as presented and discussed at MSFMAC meeting #4, the SARDI advice indicating a low risk to the sustainability of the stock in relation to the requests, the low level of catch compared to the 2022/23 TARC, and input from the MSFMAC members, and agreed to recommended to the Minister the following:

Bag/boat limits for Snapper in the SEFZ

1. To maintain the current daily bag and boat limits for the Charter Boat Fishery for Snapper in the SEFZ.
2. To increase the recreational (non-charter) daily bag and boat limits for Snapper in the SEFZ from 1 fish per person (3 as the boat limit when there are three persons or more fishing on the boat), to 2 fish per person (6 as the boat limit when there are three persons or more fishing on the boat).

Carry-over

3. To apply carry-over of 10% of the Snapper 2022/23 catch limits for the Charter Boat Fishery and Recreational Fishery to the catch limits for 2023/24.

Capacity Building

An MSFMAC subgroup had developed a proposal for fisheries science and management capacity building training for sector stakeholders and advisory committee members. The Executive Officer of the Marine Fishers Association (MFA) had also prepared a similar proposal. Both proposals were noted by the MSFMAC. PIRSA confirmed that it would consolidate and take the proposals forward to seek funding to subsidise travel costs for stakeholder attendance, and coordinate delivery of the training, including specific consideration of female and Aboriginal traditional engagement and participation.

Draft Harvest Strategy Framework – Consultation Plan

The MSFMAC noted the draft Harvest Strategy Framework would be distributed to stakeholders by PIRSA once the agreed edits/additions were incorporated, and workshops and meetings will be planned over the next 6 months with the respective fishing sector associations. A consultation plan was being prepared by PIRSA and this would be shared with the MSFMAC once developed.

It was noted that the draft Harvest Strategy Framework, if considered appropriate at the time, could potentially be used to support the setting of 2024/25 catch limits.

The next MSFMAC meeting was expected in October 2023 at a time and date to be confirmed.

Dr Ilona Stobutzki

Independent Chair, Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee