

Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee

Meeting #5 – 11 December 2023

The Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MSFMAC) held its fifth meeting on 11 December 2023 at PIRSA, West Beach, and online video conferencing.

A focus of this MSFMAC meeting was to consider: the draft consultation paper Regional Management and Catch Shares in the Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF); the progress on development of the draft harvest strategy framework; a planned stakeholder workshop for Yellowfin Whiting; the progress of SARDI research Snapper science; the outcomes of the FRDC project 2020-056 – *Evaluation of an app-based recreational fishing survey against population benchmarks from a traditional probability-based survey*; and options for consideration for future stock assessments and TACC setting for 2024/25.

Regional Management and Catch Shares in the MSF

The MSFMAC noted the draft PIRSA discussion paper – Regional Management and Catch Shares in the MSF. PIRSA has developed the draft discussion paper to outline issues associated with both recreational catch reporting and the regional distribution of state-wide sector allocations. The aim is to seek stakeholder feedback on potential management options. The MSFMAC provided comments for consideration in updating the draft, including the need to incorporate additional information about how the regional catch shares of tier 1 species were developed and their purpose. The MSFMAC agreed the discussion paper pending consideration of their comments, should be provided to the Minister for her consideration to release the paper for stakeholder feedback.

Draft Harvest Strategy Framework

The Committee noted the draft Harvest Strategy Framework (HSF) consultation paper, including worked examples, has been released to targeted stakeholders for consultation. Stakeholder workshops are planned for January/February 2024. The MSFMAC noted that consultation with stakeholders would need to be part of the process to agree specific reference periods where required. The May 2024 meeting of the MSFMAC will further consider the Implementation Plan and how relevant sectors may contribute to its development.

Yellowfin Whiting

PIRSA have invited impacted stakeholders to participate in a Yellowfin Whiting Workshop on 5 February 2024. The MSFMAC noted the planned workshop and pending outputs that may result in recommendations provided for MSFMAC.

Outcomes of FRDC project 2020-056

The MSFMAC noted the SARDI presentation on the outcomes of the FRDC project 2020-056 – *'Evaluation of an app-based recreational fishing survey against population benchmarks from a traditional probability-based survey'* and discussed the implications for future recreational catch and effort estimates.

Stock assessment / TACC setting 2024/25

The MSFMAC discussed the stock assessment approaches used to inform TACC setting and what would be needed under the draft harvest strategy framework. The MSFMAC noted there will be improvements and efficiencies gained from transitioning from the current bespoke 'Est' models (i.e., 'SnapEst', 'WhitEst', 'GarEst'), which have been used for the past 20 years or so, to the widely adopted Stock Synthesis modelling PxfFW.

The MSFMAC requested advice from PIRSA/SARDI on the potential cost, risk and resourcing considerations of transitioning to stock synthesis. The MSFMAC noted that current work under the Snapper Science Program could assist in informing this.

The next MSFMAC meeting was expected to be held in May 2024 with a final date to be confirmed out-of-session.

Dr Ilona Stobutzki

Chair of the Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee