

New South Wales Fisheries Management

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Purpose

A harvest strategy is a framework that primarily specifies pre-determined actions in a fishery for defined species (at the stock or management unit level) necessary to achieve agreed ecological, economic, and social management objectives (Sloan et al. 2014). It can also define associated measures such as resource sharing arrangements and monitoring and research programs required to help achieve its objectives.

The NSW Snapper Harvest Strategy (the Harvest Strategy) applies to the NSW component of the east coast Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*) stock.

The Goal of the Harvest Strategy is: *‘To maintain a Snapper stock to support a profitable commercial fishery, promote quality recreational fishing opportunities, support continued Aboriginal cultural fishing practices, and generate social and economic benefits for the wider community.’*

The Harvest Strategy is established in accordance with the NSW Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy, and brings together key scientific monitoring, assessment and management components necessary to meet objectives including those established under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (the Act), the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014*, the Fisheries Management (Ocean Trap and Line Share Management Plan) Regulation 2006 (SMP), the Fishery Management Strategy for the NSW Ocean Trap and Line Fishery (OTLF FMS) and objectives established under the Harvest Strategy. Introduction of harvest strategies and evaluation of ecological risk in NSW Fisheries are key activities under Initiative 6 of the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018-2028.

The Harvest Strategy also incorporates strategic development opportunities to enhance the effective operation of the Harvest Strategy and subsequent versions developed through periodic review.

The Snapper Fishery

Snapper landed in NSW mainly belong to the east coast biological stock that extends from Queensland (QLD) to southern NSW. Some Snapper landed in southern NSW are likely a part of the eastern Victorian stock which extends from Wilsons Promontory to southern NSW (Morgan et al. 2019). Across the east coast biological stock, most harvest occurs in NSW, with substantial catches taken by the QLD recreational fishery, and smaller quantities taken by QLD commercial fisheries. Under the Status of Australian Fish Stocks (SAFS) classification framework, the QLD portion of the stock is classified as “Depleted” while the NSW portion is classified as “Sustainable” (Rogers et al. 2023).

Most of the commercial harvest is taken using demersal fish traps in the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery (OTLF) (82%) and a small portion of the harvest is from OTLF line methods (16%). Minor incidental catches are also taken in the Estuary General, Ocean Trawl and Southern Fish Trawl fisheries.

Most of the recreational harvest is taken by boat-based anglers fishing with bait or lures, and spearfishing also accounts for small portions of the harvest (Taylor et al. 2025). Snapper is also the most frequently retained species during recreational events on charter boats (Hughes et al. 2024).

Recent combined statewide catches have been around 300 tonnes per annum, with comparable amounts taken in the recreational and commercial fishing sectors, declining from historical peaks of

1300 tonnes per annum in the 1980s, which was predominantly harvested by the commercial sector (Stewart 2020). Stock biomass has been at a low level since the 1980s but has been increasing slowly since the 1990s. Noting this, there is confidence stock biomass will continue increasing under similar catch levels.

Key management changes have included:

- All sectors – Various Snapper minimum sizes from 6–16 oz were in place throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s. A minimum legal length of 9 in (22.9 cm) was introduced in 1914, this was increased to 11 in (27.9 cm) in 1939, 28 cm in 1990 and 30 cm in 2001
- Commercial sector – Several structural adjustments have occurred, including introducing a restricted fishery for the OTLF in 1998, share management introduced for the OTLF in 2007, new minimum shareholding requirements in 2009 and 2015, and the NSW Business Adjustment Program (BAP) implemented in 2017
- Recreational sector – The recreational bag limit of 10 was introduced in 1990.

The management approaches incorporated in the Harvest Strategy have been designed to consider these historical management changes and ensure that the management approaches applying to each sector are suitable to support effective ongoing adjustment of catch levels to support rebuilding stock biomass to sustainable target levels.

There is limited data on the level of Aboriginal cultural harvest, noting that cultural harvest of Snapper has been recorded in some archaeological and recent community-level surveys (Schnierer and Egan 2016, Ochwada-Doyle et al. 2025). Noting these records, Aboriginal cultural harvest of Snapper is thought to be important, yet a relatively low portion of the statewide harvest.

A summary of key harvest sectors comprising the NSW Snapper fishery and respective management measures is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. A summary of key harvest sectors comprising the Snapper fishery and respective management measures. Harvest percentages are based on commercial data from 2013/14 – 2022/23 and periodic recreational survey data from 2013/14 – 2021/22, excluding cultural harvest as Snapper harvest estimates are not currently available.

Fishery	Estimated % of harvest	Methods	Key management measures
Commercial	55% of total NSW harvest		Minimum size 30 cm Spatial closures Limited entry Vessel restrictions Gear limits
— Ocean Trap and Line	97.5% of commercial harvest	Demersal fish trap Line	Effort limits (trap, line, and hook limits) Trap and mesh size
— Estuary General	0.8% of commercial harvest	Meshing net Hauling net Line	None specific to Snapper

Fishery	Estimated % of harvest	Methods	Key management measures
— Ocean Trawl	0.6% of commercial harvest	Otter trawl net Danish seine net	None specific to Snapper
— Southern Fish Trawl	1.0% of commercial harvest	Otter trawl net Danish seine net	None specific to Snapper
— Lobster	0.2% of commercial harvest	Lobster traps	None specific to Snapper
Recreational (including Charter)	45% of total NSW harvest	Line Spearfishing	Minimum size 30 cm Spatial closures Daily and possession limit Rod/handline limits Hook limits
Aboriginal cultural	Aboriginal cultural harvest is likely to be a low portion of the total harvest	Line Spearfishing Meshing and hauling net methods under Cultural Fishing Authority	Minimum size 30 cm Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Interim Access Arrangement Section 37 Cultural Fishing Authorities Rod/handline limits Hook limits Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Local Management Plans Indigenous Land Use Agreements

Strategy scope

The NSW Snapper Harvest Strategy provides an operational framework to manage fishing mortality¹ and therefore biomass, of the NSW Snapper stock. The strategy includes objectives, monitoring arrangements, assessment methodology and management actions designed to achieve the harvest strategy objectives, including changing harvest levels in accordance with changes in stock biomass.

The Harvest Strategy and its decision rules are designed to support the interests of all stakeholders accessing the Snapper fishery by providing:

1. An evidence based assessment and management framework with explicit decision rules for the major NSW harvest sectors
2. Ancillary arrangements to monitor and manage Snapper mortality in other NSW commercial fisheries
3. Provisions to maintain the defined share of the Snapper taken between the NSW recreational and commercial sectors
4. A sufficiently precautionary management approach to balance harvest against stock building.

The catch share between sectors is based on commercial catch records and recreational catch estimates between 2013/14 – 2022/23 (Table 2).

The cultural fishing rights of Aboriginal peoples are protected under native title legislation. The Harvest Strategy does not define a resource share for cultural fishing, noting likely low proportions of total Snapper harvest and that cultural fishing is managed under the Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Interim Access Arrangements, Local Management Plans and a permit system for larger cultural events.

Table 2. Resource sharing arrangements between the commercial and recreational sectors applying to the NSW Snapper Harvest Strategy. Harvest percentages are based on commercial data from 2013/14 – 2022/23 and periodic recreational survey data from 2013/14 – 2021/22.

Commercial fishing	Recreational fishing (including charter)
55%	45%

The Harvest Strategy also recognises that Snapper in NSW form part of the broader east coast stock shared with Queensland. The Harvest Strategy has been developed to determine objectives and arrangements for managing NSW harvest, supported by the assessment of the NSW component of the stock. In future, complementary management of the eastern Snapper stock may be supported by developing an eastern biological stock assessment and implementing formal resource sharing arrangements between the 2 jurisdictions.

¹ Retained harvest, noting allowances may also be made to account for incidental and illegal fishing mortality

Interaction with other harvest strategies in NSW

NSW DPIRD is considering how it addresses multi sector, species and gear harvest strategies in the future, focused on assessing the development of broader multi-species harvest strategies providing overarching coverage to broader fishing dynamics. Line and trap fishing activities will be a priority due to the species and sectoral complexity of the fishery. Future iterations of the harvest strategy will be reviewed to complement such overarching strategies as necessary.

Snapper may be managed under harvest strategies in other jurisdictions in future and NSW DPIRD will aim to support shared objectives where possible. Future reviews of the Harvest Strategy will consider whether more specific complementary arrangements may be required.

Ecologically sustainable development

An Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) risk assessment encompasses ecological, economic, cultural, and social dimensions to ensure that all relevant major risks posed by a fishery and to a fishery are considered, promoting an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. Objectives and data for economic, cultural, and social factors to support a complete ESD risk assessment are under development. Until then, the focus of the risk assessment framework for this Harvest Strategy is an Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) (Astles and Cormier, 2018).

A broader ERA on the OTLF is scheduled for 2027. The assessment of ecological risk will be carried out across five ecological components that encompass the fishery's ecological risk profile: quota and primary species, key secondary species, by-catch, habitats and ecological communities. This will include Snapper. The ERA will assess the fishery's activities exerting pressure on the ecological components described, i.e. risks posed by the fishery, that may increase the likelihood of fishery management objectives, related to ecological sustainability, not being achieved. Major risks posed to the fishery, and potentially affecting Snapper, from factors other than fishing will be captured as information becomes available, and resources allow.

Objectives

Goal

To build and maintain a Snapper stock to support a profitable commercial fishery, promote quality recreational fishing opportunities, support continued Aboriginal cultural fishing practices, and generate social and economic benefits for the wider community.

Strategic objectives

The strategic objectives of the harvest strategy are to:

1. Build and maintain a robust NSW Snapper stock, accessible for all NSW stakeholders
 2. Protect the continued access of Aboriginal fishers for cultural fishing
 3. Support a profitable commercial fishing industry
 4. Provide quality fishing opportunities for recreational fishers, including opportunities to encounter larger Snapper
-

5. Support improved cross jurisdictional management of Snapper with Queensland.

Operational objectives

The operational objectives of the harvest strategy are to:

1. Build the NSW Snapper stock component to 30% of the unfished spawning biomass (B_{sp30}) by 2035
 2. Progress and maintain the NSW Snapper stock component to a target level of 50% of the unfished spawning biomass (B_{sp50})
 3. Maintain the resource share between the recreational and commercial sectors
 4. Implement a targeted rebuilding strategy if biomass decreases to, or below 20% of unfished spawning biomass (B_{sp20}).
-

Reference points

Target reference point

B_{sp50} : 50% of the unfished spawning biomass.

Trigger reference point

B_{sp30} : 30% of the unfished spawning biomass.

Rebuilding trigger reference point

B_{sp25} : 25% of the unfished spawning biomass.

Limit reference point

B_{sp20} : 20% of the unfished spawning biomass.

Indicators

Indicators are used to measure fishery and Harvest Strategy performance against operational objectives.

Primary indicator

$B_{spCURRENT}/B_{spUNFISHED}$ – estimated depletion of spawning biomass relative to unfished spawning biomass.

Secondary indicator

Standardised Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE).

Data and monitoring

Snapper is monitored via NSW fishery dependent data from commercial fishery monitoring programs, recreational data from the NSW Recreational Fisheries and Charter Monitoring Programs. Additional sources of data may be incorporated as they become available, with confirmed future data sources listed below.

Existing data sources

- Commercial fishery logbooks providing fishing method, catch and effort data by location.
- Surveys of recreational catch in NSW (historical and biennial surveys).
- Daily charter fishery logbook and Charter Observer Program data.
- Biological data, including length and age composition from fishery dependent and independent sources.
- Recreational tagging data through the DPIRD Game Fish Tagging Program.

Future data sources

- Recreational catch information (length composition and numbers harvested by area) via onsite surveys.
- Commercial real time reporting.
- Cultural fishing catch information.

Assessment

Estimates of current biomass relative to unfished spawning biomass are derived from the NSW Snapper stock assessment. The NSW Snapper stock assessment uses a fully integrated age-structured population model developed in the Stock Synthesis framework (Methot and Wetzel, 2013). It includes 4 catch fleets, abundance (CPUE) indices, length compositions, age-at-length data and biological parameters such as growth and natural mortality appropriate to Snapper in NSW.

The assessment produces an estimate of current female spawning biomass, relative to unfished spawning biomass ($B_{\text{CURRENT}}/B_{\text{UNFISHED}}$). The median of the biomass estimate will be applied to the decision rules.

The assessment was completed and peer reviewed in 2025 and recommendations will be incorporated in current and future assessments.

In addition to the assessment model, the standardised commercial CPUE series for both line and demersal fish trap methods are monitored to provide a secondary indicator of stock biomass in non-assessment years. CPUE standardisations consider factors including individual fisher, latitude and time of year. These standardised CPUE series, each averaged over 3 years, will be compared to the projected CPUE values from the model.

Assessment periods

- The assessment model will be run on at least a 3-yearly basis, providing outputs to inform Recommended Biological Catch (RBC) setting for a 3-year period.
- In the event the assessment cannot be updated on a 3-yearly basis, the previous year's RBC recommendation will be reset annually until the assessment model can be run, unless the secondary indicator indicates the RBC should be decreased.
- Standardised CPUE will be monitored annually.

Decision rules

Decision rules are constructed to manage retained catch to achieve the operational objectives described in this document and are used to determine the RBC across fishing sectors, and the specific management arrangements that will apply in each annual fishing period, which is from 1 May – 30 April the following year.

The decision rules will be applied before commencement of each annual fishing period to determine:

1. The RBC for the fishing period
2. Management controls applying to the fishing period to maintain catches within the RBC and respective sector catch shares.

Decision rules for determining Recommended Biological Catch (RBC)

The RBC is determined based on model projections derived from the NSW Snapper Stock Assessment. This provides the level of harvest which has been projected to continue building the stock to Bsp₃₀ by 2035 during the phase one decision rules. Model projections or a hockey stick harvest control rule² will be considered to define an RBC to build to the long-term target reference point (Bsp₅₀) in the phase 2 decision rules. Other sources of mortality will be accounted for in determining the total harvest limit from the RBC where available (Figure 1).

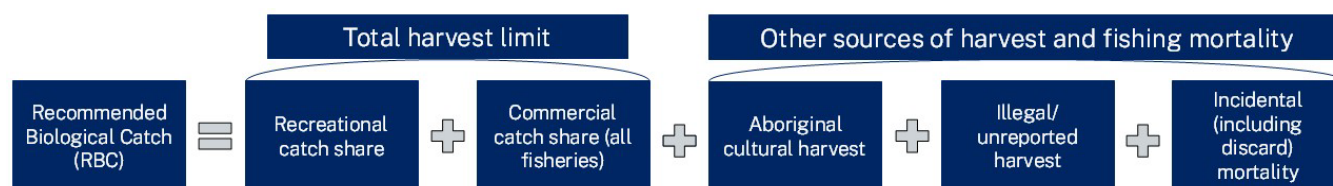


Figure 1. The relationship between the Recommended Biological Catch (RBC), the total harvest limit and other sources of harvest and fishing mortality.

Phase one decision rules – Model optimised RBC to build biomass to Bsp₃₀

The Harvest Strategy commences with managing catches under an RBC based on model projections to allow stock building to Bsp₃₀ by 2035. The Harvest Strategy does not permit increases to the RBC

² The harvest strategy will transition to a hockey stick harvest control rule when deemed appropriate (e.g. RBC under model projections and the hockey stick control rule align to facilitate transition), however this may not be immediately after the phase 2 decision rules commence

until biomass is in a more robust state (above B_{sp30}), and the transition to the phase 2 decision rules has occurred.

The resulting total harvest limit will be distributed between the recreational and commercial sectors, and these sectors will be managed to the derived recreational and commercial catch shares.

The RBC may be lowered³ (Figure 2) if:

- The non-assessment year CPUE trigger criteria are breached
- Biomass is no longer projected to reach B_{sp30} by 2035, according to model projections in an updated Snapper stock assessment report.

Non-assessment year CPUE trigger criteria

If the standardised line or trap CPUE series is substantially lower than the model-projected CPUE, and this CPUE decline is understood to not be caused by operational factors⁴, the CPUE trigger will be considered breached. If breached, the following will be completed:

- The RBC will be reviewed against the harvest strategy objectives and CPUE trends (Figure 2) to inform adjustment of the RBC
- The assessment model will be run within 12 months to review the primary indicator.

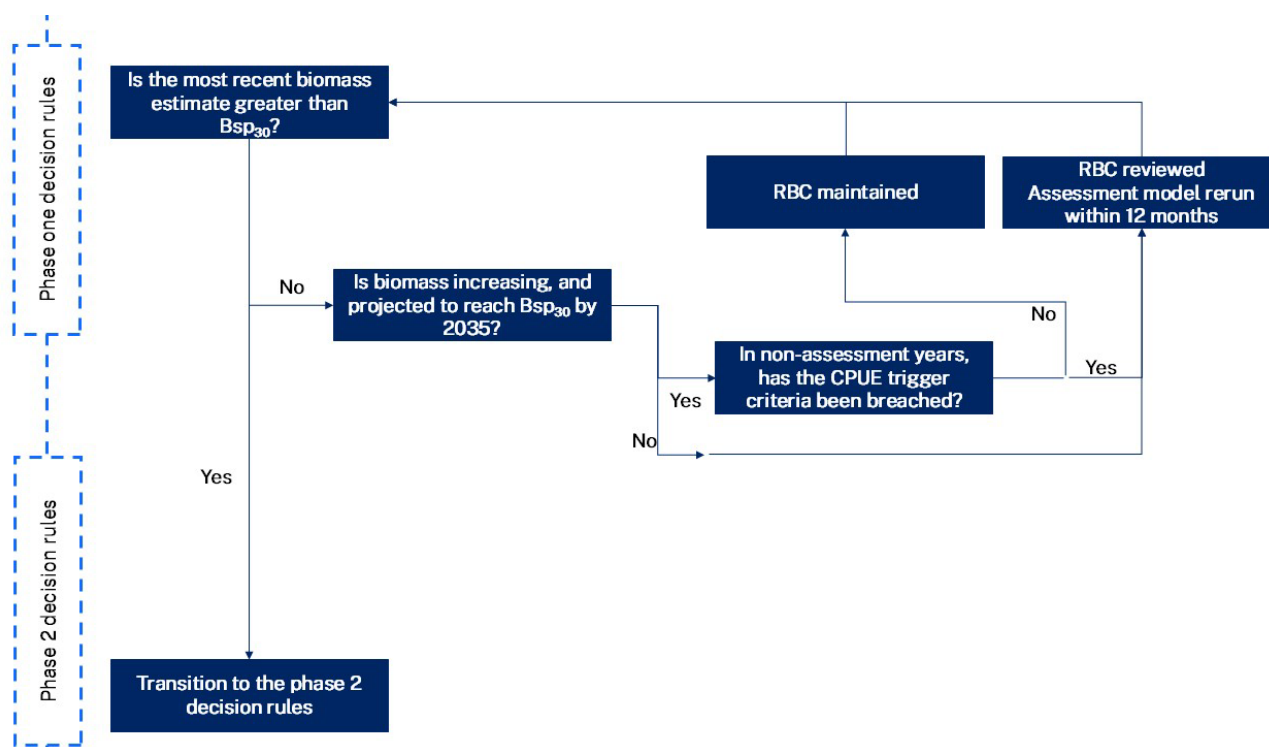


Figure 2. A summary of the decision-making framework for maintaining the Recommended Biological Catch (RBC), reviewing the RBC, or transitioning to phase 2 decision rules.

³ Lowering the RBC to zero will be considered in the phase one decision rules if required to build to B_{sp30} by 2035.

⁴ CPUE declines can be caused by non-biological factors, including market demand and price. DPIRD would identify any operational effects on CPUE through discussions with commercial fishers.

Phase 2 decision rules – Model optimised RBC to maintain biomass around Bsp₅₀

Once biomass is above Bsp₃₀, the phase 2 decision rules will commence, during which the RBC will be set for each assessment period, based on catch levels which allow for the biomass target (Bsp₅₀) to be reached in the long-term⁵. The resulting RBC may increase or decrease for each assessment period, as new information provides revised projections for reaching the target biomass.

The RBC will initially be set based on catch and biomass projections from the stock assessment model, with the objective of transitioning to a 20:35:50⁶ hockey stick harvest control rule.

Rebuilding strategy

The phase one decision rules are designed to respond to non-responsive or declining biomass indicators by reducing RBC if biomass is not projected to reach Bsp₃₀ by 2035.

If the phase 2 decision rules have commenced, the following conditions apply under the rebuilding strategy:

- If biomass declines below Bsp₂₅, breaching the rebuilding trigger reference point, the Harvest Strategy will be reviewed to determine the reasons for the decline, and an amended rebuilding strategy will be initiated
- If the limit reference point (Bsp₂₀) is breached, a total harvest limit of zero will be implemented (i.e. fishery closure)
- Any other necessary monitoring or management measures will be implemented.

The rebuilding strategy establishes these precautionary mechanisms as:

- The existing decision rules may have failed the objective to build the stock towards the target reference point (Bsp₅₀)
- Unforeseen environmental impacts may have reduced stock biomass
- Modifications to monitoring strategies, performance indicators and assessment methods may be necessary given changes to patterns of fishing that may result from lower biomass and harvest levels.

If a total harvest limit of zero is implemented, appropriate surveys may be undertaken to determine reopening of the fishery where reopening is considered consistent with the objectives of this strategy.

Applying decision rules to commercial harvest of Snapper

Managing commercial harvest is subject to the commercial share (55%, Table 2) of the total harvest limit and is informed by annual commercial catch data from the previous complete fishing period.

Commercial catches will be managed through an ITQ system, and while the ITQ system is developing, interim commercial management arrangements will support achieving harvest strategy objectives.

⁵ The timeframe to achieve Bsp₅₀ will be further evaluated as fishery data and predictive modelling improves.

⁶ A 20:35:50 hockey stick harvest control rule defines the exploitation rate of a fish stock to derive a Recommended Biological Catch (RBC), with key reference points at Bsp₂₀ (limit reference point), Bsp₃₅ (inflection point) and Bsp₅₀ (target reference point). These points respectively define the points of zero RBC, the inflection point for change in exploitation rate, and the target biomass level.

Interim commercial management arrangements

Interim catch limits will be implemented if needed to maintain commercial catch within the sector share. These will take the form of monthly catch and possession limits for key harvest sectors (demersal fish trap, line fishing western zone and line fishing eastern zone) and daily catch and possession limits in other sectors. The catch limits will:

- Maintain catch at or below the commercial share of 55% of the total harvest limit
- Be based on annual commercial catch data from the previous complete fishing period
- Be reviewed and set at the beginning of each fishing period (1 May each year).

The catch limits may also be adjusted within a given fishing period, if catches are expected to be under or over constrained against the commercial catch share by more than 10%.

Initial daily catch and possession limits (Table 3) will provide for ongoing incidental catches. Other fisheries or sectors of the OTLF not listed in Table 3 will have a limit of zero.

Table 3. Daily catch limits for other fisheries or sectors.

Commercial fishery or sector	Daily Snapper catch and possession limit (kg)
Estuary General Meshing Region 7	15
Lobster Fishery	10
Ocean Trawl Fishery	15
Southern Fish Trawl Fishery	30

Commercial quota management

Once ITQs have been implemented, the commercial TAC will be allocated amongst relevant shareholders in proportion to the number of Snapper quota shares held. The TAC will be set equal to the commercial catch share, minus incidental retained catch of Snapper in fisheries outside of the quota management system (Figure 3). Any fisheries or sectors not included in the quota management system will be subject to the daily catch and possession limits in Table 3, or zero take, to maintain the integrity of the quota management system.



Figure 3. The method for calculating commercial Total Allowable Catch (TAC) by subtracting incidental retained commercial catch from the commercial catch share, and then the method for distributing this amongst holders of Snapper quota shares.

Meta rules for applying decision rules to commercial harvest

1. Commercial harvest will be considered within the commercial catch share if total harvest is plus or minus 10% of the catch share. If outside 10%, management arrangements will be reviewed and adjusted against the commercial catch share. This meta rule does not apply once quota management has been implemented.

Applying decision rules to recreational harvest of Snapper

Recreational harvest will be managed to the recreational share (45%, Table 2).

New recreational limits will apply on commencement of the Harvest Strategy to constrain total recreational catch to a level consistent with the catch share. The management arrangements for applying decision rules to recreational harvest have been determined based on existing recreational data and may be adjusted as fishery dynamics evolve, including further understanding of the relationship between recreational limits and total catch levels⁷.

Commencing recreational management arrangements are:

- Recreational bag limit– A bag and possession limit of 3
- Soft slot limit – A soft slot limit, permitting take and possession of one Snapper over 70 cm (per person).

Any subsequent changes to recreational management arrangements will be informed through a recreational data review undertaken each time new biennial recreational harvest estimates are available. Each review will consider the:

- Most recent recreational harvest estimate from the biennial recreational fishing survey
- Average of harvest estimates from the 3 most recent recreational surveys
- Variability of these survey estimates
- Availability of on-site surveys.

The review process will aim to maintain recreational catches within the recreational catch share, on average, through time.

Phase 2 decision rules

Once the Harvest Strategy transitions to the phase 2 decision rules, recreational management arrangements will be adjusted as described in Table 4.

⁷ The relationship between catch levels and changes to management arrangements is not linear (e.g. a 50% change in bag limits does not achieve a 50% change in catch).

Table 4. Management arrangements for recreational catch against the recreational sector's catch share. The commencing management settings are shown in the grey shaded row.

Recreational catch share (tonnes)	Management arrangements
160 +	Bag and possession limit: 6 per person Soft slot limit: one over 70 cm per person
140 – <160	Bag and possession limit: 5 per person Soft slot limit: one over 70 cm per person
114 – <140	Bag and possession limit: 3 per person Soft slot limit: one over 70 cm per person
85 – <114	Bag and possession limit: 1 per person
53 – <85	Bag and possession limit: 1 per person Recreational boat limit: 2 Recreational minimum legal length increased to 35 cm
>0 – <53	Bag, boat and recreational size limits maintained at one, 2 and 35 cm Closed season of limited duration to achieve any additional catch reductions needed
0	Bag and possession limit: zero per person

Meta rules for applying decision rules to recreational harvest of Snapper

1. Recreational harvest will be considered within the recreational catch share if total harvest is plus or minus 10% of the catch share. If outside 10%, management arrangements will be reviewed and adjusted against the recreational catch share.

Applying decision rules to Aboriginal cultural harvest of Snapper

Available estimates of Aboriginal cultural harvest will be accounted for in setting the commercial and recreational catch shares (Figure 1). The Harvest Strategy does not currently define specific management arrangements for Aboriginal cultural harvest.

Meta rules applying decision rules to Aboriginal cultural harvest of Snapper

1. If decision rules for determining total harvest set the total catch level at zero, arrangements to support Aboriginal cultural fishing will be determined in consultation with the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council.

Harvest Strategy breakout

If the Executive Director Resource Management deems that management prescribed by the Harvest Strategy will not achieve its objectives, they will determine a harvest strategy breakout, and alternative management approach applied.

Harvest strategy review

The Executive Director Resource Management may decide to review this Harvest Strategy at any time if, considering the best available information, its objectives are unlikely to be achieved, or where clear justification (such as availability of additional stock, economic or operational information) becomes available.

This strategy will be reviewed through a consultative Working Group within 5 years from commencement, or if required by decision rules.

Future research and strategic development

The Harvest Strategy acknowledges a range of developments to be considered at the 5-year review. The following issues are identified for future development:

1. Increase accuracy of recreational harvest estimates and length composition data
 2. Increase understanding of Snapper recruitment in eastern Australia e.g. through a research trap survey completed with the commercial fishing industry
 3. Development of a spatial stock assessment model for Snapper
 4. Increase understanding of environmental effects on stock productivity
 5. Undertake additional quantitative Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), including implications for cross jurisdictional assessment and complementary management approaches
 6. Enhance understanding of Aboriginal cultural fishers' catches of Snapper.
-

Definitions

Decision Rule: Pre-agreed management actions to control intensity of fishing in order to achieve the harvest strategy objectives.

Indicator: A quantity that can be measured and used to track changes with respect to an objective.

Limit Reference Point: The value of an indicator that is unacceptable because the stock or management unit has become depleted or recruitment overfished.

Objective: An objective that has a direct and practical interpretation in the context of a fishery and against which performance can be evaluated.

Rebuilding strategy: A component of the Harvest Strategy which aims to increase biomass from a point nearby, or below the limit reference point.

Reference point: The value of an indicator that can be used as a benchmark of performance against an operational objective.

Standardised CPUE: A proxy of relative stock biomass based on Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) data that has been adjusted to account for factors unrelated to fish abundance (such as individual fisher behaviour), allowing trends in CPUE to be used as an indicator of changes in stock biomass over time.

Target Reference Point: The value of an indicator that is desirable or ideal and at which fisheries management should aim.

Trigger Reference Point: The value of an indicator for a fish stock or management unit at which a change in the level of monitoring or management is considered or adopted.

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