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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 Yellowtail Kingfish Harvest Strategy (the Harvest Strategy) applies to the NSW component of the eastern Yellowtail Kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*) stock.

The Goal of the Harvest Strategy is: *'To rebuild the NSW Yellowtail Kingfish stock to levels that 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, 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 Yellowtail Kingfish Fishery

The eastern biological stock of Yellowtail Kingfish (commonly known as Kingfish) spans throughout south-eastern Australia, with mixing occurring with the New Zealand biological stock (Miller et al. 2011, Green et al. 2020, Goddard et al. 2024). Across the eastern biological stock, most known harvest is taken in NSW, with substantial amounts taken by Commonwealth commercial fishers, and smaller amounts taken in the recreational and commercial fisheries of South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria, noting some states have not estimated recreational harvest levels (Hughes et al. 2023).

Kingfish is a highly valued commercial species throughout NSW and one of the state's premier recreational targets. The Kingfish fishery includes the NSW component of the eastern Kingfish biological stock and the commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal cultural fishing sectors which harvest Kingfish.

Recreational and commercial harvest levels have been approximately equal over the last 20 years, although in recent years it is estimated that most of the total annual harvest of Kingfish is from the recreational fishing sector (Hughes and Stewart 2020). Boat-based fishing with bait accounts for most of the recreational harvest, and a small proportion of the harvest is taken fishing with lures and spearfishing (Taylor et al. 2025). Most of the commercial harvest is taken by various line methods in the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery (OTLF), with handline methods accounting for the most catch.

Some NSW commercial catch is also taken in the Estuary General, Ocean Trawl and Southern Fish Trawl fisheries.

Recent combined statewide catches have been around 250 tonnes per annum, declining from historical peaks of over 800 tonnes per annum around the mid-late 1980s. Stock biomass has been assessed as below Bsp₂₀ since the mid-1980s and at a stable and historical low since the early 2000s.

Key management changes have included:

- All sectors – A Kingfish minimum size of 16 oz was introduced in 1903 and changed to 14 in (35.6 cm) in 1914. The minimum legal length was later removed in 1971, reintroduced at 60 cm in 1990 and increased to 65 cm in 2007
- Commercial sector – Kingfish traps were prohibited in 1996. Following this several structural adjustments 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 from 2017
- Recreational sector – The recreational bag limit of 5 was introduced in 1990.

The management approaches incorporated in the Harvest Strategy have been designed to consider these historical 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 Kingfish 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 Kingfish is thought to be important, yet a relatively low portion of the statewide harvest.

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

Table 1. A summary of key harvest sectors comprising the Yellowtail Kingfish 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 Kingfish harvest estimates are not currently available.

Fishery	Estimated % of harvest	Methods	Key management measures
Commercial	50% of total NSW harvest		Minimum size 65 cm Spatial closures Limited entry Vessel restrictions Gear limits
— Ocean Trap and Line	96.4%	Line	Effort limits (trap, line, and hook limits)
— Estuary General	1.3%	Meshing net Hauling net	None specific to Kingfish

Fishery	Estimated % of harvest	Methods	Key management measures
		Line	
— Southern Fish Trawl	1.2%	Otter trawl net Danish seine net	None specific to Kingfish
— Ocean haul	1.0%	Hauling net	None specific to Kingfish
Recreational (including Charter)	50% of total NSW harvest	Line Spearfishing	Minimum size 65 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 65 cm Aboriginal cultural fishing daily limits and possession limits Section 37 Cultural Fishing Authorities Rod/handline limits Hook limits Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Local Management Plans Indigenous Land Use Agreements

Strategy scope

The NSW Yellowtail Kingfish Harvest Strategy provides an operational framework to manage fishing mortality¹ and rebuild biomass of the NSW component of the eastern Kingfish stock. The strategy includes objectives, monitoring arrangements, assessment methodology and management actions for changing harvest levels for key sectors of the Kingfish fishery in accordance with rebuilding objectives.

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

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

1. An evidence based assessment and management framework with explicit decision rules for the major NSW harvest sectors
2. Ancillary arrangements to manage Kingfish mortality in other NSW commercial fisheries
3. Provisions to maintain the defined share of Kingfish taken between the NSW recreational and commercial sectors
4. A sufficiently precautionary management approach to balance harvest against rebuilding stock biomass, and then support progress to longer term management targets.

The catch share between sectors is based on commercial catch records and recreational catch estimates since 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 Kingfish 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 fishing sectors applying to the NSW Yellowtail Kingfish 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)
50%	50%

The Harvest Strategy recognises that Kingfish in NSW form part of the broader eastern stock shared with several Australian jurisdictions. The Harvest Strategy has been developed to determine management objectives and arrangements for managing NSW harvest, recognising that complementary management may be needed to support achieving biomass targets.

To support complementary management and stock-wide biomass improvements, NSW DPIRD has collaborated with other jurisdictions during the Harvest Strategy’s development and will continue to support cross-jurisdictional initiatives. This may be supported by developing broader resource sharing arrangements in the future.

Kingfish in NSW waters around Lord Howe Island likely form an independent and self-recruiting portion of the eastern stock (Goddard et al. 2024, Oosterbeek et al. 2025, Goddard et al. 2026). Kingfish are a target species of fishing activities on Lord Howe Island and recreational fishers are subject to NSW recreational fishing rules. The Lord Howe Island Fishery, which operates under commercial tourism licenses and marine park permits, also supplies limited amounts of seafood to the island community for local consumption. Current management of this fishery is under review, and noting relatively low levels of harvest, this fishery is not formally included in the current harvest strategy or Yellowtail Kingfish stock assessment, noting that future assessment and management should be compatible with the arrangements under the Harvest Strategy.

Interaction with other harvest strategies in NSW

NSW DPIRD is considering how it addresses multi sector, species and gear fisheries under harvest strategies in the future, focussed on assessing the development of broader multi-species harvest strategies providing overarching coverage to broader fishing dynamics, with line and trap fishing activities being 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.

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. Consequently, the focus of the risk assessment framework for the 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 Kingfish. 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 Kingfish, from factors other than fishing will be captured as information becomes available, and resources allow.

Objectives

Goal

To rebuild the NSW Yellowtail Kingfish stock to levels that 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. Rebuild the NSW component of the Kingfish stock to staged target levels, sharing responsibilities and benefits across fishing sectors
 2. Maintain stock biomass around the target level aimed to:
 - a. Protect the continued access of Aboriginal fishers for cultural fishing
 - b. Support a long-term profitable commercial fishery
 - c. Provide quality fishing opportunities for recreational fishers, including opportunities to encounter larger inshore Kingfish
 3. Support improved cross jurisdictional management of Kingfish throughout eastern Australia.
-

Operational objectives

The operational objectives of the harvest strategy are to:

1. Maintain total annual catches at or below 120 tonnes to achieve rebuilding of the NSW Yellowtail Kingfish stock
 2. Once biomass is rebuilt above B_{sp30} :
 - a. Progress and maintain the NSW Yellowtail Kingfish biomass around a target level of 50% of unfished spawning biomass (B_{sp50})
 - b. Ensure biomass remains above 20% of unfished spawning biomass (B_{sp20})
 3. Maintain the resource share between the recreational and commercial sectors.
-

Reference points

Target reference point

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

Trigger reference point

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

Rebuilding trigger reference point

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

Limit reference point

B_{sp20} : 20% of 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

Kingfish is monitored via NSW fishery dependent data from commercial fisheries monitoring programs and 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 (occasional historical and current 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.
- Mandatory recreational and commercial near real time² catch reporting.
- Commercial and charter boat discard reporting.
- Data from other jurisdictions.
- Cultural fishing catch information.

Assessment

Estimates of current biomass relative to unfished spawning biomass are derived from the NSW Yellowtail Kingfish stock assessment. The NSW Yellowtail Kingfish stock assessment uses a fully integrated age-structured population model developed in the Stock Synthesis framework (Methot and Wetzel, 2013). It will include 3 catch fleets, abundance CPUE indices, length compositions, age-at-length data and biological parameters such as growth and natural mortality appropriate to Kingfish in NSW. The model is being based purely on data from NSW.

The stock assessment will provide estimates of current female spawning biomass, relative to unfished spawning biomass ($B_{\text{CURRENT}}/B_{\text{UNFISHED}}$) under a range of input parameters. The median of the biomass estimate will be applied to the decision rules.

The assessment was completed and peer reviewed in 2026 and recommendations will be incorporated in current and future assessments.

In addition to the assessment model, standardised commercial CPUE is 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. The standardised CPUE series, averaged over 3 years, will be compared to the projected CPUE values from the model.

² Near real time catch reporting refers to the digital reporting of catches, at a time close to when a fish was caught (e.g. following end of a fishing trip). This enables catch levels to be monitored and managed with higher confidence.

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 Yellowtail Kingfish Stock Assessment. This provides the level of harvest which has been projected to rebuild the stock to Bsp₃₀ during the phase one decision rules. Model projections or a hockey stick harvest control rule³ will be considered to define an RBC to build to the long-term target of 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).

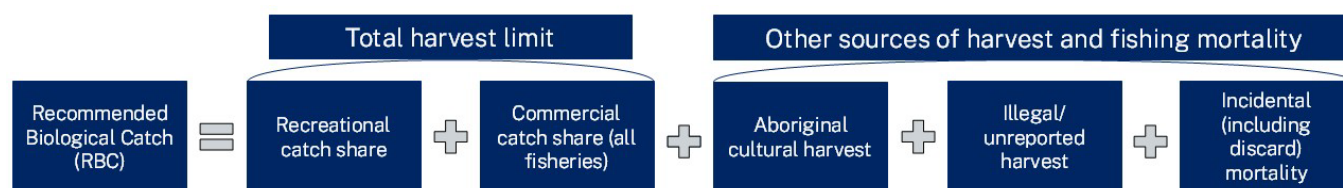


Figure 1. The relationship between the Recommended Biological Catch (RBC), the total harvest limit and other sources of harvest and fishing mortality.

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 the stock to increase to Bsp₃₀. The Harvest Strategy does not permit increases

³ 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.

to the RBC 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 lowered⁴ (Figure 2) if:

- The non-assessment year CPUE trigger criteria are breached
- Biomass is not rebuilding towards B_{sp30} , according to model projections in an updated Kingfish stock assessment report.

Non-assessment year CPUE trigger criteria

If the standardised CPUE series is substantially lower than the model-projected CPUE, and this CPUE decline is understood to not be caused by operational factors⁵, 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.

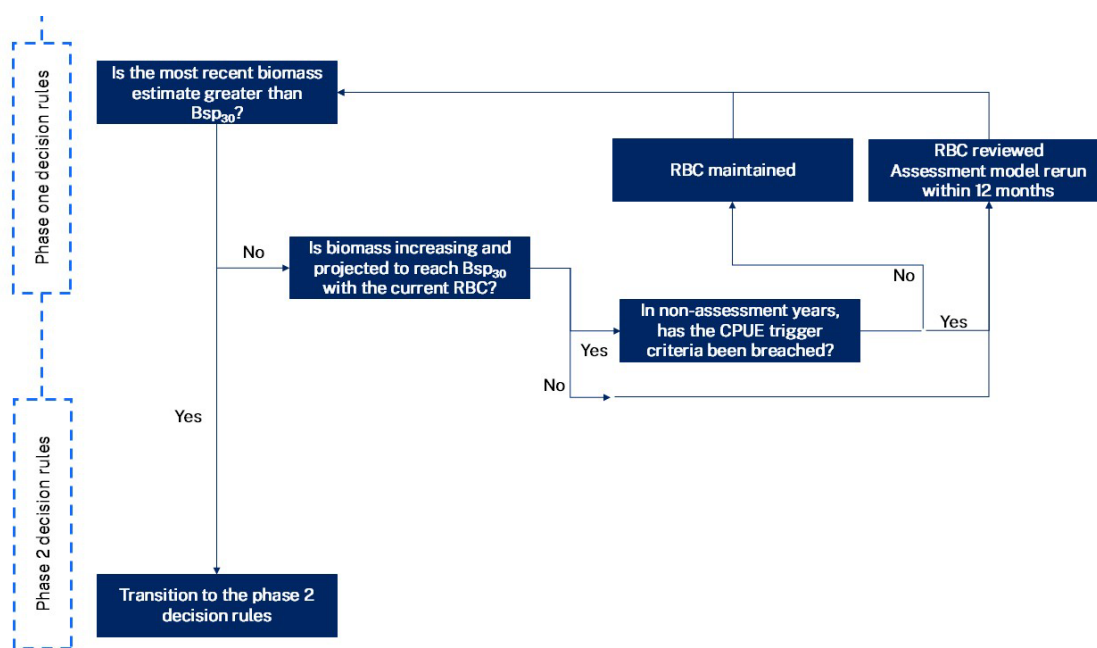


Figure 2. A summary of the decision-making framework for maintaining the Recommended Biological Catch (RBC), reviewing the RBC, or transitioning to phase 2 decision rules.

⁴ Lowering the RBC to zero will be considered in the phase one decision rules if required to build to B_{sp30} .

⁵ 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-term⁶. 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 20:35:50⁷ hockey stick harvest control rule.

Rebuilding strategy

The phase one decision rules commence with a focus on rebuilding the NSW Kingfish stock biomass towards higher levels and are designed to address non-responsive or declining biomass indicators by lowering RBC if biomass is no longer projected to reach Bsp₃₀ under the RBC of 120 tonnes.

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.

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.

⁶ The timeframe to achieve Bsp₅₀ will be further evaluated as fishery data and predictive modelling improves.

⁷ 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.

Applying decision rules to commercial harvest of Kingfish

Managing commercial harvest is subject to the commercial share (50%, 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 in the future, and while the ITQ system is developing, interim commercial management arrangements will support achieving harvest strategy objectives.

Interim commercial management arrangements

Interim catch limits will be implemented to maintain commercial catch within the sector share. These will take the form of monthly catch and possession limits for key harvest sectors (line fishing western zone and line fishing eastern zone). The catch limits will:

- Maintain catch at or below the commercial share of 50% of the total harvest limit
- Be based on annual commercial catch data from the previous complete fishing period
- Be set and reviewed at the beginning of each fishing period (1 May each year).

The catch limits may 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%.

All other commercial fisheries and sectors of the OTLF will have a zero-bag limit for Kingfish.

Commercial quota management

Once ITQs have been implemented, the commercial TAC will be divided amongst relevant shareholders in proportion to the number of Yellowtail Kingfish quota shares held. Any fisheries or sectors of the OTLF not included in the quota management system have zero take, to maintain the integrity of the quota management system.

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 Kingfish

Recreational harvest is subject to the recreational share (50%, 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 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 levels⁸.

⁸ 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).

Commencing recreational management arrangements are:

- Recreational bag limit – A bag and possession limit of one
- Boat limits – Recreational boat limit of one and charter boat limit of one
- Catch and release only season (where needed) – A seasonal period structured around the most likely peak spawning period (November-January) each year.

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 and near real time reporting data.

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, management controls will be adjusted to allow increases to the recreational sector's catch, in proportion to changes to the RBC.

Meta rules for applying decision rules to recreational harvest of Kingfish

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 Kingfish

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 for applying decision rules to Aboriginal cultural harvest of Kingfish

1. If decision rules for determining the 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 rebuilding 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, that 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 established by DPIRD within 5 years from commencement, or if required by decision rules.

Future research and strategic development

Uncertainty exists in the movements of large Kingfish, their availability to fisheries in NSW, and implications for NSW Kingfish recruitment. Future research should attempt to resolve this, specifically:

1. Pursue a joint jurisdiction research and management program for Kingfish, and a stock level assessment of eastern Kingfish
 2. Improved fishery independent methods for monitoring the NSW stock
 3. Incorporate the Lord Howe Island fishing activities into the Harvest Strategy
 4. Increase accuracy of recreational harvest estimates and length composition data
 5. Increase understanding of Kingfish movements and stock mixing in eastern Australia
 6. Undertake further scenario testing and longer term Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
 7. Expand age frequency data
 8. Enhance understanding of Aboriginal cultural fishers' catches of Kingfish.
-

Definitions

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

Harvest Control Rule: A pre-agreed guideline used in fisheries management to determine the level of fishing effort or catch limit based on indicators of stock status, such as biomass or fishing mortality.

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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