



- Position Statement - Harvest Strategy Policy

A harvest strategy is an essential tool that provides the public with confidence that community owned resources are being effectively managed to achieve agreed objectives.

Recfishwest expect harvest strategies to be developed for all fisheries in a timely, transparent and inclusive manner. Each harvest strategy must contain ecological, economic, cultural and social objectives where appropriate.

Recfishwest will only support harvest strategies that contain clear and specifically articulated performance levels, target limits, trigger limits, harvest control rules and associated management actions designed to achieve the agreed objectives for the resource and relevant fishery sectors.

Background

The concepts and drivers for developing harvest strategies were originally advanced to enable better implementation of adaptive and precautionary approaches to fisheries management. Harvest strategies establish the decision rules that determine the appropriate harvest levels for all sectors to meet the ecological, economic and social objectives established for a resource. The development and implementation of formal harvest strategies is considered sound practice in contemporary fisheries management.

A harvest strategy ensures that fishery managers, fishers, and key stakeholders have improved certainty and transparency when fishery management decisions are being made.

This policy is in line with the *Fisheries Resource Management Act 1994*, *Aquatic Resources Management Bill 2015*, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development WA Harvest Strategy and Ecological Sustainable Development Policies as well as the National Guidelines to Develop Fishery Harvest Strategies produced by the Fisheries Research and Development Council and supported by the Australian Fisheries Management Forum.