



## **West Coast Demersal Scalefish Expert Working Group**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Purpose**

As part of the west coast demersal scalefish management review process, Recfishwest is establishing an expert working group to provide advice on the development of management options aimed at meeting sustainability target of a 50% reduction in the current recovery benchmark (750t) for the west coast demersal scalefish fishery. The expert working group will provide a transparent and inclusive information sharing framework between the recreational fishing sector and Government to support management decisions to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the west coast demersal scalefish fishery. In providing advice the Working Group will be mindful of the objects of the governing fisheries legislation and the means to achieve these objects as outlined in the Fish Resource Management Act 1984 and the Aquatic Resource Management Act 2016.

#### **Role of the WCDSF Expert Working Group**

The primary function of the WCDSF expert working group is to assess potential fishery management options and provide representative advice and recommendations as they relate to the recreational fishing sector within the current process assigned to reduce total mortality of west coast demersal scalefish by 50%

#### **Objectives of the WCDSF Expert Working Group**

- Provide Recfishwest with considered advice in relation to the future management of west coast demersal scalefish with the aim of ensuring all options are properly considered;
- Assist Recfishwest in communicating to recreational fishers and related industries;
- Assist Recfishwest in surveying the views of recreational fishers and related industries; and
- Assess potential management options for west coast demersal scalefish that assist in reducing total mortality of West Coast Demersal scalefish by 375t with a focus on ensuring options for formal consultation are appropriate and palatable.

### **Responsibilities and Powers of the WCDSF Expert Working Group**

The WCDSF Expert Working Group is a non-statutory, voluntary, community-based group that does not have any executive functions or decision-making ability. Recfishwest is not bound to accept the information or advice received from the WCDSF Expert Working Group but will consider any information provided appropriately in the context of decision-making.

### **Membership:**

Members will possess expertise in at least one of the following:

- Fisheries management
- Running a recreational fishing-related business (charter/tackle store/tourism)
- Strong networks within the recreational fishing community
- Expertise in fishing for WCDSF in either the mid-west, metropolitan, or south-west regions
- Forward thinking open mind with an ability for unconstrained thinking

### **Chair:**

Recfishwest, as the peak body for recreational fishing, will chair the expert working group and will be responsible for:

- administrative processes related to the establishment and ongoing operation of the expert working group;
- presenting the expert working group's recommendations, aspirations, and concerns to DPIRD and decision-makers in relation to the ongoing management of WCDSF; and maintaining a clear record of expert working group activities.
- Public reporting on working group activities in a timely and transparent manner

### **Meeting Approaches**

- DPIRD will support the expert working group by providing stock assessment and other information relevant to assessing management options.
- The expert working group will meet a minimum of three times between April and July 2022
- Recfishwest to provide meeting agenda three days prior to each meeting.
- Expert working group recommendations will be provided by Recfishwest to DPIRD for consideration ahead of any formal government consultation process.
- Relevant information such as expert working group member biographies, meeting outcomes published will be on Recfishwest website.

### **Conduct**

Expert working group members must:

- Act in the best interests of the recreational fishing sector;
- Ensure professional conduct; and

- Exercise a high standard of care, respect, and integrity in all interactions with Recfishwest, DPIRD and the broader community, throughout the process.