

Chair's Meeting Summary

Coastal Line Advisory Group (CLAG)

Chair Summary of the CLAG Meeting 3 held on 24 June 2026

Independent Chair: Will Zacharin

Participating members: David Ciaravolo, Rob Fish, Jon Hay, Blane Simmons, Rhys Mulholland

Observers: Jordan Walters, Tim Burrows, Munro Hardy

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: Matt Osbourne, Phillipa Hunter, Blake Taylor, Danilo Mallara, Brien Roberts, Dannie O'Brien

Apologies: Nil.

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of meeting three was for the membership to continue providing expert advice on the recovery plan for Golden Snapper in the Greater Darwin Region and receive a presentation on the Have Your Say (HYS) consultation survey results.

Public Consultation

Members discussed the HYS survey results and debated the merits of some of the survey questions. A few members raised concerns regarding clarity of wording, and whether the inclusion of incomplete surveys may have resulted in respondents submitting multiple responses. Overall, the survey results were insightful in relation to the fishing community and general community attitudes and views towards management measures to improve the Golden Snapper stock in the Greater Darwin Region.

Draft Recovery Plan

Discussion then moved to the draft Recovery Plan, where NT Fisheries advised members that, due to the scale and significance of the matter and the substantial responses received as part of the HYS public comment period, including by peak bodies, the draft Recovery Plan would be proceeding directly to Cabinet for consideration. Cabinet will determine if the draft Recovery Plan is to be released for further public consultation. Members were very unhappy with this change in approach and requested that the draft Recovery Plan be released for further consideration by the group.

Research and Monitoring

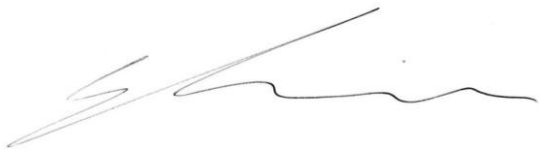
Members then participated in a discussion on research and monitoring, as these activities are crucial in measuring and tracking stock recovery. Priorities were identified in four key areas: Recruitment dynamics; Juvenile dispersal and population connectivity; Reproductive biology and Post release survival. Members were against supporting further stocking programs, as they have been documented to be ineffective in open systems, therefore a waste of limited funding resources.

Compliance and Enforcement

Compliance and enforcement will be another priority in the effective implementation of new stock management measures and data accuracy. A high priority reform of the FTO sector is required, and various initiatives are underway to improve logbooks and spatial management integrity.

Other Business

Lastly, NT Fisheries advised that the Coastal Line export accreditation had been renewed for five years, and no new ecological risk assessment was required before 2028.



Will Zacharin

Independent Chair

Date: 28/07/2026