

Chair's Meeting Summary

Coastal Line Advisory Group (CLAG)

Chair Summary of the CLAG meeting held on 16 and 17 February 2026

Independent Chair: Will Zacharin

Participating members: David Ciaravolo, Rob Fish, Jon Hay, Blane Simmons, Jamie Damaso (proxy for Rhys Mulholland)

Observers: Jordan Walters

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: Matt Osborne, Phillipa Hunter, Blake Taylor, Michael Usher, Joanne Randall, Shannon Burchert, Dannie O'Brien

Apologies: Rhys Mulholland

The purpose of the meeting was to provide sectoral expert advice on a draft Recovery Plan developed by the Department to recover stocks of Golden Snapper in the Greater Darwin Region.

Prior to reviewing the draft Recovery Plan, the CLAG reviewed a summary of Fishing Tour Operator (FTO) fishing activity over the past five years. This review highlighted the need to improve the capture of FTO logbook data, as a priority.

Draft Recovery Plan

Members received a presentation from the Department outlining key elements of a draft Recovery Plan. Matters considered by the group included consideration of:

- The appropriateness of the aims and objectives of the Recovery Plan, particularly its timeframe, recovery thresholds and overall achievability.
- Draft management actions to achieve the aims and objectives across and within fishing sectors. Members provided expertise on sectoral impacts, implementation challenges, risks and additional opportunities. Members requested further information on modelled recovery trajectories for Golden Snapper under different risk and impact scenarios.
- Initiatives that could be pursued to augment Golden Snapper stocks and provide alternative fishing opportunities targeting more sustainable fish stocks.
- The need for investment in compliance and enforcement to support the effectiveness of any proposed management actions for Golden Snapper under the draft Recovery Plan.
- The activities required to monitor and evaluate the success of the draft Recovery Plan and to address critical knowledge gaps to improve future decision-making.

Key discussion points

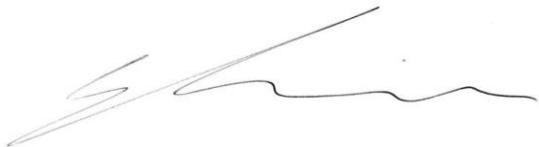
- An additional aim for the Recovery plan was needed around stewardship and would be drafted for consideration out-of-session.
- A revised target for the Recovery plan of 30% B_0 was agreed, after which Golden Snapper would transition back under the Harvest Strategy.
- The design of potential management controls including temporal and spatial closures, possession and vessel limits were discussed, along with potential impacts on Golden Snapper recovery, fishers and the community.
- A requirement for VMS on all RTO boats reef fishing was considered very important to have effective spatial and temporal management.
- An R&D program for the first five years of the Recovery Plan should address priority requirements to improve the stock assessment and overall management.
- Options to reduce fishing effort in the recreational and RTO sectors to meet the targets for the recovery plan were developed.

Next Steps

CLAG Meeting 3 is scheduled for 5 & 6 May 2026.

Concluding Remarks

The Chair thanked all members for their positive contributions to the draft Recovery plan. The final Recovery plan requires approval of the Minister before it can be released for public consultation. At this stage, the department has advised it is planned for public consultation to occur sometime in March 2026.



Will Zacharin

Independent Chair

Date: 6/07/2026