



# HARVEST STRATEGIES

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a harvest strategy?

A harvest strategy is a set of pre-agreed rules that use an evidence-based, precautionary and transparent approach to controlling the amount of fish that can be caught in a fishing season. These rules are created to meet defined objectives for the fishery.

### What does a harvest strategy do?

Harvest strategies set out the objectives for the fishery, how the fishery is monitored, and what data should be collected to determine how much fish can be caught in a fishing season. Having a harvest strategy in place provides transparency for stakeholders (fishers, traditional owners, communities, scientists and managers) about how the fishery will be managed into the future.

### What are the key elements of a harvest strategy?

1. Objectives – what you are trying to achieve in the fishery (socially, economically and biologically)
2. Reference points – where you want, and do not want stock levels in the fishery to be
3. Indicators – signs of the health of the fishery that can be easily measured (for example the number of fish caught per day or the size of the fish being caught)
4. Performance measures – how the fishery is performing against the reference points
5. Harvest control rules (also referred to as *decision rules*) – how does management respond to changes in the performance measures

### What are the benefits of a harvest strategy?

Harvest strategies provide certainty to fishers, traditional owners, communities, scientists and managers about how the fishery will be managed during a fishing season. This allows everyone to make plans for a fishing season, and reduces the likelihood of unexpected management changes within a season. It can also help with fishery accreditations, and approvals. For example approvals to send product to overseas markets (export).



Harvest strategies are designed to be responsive to changes in the fishery that may occur over time. As our knowledge and understanding of the fishery changes, the monitoring, data collection and management rules will also need to change to make sure the fishery remains sustainable into the future.

### **Are there any harvest strategies for Torres Strait Fisheries?**

Currently there is a harvest strategy in place for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery and an interim harvest strategy for the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) Fishery.

### **For more information on harvest strategies for Torres Strait Fisheries:**

Contact the AFMA Torres Strait Office 07 4069 1990 or email

[FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au](mailto:FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au)

### **Learn more about harvest strategies here:**

<https://www.afma.gov.au/sustainability-environment/harvest-strategies>

The Australian Government requires harvest strategies to be developed for all Commonwealth managed fisheries. Harvest strategies in the Torres Strait have been developed in line with the *Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2018* and *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2018*. [www.agriculture.gov.au/fisheries/domestic/harvest\\_strategy\\_policy](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/fisheries/domestic/harvest_strategy_policy)