



The Hon. Adam Marshall MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Western New South Wales

OM20/50

Mr Stan Konstantaras
PO Box 328
MATRAVILLE NSW 2036

Dear Mr Konstantaras

Thank you for your email of 4 December 2019, regarding the recovery of Mulloway in NSW.

The Mulloway Recovery Plan consists of a series of management changes put in place to reduce fishing mortality and rebuild Mulloway stock in NSW. There have been two progressive rounds of management changes that have been applied to the fishery in 2013 and 2018.

As you are aware, the most recent rule changes in 2018 included removing the commercial fisher possession limit of 10 Mulloway between 45 and 70 cm applying to estuary general mesh netting, that is, the legal minimum length 70 cm now applies across all commercial fisheries as well as the recreational fishery. It also reduced the daily bag limit from five fish to a single fish. The 500 kg trip limit for the beach-hauling net sector introduced in 2013 also still applies.

These actions are based on stock assessment of Mulloway in NSW, indicating the biomass of the part of the stock occurring in NSW is likely to be depleted. The recovery program's goal is to move Mulloway stock in NSW out of the depleted and recruitment impaired state so that all fishing sectors can have improved fishing opportunities for Mulloway.

The Mulloway stock is being monitored by DPI scientists gathering data on catches, catch rates and the sizes of fish landed in both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors. The next full stock assessment for Mulloway will be undertaken in 2020, with the results made widely available by the end of the year.

More information on current Mulloway stock status can be found in the Status of Australian Fish Stock reports at: www.fish.gov.au. This report also details current Kingfish and Snapper status in NSW.

If you have any further enquiries, I have asked Mr Bryan van der Walt, A/Group Director, Recreational and Aboriginal Fisheries, in the Department of Primary Industries, to be available to answer any questions you may have. Mr van der Walt can be contacted on (02) 6691 9675.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Adam Marshall
MINISTER

28 JAN 2020