



## Precision Seafood Harvesting

### Summary of progress during the April – June 2015 quarter

#### Key highlights and achievements

- The release of the acute post-harvest survivability comparison for juvenile snapper that showed a significant improved survival rate for fish harvested using the MHS designs. This result sets up the next stage of the PSH programme work as we start to test innovative on-board handling systems to maintain these survival rates across the sorting and grading of commercial catch quantities.
- The commercial testing of MHS prototypes now exceeding 2,500 mt in deliveries.

#### Sustainability performance

- The data analysis of the acute post-harvest survival of juvenile snapper has shown significant potential gains are possible when using the MHS (modular harvesting system) designs to harvest snapper.
- The focus of the PSH programme has shifted to the development of the on-board handling systems (grading and sorting) that will support the initial survivability work. This will move PSH capacity on from "potential" gains to a realistic expectation for improved sustainability outcomes when handling commercial catch quantities.
- The design ( $\alpha$ ) test on new selectivity designs have now shown results for the ratio of SNX - snapper (<25cm) : SNA - snapper (>25cm) that are very close to standard trawl designs in terms of landed catch composition. Selectivity designs to reduce the capture of juvenile snapper are close to being ready for commercial testing.

#### Commercial testing

- The commercial testing has increased significantly and the total volume of fish harvested using the MHS prototypes has now exceeded 2,500 mt. This is set to increase as more and larger sized vessels are set to join the testing fleet.
- The process of collecting this  $\beta$  test trip data and analysing it is being fine-tuned and this will be further helped with the introduction of new codes for recording the effort in the catch records for tows using the new prototypes.

#### Cost and Value

- The project is tracking well against budget, still below budget but much closer to forecasts than in previous periods.
- An initial summary report of value gains from new seafood outcomes made possible by the MHS harvested fish is very positive and confirms that the original value propositions put forward in the business case still hold and in some cases are likely to be exceeded.

## Upcoming

- Release of the first  $\beta$  specification selectivity modules for commercial testing in the snapper fishery.
- Hoki chilled storage system design testing
- Fluidised grading/sorting systems for snapper harvesting

## Investment

<i>Investment period</i>	<i>Industry contribution</i>	<i>MPI contribution</i>	<i>Total investment</i>
<i>During this Quarter</i>	\$1.29m	\$1.29m	\$2.58m
<i>Programme To Date</i>	\$7.94m	\$7.94m	\$15.88m