

Next steps for golden snapper recovery

Public consultation period

Community feedback on golden snapper recovery was collected through a Have Your Say survey from 27 March to 26 April. Information was widely shared across the Territory with a focus on the Greater Darwin region.

The main way people gave feedback was through the open online survey, which received 794 responses. A representative survey, using the same questions, was run by an independent research company to show views across the wider Northern Territory community (456 responses).

Written and phone submissions were also received by NT Fisheries from industry peak bodies, community organisations, businesses and local citizens.

Together, these activities gave strong visibility, wide participation across the Northern Territory, and reliable information.

Have Your Say by numbers



What happens next

An independent research company is analysing the survey results.

NT Fisheries will consider the survey findings together with information from written and phone submissions and stakeholder engagement activities. The combined evidence will help inform the Government on community support for all available recovery tools.

Updates will be provided to the public when the survey analysis is completed and the next steps are confirmed. **No decisions will be made until the consultation evidence has been fully considered.**

Frequently Asked Questions

How will my 'Have Your Say' survey response be used?

Survey responses are looked at together, not individually. This helps Fisheries understand what people value, what concerns they have, and how recovery options will be supported.

Are the 'Have Your Say' survey results the only thing being considered?

No. The survey results are the primary information, but they are considered alongside:

- Written submissions
- NT Representative survey results
- Feedback from community, working group, and advisory meetings
- Scientific and fisheries management information including the Stock Assessment and Harvest Strategy.

Each source of feedback provides different types of information that helps build a complete picture.

Does the number of survey responses decide the result?

No, the Minister for Fisheries is the responsible decision maker under the Fisheries Act 1988.

Survey responses give a strong understanding of community views. Decisions will consider sustainability objectives, the practicality of using the tools, regulatory responsibilities, the ability to do compliance, and broader social and economic impacts.

How will you use the text box submissions and uploaded letters?

Written submissions provide detail that survey questions cannot always capture, such as local knowledge, business impacts, new ideas, and practical implementation issues. They help explain why people think and feel the way they do and give important context to interpret survey results. Information from the written submissions will be shared anonymously in a public facing report.

How did you make sure the survey was fair and trustworthy?

The survey was designed by an independent consultant to make sure questions were designed in a neutral and fair way. NT Fisheries provided technical advice on the recovery tools. Independent consultants will analyse the survey responses.

The survey website had quality controls to reduce people submitting more than once, prevent automated ('bot') responses, restricting participation to Australia-based respondents, and to check for unusual patterns in page visits and response rates. These steps helped make sure that results can be trusted to reflect genuine community views.

Why were there 2 surveys?

Two surveys were used to get a clearer picture. The open "Have Your Say" survey let anyone share their views, especially people with a strong interest in fishing or local impacts. The second survey used the same questions but was designed to reflect the wider NT community. Participation was matched to the NT population using age, gender, and location, based on Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

Will the results be made public?

A summary of consultation results will be published on the NT Fisheries website after survey analysis is complete. This report will detail what was heard during consultation and how the feedback is being considered.

The results will also be considered by the Coastal Line Advisory Group when making their recommendations on golden snapper recovery to the Director of Fisheries.

Has a decision already been made?

No. No decisions have been made.