

Precision Seafood Harvesting

Quarter 3 2012/13 (Jan - Mar 2013)

The programme is progressing as planned. The technical effort is continuing to focus on improving the modular harvesting system designs, handling and validation work. The first beta prototype specification harvest system design has been received and is under review by the Research Advisory Group. The first beta specification is intended for delivery of low damage, low fatigue snapper (in-shore). The approved specification will be submitted to Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for the purpose of special permit applications.

Preparations for the commencement of commercial test fishing using the beta specification Modular Harvesting System (MHS) are in process. This includes ordering the MHS gear, setting the commercial testing parameters and co-ordination of the MPI observer coverage.

A patent application has been filed in the United States for the MHS. Results from testing the prototypes are very encouraging based on a number of criteria, including consumer feedback, on the quality of MHS sourced fish assessed against fish landed using traditional trawl gear.