OCEAN TRAWL – INSHORE & OFFSHORE PRAWN

Profile

Total no. of Fishing Businesses (FBs) with shares	Total no. of shares	Reported annual catch (avg.)	No. of FBs accounting for 80% of the catch value
Inshore: 183	11,035	800 tonnes	**Combined:** 49
Offshore: 166	9,798	1,100 tonnes	

Draft share linkage recommendation

All of the linkages in the table below are proposed.

- An effort quota (hull unit days) will be the main management method, with catch quotas applying to select species. Minimum shareholdings for inshore and offshore prawn trawl will remain at 40.
- The hull unit day program will apply across both inshore and offshore sectors (that is, one allocation of hull unit days can be used across both sectors). Like in Queensland's prawn trawl fishery, fishers can choose to use a larger boat and trawl less days or use a smaller boat and trawl more days.
- A new class of effort shares will be issued based on the total number of inshore and offshore pawn trawl shares held by each FB and the hull units of their boat. An Independent Allocation Panel will provide advice on the allocation of new effort shares, specifically the weighting that should be applied to the existing shares compared with hull units.
- Catch quotas will be implemented from 2020 for the following species: eastern school and stout whiting (combined) and tiger and bluespotted flathead (combined). New classes of species shares will be allocated following the advice of an Independent Allocation Panel.

Linkage	July 2016	July 2018	July 2020
MINIMUM SHAREHOLDINGS	As per current arrangements		
EFFORT QUOTA Hull unit days	Independent Allocation Panel process commences, to advise on the criteria for allocating the new effort shares. Unitisation commences for a small number of boats that are not already unitised.	Allocate new effort shares following Independent Allocation Panel advice. Allocate quota (hull unit days) to shareholders proportional to effort shares held. Decision made on replacing current inshore/offshore shares. Note: The quota of days allocated to shareholders would be equivalent to, at the very least: **Days per current inshore & offshore prawn share** 0.69 Quota transfers (leasing) permitted.	Total Allowable Commercial Effort is set following TAC Committee advice.
CATCH QUOTA* For eastern school and stout whiting (combined), and tiger and bluespotted flathead (combined)	Independent Allocation Panel process commences, to advise on the criteria for allocating species shares.	Allocate new species shares following Independent Allocation Panel advice. Total Allowable Commercial Catches are set for the selected species following TAC Committee advice. Allocate catch quotas to shareholders proportional to the new species shares held. Quota transfers (leasing) permitted.	

*Note that the timing of these steps outlined in the table will depend on the time taken by the Independent Allocation Panel process. The timing provided above is a GUIDE ONLY.

Other proposed measures

From July 2018:

- Remove engine power restrictions applying to offshore prawn trawlers.
- Replace the individual headline lengths applying to each offshore prawn trawl boat and the maximum headline length of 33m applying to inshore prawn trawlers, with a standard maximum headline length of 55m.
- Remove the requirement for boats under 20m in length to be licensed.
- Consider removing the inshore and offshore prawn trawl shares upon allocation of the new effort shares, to streamline management.

What does the recommendation deliver for fishers?

- The effort and catch quotas will:
    - provide a stronger form of access right and improve security for operators
    - allow shareholders to secure their portion of access to the fishery/stocks
    - provide a way to control the NSW catch of the main target species to ensure effective management of stocks shared with other jurisdictions (Queensland and the Commonwealth in this case)
    - encourage fishing at times when it is most profitable (for example, when catch rates are good and when market demand/price is strong)
    - provide more certainty that the management arrangements can address any future resource sharing or resource sustainability issues, which is crucial for a long term viable fishery.
- Commencing the effort quota from July 2018 and catch quotas from 2020 provides time for fishers to adjust for those changes.
- Removing the need to use licensed boats under 20m in length will take away an unnecessary and ongoing licensing burden for fishers and make boat replacements easier for the offshore prawn sector.

Things to consider

- By July 2016: If you're a shareholder and your boat is not currently unitised for the offshore prawn trawl sector, apply to have the boat unitised.
- By July 2018: You will need to hold enough effort shares to cover your desired level of fishing. To work out how many shares you will need to fish a particular number of days per year you can use the following calculation, based on the existing shares (remembering also that you must hold at least the minimum shareholding to fish):

$$\frac{No. of\ days}{0.69} = Shares\ (inshore + offshore)\ needed$$

- Between July 2018 and 2020: Total Allowable Commercial Catches will be set for the selected quota species. You will need to hold enough species shares/catch quota to cover your desired level of fishing for those species.
- If you no longer want to be endorsed to fish in this share class, you can put in an offer to sell shares in the exit grant program or you can sell shares to someone else at any time.
- The exit grant program offers a good opportunity to buy or sell shares at a subsidised rate, without having to find buyers or sellers yourself.