ESTUARY GENERAL – PRAWNING

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
350	47,450	314 tonnes	85

Draft share linkage recommendation

The linkages in the table below are proposed.

- The first change is, from July 2016, to enforce the current minimum shareholding.
- From July 2018, a new (higher) minimum shareholding requirement will apply.

<table>
<tr><th>Linkage</th><th>July 2016</th><th>July 2018</th></tr>
<tr><td>MINIMUM SHAREHOLDINGS</td><td>Enforce the current minimum shareholding of 125 shares.</td><td>New minimum shareholding to apply as follows:
<table>
<tr><th>Region</th><th>New minimum shareholding</th><th>Maximum number of endorsements</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>152</td><td>17</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>197</td><td>62</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>206</td><td>18</td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td>166</td><td>114</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td>125</td><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td>6</td><td>173</td><td>27</td></tr>
<tr><td>7</td><td>177</td><td>22</td></tr>
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Other proposed measures

From July 2016:

- Remove requirement for boats under 10m to be licenced.
- Remove requirement for nets to be registered.
- Allow the use of unendorsed assistance if the fishing business holds 250 shares or more.

From July 2018:

- Additional prawn set pocket or running net nominations for each additional 50 shares held by a fishing business above the new minimum shareholding.

What does the recommendation deliver for fishers?

- Enforcing the current minimum shareholding will reduce a small proportion of the excess fishing capacity that exists in the fishery.
- Increases in the minimum shareholding over time reduces the risk of excess fishing effort from becoming active and eroding profitability of active fishers. It also removes some of the risk to stock sustainability (by reducing excess capacity).
- Commencing the new minimum shareholding requirement from July 2018 provides time for fishers to adjust their businesses to prepare for that change.

- Depending upon the way set pocket and running net site ballots are run in the different regions or estuary, allowing for additional ballot nominations will enable shareholders to be able to secure a greater chance of getting better access to the resource.
- Removing the need to use licensed boats and registered nets will take away an unnecessary and ongoing burden for fishers.

Things to consider

- By July 2016: If you currently have less than the minimum shareholding and wish to remain endorsed to fish, you will need to get hold of enough shares to get up to the minimum. You can buy shares from someone else or put in a bid to buy shares in the exit grant program. If you already hold the minimum, you may consider buying more shares, if needed, in preparation for the changes to come in 2018 and 2020.
- By July 2018: you will need to hold enough shares to cover your desired level of fishing activity.
- 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.