



Department of
Primary Industries

APPLICATION FORM:

FISHERIES RESOURCE RE-ALLOCATION PROPOSAL

UNDER MFAC POLICY – FISHERIES RESOURCE SHARING IN NSW (DSIRD-O-175)

Do you have a fisheries resource reallocation proposal?

Resource sharing issues can be highly complex, emotive and difficult to resolve. From time to time a fishing sector approaches Government seeking consideration of a redistribution of the access or fishing effort/harvest allocation on the basis of equity, or to increase overall community benefit and wellbeing. Local communities also seek consideration of a redistribution of localised access or fishing effort for socio-economic reasons.

The Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC) developed a [Policy](#) to assist government decision making on resource allocation. In summary, the Policy provides a strategic, transparent and consistent approach to guide government decision making on sharing the State's sustainably exploitable fisheries resources between the various commercial, recreational, charter and Aboriginal cultural fishing sectors in accordance with the objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

If you have a proposal to change current management arrangements to redistribute fish catch or fishing opportunity between fishing sectors (e.g. commercial, recreational, charter and Aboriginal cultural fishers) you may use this application form to have your proposal considered under the Policy. Such a proposal might involve managing the activities of one or more fishing sector such as closing an area to a type of fishing method, or all methods; and limiting access to a type of fishing to an area or areas at particular times.

Note: The Policy does not apply to allocation decisions and processes associated with sustainability measures, marine parks, aquatic reserves or aquaculture. However, the Policy should be taken into consideration when making those resource management decisions and conversely, those processes should be taken into account during the application of the Policy.

How will your application be assessed?

The application will be dealt with in a staged process commencing with DPI Fisheries working with the applicant to ensure that the application is duly made, underpinned by factual information specified in the Policy and including evidence of the views of other key stakeholder groups on the proposed allocation outcome.

The application will then be considered by a Working Group of stakeholders who will work with the proponent to ensure that adequate information is provided to allow a reasonable assessment of the proposal.

The Working Group, MFAC and DPI Fisheries then consider the application and prepare advice and recommendations for the Minister for Primary Industries. The Minister will consider this advice and make a decision whether to reject the proposal, accept it as proposed, or accept it with modification.

For proposals where there is likely to be significant impact on one or more stakeholder groups, where there is apparent risk of unknown outcomes, or where there are gaps in key areas of information, the

C PROPOSAL DETAILS

PLEASE ATTACH:

- C1 Full details of the **proposed allocation outcome**, target species and fishing methods including areas and timing of operation.
- C2 **Resource assessment information** for targeted stock, proposed level of exploitation.
- C3 The **preliminary assessment of stock impacts** for targeted species, proposed level of exploitation and justification for how the level of exploitation has been assessed must be provided.
- C4 Information on the **existing access arrangements** including relative catch of each fishing sector and appropriate social and economic data where available (e.g. value of catch, expenditure by participants, flow on impacts, willingness to pay).
- C5 Information on **predicted outcome of changed allocation arrangements** including estimates of social and economic impacts on the various fishing sectors and overall community benefits.
- C6 Evidence that the proponent has **consulted with key stakeholders** and accurately recorded and submitted their views on the proposed allocation outcome.
- C7 Where the activity is not recreational fishing, cultural fishing or a commercial fishing activity previously assessed under current Fisheries Management Strategies, attach an **environmental assessment** complying with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) (i.e. Review of Environmental Factors (REF) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)) prepared by a suitably qualified person. To be based on [I&I NSW Guidelines for Environmental Assessment of Fishing Related Activities](#).

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss the proposal with DPI Fisheries staff to assist in determining whether they have provided adequate information to progress to the assessment stage. Applicants also have the opportunity of withdrawing their application prior to full assessment if they determine that preliminary information does not adequately support their proposal.

D SITE IDENTIFICATION

- D1 Description of the aquatic environment where the proposed fishery re-allocation activity is to occur (e.g. general location, substrate type, presence/absence of aquatic vegetation):

D2 Description of the other activities occurring in the aquatic environment where the proposed fishery re-allocation is to occur (e.g. fishing and boating activity, aquaculture operations):

IMPORTANT: Attach a copy or portion of an up-to-date map with location of proposed fishery reallocation clearly marked.

E CONSULTATION

What consultation has occurred regarding the proposed fishery re-allocation? What was the outcome?

E1 Relevant Government Agencies/Authorities and Local Council

E2 Other stakeholders likely to be affected by the proposal

F DECLARATION

I/we, the applicant/s do hereby declare and affirm that the information provided on this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge, belief and information.

Applicant/s name/s and signature/s _____

Date _____

Application fees:

Applications must be accompanied by a cheque for **\$1,150** for application and assessment made payable to:

Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development
ABN: 72 189 919 072

Working Group fee:

If the proposal passes initial assessment an independently chaired stakeholder working group will be convened to provide additional advice. The partial cost of running the working group is to be paid for by the person or group proposing the resource reallocation action. This cost will be **\$10,000**.

Note: The application fee and working group payment are non-refundable.

DPI Fisheries contact details:

Phone: 1300 550 474

Email: information-advisory@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Post: NSW DPI, Locked Bag 1, Nelson Bay, NSW 2315