ESTUARY GENERAL – CATEGORY 1 HAULING

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
130	17,000	630 tonnes	24

Draft share linkage recommendation

All of the linkages in the table below are proposed.

- The first change is, from July 2016, to enforce the current minimum shareholding.
- Also from July 2016, new species shares for blue swimmer crabs will be allocated in proportion to the number of existing category one hauling shares held by each shareholder. These new species shares will be additional to the existing category one hauling shares so that the limit of the number of fishers per region will remain but the catch quota can be traded and used throughout the state.
- In July 2018, an effort quota based on the number of days fishing will start. Days will be allocated based on category one hauling shares held at the time. A 'day' is a unit of fishing effort and will be a 24 hour period from the time a fisher starts the fishing activity.
- From July 2018, a blue swimmer crab catch quota will start.

<table>
<tr><th>Linkage</th><th>July 2016</th><th>July 2018</th><th>2020 onwards</th></tr>
<tr><td>MINIMUM SHAREHOLDINGS</td><td colspan="3">Enforce the minimum shareholding of 125 shares.</td></tr>
<tr><td>EFFORT QUOTA
Days</td><td>-</td><td>Days effort quota commences.

Quota (days) issued to individuals based on category one hauling shares held at the time, with a total effort limit (ITCAL) of 6,613 days:
<table>
<tr><th>Region</th><th>Days per Cat 1 share</th><th>Days per 125 Cat 1 shares</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>0.41</td><td>51</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>0.58</td><td>72</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>0.33</td><td>41</td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td>0.33</td><td>41</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td>0.41</td><td>52</td></tr>
<tr><td>6</td><td>0.33</td><td>41</td></tr>
<tr><td>7</td><td>0.33</td><td>41</td></tr>
</table>
Quota transfers (leasing) not permitted.</td><td>A Total allowable Commercial Effort is set following TAC Committee advice.

Quota transfers (leasing) permitted within regions.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CATCH QUOTA
For blue swimmer crab</td><td>New species shares for blue swimmer crab issued in proportion to existing category shares held. Total catch limit (ITCAL, for category one hauling) of 6,455 kg will apply. The resulting kg allocations for category one hauling shares will be as per the table on the next page:</td><td>Blue swimmer crab catch quota commences.

Quota transfers (leasing) not permitted.</td><td>Total allowable Commercial Catch is set following TAC advice.

Quota transfers (leasing) permitted. Kg freely transferable throughout the State.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Linkage</th><th>July 2016</th><th>July 2018</th><th>2020 onwards</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Region</th><th>kg per Cat 1 share</th><th>Kg per 125 Cat 1 shares</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>N/A</td><td>N/A</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>0.002</td><td>0.2</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>0.002</td><td>0.3</td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td>0.5</td><td>56.1</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td>0.1</td><td>10.8</td></tr>
<tr><td>6</td><td>1.7</td><td>212.8</td></tr>
<tr><td>7</td><td>0.01</td><td>0.7</td></tr>
</table>
</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>

Other proposed measures

- Remove requirement for boats under 10m to be licenced (from July 2016).
- Remove requirement for hauling nets to be registered (from July 2016).
- Provide for unendorsed assistance (from July 2018).

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.
- 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
    - 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) and help to improve community support for this sector of the fishery.
- Commencing both the catch and effort quotas from July 2018 provides time for fishers to adjust their businesses to prepare for that change.
- 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 additional shares, if needed, in preparation for the changes to come in 2018 and 2020.
- From July 2016: You will be able to trade in the new blue swimmer species shares once issued. This will provide you with two years to adjust your business before the catch quota commences in July 2018.
- 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.
- By July 2020: A Total Allowable Commercial Effort and Total Allowable Commercial Catch will be set. At this time, you will need to hold enough shares to cover your desired level of fishing activity.