OCEAN TRAP & LINE - LINE FISHING EASTERN ZONE

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
78	3,220	152 tonnes	14

Draft share linkage recommendation

All of the linkages in the table below are recommended.

- A catch quota for 8 species of finfish; bass groper, blue-eye trevalla, gemfish, hapuku, pink ling, bigeye ocean perch, ocean reef perch and orange perch is recommended, commencing between 2018 and 2020.
- New species shares will be allocated following advice from an Independent Allocation Panel.

Linkage	July 2016	July 2018	2020
MINIMUM SHAREHOLDINGS	As per current arrangements		
CATCH QUOTA* For the 8 species indicated above	Independent Allocation Panel process commences to advise on the criteria for allocating new species shares.	Allocate new species shares following Independent Allocation Panel advice. Total Allowable Commercial Catches are set 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 will depend on the time taken by the Independent Allocation Panel process. The timing provided above is a GUIDE ONLY.

Other proposed measures

- Allow the use of an additional 1,200 hooks for each 40 shares held above the minimum shareholding, whether the shares are held in a single FB or in multiple FBs held by the same shareholder as is currently the case (from July 2016).
- Remove daily trip limits on gemfish (following implementation of the Total Allowable Commercial Catch).

What does the recommendation deliver for fishers?

- Catch quotas will:
  - provide the strongest form of access right and improve security for operators
  - remove the need for daily trip limits (which can cause wasteful discarding) and increase efficiency
  - provide a way to control the NSW catch of the main target species to ensure effective management of stocks shared with other jurisdictions (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.
- Allowing an extra 1,200 hooks to be used when additional shares are held in the same FB will improve business flexibility and efficiency.

Things to consider

- By July 2016: If you are currently endorsed to fish, you can continue to fish as you have at this time as there is no immediate change.
- By July 2018: Contribute to the Independent Allocation Panel process by putting forward your views on how new species shares should be allocated.
- 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 wish 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