

ESTUARY PRAWN TRAWL – HUNTER RIVER

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
24	2,800	51 tonnes	9

Draft share linkage recommendation

All of the linkages in the table below are recommended.

- The first change is, from July 2016, to enforce the current minimum shareholding.
- From July 2018, a net length day quota will commence. A 'net length day' is a unit of fishing effort incorporating net length and time spent fishing. That is, fishers can choose to use longer nets and trawl less days or use shorter nets and trawl more days. A 'day' will be a 24 hour period from the time a fisher starts the fishing activity.

Linkage	July 2016	July 2018	July 2020
MINIMUM SHAREHOLDINGS	Enforce the current minimum shareholding of 100 shares.		
EFFORT QUOTA Net length days	-	A total interim effort limit (ITCAL) of 16,089 net length days to apply. Individual quota (net length days) issued in proportion to Hunter River prawn trawl shares held at the time: Net length days per share 5.75 Quota transfers (leasing) not permitted.	A Total Allowable Commercial Effort is set following TAC Committee advice. Quota transfers (leasing) permitted.

Other proposed measures

- Remove requirement for boats under 10m to be licensed (from July 2016).

What does the recommendation deliver for fishers?

- Applying the current minimum shareholding will reduce a small proportion of the excess fishing capacity that exists in the fishery.
- Effort quotas will:
 - provide a stronger form of access right and improve security for operators
 - allow shareholders to secure their portion of access to that sector to suit their preferred level of effort through time
 - encourage trawling at times when fishing is more profitable (for example, when catch rates are good, when prawns are of a good size/condition and when market demand/price is strong)
 - provide more certainty that the management arrangements can address any future resource sharing or sustainability issues (which is crucial for a long term viable fishery) and help to improve community support for trawling in the Hunter River.
- Commencing the effort quota from July 2018 provides time for fishers to adjust their businesses to prepare for that change.
- Removing the need to use licensed boats 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. To work out how many shares you will need to fish a particular number of days per year using a particular length net you can use the following calculation (remembering also that you must hold at least the minimum shareholding to fish):

$$\frac{\text{Days fished} \times \text{Net length (m)}}{5.75} = \text{Shares needed}$$

- By July 2020: A Total Allowable Commercial Effort will be set. At this time, you will need to hold enough shares to cover your desired level of fishing.
- 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.