# ESTUARY GENERAL – HAND GATHERING

## 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 81 | 9,722 | 55t (approx.) | 25 |

## 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.
- At the same time, an Independent Allocation Panel process will commence to provide advice on allocation of new species shares for pipis, beachworms, cockles and nippers.
- Once this process is complete a catch quota regime will start for these species.

| Linkage | July 2016 | July 2018 - 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **MINIMUM SHAREHOLDINGS** | Enforce the current minimum shareholding of 125 shares in all regions other than in Region 5 where a minimum shareholding of 100 will apply. | |
| **CATCH QUOTA*** For pipis, beachworms, cockles and nippers | Independent Allocation Panel process commences to advise on criteria for allocation of new species shares. | Allocate new species shares for the selected species following Independent Allocation Panel advice.<br>Total Allowable Commercial Catches are set following TAC Committee advice.<br>Allocate catch quota to shareholders proportional to the new species shares held.<br>The new species shares freely transferable throughout the State.<br>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

- Review seasonal closure and daily trip limit arrangements for pipis with a view to removing them at the time catch quota is implemented (between 2018 – 2020).

## 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.
- Catch quotas will:
    - provide the strongest form of access right and improve security for operators
    - allow shareholders to secure their portion of access to the stock
    - remove the need for the current seasonal closure and daily trip limits for pipis and increase efficiency
    - 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 the catch quotas between July 2018 - 2020 provides time for fishers to adjust their businesses to prepare for that change.

## Things for you 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.
- Between July 2018 and 2020: A Total Allowable Commercial Catch will be set. You will need to hold enough species shares/catch quota 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.