OCEAN TRAWL – FISH NORTHERN

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
44	2,169	1,100 tonnes	11

Draft share linkage recommendation

All of the linkages in the table below are proposed. Minimum shareholdings would be the main management method, with catch quotas applying to select species.

- The first change is an increase, over two stages, in minimum shareholdings from 40 to 44 shares by July 2016, and then to 72 shares by July 2018.
- Catch quotas would then be implemented from 2020 for the following species: eastern school and stout whiting (combined), tiger and blue spotted flathead (combined), silver trevally, gemfish, big-eye ocean perch, orange perch and ocean reef perch, with the allocation of new species shares to be determined following advice by an Independent Allocation Panel.
- The proposal to quota manage the three perch species stems from like proposals in the line east component of the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery and because these species are managed by quota in the adjacent Commonwealth fishery.

<table>
<tr><th>Linkage</th><th>July 2016</th><th>July 2018</th><th>July 2020</th></tr>
<tr><td>MINIMUM SHAREHOLDINGS</td><td>Apply new minimum shareholding of 44 shares.</td><td colspan="2">Apply new minimum shareholding of 72 shares.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CATCH QUOTA*
For the species indicated above</td><td>Independent Allocation Panel process commences to advise on the criteria for allocating new species shares.</td><td colspan="2">Allocate new species shares following Independent Allocation Panel advice.
Total Allowable Commercial Catches set for selected species following TAC Committee advice.
Allocate catch quota to shareholders proportional to the new species shares held.
Quota transfers (leasing) permitted.</td></tr>
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*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

- Remove the requirement for boats under 20m to be licensed (from July 2016).

What does the recommendation deliver for fishers?

- Applying the increased minimum shareholding in a two staged process and over a long period provides time for fishers to adjust their fishing business, while reducing a large 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 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.
- Commencing catch quotas from July 2020 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.
- These actions should increase the value and security of shares, provide ongoing flexibility for operators and help to improve community perceptions of ocean fish trawling (i.e. improve the social licence to operate).

Things to consider

- By July 2016: If you currently have less than the new 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 new minimum, you may consider buying more shares, if needed, in preparation for the changes to come in 2018.
- By July 2018: If you have less than the minimum shareholding required by 2018 and still wish to remain endorsed to fish, you will need to get hold of enough shares to get up to that minimum. You can buy shares from someone else or put in a bid to buy more shares in the exit grant program. You should also 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 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.