

# OCEAN TRAP & LINE - SPANNER CRAB

## 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 |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 38  | 2,105                 |                              |  |
| Northern Zone - 30                                | Northern Zone - 1,760 | 89 tonnes                    | Northern Zone - 8                                |
| Southern Zone - 8                                 | Southern Zone - 345   |                              | Southern Zone - 2                                |

## Draft share linkage recommendation

All of the linkages in the table below are recommended.

- Spanner Crab northern zone has moved to an interim total catch limit (ITCAL) of 164,124kg, with quota allocations based on current shareholdings, effective 1 July 2015.
- Spanner crab southern zone will continue to operate under current arrangements until July 2017.
- It is recommended that, from July 2017, a new state-wide spanner crab share class be created. New shares will be allocated based on the northern and southern zone's proportion of the total catch of the fishery (97% and 3% respectively), and the old shares will be replaced.
- A scientifically based total allowable commercial catch will then apply across the new state-wide share class with individual transferable quota allocated based on new shares.

| Linkage                                 | July 2015  | July 2017    |                  |       |       |  |
|---|--|--------------|------------------|-------|-------|--|
| <b>MINIMUM SHAREHOLDINGS</b>            | As per current arrangements  |              |                  |       |       |  |
| <b>CATCH QUOTA</b><br>For spanner crabs | <p>NORTHERN ZONE</p> <p>Introduction of catch quota in the northern zone with an ITCAL of 164,124kg.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Kg per share</th> <th>Kg per 40 shares</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>93.25</td> <td>3,730</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Quota transfers (leasing) permitted within the northern zone</p> | Kg per share | Kg per 40 shares | 93.25 | 3,730 | <p>NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ZONES</p> <p>New spanner crab shares allocated based on proportion of the total catch of the fishery.</p> <p>Old northern zone and southern zone shares to be replaced.</p> <p>A scientifically based Total Allowable Commercial Catch is set and applies to the entire fishery following TAC committee advice.</p> <p>Quota will be issued based on the new spanner crab shares.</p> <p>Quota transfers (leasing) permitted.</p> |
| Kg per share                            | Kg per 40 shares   |              |                  |       |       |  |
| 93.25                                   | 3,730  |              |                  |       |       |  |

## Other proposed measures

- Northern and southern zones to be merged to establish a single fishery following the implementation of the fishery wide catch quota (from July 2017).
- All endorsement holders to be permitted to use 30 dillies irrespective of whether or not the operator has the assistance of crew. This has already occurred in the northern zone and will apply across the fishery from July 2017.

## What does the recommendation deliver for fishers?

- A fishery-wide catch quota will:
  - provide the strongest form of access right and improve security for operators
  - allow shareholders to secure their portion of access to the stock
  - provide a way to control the NSW catch to ensure effective management of the stock which shared with other jurisdictions (Queensland 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.
- Removal of zones and allowing trading of catch quota across the fishery will improve flexibility.
- Increasing the number of dillies that can be used will improve flexibility and efficiency.
- Using one management system for this single spanner crab stock reduces complexity and future costs.

## Things to consider

- By July 2015: Catch quota introduced for Spanner Crab northern zone shareholders.
- July 2017: A new fishery wide catch quota share class will apply within a scientifically based Total Allowable Commercial Catch. You will need to hold enough spanner crab shares/catch quota to cover your desired level of fishing.
- 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 yourself.