

FACT SHEET – OCTOBER 2018

Estuary General - Meshing

This guide provides the information you need to operate in the meshing share classes.

1. Minimum shareholding

You must hold the minimum shareholding of 125 shares for a region in a single fishing business for an endorsement to fish.

2. Effort quota

Days are a type of effort quota that are allocated to all shareholders at the beginning of each fishing period.

The number of meshing shares you hold determines the number of days you are allocated for each fishing period.

A 'day' is a 24 hour period from the time you make a FisherMobile pre-fish report to say you are going fishing. Each time you make a FisherMobile pre-fish report, your quota of days will reduce by one.

You can only be on the water with a net during a 24-hour period that you have already reported.

3. Catch quota

You must own Mud Crab, Blue Swimmer Crab or Eel quota to be able to keep any amount of these species.

Catch quota is allocated to owners of the relevant quota shares at the beginning of each fishing period.

The number of quota shares you own determines the amount of catch quota you are allocated for each fishing period.

4. Share and quota transfer

Meshing shares, quota shares and quota can all be transferred independently of each other, subject to the fishing business transfer rules.

Quota shares can transfer between owners of an existing fishing business (other than a Lobster, Abalone, Sea Urchin and Turban Shell or Inland fishing business).

Effort quota can transfer between owners of the same meshing share class (i.e. within the same region).

Catch quota can transfer throughout the State between owners of quota shares or Estuary General shares that allow fishing for these species.

Quota can only transfer or be used within each fishing period.

5. Fishing period

The fishing period is the financial year.

6. FisherMobile - quota reporting

Fishers must report all quota usage in real time using the FisherMobile App on a mobile device.

You must make a FisherMobile pre-fish report before being on water with a meshing or flathead net.

The FisherMobile pre-fish report requires you to report:

1. your registration number
2. the date
3. fishing business number
4. fishing activity

If you take Mud Crabs, Blue Swimmer Crabs or Eels, you must report the total weight of each species taken to one decimal place using FisherMobile.

You must remain in the immediate vicinity of your catch of these species until you make a FisherMobile post-land report.

You must make a FisherMobile post-land report:

1. before you leave estuarine waters on board the boat, or
2. before you move more than 50 metres from where you landed the catch, or
3. within 30 minutes of landing the catch, or
4. before the catch is placed in a holding pen or removed from the boat*,

whichever occurs first.

* A FisherMobile post-land report may be made after the catch is removed from the boat if you comply with all of the following:

1. you remove the catch from the boat for the sole purpose of weighing the catch

2. you weigh the catch immediately after removing it from the boat on scales that are located:
 - (i) outdoors and within 50 metres of where you landed the catch, or
 - (ii) at indoor premises approved by the Secretary (*see Approved Premises fact sheet for details*)
3. the FisherMobile post-land report is made immediately after weighing the catch
4. the catch is not mixed with any other fish until the FisherMobile post-land report has been made prior to leaving estuarine waters

The FisherMobile post-land report requires you to report:

1. your registration number
2. fishing business number
3. quota species taken
4. validated weight of quota species taken
5. landing location

7. Interim Fishing Activity Report

If the FisherMobile system is not available, you must complete an Interim Fishing Activity Report (IFAR) using the IFAR logbook supplied for this purpose.

An IFAR must be completed and submitted in accordance with the instructions in the IFAR logbook.

You still need to submit your Catch and Effort records through FisherMobile, FisherDirect or the NSW DPI Commercial Fisheries Catch and Effort Logbook.

8. Crew arrangements

If you hold 250 or more shares for a region in a single fishing business, you can use one unendorsed crew member. Unendorsed crew do not need to hold a commercial fishing licence.

Unendorsed crew must:

1. be engaged in the same fishing activity as you
2. remain in your immediate vicinity and boat at all times

When using crew you must remain in possession of all fish taken until the fish are disposed of lawfully.

9. Boat licences

You do not need to hold a commercial fishing boat licence if your boat is less than 10m in length (*see Boat licensing arrangements fact sheet for details*). You must continue to display 'LFB' on any boat you use.

10. Gear marking

Both ends of a set meshing or flathead net must be marked on the surface of the water by a white buoy that:

1. is positioned above the net
2. is not less than 100mm in all dimensions
3. has a height above the water of not less than 50mm
4. is moored so that no rope is floating on the surface
5. displays your fishing business number and the letter 'M' or 'F' for the different nets, in letters of a contrasting colour not less than 50mm in height

11. Net registrations

Net registrations are not required.

12. Size limits

The Blue Swimmer Crab size limit is 6.5cm.

13. Holding pens

A holding pen used to store Mud Crabs, Blue Swimmer Crabs or Eels must not exceed 2m long, 1.5m wide and 1m deep. It must be sealed so that fish cannot get in or out, and must not be used in waters where you cannot lawfully take these species.

The position of a holding pen must be marked by a buoy that:

1. is positioned above the pen
2. measures not less than 100mm in all dimensions
3. has a height above the water of not less than 50mm
4. is moored so that no rope is floating on the surface
5. displays your fishing business number and the letter 'P' in letters of a contrasting colour not less than 50mm in height

14. Catch limits

From 1 July 2019, you must not take Pipi, Cockle, Beachworm, Ghost nipper or Bluespotted flathead.

15. Other rules

This guide provides information on some rules. You need to be aware of all of the rules that apply to your fishery.

Fisheries management legislation can be found at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au

Other information such as some endorsement conditions, fishing closures and permits can be found at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

More information

Commercial Fisheries Hotline - 1300 726 488

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (October 2018). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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