

## Commercial Fisheries Business Efficiency Program Consultation

### Paper 1: Longer-term commercial fishing licences

#### What is being reviewed?

Commercial fishing licensing arrangements.

#### What is proposed?

It is proposed to:

- 1) Issue long-term commercial fishing licences, in line with other longer-term licences issued through other agencies.
- 2) Consider the need for a common expiry date (30 June) for all commercial fishing licences, in context of cost/benefit having moved to a longer-term licence arrangement and digital transformation of services.
- 3) Set initial issue and renewal of licence fees that are representative of savings achieved through longer-term licensing, digital transformation of services including digital licence options. Setting of fees will be considered recognising Time Value of Money – applying the accepted government discount rate.
- 4) Apply a minimal transaction charge for replacement of a lost or destroyed plastic commercial fishing licence card. Option exists for digital licensing removing the need for commercial fishers to have a plastic licence card.
- 5) Remove the concept of a Class 1 licence from the regulations. Under current arrangements there is only one class of licence that is issued.
- 6) Remove clause 107(d) of the Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2019 which provides for the issue of a commercial fishing licence to a person who requires one to work as a crew member. Under current arrangements crew do not need to be licensed.

#### Why the change?

Commercial fishing licences are a key tool used in managing access to commercial fisheries and need to be maintained going forward. Licensing arrangements may be revised over time to accommodate better ways of supporting industry operations and administration of the legal framework. In the context of the changes being proposed, redundant provisions in regulation are being removed and longer-term licensing arrangements will remove the annual renewal of licences making administration more contemporary and in line with other types of licenses issued by authorities.