

FACT SHEET – OCTOBER 2018

Estuary General - Eel Trapping

This guide provides the information you need to operate in the eel trapping 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. Trap numbers

The number of eel trapping shares you hold determines how many eel traps you can use.

You can use 10 eel traps for the first 125 shares, plus an extra eel trap for each additional 10 eel trapping shares for the same region held in the same fishing business.

You can use the combined total number of traps provided by all fishing businesses you are nominated as the endorsement holder on.

3. Catch quota

You must own Eel quota to be able to keep Eels.

Catch quota is allocated to owners of the new Eel 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

Eel trapping 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).

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

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.

If you take Eels, you must report the total weight taken to one decimal place using FisherMobile.

You must remain in the immediate vicinity of your catch of Eels 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

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

You can use any number of unendorsed crew to assist you. 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

Eel traps must be marked with a buoy that:

1. is positioned above the trap
2. is no 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 'E' in letters of a contrasting colour not less than 50mm in height

11. Holding pens

A holding pen used to store 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 eels.

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

1. is positioned above the pen
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 'P' in letters of a contrasting colour not less than 50mm in height

12. 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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