

FACT SHEET – OCTOBER 2018

Ocean Trawl - Fish Northern Zone

This guide provides the information you need to operate in the fish northern zone share class.

1. Minimum shareholding

You must hold the minimum shareholding of 50 fish northern zone shares in a single fishing business for an endorsement to fish.

2. Allocation of new quota shares

The following new quota shares will be issued by November 2018:

- Tiger flathead
- Bluespotted flathead
- Trawl whiting
- Silver trevally
- Gemfish

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

3. Total Allowable Catch

The following Total Allowable Catch determinations for the 2019/20 fishing period have been made:

- Tiger flathead – 166.9 t
- Bluespotted flathead – 108.1 t
- Trawl whiting – 1,189.1 t
- Silver trevally – 26.8 t
- Gemfish – 7.1 t

4. Fishing period

Catch quota will be allocated to owners of the new quota shares at the beginning of each fishing period.

The first fishing period is from 1 May 2019 to 30 April 2020.

From 1 May 2019, you must hold quota to be able to keep any amount of Tiger or Bluespotted flathead, Silver trevally, Trawl whiting (Eastern school or Stout whiting) or Gemfish*.

* No Gemfish quota will be allocated to fish northern zone shareholders for the 2019/20 fishing period. The 50kg daily and possession limit will continue to apply.

5. Share and quota transfer

Fish northern zone shares, quota shares and quota can all be transferred independently of each other.

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

Catch quota for Tiger and Blue spotted flathead, Eastern school and Stout whiting can transfer between owners of the relevant quota shares, inshore and offshore prawn shares or fish northern zone shares.

Catch quota for Silver trevally can transfer between owners of Silver trevally quota shares, inshore, offshore and deepwater prawn shares or fish northern zone shares.

Catch quota can only transfer or be used within each fishing period.

6. FisherMobile – quota reporting

From 1 May 2019, you must report all quota usage in real time using the FisherMobile App on a mobile device.

If you have taken Tiger or Blue spotted flathead, Silver trevally, Eastern school or Stout whiting, you must make a FisherMobile pre-land report before any of the catch is:

1. removed from the boat, or
2. taken out of NSW,

whichever occurs first.

The FisherMobile pre-land report will require you to report:

1. the date
2. your registration number
3. fishing business number
4. estimated weight of each quota species taken
5. landing location

If you have taken Tiger or Blue spotted flathead, Silver trevally, Eastern school or Stout whiting, you must report the total weight of each species to one decimal place by completing a FisherMobile post-land report:

1. before any of the catch is taken out of NSW by land, or
2. within 6 hours of making a FisherMobile pre-land report,

whichever occurs first.

You must remain in possession of the catch until you make a FisherMobile post-land report.

The FisherMobile post-land report will require you to report:

1. your registration number
2. fishing business number
3. total weight of each quota species taken

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. Catch limits

You must not take Mud crabs, Longfin and Shortfin river eels or Eastern sea garfish.

A daily and possession limit of 25kg applies to Blue swimmer crabs.

A daily and possession limit of 50kg applies to Gemfish.

From 1 May 2019

- You must not take Australian sardine, Bass groper, Hapuku, Blue-eye trevalla or Pink ling.
- A daily and possession limit of 500kg applies to Bigeye ocean perch.

9. Size limits

The Blue Swimmer Crab size limit is 6.5cm.

10. Boat licences

From 1 May 2019, you will not need to hold a commercial fishing boat licence if your boat is less than 20m in length (see *Boat licensing arrangements fact sheet for details*). You must continue to display 'LFB' on any boat you use.

11. Existing 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