

FACT SHEET – OCTOBER 2018

Estuary General - Hand Gathering

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

1. Minimum shareholding

No changes have been made to minimum shareholding requirements.

2. Allocation of new quota shares

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

- Pipi
- Beachworm
- Cockle
- Ghost nipper

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:

- Pipi - 147.4 t
- Beachworm - 7.7 t
- Cockle - 29.2 t
- Ghost nipper - 5.1 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 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

From 1 July 2019, you must hold quota to be able to keep any amount of Pipsis, Beachworms, Cockles or Ghost nippers.

5. Share and quota transfer

Hand gathering 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 these species can transfer throughout the State between owners of quota shares and hand gathering shares.

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

6. FisherMobile – quota reporting

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

You must report the following via a FisherMobile post-land report:

- Pipsis and Cockles - total weight of each species to one decimal place
- Beachworms and Ghost nippers - number of each species

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

For Pipsis and Beachworms, a FisherMobile post-land report must be made:

1. before moving more than 50 metres from the high water mark
2. within 30 minutes after the catch is moved above the high water mark
3. before any of the catch is placed in a boat, premises or vehicle (other than a vehicle into which the catch is placed immediately after being taken)

For Cockles and Ghost nippers that are not placed into a boat after being taken, a FisherMobile post-land report must be made:

1. before moving more than 50 metres from the high water mark
2. within 30 minutes after the catch is moved above the high water mark
3. before any of the catch is placed in a vehicle, premises or holding pen

For Cockles and Ghost nippers that are placed into a boat after being taken, a FisherMobile post-land report must be made:

1. before moving more than 50 metres from the point of landing

2. with 30 minutes of landing the catch
3. before any of the catch is placed in a holding pen or removed from the boat*

* 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 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. 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.

9. Holding pens

A holding pen used to store Cockles 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

10. Pipi fishing closure

Fishers will be consulted prior to any decision being made on whether a fishing closure on the taking of pipis will be implemented in 2018/19.

11. 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