

## **Management arrangements and reporting quota usage from 1 May 2019**

*Important: arrangements and real time reporting varies from share class to share class. It's important for you to consider the relevant fact sheet at: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/shareclasses](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/shareclasses)*

### **Ocean Trawl Fishery**

If a fishing trip involves multiple days at sea, do I need to make a pre-fish report (for the inshore/offshore prawn effort quota) every 24 hours?

Yes. When fishing under an inshore or offshore prawn endorsement you must make a pre-fish report for each 24 hour period of fishing.

If I deploy my net in one 24 hour period but do not retrieve it within that period, am I required to make another pre-fish report (for the inshore/offshore prawn effort quota)?

Yes. If you still have a net (or a try net) in the water at the end of a 24 hour period, a further pre-fish report must be made.

If I intend to continue fishing past the end of a 24 hour period, do I need to wait until that period ends before making a further pre-fish report (for the inshore/offshore prawn effort quota)?

No. You can make a further pre-fish to be submitted for tomorrow if there is an active pre fish report for today.

Do I need to be back at the wharf within 24hrs of making the pre-fish report (for the inshore/offshore prawn effort quota)?

No. You do not need to be back at the wharf within 24 hours of making a pre-fish report, but you must not have any nets (or a try net) in the water after the 24 hour period ends.

When fishing in inshore and offshore prawn trawl, do I have to relate the pre-fish report (relating to the effort quota) to the pre-land and post-land reports (relating to catch quota)?

No. There is no requirement to relate the pre-fish report to the pre-land or post-land reports.

If a fishing trip involves multiple days at sea, do I need to make a pre-land and post-land report of the quota species onboard every 24 hours?

No. A pre-land report is only required before any of the catch is taken out of New South Wales or removed from the boat, whichever occurs first. The post-land report must be made within 6 hours of making the pre-land report or prior to any of the catch being taken out of NSW by land.

If I leave or store the catch on my boat, do I need to make a pre-land and post-land report of the quota species onboard?

No. As above, a pre-land report is only required before any of the catch is taken out of New South Wales or removed from the boat, whichever occurs first. The post-land report must be made within 6 hours of making the pre-land report or prior to any of the catch being taken out of NSW by land.

If I make a real-time quota report (catch or effort) and do not have the quota to cover it, will there be any allowances?

No. You must not go fishing if you do not have effort quota to cover it, and you must not take quota species if you do not have catch quota to cover it.

If I catch a quota species and do not have quota to cover it, can I then transfer in quota to cover it?

No. You must hold quota to cover the catch prior to taking the catch.

If I have Bluespotted flathead, Tiger flathead or Silver trevally quota, can I take these species in a prawn trawl net south of Smoky Cape?

No. This rule has not changed.

If I have no [catch] quota, can I still fish for other species?

Yes.

If I hold an ocean trawl and an ocean trap and line-line west endorsement, can I catch Bluespotted and Tiger flathead and what must I report?

If you catch Bluespotted or Tiger flathead when trawling, you must accurately report it using the real time reporting system (and in your log book) and you must have quota to cover it.

If you catch Bluespotted or Tiger flathead while line fishing, the following bag limits apply:

- 0 kg if you have a prawn trawl, fish trawl or danish seine net onboard; otherwise
- 50 kg in total (both species combined).

If you catch Bluespotted or Tiger flathead while line fishing, you are not required to report it using the real time reporting system but you must report it in your logbook.

If I catch a species in the Ocean Trawl Fishery that is subject to a new bag limit (e.g. Blue swimmer crab) do I need to report it using the real-time reporting system?

No. Blue swimmer crabs and some other species taken in the Ocean Trawl Fishery are now subject to a new bag limit. They are not subject to quota in the Ocean Trawl Fishery and as such you do not need to use the real time reporting system, but you must accurately report any catches in your logbook.

If a fishing trip involves multiple days at sea, can I take and retain the bag limit (e.g. 25kg of Blue swimmer crabs) for each day of fishing?

No. The possession limits apply regardless of how many days you may have spent at sea, whether a single fishing trip or multiple trips. For example, you must not be in possession of more than 25kg of Blue swimmer crabs at any time.

## **FishOnline - FisherMobile & FisherDirect**

What access/permissions do endorsement holders have to the FisherMobile app?

FisherMobile is accessed by endorsement holders and provides real time access to all functions and information that the endorsement holder may require.

Fishing business owners requiring access to their fishing business information will need a FisherDirect account.

Note: Login details should not be shared with others, and endorsement holders should not let others make real time reports on their behalf.

Does FisherDirect allow the shareholder, agent and endorsement holder to see if there are unsubmitted reports in FisherMobile?

Yes, FisherDirect is a secure online self-service system which provides commercial fishing business owners, fishers and their appointed **agents** with access to their business information and transactions 24/7. The FisherDirect system does not allow access to unsubmitted reports, these remain on the FisherMobile App until submitted.

Can I login into the FisherMobile app on multiple devices at the same time?

No. You can only login to FisherMobile on one device at any one time. When you try to log into a second device the system will log you out of the other device.

What do I do if FisherMobile is unavailable?

### 1. Technical Issues

If you are having technical problems that are preventing you from submitting your real time quota usage reports please contact the FishOnline Support Team on 1300 720 662 during business hours (8.30am to 4.30pm) to resolve the technical issue to enable you to complete your real time report(s).

### 2. Oral Report

To complete an oral report contact Catch records on 1800 994 850 during business hours (8.30am to 4.30pm). Your quota usage will be deducted in real time.

Oral reporting has only been approved as a back-up, in the event that FisherMobile is unavailable, until 30 June 2020.

### 3. Interim Fishing Activity Report (IFAR)

An IFAR is a paper based form and must be completed by endorsement holders to report quota usage (pre-fish, pre-land, post-land) as a **last resort** i.e. you are unable to report in real time using FisherMobile or by making an oral report.

Can I have multiple endorsement holders for the same fishing business at the same time?

No. Only one person may hold the endorsements for a fishing business at any one time.

I have two employees that work my fishing business from time to time (i.e. only one at a time). Can both of them access my fishing business using FisherMobile at the same time?

No. Your endorsement holder is the only person who can access your fishing business using FisherMobile, noting, as above, only one person may hold the endorsements for your fishing business at any one time.

What security and confidentiality arrangements apply for FisherMobile, specifically the security of the system, access of the data by DPI staff (who has access and how is it regulated), and use of the data by DPI and/or other agencies (i.e. can it only be used for fisheries management purposes)?

The FisherMobile application has a PIN at the customer level which is private. Access to the FisherMobile application is controlled by the account holder and the temporary PIN issued by the department is forced to be changed upon initial login.

NSW DPI collects information in relation to fishing activity to assist in the management of commercial fisheries in NSW. Information collected via FisherMobile, FisherDirect (e.g. catch and effort reports) and other reports (e.g. IFAR) is subject to the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and as such, is stored securely and held in confidence.

DPI staff cannot access FisherMobile on behalf of fishers. All fishing activity information reported by endorsement holders in FisherMobile and FisherDirect feeds into a database that only authorised DPI staff can access. Authorised staff can monitor this data and undertake checks to compare expected reports to received reports, monitor quota usage and extract data reports.

Authorised staff are able to make entries into this database on behalf of fishers when paper based reports are received, and may also make quota adjustments in this system upon receipt of IFARs when the FisherMobile app is unavailable.

The information collected is for the purpose of research, management and administration authorised under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* and for use as authorised under legislative arrangements with other government, interstate and Commonwealth agencies. The information may be used to compile industry based statistics in a manner not identifying individuals.

When did fishing businesses currently reporting using the FisherMobile app come online with the upgraded FisherMobile platform?

1 May 2019.

If I enter my catch and effort reports using FisherMobile will I be able to view this information in FisherDirect?

Yes.

## General

Why do I need to complete a pre-land report and will I be penalised for an incorrect pre-land weight estimate?

The pre-land report is in place to reduce the risk of quota evasion by fishers disposing catch once landed and intentionally making an inaccurate final catch report.

The pre-land report assists Fisheries Compliance Officers identify potential cases of quota evasion for targeted enforcement action, by monitoring for significant differences between the catch estimate (pre-land) and final (post-land) reports.

Endorsement holders will not need to weigh their catch to form an estimate. It is expected that fishers will be able to give a reasonably accurate estimate of their catch.

If I forget to do a FisherMobile report can I do it when I remember the following day?

No. This will create a report that indicates that you fished the following day, and will create pending reports (an expectation of further reports from you for that day). Further, any catch and effort report completed for the actual day of fishing activity will not align to the FisherMobile report.

If I'm out of range and complete an IFAR and then come back into range, do I then discard the IFAR and start my reports from the beginning using the FisherMobile app?

No. All reporting systems (whether electronic, oral or paper-based) are designed to capture the time of the report which is then used to, for example, identify the start of a 24 hour period of fishing or to ensure that a post-land report is made within the required timeframe.

If you completed a pre-fish by IFAR, you can then go on to complete the next expected report (e.g. a pre-land or post-land report) using FisherMobile if you have coverage.

If I have made an oral report or an IFAR, do I then need to make the same report again using FisherMobile when it becomes available?

No. If you make a second or third report via an alternate reporting system (whether electronic, oral or paper-based), you may be deducted more quota than you have actually used.

If I tried to submit a fishing activity report via FisherMobile, and it didn't work, and I then completed an IFAR but later noticed that the FisherMobile report worked (has since gone through), what do I do with the IFAR?

You draw a line across the completed IFAR page and write CANCELLED on the line, and then submit the IFAR to the catch records unit.

Why are pending reports an issue?

Pending reports indicate there is a report that needs to be finalised. For example, upon making a pre-land report the system expects a post land report to be linked to the pre-fish report and submitted. Additionally pending report links are created in FisherDirect for catch & effort reports based on pre-fish reports.

It is important that you complete pending reports within the legislated timeframes.

Pending reports prevent the sale of businesses and the transfer of whole packages of shares.

What happens when landed fish are not weighed by a Co-op within the time required for a post-land report?

The responsibility lies with the endorsement holder to ensure that the post-land reporting requirements are met. In a small number of instances this may require fishers to modify their practices to comply with their post-land reporting requirements.

Specific reporting requirements are detailed in the relevant share class fact sheets.

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/shareclasses](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/shareclasses)

Can DPI please clarify rules around weighing catch?

The responsibility lies with the endorsement holder to ensure that accurate scales are used and that post-land weights are accurate.

Note: it is not a legal requirement to weigh catches at sea or to make a post-land report while at sea.

Specific reporting requirements are detailed in the relevant share class fact sheets.

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/shareclasses](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/shareclasses)

Once an endorsement holder makes a quota usage report through FisherMobile, does the catch need to be included in the catch and effort record also (whether through FisherDirect or paper based)?

Yes. Catches of quota species reported using FisherMobile must also be included in a catch and effort record.

Quota will not be deducted twice as catch and effort records are not used to deduct quota. Quota deduction only occurs as a result of a pre-fish or post-land report.

What is catch and effort information used for?

The information provided in catch and effort records is used for stock assessments and to ensure that fish stocks in NSW are managed sustainably. For example, catch per unit of effort (i.e. catch & effort) is a key indicator of how stocks are tracking.

Given the new management arrangements commenced 1 May 2019, does this mean the annual fishing period (quota season) will commence 1 May each year thereafter?

Yes.

If I report all quota usage and all catch and effort online will my fees be reduced?

Online services are currently available for fishers to perform a range of self-service functions including the transfer of fishing businesses and quota, completing real-time quota reports and completing catch and effort records. Currently, no fees apply for processing paper-based catch and effort records. For some other transactions, there is a fee for paper-based processing (e.g. transfer of shares).

What are my reporting obligations when I am fishing between QLD and NSW jurisdictions over multiple days and off-loading in the other jurisdiction?

The reporting requirements are dependent on the share class. Refer to the relevant Share Class Fact Sheet at: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/shareclasses](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/shareclasses)

## Need Assistance?

Refer to the share class fact sheets for information about the new management arrangements and reporting requirements relevant for your fishing operation. Available at

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/shareclasses](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/shareclasses)

## FisherMobile & FisherDirect

More information about FisherMobile and Fisher Direct including video demonstrations is available at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/fishonline](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/fishonline)

## FishOnline Helpline (Technical Support for FisherMobile & FisherDirect):

Email: [fishonline.support@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fishonline.support@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Tel: 1300 720 662

## Catch Records: (FisherMobile/Quota Usage and Catch & Effort Reporting)

Email: [catch.records@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:catch.records@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Tel: 1800 994 850

## Business Adjustment Program Hotline

Tel: 1300 726 488