

June 2023

Information Paper

Total Allowable Catch Determination – Spanner Crab

Ocean Trap and Line Fishery – Spanner Crab 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

The Total Allowable Fishing (TAF) Committee has made the following Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination for Spanner crab taken in the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery for the fishing period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Quota species	TAC determination (kg)	Fishing period
Spanner crab	100,000	1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

The TAC determination represents a reduction of 40 tonnes in comparison to the TAC of 140 tonnes for the 2022/23 fishing period.

When the TAF Committee makes a TAC determination, the Committee provides a Determination Report that explains the reasons for their determination.

In their Determination Report, the TAF Committee noted that, although the status of the NSW Spanner Crab stock is classified as sustainable, the Spanner crab stock is declining as evidenced by declines in catch per unit effort since 2016, as well as declines in short-term recruitment of juvenile crabs to the fishery.

The TAF Committee considered that a significant reduction to the TAC is required to reduce the risk of further decline, recognising that the reduction would cap catch around current levels as the TAC has been significantly under-caught in recent years.

The TAF Committee recognised that complementary management arrangements with Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is needed to provide a high likelihood of Spanner crab stock rebuilding and these discussions have commenced.

A copy of the Report and Determination for the 2023/24 Fishing Period for Spanner crab is available on the NSW DPI website at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/TAC>

Where can I find more information about TAC determinations?

- Total Allowable Catch and Effort Determinations – <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/TAC>
- Commercial Fisheries Hotline – 1300 726 488

The Department of Primary Industries will allocate quota to Spanner crab quota shareholders in the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery prior to 1 July 2023

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