

Commercial Fisheries Business Efficiency Program Consultation

Paper 7: Real time reporting – ocean trawl interstate operators

What is being reviewed?

The real time quota reporting requirements that apply to commercial fishers in the line Ocean Trawl Fishery.

Under current arrangements, an ocean trawl fisher who is based interstate must:

- a) when returning to an interstate port by sea, make a catch estimate report prior to crossing the NSW border and then a final catch report within 6 hours of the catch estimate report,
- b) when returning to an interstate port by land, make a catch estimate report before any of the catch is removed from the boat and then a final catch report within 6 hours of the catch estimate report or before crossing the NSW border, whichever occurs first.

What is proposed?

It is proposed to:

- a) in the case of a fisher returning to an interstate port by sea, require a catch estimate report at least 10 hours prior to crossing the NSW border and a final catch report within 72 hours of the catch estimate report,
- b) in the case of a fisher returning to an interstate port by land with catch in a sealed shipping container, require a catch estimate report at least 10 hours prior to landing the catch in a NSW port and a final catch report and a copy of the weigh-bridge docket within 72 hours of the catch estimate report.

Why the change?

Requiring a catch estimate report 10 hours before crossing the NSW border by sea or unloading into a shipping container in a NSW port will give DPI compliance officers an opportunity to check the catch before the catch is moved interstate. This will contribute towards the integrity of quotas.

Increasing the time to make a final catch report will cater for the time it takes to:

- steam from the NSW border to an interstate port such as Mooloolabah (QLD) and then unload, weigh and report the catch.

- unload a catch into a shipping container in a NSW port, weigh the container at an open weighbridge, obtain a copy of the weigh bridge docket, send a copy of the weigh bridge docket to a NSW compliance officer and report the catch.

Allowing 72 hours between the catch estimate report and final catch report is also consistent with the arrangements that apply in other fisheries (e.g. purse seine) where unique operational and handling issues exist.

Benefits from the proposed changes include reduced regulatory burden (or 'red-tape') on industry and importantly, to enable fishers to focus on maintaining product quality to maximise profitability without compromising the integrity of the quota system.

OUT20/10666

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (February 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.