

November 2023

Information Paper

Moving from Transitional Fishing Determinations

Introduction

Transitional fishing determinations are the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Total Allowable Effort (TAE) determinations made for some species and share classes in the Estuary General and Ocean Hauling fisheries for the transition period 1 December 2017 to 30 June 2024, and in the Ocean Trawl Fishery for the transition period 1 May 2019 to 30 April 2024, to assist these fisheries transition to quota management.

The species and share classes that currently have transitional fishing determinations are:

Fishery	Species	Annual Transitional TAC (tonnes)
Estuary General	Mud crab	206.3 t
	Blue swimmer crab	225 t
	Longfin and Shortfin river eel	137 t
Ocean Hauling	Eastern sea Garfish	45.5 t
Fishery	Share Class	Annual Transitional TAE
Estuary General	Meshing	38,656 days (Regions 1 – 7 combined)
	Category 1 Hauling	9,627 days (Regions 1 – 7 combined)
	Category 2 Hauling	937 days (Regions 1 – 7 combined)
Ocean Trawl	Ocean prawn trawl	542,000 units

The Secretary for the Department of Regional NSW made transitional fishing determinations for each fishing period (1 May to 30 April for the Ocean Trawl fishery, and 1 July to 30 June for Estuary General and Ocean Hauling fisheries), maintaining the same annual transitional TACs and TAEs throughout the transition period.

Transitional fishing determinations end at the conclusion of the current 2023/24 fishing period (30 April 2024 for the Ocean Trawl fishery and 30 June 2024 for the Estuary General and Ocean Hauling fisheries).

For each new fishing period, fisheries management regulations require the independent Total Allowable Fishing (TAF) Committee to make a fishing determination (TAC / TAE) for the above species and share classes.

What is a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Total Allowable Effort (TAE)

A **Total Allowable Catch (TAC)** is the maximum amount of a particular fish species that can be taken by commercial fishers during a fishing period.

A TAC is determined for each new fishing period for each catch quota managed species and a share of the TAC is allocated (as quota) to owners of quota shares in proportion to the number of shares they hold.

A **Total Allowable Effort (TAE)** is the maximum amount of fishing effort (e.g. days) that can be used by commercial fishers during a fishing period.

A TAE is determined for each new fishing period for each effort quota managed share class and a share of the TAE is allocated (as days or units) to owners of quota shares in proportion to the number of shares they hold.

Who makes the new TAC / TAE determinations

Fisheries management regulations require the TAF Committee to make TAC and TAE determinations that will apply following expiry of the transitional fishing determinations for the following species / share classes:

Fishery	Species
Estuary General	Mud crab
	Blue swimmer crab
	Longfin and Shortfin river eel
Ocean Hauling	Eastern sea garfish
Fishery	Share Class
Estuary General	Meshing
	Category 1 Hauling
	Category 2 Hauling
Ocean Trawl	Ocean prawn trawl

The TAF Committee is a statutory and independent Committee appointed under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* and consists of four members and three deputy members (currently filled as follows):

- Independent Chairperson (Mr William Zacharin)
 - Natural Resource Economist (Dr Daryl McPhee)
 - Deputy Natural Resource Economist (Ms Sevaly Sen)
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- Fisheries Scientist (Dr Lorne 'Rich' Little)
 - Deputy Fisheries Scientist (Mr Andrew Penney)
 - Fisheries Manager (Alice McDonald)
 - Deputy Fisheries Manager (Dr Daryl McPhee)
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What does the TAF Committee consider when making a TAC / TAE determination

In making a fishing determination, the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* requires the TAF Committee to give effect to the objects of the Act and have regard to all relevant scientific, industry, community, social and economic factors. The TAF Committee is also to have regard to:

- the need to ensure that the exploitation of fisheries resources is conducted in a manner that will conserve fish stocks in the long term,
- the impact of fishing activities on all species of fish and the aquatic environment, and
- the precautionary principle, namely, that if there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to fish stocks, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent that damage.

When the TAF Committee make a TAC / TAE determination, a Determination Report is provided explaining the reasons for their determination. Copies of TAF Committee Determination Reports are published on the [DPI Fisheries website](#).

What information is used when making a TAC / TAE determination

The best available information and resources are used when making a TAC / TAE determination including:

- Status of Australian [Fish Stocks reports](#) and [DPI Fisheries Stock Status Summary Reports](#)
- Information obtained from other jurisdictions (where fish stocks are shared)
- Catch and effort records submitted by commercial fishers
- Stakeholder views (see [Consultation](#) below)
- Social and economic information
- Aboriginal and recreational fishing information
- Environmental information such as weather and seasonal conditions and natural events such as floods and droughts.

Consultation

Public consultation

The TAF Committee is required to call for public submissions and to have regard to those submissions when making a fishing determination.

The call for public submissions is published on the DPI Fisheries website, at DPI Fisheries offices, Fishermen's Co-operatives and by notification to relevant stakeholders via email and SMS.

The public submission period is open for a minimum of 30 days.

Stock Assessment Briefing

During the submission period, DPI Fisheries Research hold a Stock Assessment briefing for fishers, to present and discuss assessment information for each fishing determination. The briefings assist in finalising information for the TAC / TAE determination process.

TAF Committee Meeting

Following the submission period, the TAF Committee holds a stakeholder meeting to consider fishery information (management, stock assessment, and compliance) and stakeholder views.

Fishery shareholders and endorsement holders are invited to attend both Stock Assessment briefings and TAF Committee meetings and are notified the date/time via email and SMS.

Important consultation dates

For those species and share classes moving from transitional fishing determinations, please note the upcoming consultation dates for TAC / TAE determinations for the 2024/25 fishing period.

Transitional TAC/TAE	Public submission period	Stock Assessment briefing	TAF Committee meeting
Ocean Trawl TAE	1 December 2023 – 14 January 2024	14 December 2023	14 February 2024
Estuary General TACs	14 February – 14 March 2024	28 February 2024	9 – 10 April 2024
Estuary General TAEs		4 – 6 March 2024	15 – 16 April 2024
Ocean Hauling TAC	14 February – 14 March 2024	7 March 2024	17 April 2024

DPI Fisheries will also begin consulting on TAC determinations for the 2024/25 fishing period for quota managed species in the Ocean Trawl, Ocean Trap and Line, and Ocean Hauling (Purse Seine) fisheries in December 2023, and for Estuary General (Hand Gathering), Abalone, and Spanner crab fisheries in February 2024. Further information will be provided on commencement of the submission period.

Fishing Determination Process

The process undertaken for each fishing determination is as follows:

1. The TAF Committee calls for submissions on the TAC / TAE determination for a period of not less than 30 days
2. Stock (including effort) Assessment briefings are held by DPI Fisheries Research
3. A stakeholder meeting is held by the TAF Committee to consider fishery information and stakeholder views
4. The TAF Committee's Fishing Determination and Report is provided to the Minister
5. The Minister may accept or request review of the fishing determination
6. The fishing determination is notified by publication in the NSW Government Gazette, fishers are advised and the determination report is also published on the DPI Fisheries website
7. The TAC / TAE determination is allocated, as quota, prior to the commencement of the new fishing period.

Where can I find more information

For more information visit:

- [Total Allowable Catch and Effort Determinations](#)
- [Quota usage season snapshot](#)
- [Stock Status Summary Reports](#)
- Commercial Fisheries Hotline: **1300 726 488**

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