



Department of  
Primary Industries



PUBLIC CONSULTATION PAPER:

# Reform options for the netting component of the NSW Estuary General Fishery



Published by the NSW Department of Primary Industries

*Public consultation paper: Reform options for the Netting component of the NSW Estuary General Fishery*

First published April 2014

**More information**

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/reform](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/reform)

OUT14/9873

---

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services, 2014. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the NSW Department of Primary Industries as the owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (March 2014). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

## Readers guide

This paper includes reform options for comment that are specific to the netting component of the NSW Estuary General Fishery (EGF).

Anyone with an interest in these share classes should read the options presented in this paper and, where possible, provide feedback.

The following provides an overview of the documents available:

General information paper	Provides general information about the reform program and issues applicable to all reform fisheries. <b>A ‘must read’ for everyone to understand the background.</b> The paper is titled “ <i>General information relating to the reform program and reform options for the NSW commercial fisheries</i> ”
Fisheries options papers	These contain information about the options that have been shortlisted for specific fisheries or share classes. They include possible linkages, total catch/effort levels and potential changes to existing restrictions, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each option. <b>A ‘must read’ if you hold shares in, or have an interest in, these fisheries.</b>
This paper you are reading	
Technical paper	A separate paper has been prepared detailing how the proposed total catch/effort levels have been calculated. The paper is titled “ <i>Setting the Interim Total Commercial Access Level (ITCALs)</i> ”.
Submission forms	Submission forms are available for each of the fisheries options papers. Relevant forms will be mailed to all shareholders and will also be available on the reform webpage: <a href="http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/reform">www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/reform</a>

## Have your say

A key part of the Reform Program is getting valuable feedback and ideas from industry and interested stakeholders. Constructive feedback to help work out the best overall approach will assist in shaping future management arrangements.

The complexity of the options laid out in this paper are acknowledged, as is the difficulty some fishers may have in working through the issues covered. If you require assistance in understanding the options presented or in developing a submission please contact the relevant Fisheries Manager, or the Industry Liaison Manager on the contact details provided below.

DPI staff will be visiting regional ports over the consultation period, during which time commercial fishers will have one-on-one opportunities to discuss questions and issues.

A submission form is available to provide comments. Alternatively, you may submit your comments in another form, such as a letter or summary of your views on each of the reform packages presented in this paper.

Note that submissions may suggest variations to the options presented in the fisheries options papers, provided they are within the broad scope of what the NSW Government approved and announced in November 2012<sup>1</sup> and are consistent with the reform program objectives described below.

However you choose to provide comment, it is important to note that subsequent decisions will be based on merit, rather than numbers for and against particular options.

### **The closing time for comments is 8am Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.**

Send your response to:

Mail: PO Box 4291, Coffs Harbour, NSW, 2450

Fax: (02) 6391 4726

Email: [commfish.wg@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:commfish.wg@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Following the closing date, a summary of the submissions will be prepared and made available on the DPI website. In arriving at decisions, the Minister will consider the issues raised in submissions, the views of key stakeholder groups, DPI's advice and final recommendations from the independent Structural Adjustment Review Committee (SARC).

For more information on the NSW Commercial Fisheries Reform Program visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/reform](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/reform)

Or contact the Commercial Fisheries Management on (02) 6691 9684.

---

<sup>1</sup> See [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/448187/Govt-response-to-independent-comm-fisheries-review.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/448187/Govt-response-to-independent-comm-fisheries-review.pdf)

## Foreword

The Estuary General Fishery (EGF) is a diverse multi-species multi-method fishery that may operate in 76 of the NSW's estuarine systems. It is the most diverse commercial fishery in NSW and comprises approximately 600 fishing businesses authorised to utilise 17 types of fishing gear. This fishery is a significant contributor to regional and state economies providing high quality seafood and bait to the community.

The Fishery includes all forms of commercial estuarine fishing (other than estuary prawn trawling which fits within the Estuary Prawn Trawl Fishery) in addition to the gathering of pipis and beachworms from ocean beaches. The most frequently used fishing methods are mesh and haul (fish and prawn) netting. Other methods used include trapping, hand-lining and hand gathering.

Generally, the 10 species that make up over 80% of landings by weight are sea mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) luderick (*Girella tricuspidata*), yellowfin bream (*Acanthopagrus australis*), school prawn (*Metapenaeus macleayi*), blue swimmer crab (*Portunus pelagicus*), dusky flathead (*Platycephalus fuscus*), sand whiting (*Sillago ciliata*), pipi (*Donax deltooides*), mud crab (*Scylla serrata*) and silver biddy (*Gerres subfasciatus*).

The reform options presented in this paper focus on two important components of the broader reform program:

1. creating a stronger link to resource access; and
2. adjusting existing restrictions which have built up over many years and constrain efficiency.

The key objectives of the reform program are to:

- improve the long-term viability of the NSW commercial fishing industry;
- improve the strength and value of shareholders' access rights (i.e. shares); and
- provide shareholders with improved opportunities and flexibility to tailor their access.

The reform options in this paper have been developed by DPI having regard to:

- the Commercial Fisheries Reform Program as approved by the NSW Government in 2012 (after consideration of the *Independent Review of NSW Commercial Fisheries Policy, Management and Administration*);
- ideas submitted by shareholders in writing and through discussions with fisheries managers;
- views from netting shareholders and the Netting Share Linkage Working Group (NSLWG) put forward at several face-to-face meetings; and
- advice and recommendations of the Structural Adjustment Review Committee (SARC).

The outcomes of meetings of the NSLWG and the SARC throughout 2013 and early 2014 provide insight into the many options and issues considered in the lead-up to developing the reform options in this paper and are available on the NSW DPI website at:

Share linkage working groups (netting) webpage:

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/consultation/commercial-fisheries-working-groups/estuary-general-netting-share-linkage-working-group](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/consultation/commercial-fisheries-working-groups/estuary-general-netting-share-linkage-working-group)

SARC webpage: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/reform/sarc](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/reform/sarc)

## Contents

<b>Readers guide</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>Have your say</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Acronyms</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Option 1: Managing endorsement numbers (minimum shareholdings)</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Maximum number of endorsements and minimum shareholding requirements.....	2
<b>Option 2: Effort quota (days regime)</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Defining a ‘day’ .....	5
The ITCALs and the quota of ‘days’ available to shareholders.....	5
Minimum shareholding requirement.....	7
Fishing period.....	7
Transferability of effort quota .....	7
How shareholders could use their quota and acquire additional quota.....	7
<b>Option 3: Meshing net length</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<i>Number</i> of meshing nets.....	8
<i>Length</i> of meshing nets .....	8
<b>Option 4: Effort quota (competitive days regime)</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Defining a ‘day’ .....	9
The competitive quota of ‘days’ available to shareholders .....	9
Limits on available ‘days’ .....	9
Management response when a limit is reached .....	9
Minimum shareholding requirement.....	9
Fishing period.....	9
How shareholders could use their quota and acquire additional quota.....	10
<b>Potential changes to current restrictions</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Maximum numbers and lengths of meshing nets – meshing share classes .....	13
Crewing arrangements – meshing, category 1 and 2 hauling and prawning share classes....	13
Prawn priority determinations – prawning share classes.....	14
EGF netting fishing closures identified by EGF shareholders for potential amendment.....	15
<b>Comparison of reform options</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Management costs</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Current structure of the netting components of the EGF</b> .....	<b>26</b>

## Acronyms

<b>DPI</b>	NSW Department of Primary Industries
<b>EGF</b>	Estuary General Fishery
<b>GVP<sup>2</sup></b>	Gross Value of Production
<b>ITCAL</b>	Interim Total Commercial Access Level
<b>ITQ</b>	Individually Transferable Quota
<b>IVR</b>	Integrated Voice Response
<b>SARC</b>	Structural Adjustment Review Committee
<b>TAC</b>	Total Allowable Catch
<b>TACC</b>	Total Allowable Commercial Catch
<b>TACE</b>	Total Allowable Commercial Effort
<b>NSLWG</b>	Netting Share Linkage Working Group

---

<sup>2</sup> Estimated first point of sale only and calculated using Sydney Fish Market average prices.

## Introduction

The netting component of the EGF includes the following share classes for each of the seven regions within NSW, each with corresponding endorsements:

- Estuary General Meshing
- Estuary General Category One Hauling
- Estuary General Category Two Hauling
- Estuary General Prawning
- Estuary General Handline and Hauling Crew

This paper seeks feedback on four primary reform options for the netting component of the EGF.

Four primary management options presented for feedback include:

- **Option 1:** Managing endorsement numbers (minimum share holdings) involving a two-stage minimum shareholding program designed to stimulate adjustment (i.e. the trading of shares) over the short to medium term.
- **Option 2 :** Effort quota regime (days) involving managing the meshing, prawning, category one and two hauling and handline and hauling crew share classes by a consumable quota of days allocated to fishing businesses proportional to the number of shares held.
- **Option 3:** Meshing net length involving managing the total amount of meshing and flathead net that can be used in the meshing share classes of the fishery only.
- **Option 4:** Effort quota regime (competitive days) involving setting a total limit on the number of days that can be worked for each of the meshing, category one hauling, category two hauling, prawning and handline and hauling crew share classes and allowing endorsement holders to compete for their share of that total limit. When the limit is reached a management response is triggered.

Changing management restrictions to improve business and operational efficiency is a key aspect of the broader reform program. In this document, the potential changes to current restrictions for each linkage option are also presented for consideration.

The ability to implement the potential changes to current restrictions generally increases with the strength of the linkage option, with minimum shareholdings being the weakest form of linkage and catch quota being the strongest (see the general information paper for further information).

To assist in considering the options and providing feedback, a number of advantages and disadvantages have been identified by DPI and the Share Linkage Working Groups (including the NSLWG) as being associated with the linkage options presented.

It is important that the reform options are considered within the overall structure of the fishery. Those unfamiliar with the EGF, including shareholders unfamiliar with current numbers of shareholders and endorsements and the distribution of shares in each share class, are encouraged to read the document 'Share & shareholdings – February 2014' located at:

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/reform/program](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/reform/program)

## Option 1: Managing endorsement numbers (minimum shareholdings)

This option involves actively managing the number of endorsements in the meshing, prawning, category one and two hauling and handline and hauling crew share classes of the fishery. The proposal to manage endorsement numbers involves:

1. identifying a **maximum number of endorsements** for each share class, and
2. **increasing the minimum shareholding** requirements in two-stages (60% of the proposed increase to be met by July 2015, and 100% by July 2016) to reduce the number of endorsements in each sector.

Managing endorsement numbers is achieved by applying minimum shareholding requirements that must be satisfied if a shareholder is to remain eligible for an endorsement to fish in the relevant sector. To streamline administration and minimise costs, DPI proposes a consistent approach to implementing this option across all fisheries where it is proposed (e.g. aligning the timing).

### Maximum number of endorsements and minimum shareholding requirements

The proposed maximum number of endorsements for each netting share class of the EGF has been determined using the estimated Gross Value of Production (GVP) of each share class. Specifically, the proposed maximum numbers of endorsements are the numbers of endorsements that accounted for 95% of the estimated GVP of each share class over the 5 year time period 2007/08 to 2011/12.

Due to there being a relatively low number of endorsements that accounted for 95% of the estimated GVP derived from line fishing done under the authority of a handline and hauling crew endorsement, the maximum number of endorsements that accounted for 95% of the estimated GVP for this share class group is very low. Although the handline and hauling crew endorsement authorises the holder to assist category one and two hauling endorsement holders, the GVP attributed to the use of hauling nets has been accounted for under the category one and two hauling share classes.

Tables 1 - 5 list the total number of meshing, category one and two hauling, prawning and handline and hauling crew shares, numbers of fishing businesses holding shares as of July 2013, proposed maximum number of endorsements and corresponding minimum share holding requirements proposed to be met by 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

Table 1. Proposed meshing minimum shareholdings to be satisfied by 1 July 2015 and 2016

Region	Shares	No. of FBs holding shares	Maximum number of endorsements	Minimum shareholding 1 July 2015	Minimum shareholding 1 July 2016
1	4,550	36	20	180	217
2	13,200	104	50	205	259
3	6,725	54	33	168	198
4	20,425	166	106	164	191
5	5,300	44	20	201	253
6	6,050	47	28	175	209
7	4,025	33	15	201	252

Table 2. Proposed category 1 hauling minimum shareholdings to be satisfied by 1 July 2015 and 2016

Region	Shares	No. of FBs holding shares	Maximum number of endorsements	Minimum shareholding 1 July 2015	Minimum shareholding 1 July 2016
1	1,000	8	6	135	143
2	3,250	26	14	180	217
3	1,250	10	4	200	251
4	6,225	51	25	194	240
5	1,775	15	7	183	222
6	2,050	17	7	204	257
7	1,450	13	6	174	208

Table 3. Proposed category 2 hauling minimum shareholdings to be satisfied by 1 July 2015 and 2016

Region	Shares	No. of FBs holding shares	Maximum number of endorsements	Minimum shareholding 1 July 2015	Minimum shareholding 1 July 2016
1	975	8	2	245	326
2	3,200	26	5	370	534
3	2,275	19	3	391	569
4	6,200	51	7	515	776
5	1,125	10	1	387	563
6	1,925	14	9	165	193
7	1,125	9	4	185	226

Table 4: Proposed prawning minimum shareholdings to be satisfied by 1 July 2015 and 2016

Region	Shares	No. of FBs holding shares	Maximum number of endorsements	Minimum shareholding 1 July 2015	Minimum shareholding 1 July 2016
1	2,725	21	12	176	210
2	12,350	98	51	192	238
3	3,900	31	14	206	261
4	18,950	151	80	190	234
5	650	6	4	128	131
6	4,825	39	19	195	242
7	4,050	32	19	171	203

Table 5: Proposed handline &amp; hauling crew minimum shareholdings to be satisfied by 1 July 2015 and 2016

Region	Shares	No. of FBs holding shares	Maximum number of endorsements	Minimum shareholding 1 July 2015	Minimum shareholding 1 July 2016
1	4,800	38	14	242	321
2	16,475	132	50	244	324
3	8,125	65	25	237	313
4	23,800	190	73	243	322
5	6,600	54	20	239	315
6	6,300	50	19	239	316
7	4,825	40	14	243	322

## Option 2: Effort quota (days regime)

This option involves managing the total number of days that endorsement holders may fish in the meshing, prawning, category one and two hauling and the handline and hauling share classes of the fishery. Effort in these share classes would be managed by an ITQ of days allocated to fishing businesses proportional to the number of shares held. A day regime is an indirect way of managing catch.

### Defining a 'day'

It is proposed that a day be defined as a 24 hour period from the time the fisher makes a pre-fishing report. This aims to cater for the diverse fishing operations in the NSW commercial fishing industry.

Shorter periods (e.g. 8 & 12 hours) were discussed by the working groups, however, the 24 hour period is recommended so as to not add complexity, excessive burden and cost for fishers or compliance officers in terms of reporting and enforcement.

### The ITCALs and the quota of 'days' available to shareholders

An Interim Total Commercial Access Level (ITCAL) is the maximum amount of effort that may be expended by a fleet over a fishing period – very much like a Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) or the concept of Total Allowable Commercial Effort (TACE). For more information on ITCALs and future transitioning to TACCs and TACEs refer to technical paper "*Setting the Interim Total Commercial Access Levels (ITCALs)*" available on the DPI website.

It is proposed that the days ITCAL (i.e. the total number of days available to each of the meshing, prawning and category one hauling share class groups of the fishery) be taken from the year that had the maximum number of days reported being worked meshing, prawning or category one hauling in the 10 year period 2002/03 to 2011/12. This period follows the implementation of 30 Recreational Fishing Havens along the range of the NSW coast line.

For meshing, prawning and category one hauling, the total ITCAL of days can be allocated to shareholders on a state-wide or regional basis proportional to the number of shares held. With the state-wide allocation, the ITCAL of days is allocated to all shareholders of a share class group equally. For example, meshing shareholders in regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 all get an equal allocation of days per share. This means that each region has a total number of days that may be worked for each share class and the days have been allocated equally throughout the state.

With the regional allocation, the total ITCAL of days is allocated to the regions on a proportional basis. For each share class, the total number of days worked in each region over the 10 year period is divided by the total number of days worked by the share class group over the ten year period. Similar to the state-wide allocation, each region has a total number of days that may be worked for each share class however the days have been allocated based on the days worked in each region (i.e. the days are not allocated equally throughout the state).

Given the very low number of days worked under the authority of a category two hauling and handline and hauling crew endorsements, it is proposed that days would be allocated on a state-wide basis only. For the handline and hauling crew share classes, the days allocated would be for the use of line methods only (i.e. handline and hauling crew endorsement holders do not use days when assisting a category one or two endorsement holder).

Tables 6 - 10 list the total number of meshing, category one and two hauling, prawning and handline and hauling crew shares, the ITCAL of days for each share class or share class group, days per share and days per 125 shares.

Table 6. Proposed meshing state-wide and regional allocation of days

Region	Shares	ITCAL of days	Days per share	Days per 125 shares
1	4,550	1,890	0.42	52
2	13,200	6,396	0.48	61
3	6,725	4,322	0.64	80
4	20,425	15,115	0.74	93
5	5,300	2,155	0.41	51
6	6,050	3,402	0.56	70
7	4,025	2,006	0.50	62
<b>State-wide allocation</b>	<b>60,275</b>	<b>35,286</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>73</b>

Table 7. Proposed category 1 hauling state-wide and regional allocation of days

Region	Shares	ITCAL of days	Days per share	Days per 125 shares
1	1,000	407	0.41	51
2	3,250	1,879	0.58	72
3	1,250	66	0.05	7
4	6,225	1,906	0.31	38
5	1,775	733	0.41	52
6	2,050	481	0.23	29
7	1,450	95	0.07	8
<b>State-wide allocation</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>5,567</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>41</b>

Table 8. Proposed category 2 hauling state-wide allocation of days

Shares	ITCAL of days	Days per share	Days per 125 shares
16,825	480	0.03	4

Table 9. Proposed prawning state-wide and regional allocation of days

Region	Shares	ITCAL of days	Days per share	Days per 125 shares
1	2,725	562	0.21	26
2	12,350	821	0.07	8
3	3,900	502	0.13	16
4	18,950	5,340	0.28	35
5	650	4	0.01	1
6	4,825	749	0.16	19
7	4,050	179	0.04	6
<b>State-wide allocation</b>	<b>47,450</b>	<b>8,155</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>21</b>

Table 10. Proposed handline &amp; hauling state-wide allocation of days (line methods only)

Shares	ITCAL of days	Days per share	Days per 125 shares
70,925	1769	0.02	3

### Minimum shareholding requirement

It is proposed that the minimum shareholding requirement to be eligible for a meshing, prawning, category one and two hauling and handline and hauling crew endorsement under a days regime would be 125 shares.

### Fishing period

An allocation of effort quota (days) is available to be fished during what is known as a fishing period. It is proposed that a 12 month fishing period commencing on 1 July each year would apply under a days regime.

### Transferability of effort quota

It is proposed that the days allocated to the share classes of a region will not be able to be transferred outside that region initially. This means that shareholders in each region know exactly what proportion of the days allocated to the region they own. It is further proposed that effort quota be able to be transferred within the region.

### How shareholders could use their quota and acquire additional quota

Information on the use of quota and how to acquire additional quota, along with how quota use will be monitored is provided in the general information paper "*General information relating to the reform program and reform options for the NSW commercial fisheries*".

### Option 3: Meshing net length

This reform package involves managing the total amount of meshing and flathead net that can be used in the meshing share classes of the fishery only. Two separate ways of doing this are proposed. Specifically, meshing effort is either managed by the number of meshing nets or the maximum meshing net length that may be used by meshing endorsement holders.

The use of up to two flathead nets is permitted in specific waters only. It is not proposed to change this arrangement under either of the following options.

#### ***Number of meshing nets***

If managing the meshing share classes by the number of meshing and flathead nets, a meshing endorsement holder would be able to use one meshing net (or flathead net where relevant) up to a maximum length of 725 metres for every 125 meshing shares. A shareholding of 250 shares would allow the endorsement holder to use two meshing nets (or flathead nets where relevant) with a maximum length of 725 metres for each net.

#### ***Length of meshing nets***

If managing the meshing share classes by the maximum meshing and flathead net length, a meshing endorsement holder would be able to use up to a maximum of 725 metres of meshing net (or flathead net where relevant) for every 125 meshing shares. A shareholding of 250 shares would entitle the endorsement holder to use up to a maximum of 1,450 metres of meshing net (or flathead net where relevant).

Alternatively, one share could equate to 5.8 metres of meshing net. A share holding of 125 shares would entitle the endorsement holder to use up to a maximum of 725 metres of meshing net (or flathead net where relevant). A shareholding of 150 shares would entitle the endorsement holder to use up to a maximum of 870 metres of meshing net (or flathead net where relevant), and so on.

## Option 4: Effort quota (competitive days regime)

A competitive days regime is proposed as an alternative to the days regime that is described under Option 2. With a competitive days regime, shareholders do not get allocated their own quota of days. Instead, a total limit on the number of days that can be worked for each of the meshing, category one hauling, category two hauling, prawning and handline and hauling crew share classes is set and endorsement holders compete for their share of that total limit. When the limit is reached a management response is triggered.

The total limit on the number of days can be set on a regional basis for each share class (e.g. meshing – region 2) or state-wide basis for each share class group (e.g. meshing – regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7). If set on a regional basis, endorsement holders of a share class (i.e. region) compete for their share of the available days for that region. If set on a state-wide basis, all endorsement holders of a share class group (e.g. all meshing endorsement holders) compete for their share of the available days for every region as a whole.

### Defining a 'day'

As per Option 2, it is proposed that a day be defined as a 24 hour period from the time the fisher makes a pre-fishing report.

### The competitive quota of 'days' available to shareholders

Under the competitive days regime, for each meshing, category one hauling, category two hauling, prawning and handline and hauling crew share held, an endorsement holder is entitled to work one day in the fishing period. A shareholding of 125 shares would allow an endorsement holder to work 125 days in a fishing period. A shareholding of 150 days would allow an endorsement holder to work 150 days in a fishing period, and so on. How many days that may actually be worked by an endorsement holder is dependent upon if the limit on total available days is reached.

### Limits on available 'days'

Given that the days ITCALs determined for the days regime option have been set at maximum levels over the 10 year period 2002/03 to 2011/12 the total limits of days that may be worked for each share class (regional basis) or share class group (state-wide basis) will be the number of days listed in Tables 6 – 10.

### Management response when a limit is reached

When the total limit of days is reached for a share class (or group), any fishing activity authorised by that share class (or group) ceases immediately. At a predetermined point during the fishing period (e.g. at a point when 80% of the available days for a share class [or group] have been used) all relevant shareholders would receive notification.

### Minimum shareholding requirement

It is proposed that the minimum shareholding requirement to be eligible for a meshing, prawning and category one and two hauling endorsement under a competitive days regime would be 125 shares.

### Fishing period

As per Option 2, it is proposed that a one year fishing period commencing on 1 July each year would apply under a competitive days regime.

### **How shareholders could use their quota and acquire additional quota**

Information on the use of quota and how to acquire additional quota, along with how quota use will be monitored is provided in the general information paper “*General information relating to the reform program and reform options for the NSW commercial fisheries*”.

## Potential changes to current restrictions

Each of the reform options presented above is coupled with proposed changes to current restrictions or controls, forming the overall reform packages for consideration. Once linkages are in place, a number of controls can be removed to improve operational efficiency and profitability, and to reduce red tape and associated costs.

Scope to amend or remove the majority of current management arrangements is dependent on the form and strength of the linkage arrangements that will be implemented.

The arrangements that currently apply to the EGF have been implemented through time to mitigate the potential environmental and social impacts of EGF operations. Further, many were implemented to offset the possible activation of the excess fishing capacity that exists now or previously existed.

Given that the structure of the EGF will change under the reform options outlined above, EGF shareholders and DPI have identified a suite of potential amendments to existing management arrangements.

Table 11 lists the potential changes to current restrictions relevant to the netting component of the EGF. Stronger linkage options (catch quota) include more controls for potential removal than weaker options (minimum shareholdings). A tick associated with a proposal indicates a higher likelihood that the proposal could be implemented. Absence of a tick indicates a lower likelihood that the proposal could be implemented with the reform option indicated.

Table 11. Potential changes to current restrictions

Potential changes to current restrictions for consideration with relevant Options	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
<b>Maximum shareholdings:</b> The current default maximum shareholding of 40% of the shares in the fishery is ineffective and proposed to be removed on the basis that there is negligible risk of a monopoly in the relatively small scale fisheries in NSW.	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Foreign ownership restrictions:</b> Remove the restrictions on foreign ownership of shares on the basis that there is negligible risk of significant foreign ownership of the relatively small scale fisheries in NSW.	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Registering 'eligible fishers':</b> The requirement to register 'eligible fishers' against fishing businesses is being removed as part of the development of FishOnline, which will automatically check that nominated fishers are already licensed.	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Boat licences:</b> Remove the requirement to licence boats in the EGF, thereby saving on future licence fees.	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Closed water permits:</b> Provide for carriage of stowed commercial fishing gear through closed waters (currently authorised via permit).	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Blue swimmer crabs:</b> Increase minimum size of blue swimmer crab to 6.5 cm to increase the protection of egg production from approximately 14% to 40%.	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Crewing arrangements (dependent upon shareholding):</b> Enable a fisher who holds 250 shares to be assisted by any fisher that holds a commercial fishing licence. This means that the fisher providing the assistance has to hold a commercial fishing licence but does not have to hold the relevant endorsement.	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Net registrations:</b> Remove the requirement to register all EGF nets with the exception of meshing nets with a mesh size of 4.5" and greater.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Potential changes to current restrictions for consideration with relevant Options	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
<b>Carp:</b> Allow carp to be taken in the fishery (currently authorised via permit).	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Hauling Net (General Purpose):</b> Permit garfish to be taken by the net.	✓	✓		✓
<b>Hauling Net (General Purpose):</b> Increase maximum mesh size to 102 mm in all parts of net.	✓	✓		✓
<b>Hauling Net (General Purpose):</b> Remove requirement to use a back net	✓	✓		✓
<b>Hauling Net (General Purpose):</b> Remove the requirement that the bunt must not exceed 90 metres.	✓	✓		
<b>Hauling Net (General Purpose):</b> Increase maximum net length for all waters to 500 metres	✓	✓		
<b>Hauling Net (General Purpose):</b> Increase maximum hauling line length to 1,000 metres.	✓	✓		
<b>Meshing net:</b> Decrease buoy diameter to 150mm where the minimum is currently 300 mm.	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Meshing net:</b> In the months where the 3 hour time period does not apply to setting, permit setting of net 1/2 hour before sunset or at a set time rather than sunset.	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Flathead net:</b> Allow all species captured in the net to be retained rather than discarded.	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Flathead net:</b> Remove the restriction that the cork line is not to be raised above the lead line for a distance greater than 0.8 metre.	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Garfish net (bullringing):</b> Allow any species (other than a prohibited class of fish) captured by the net to be retained.	✓	✓		
<b>Garfish net (bullringing):</b> Increase the maximum net length to 375 metres in the waters where that maximum does not currently apply.	✓	✓		
<b>Garfish net (bullringing):</b> Extend closure period so that it also applies from September – January.	✓	✓		✓
<b>Garfish net (bullringing):</b> Increase maximum length of hauling lines to 100 metres.	✓	✓		
<b>Garfish net (bullringing):</b> Increase the minimum mesh size of net to 30 mm and maximum to 45 mm.	✓	✓		✓
<b>Prawn net (hauling):</b> Remove the restriction on having a seine net (prawns) onboard.	✓	✓		✓
<b>Seine net (prawns):</b> Remove restriction on having a prawn net (hauling) onboard.	✓	✓		✓
<b>Seine net (prawns):</b> Amend the closure line for the prawn seine net to match that of the prawn hauling net in the Wallingat River.	✓	✓		✓
<b>Prawn net (hauling) – Manning River and Wallis Lake:</b> Remove detailed conditions of use and include the Manning River and Wallis Lake waters in the general prawn net (hauling) clause.	✓	✓		✓
<b>Prawn net (set pocket):</b> Allow the use of a prawn set pocket net in Cudgen	✓	✓		

Potential changes to current restrictions for consideration with relevant Options	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Creek, Mooball Creek, Nambucca River, Macleay River, Hunter River, Moruya River, Lake Brou, Corunna Lake, Tilba Tilba Lake, Cuttagee Lake, Merimbula Lake and Curalo Lake.				
<b>Prawn net (set pocket):</b> Increase maximum length of net in Smiths Lake from 63 to 70 m to match existing net registrations	✓	✓		
<b>Prawn net (set pocket):</b> Increase the maximum length of a prawn set pocket net used in Lake Illawarra to 6 metres	✓	✓		
<b>Prawn net (set pocket):</b> Remove the restriction that prevents nets from being used on weekends during the dark in the Clarence River	✓	✓		
<b>Prawn running net:</b> Allow use of a prawn running net not exceeding 75 metres in length in Saltwater Creek, Termeil Lake, Barragoot Lake, Bunga Lagoon, Wallagoot Lake and Curalo Lake.	✓	✓		
<b>Prawn running net:</b> Remove restriction on setting net within 10 metres of the high water mark.	✓	✓		
<b>Bait net:</b> Allow the use of a bait net in specific waters of the Tweed River, Richmond River, Nambucca River, Hawkesbury River, Lake Illawarra, Shoalhaven River and Crookhaven Rivers.	✓	✓		

### Maximum numbers and lengths of meshing nets – meshing share classes

Given the many different conditions that apply in space and time to the use of meshing and flathead nets between and within each region of the EGF, **comment is sought on the following issues** that will to apply under any of the share linkage options. Note that the arrangements that apply now need not be the same under a minimum shareholding, days or meshing net regime.

1. The maximum allowable meshing and flathead net length that an endorsement holder would be able to set at any one time; and
2. The maximum allowable number of meshing and flathead nets that an endorsement holder would be able to set at any one time; and
3. The maximum allowable length of a meshing and flathead net that an endorsement holder would be able to use at any one time.

### Crewing arrangements – meshing, category 1 and 2 hauling and prawning share classes

It is proposed to change the crewing arrangements that apply under any of the share linkage options. Specifically, for all of the meshing, prawning and category one and two hauling share classes, a fisher that has a shareholding of at least 250 shares would be permitted to be assisted by any fisher that holds a commercial fishing licence. This means that the fisher providing the assistance has to hold a commercial fishing licence but does not have to hold an endorsement for the relevant share class.

The current arrangement will continue to apply to holders of a meshing, prawning and category one and two hauling endorsement that satisfy the minimum shareholding requirement but do not hold at least 250 shares. Specifically, only category one and two hauling endorsement holders are able to be assisted by handline and hauling crew endorsement holders, and meshing and prawning endorsement holders may only be assisted by a fisher holding the same endorsement.

### **Prawn priority determinations – prawning share classes**

For the prawning share classes that use priority determinations (i.e. prawn ballots) to determine where endorsement holders can use their prawn set pocket nets, it is proposed that an endorsement holder who holds additional shares in excess of the minimum shareholding requirement be able to have additional ballot nominations. Specifically, for each additional 100 shares held in excess of the minimum shareholding requirement, an endorsement holder would be able to have an additional prawn ballot nomination.

## EGF netting fishing closures identified by EGF shareholders for potential amendment

### 1. Cudgen Creek and Mooball Creek - The whole of the waters of Cudgen Creek

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than a dip or scoop net (prawns), push or scissors net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net, hoop or lift net, and landing net.

**Period** - All year

**Proposal** - Up stream from the road bridges, remove the meshing net and prawn net (set pocket) from the prohibited methods. Authorise the use of a meshing net not exceeding 400 metres in length by the method known as splashing between sunset and sunrise from March to November. Maintain meshing net restriction on weekends, public holidays and NSW school holidays.

### 2. Evans River - The whole of the waters of the Evans River

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net or a trap, other than a dip or scoop net (prawns), push or scissors net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net, hoop or lift net, and landing net.

**Period** - All year

**Proposal** - Up stream from the road bridge, remove the meshing net and prawn net (set pocket) from the prohibited methods. Authorise the use of a meshing net not exceeding 400 metres in length by the method known as splashing between sunset and sunrise from March to November. Maintain meshing net restriction on weekends, public holidays and NSW school holidays.

### 3. Jerusalem Creek - The whole of the waters of the Jerusalem Creek

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than a dip or scoop net (prawns), push or scissors net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net, hoop or lift net, and landing net.

**Period** - All year

**Proposal** - Remove the meshing net from the prohibited methods. Authorise the use of a meshing net not exceeding 400 metres in length by the method known as splashing between sunset and sunrise from March to November. Maintain meshing net restriction on weekends, public holidays and NSW school holidays.

### 4. Clarence River - The whole of the waters of the Clarence River.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a garfish net (bullringing) and meshing net.

**Period** - The period from 8am Saturday to 8am the following Monday in each week.

**Proposal** - Amend 8am Monday to 7am Monday.

### 5. Boambee Creek (and Newport Creek) - The whole of the waters of Boambee Creek and Newport Creek.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than a dip or scoop net (prawns) and landing net.

**Period** - All year

**Proposal** – Remove the prawn net (set pocket) from the prohibited methods. Upstream from Rex Hardaker Oval, remove the meshing net from the prohibited methods. Authorise the use of a meshing net not exceeding 400 metres in length by the

method known as splashing between sunset and sunrise from June to August. Maintain meshing net restriction on weekends, public holidays and NSW school holidays.

**6. Bonville Creek (and Pine Creek)** - The whole of the waters of Bonville Creek and Pine Creek.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than a dip or scoop net (prawns) and landing net.

**Period** - All year

**Proposal** – Upstream from a line drawn due south across the creek from the end of Moller Drive, remove the meshing net from the prohibited methods. Authorise the use of a meshing net not exceeding 400 metres in length by the method known as splashing between sunset and sunrise from June to August. Maintain meshing net restriction on weekends, public holidays and NSW school holidays.

**7. Nambucca River Entrance** - The whole of the waters of that part of the Nambucca River from its confluence with the South Pacific Ocean (including the waters of Inner Harbour and Siberia Lagoon) upstream to the causeway to Stuart's Island and a line extending from the southern end of the causeway on Stuart's Island generally east along the mean high water mark to 30°39.270 'S 152°59.770 'E (on the south-eastern side of Stuart's Island), then across the Nambucca River to 30°39.410 'S 153°00.170 'E (on the most northerly point of the western bank of Warrell Creek), then across Warrell Creek to 30°39.410 'S 153°00.360 'E (on the eastern bank of Warrell Creek).

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than a dip or scoop net (prawns), hoop or lift net and landing net.

**Period** - All year

**Proposal** - Amend the description of the waters so that the restriction is maintained in the waters of the Inner Harbour and the river entrance east of the entrance to the Inner Harbour. Meshing nets may only be used by the method known as splashing.

**8. Nambucca River and Warrell Creek** - The whole of the waters of the Nambucca River and Warrell Creek.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than the prawn net (hauling), hand-hauled prawn net, dip or scoop net (prawns) and landing net.

**Period** - The period from 6pm Friday to 6pm Sunday in each week, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday. On any weekday (other than a Monday) that is a public holiday: the period from 6am to 6pm.

**Proposal** - From June to August (both months inclusive) only, amend 6pm Sunday and 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday to 4pm Sunday and 4pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday.

**9. Warrell Creek** - The whole of the waters of that part of Warrell Creek together with all its creeks and tributaries from the Scotts Head boat ramp adjacent to Warrell Creek Reserve upstream to its source.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net (other than a landing net).

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** - Remove the meshing net from the prohibited methods and authorise the use of a meshing net by the method known as splashing.

**10. Macleay River** - The whole of the waters of the Macleay River.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than the dip or scoop net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net, hoop or lift net, push or scissors net (prawns) and landing net.

**Period** - The period from 6pm Friday to 6pm Sunday in each week, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday.

**Proposal** - From June to August (both months inclusive) only, amend 6pm Sunday and 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday to 4pm Sunday and 4pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday.

**11. Belmore River** - The waters of that part of Belmore River and its creeks, tributaries and inlets, from the Belmore River flood gate downstream to the road bridge at Gladstone.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net or a trap, other than the landing net and eel trap.

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** - Remove the meshing net from the prohibited methods and authorise the use of a meshing net by the method known as splashing.

**12. Port Stephens** - The whole of the waters of Salamander Bay, Port Stephens, south of a line from Corlette Point to Wanda Wanda or Round Head.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of the hauling net (general purpose), garfish net (bullringing), prawn net (hauling) and trumpeter whiting net (hauling).

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** - Remove the garfish net (bullringing) from the prohibited methods.

**13. Port Stephens** - That part of the waters of Port Stephens described as follows, the waters (a) of Shoal Bay south of a line drawn from the Nelson Head navigation light to the Tomaree Head navigation light, (b) north of the line drawn from the Corrie Island navigation light to the southern extremity of Yacaaba Head and closed by a line from the Corrie Island navigation light to the western extremity of Winda Woppa, excluding that part of the waters that is within the area described as Jimmys Beach sanctuary zone, and (c) west of a line drawn from the eastern extremity of Kangaroo Point to the eastern extremity of Wanda Wanda Head.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a meshing net, except if the net is used by the method of splashing for no longer than 2 hours in a single operation of the net.

**Period** - The period from April to August in each year (both months inclusive).

**Proposal** - Remove restriction and authorise the use of a meshing net not exceeding 300 metres in length during the time period.

**14. Port Stephens** - The whole of the waters of Shoal Bay commencing from the boat launching ramp opposite the north-eastern corner of land portion 141 in a westerly direction along the foreshore of that bay to a point opposite the main gate of the caravan park, then proceeding 900 metres due north, then due east to a point due north of the boat ramp, then south to the point of commencement.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of the hauling net (general purpose), trumpeter whiting net (hauling), garfish net (bullringing), garfish net (hauling), prawn net (hauling) and meshing net.

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** - Remove restriction.

**15. Port Stephens** - The whole of the waters of Port Stephens, including its creeks and tributaries, inlets and bays, west of a line drawn in a northerly direction from Soldiers Point to Flame Point.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

Methods of fishing prohibited - Any method involving the use of the prawn net (hauling), dip or scoop net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net and push or scissors net (prawns).

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** - Remove the prawn net hauling from the prohibited methods and authorise the use of a prawn hauling net within specific waters of Port Stephens.

**16. Tuggerah Lakes** - The whole of the waters of that part of Tuggerah Lake north-east of a line drawn from the south-western corner of Lot 63 Main Road, Toukley to the north-western corner of portion 155, Parish of Wallarah (the north-western corner of Camp Toukley).

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than the dip or scoop net (prawns), push or scissors net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net, hoop or lift net and landing net.

**Period** - The period from December in any year to February in the next year (both months inclusive).

**Proposal** - Remove the meshing net and prawn running net from the prohibited methods.

**17. Tuggerah Lakes** - The whole of the waters of that part of Tuggerah Lake generally east and south of a line drawn north-north-easterly from the prolongation of Aubrey Street, Killarney Vale to 33°20.055 'S, 151°28.708 'E (NSW Maritime Navigation Aid Number 090), then easterly to 33°20.138 'S, 151°29.122 'E (NSW Maritime Navigation Aid Number 089), then south-easterly to 33°20.220 'S, 151°29.235 'E (NSW Maritime Navigation Aid Number 088), then south-easterly to 33°20.364 'S, 151°29.300 'E (NSW Maritime Navigation Aid Number 087), then south-easterly to the entrance of the drain on the eastern shore of Tuggerah Lakes (near Fairview Avenue) at 33°20.489 'S 151°29.415 'E.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of the flathead net and meshing net, unless the net is used by the method of splashing.

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** - Remove restriction.

**18. Hawkesbury River (Patonga Creek)** - The whole of the waters of Patonga Creek, its creeks, tributaries and inlets, upstream of its confluence with the Hawkesbury River, being a line drawn north-easterly from the easternmost foreshore corner of Oyster Farm no. 59-30 (section 2), on the western foreshore, to the southernmost extremity of the reserve on the opposite foreshore.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of the meshing net, hauling net (general purpose), prawn net (hauling), hand-hauled prawn net, pilchard, anchovy and bait net (hauling) and garfish net (bullringing).

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** - Remove the meshing net from the prohibited methods. Authorise the use of a meshing net not exceeding 400 metres in length by the method known as splashing between sunset and sunrise from June to August. Maintain meshing net restriction on weekends, public holidays and NSW school holidays.

**19. Pittwater** - The whole of the waters of that part of Pittwater, its creeks, tributaries and inlets, enclosed by a line drawn from the western extremity of Barrenjoey Head, to the eastern extremity of West Head, upstream (south) to a line drawn from the western-most extremity of Taylor's Point to the southern-most extremity of Longnose Point.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a meshing net.

**Period** - The period from January to June (both months inclusive) in each year.

**Proposal** - Remove restriction. Authorise the use of a meshing net by the method known as splashing between sunset and sunrise. Maintain meshing net restriction on weekends, public holidays and NSW school holidays.

**20. Lake Illawarra** - The whole of the waters of that part of Lake Illawarra its creeks and tributaries upstream of a line drawn from the north-western corner of portion 44 in the parish of Wollongong; then by lines bearing 291 degrees 30 minutes 333 metres 228 degrees 57 minutes 174 metres and 191 degrees 30 minutes 718 metres, respectively, to a post marked broad-arrow over FD on the north-western shore of Bevans Island, then by that shore of that island bearing generally south-westerly, in all about 233 metres to a point marked broad-arrow over FD at the westernmost extremity of that island, and then by a line bearing approximately 205 degrees about 565 metres to a peg marked broad-arrow over E on the southern shore of Lake Illawarra.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than the prawn running net, dip or scoop net (prawns), push or scissors net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net and landing net.

**Period** - During the period from May to August in each year (both months inclusive): from 8am Saturday to 5pm Sunday, and from 8am to 5pm on each public holiday. During the period from September in any year to April in the next year (both months inclusive): from 8am Saturday to 6pm Sunday, and from 8am to 6pm on each public holiday.

**Proposal** - From May to August (both months inclusive) only, amend 8am Saturday and 8am on each public holiday to 9am Saturday and 9am on each public holiday.

**21. Shoalhaven River** - The whole of the waters of the Shoalhaven River including its creeks, tributaries and inlets, from its confluence with the Crookhaven River upstream to its source.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than the prawn net (hauling), hoop or lift net, dip or scoop net (prawns), push or scissors net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net and landing net.

**Period** - The period from May to August (both months inclusive): 8am Saturday to 5pm Sunday in each week, and 8am to 5pm on any weekday that is a public holiday. The period from September to April in the following year (both months inclusive): 8am Saturday to 6pm Sunday in each week, and 8am to 6pm on any weekday that is a public holiday.

**Proposal** - From May to August (both months inclusive) only, amend 8am Saturday and 8am on any weekday that is a public holiday to 9am Saturday and 9am on any weekday that is a public holiday.

**22. Crookhaven River** - The whole of the waters of the Crookhaven River including its creeks, tributaries and inlets, from its confluence with the South Pacific Ocean upstream to its source.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than the prawn net (hauling), hoop or lift net, dip or scoop net (prawns), push or scissors net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net and landing net.

**Period** - The period from May to August (both months inclusive): 8am Saturday to 5pm Sunday in each week, and 8am to 5pm on any weekday that is a public holiday. The period from September to April in the following year (both months inclusive): 8am Saturday to 6pm Sunday in each week, and 8am to 6pm on any weekday that is a public holiday.

**Proposal** - From May to August (both months inclusive) only, amend 8am Saturday and 8am on any weekday that is a public holiday to 9am Saturday and 9am on any weekday that is a public holiday.

**23. Moruya River** - All of the waters of the Moruya River.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than the dip or scoop net (prawns), push or scissors net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net, hoop or lift net and landing net.

**Period** - During the period from November in any year to February in the next year (both months inclusive): from 6am Saturday to 8pm Sunday, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday. During the period from March to October in each year (both months inclusive): from 6am Saturday to 6pm Sunday, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday. On any weekday (other than a Monday) that is a public holiday: the period from 6am to 6pm.

**Proposal** - From November in any year to February in the next year (both months inclusive) amend 6am Saturday to 8pm Sunday, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday to 8am Saturday to 6pm Sunday, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday. From March to October in each year (both months inclusive) amend 6am Saturday to 6pm Sunday, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday to 8am Saturday to 4pm Sunday, or to 4pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday.

**24. Wallaga Lake** - The whole of the waters of Wallaga Lake.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than the prawn running net, dip or scoop net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net, hoop or lift net, landing net and push or scissors net (prawns).

**Period** - During the period from November to February (both months inclusive): from 6am Saturday to 8pm Sunday, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday. During the period from March to October (both months inclusive): from 6am Saturday to 6pm Sunday, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday. On any weekday (other than a Monday) that is a public holiday: the period from 6am to 6pm.

**Proposal** - From November in any year to February in the next year (both months inclusive) amend 6am Saturday to 8pm Sunday, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday to 8am Saturday to 6pm Sunday, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday. From March to October in each year (both months inclusive) amend 6am Saturday to 6pm Sunday, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday to 8am Saturday to 4pm Sunday, or to 4pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday.

**25. Wallaga Lake** - That part of the waters of Wallaga Lake situated generally east of a line drawn from the western tip of Beauty Point to Regatta Point to the southern point of the elevated approach to the Wallaga Lake road bridge.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a hauling net (general purpose).

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** - Amend closure boundary line such that the starting point of the line shifts approximately 400 metres in a north easterly direction.

**26. Wallaga Lake** - All of the waters of "Aborigines Bay", north of a line drawn from the southernmost tip of Cemetery Point, directly east to the nearest point of land on the eastern side of "Aborigines Bay".

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a hauling net (general purpose).

**Proposal** - Remove restriction.

**27. Moruya River** - All of the waters of the Moruya River and its bays and tributaries, from a line drawn between the eastern extremities of the northern and southern breakwaters at the entrance to the river, upstream to a line drawn

generally northerly from the western extremity of the southern training wall (adjacent to the boat launching ramp), to the left bank of what is locally known as Birch's Creek at Garlandtown.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than the dip or scoop net (prawns), push or scissors net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net, hoop or lift net and landing net.

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** – Amend the description of the waters so that the restriction is maintained in the waters east of a line drawn from the boat ramp off Bruce Cameron Drive in a southerly direction to the eastern opening of the southern breakwall.

**28. Coila Lake** - The whole of the waters of the Coila Lake south of a line drawn from a post on the southern extremity of land portion R.975, in a general westerly direction to a point on the southern shore of the lake being the boundary line between land portions 39 and 43.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a prawn running net.

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** - Amend closure boundary line such that the boat ramp located at the end of Foam Street, Tuross Head, be excluded from the closure.

**29. Wapengo Lake** - The whole of the waters of that part of Wapengo Lake, its creeks, tributaries and inlets, from a line drawn across the entrance to the lake at its confluence with the South Pacific Ocean, upstream to a line drawn from the north-eastern (foreshore) corner of Oyster Farm No. 57-112, to the south-eastern (foreshore) corner of Oyster Farm No. 69-332.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than the dip or scoop net (prawns) and landing net.

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** - Remove the meshing net from the prohibited methods and authorise the use of a meshing net not exceeding 400 metres in length by the method known as splashing. Maintain meshing net restriction on weekends, public holidays and NSW school holidays.

**30. Wallagoot Lake** - The whole of the waters of Wallagoot Lake, its inlets, bays and creeks upstream from its confluence with the South Pacific Ocean.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a garfish net (bullringing).

**Period** - The period from September in any year to April in the next year (both months inclusive).

**Proposal** - Amend period to September to January.

**31. Wallagoot Lake** - The whole of the waters of Wallagoot Lake.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a meshing net.

**Period** - The period from November in any year to April in the next year (both months inclusive).

**Proposal** - Remove restriction. Authorise the use of a meshing net by the method known as splashing between sunset and sunrise. Maintain meshing net restriction on weekends, public holidays and NSW school holidays.

**32. Merimbula Lake** - The whole of the waters of Merimbula Lake.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than the dip or scoop net (prawns), push or scissors net (prawns), hand-hauled prawn net and landing net.

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** – Up stream from the road bridge, remove the meshing net from the prohibited methods. Authorise the use of a meshing net by the method known as splashing between sunset and sunrise from March to November. Maintain meshing net restriction on weekends, public holidays and NSW school holidays.

**33. Bournda Lagoon** - The whole of the waters of Sandy Beach Creek and Bournda Lagoon.

**Species of fish that must not be taken** - Any species of fish.

**Methods of fishing prohibited** - Any method involving the use of a net, other than the dip or scoop net (prawns) and landing net.

**Period** - All year.

**Proposal** – Remove the meshing net from the prohibited methods. Authorise the use of a meshing net not exceeding 300 metres in length by the method known as splashing between sunset and sunrise from March to November. Maintain meshing net restriction on weekends, public holidays and NSW school holidays.

## Comparison of reform options

To assist in considering the options and providing feedback, a number of advantages and disadvantages have been identified by DPI and the SLWGs as being associated with the linkage options presented, these are outlined in the tables below (Tables 12, 13, 14 and 15).

### Managing endorsement numbers (minimum shareholding regime)

Table 12. Advantages and disadvantages associated with a minimum shareholding regime

Advantages	Disadvantages
A very direct and cost effective way (administratively) to link shares to resource access, and thus the cheapest way for the government to link shares to resource access.	The primary control is the maximum number of endorsements (crude management tool) as opposed to a maximum catch or effort control.
A very direct and effective tool for delivering adjustment to the maximum numbers of participants in a share class (i.e. region).	Shareholders may be forced to invest from time to time, rather than autonomously.
Reduces (but does not eliminate) the risk of inactive endorsements eroding the viability of active fishers.	Cost of having to meet minimum shareholding requirement in some share classes may outweigh the benefit.
Relative to current management arrangements there should be improved social licence.	Limited opportunity to customise shareholdings to suit preferred access levels and fee liability.
<b>Prawning</b> – fishers can gain additional advantage from holding additional shares above the minimum shareholding requirement (i.e. ballot nominations).	Security of access within the fishery is not as strong as an effort quota regime.
	Opportunity to remove or relax input controls is limited.
	Competition for access to species or race-to-fish incentive in the fishery is high.
	Ability to maximise value of catch is not as strong as an effort quota regime due to race-to-fish incentive.
	Additional restrictions may need to be implemented as needed to manage catch or effort.
	Stronger catch or effort controls may need to be pursued in the longer-term dependent upon viability, sustainability and resource sharing issues.

### Effort quota regime (days)

Table 13. Advantages and disadvantages associated with an effort quota regime (days)

Advantages	Disadvantages
Shareholders can increase their number of days autonomously by adjusting their shareholdings (subject to any minimum shareholdings that may apply) to suit their preferred number of traps and fee liability.	Stronger catch controls may need to be pursued in the longer-term dependent upon viability, sustainability and resource sharing issues.
Security of access within the fishery is stronger than a minimum shareholding regime. Fishers have the security of knowing the proportion of effort quota they own.	Expected to cost more to implement than a minimum shareholding scheme – because of the need to allocate quota each fishing period and monitor/enforce quota usage throughout the period.
Relative to a minimum shareholding regime there is a better opportunity to remove or relax current restrictions.	
Total commercial effort is capped and may be increased or decreased dependent upon catch and effort trends, resource sharing and sustainability issues.	
Ability to maximise value of catch is stronger than under a minimum shareholding regime.	
Competition for access to species or race-to-fish incentive in the fishery is lower than under a minimum shareholding	

Advantages	Disadvantages
regime.	
Improved control over total effort in the fishery.	
Relative to current management arrangements there should be improved social licence.	

## Meshing net length

Table 14. Advantages and disadvantages associated with a catch quota regime

Advantages	Disadvantages
Shareholders can increase their proportion of allocated meshing net length autonomously by adjusting their shareholdings (subject to any minimum shareholdings that may apply) to suit their preferred requirement of net.	The primary control is the maximum length of meshing nets available to be used in the fishery. This maximum length may need to be decreased in time dependent upon viability, sustainability or resource sharing issues.
Security of access within the fishery is stronger than a minimum shareholding regime. Fishers have the security of knowing the proportion of the allocated meshing net length that they own.	Competition for access to species or race-to-fish incentive in the fishery is high.
Implementation costs expected to be smaller than other options which involve individual allocation processes, but ongoing on-water compliance effort/ costs could be significant.	Ability of fishers to use the length of meshing net permitted to be used at any one time currently is likely to decrease initially (i.e. fishing efficiency is reduced until additional shares are purchased).
	Limited control over total catch and effort in the fishery.
	Competition for access to species or race-to-fish incentive in the fishery is high.
	Opportunity to remove or relax input controls is limited.
	Ability to maximise value of catch is not as strong as an effort quota regime due to race-to-fish incentive.
	Stronger catch or effort controls may need to be pursued in the longer-term dependent upon viability, sustainability or resource sharing issues.

## Effort quota (competitive days regime)

Table 15. Advantages and disadvantages associated with a minimum shareholding regime

Advantages	Disadvantages
Total commercial effort is capped and may be increased or decreased dependent upon catch and effort trends, resource sharing and sustainability issues.	Security of access within the fishery is not as strong as a days regime. Fishers compete for the available days that may be worked.
Attempts to minimise impact on high catch operators.	Costs likely to be moderate because of the need to allocate quota each fishing period and monitor/enforce quota usage throughout the period.
	Competition for access to species or race-to-fish incentive in the fishery is high.
	Opportunity to remove or relax input controls is limited.
	Ability to maximise value of catch is not as strong as a days regime due to race-to-fish incentive.
	Stronger catch or effort controls may need to be pursued in the longer-term dependent upon viability, sustainability and resource sharing issues.
	Allocation of days (i.e. 1 share = 1 day) is a significant over-allocation compared with maximum catch level over the last 10 year period.
	May not achieve much adjustment relative to other options.

## Management costs

The costs associated with each of the options are difficult to determine given that a large number of factors will influence them. An indication has been provided of the relative costs of the options in the advantages and disadvantages tables above. Refer to the general information paper for further information about estimating management costs.

## Appendix 1: Current structure of the netting components of the EGF

Table 16. Number of Fishing Businesses holding various EGF meshing – regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 shareholdings.

Region	1	50	100	124	125	150	162	163	175	200	225	250	275	325	375	400	550	FBs	Shares
1					35				1									36	4,550
2		1	6		87					2	1	2					1	100	13,200
3		1	3		47							2						53	6,725
4	1		15	1	141	1						3	1					163	20,425
5		1	10		31										1			43	5,300
6		1	3		39	1							1			1		46	6,050
7		1	1		25		1	1		1		1						31	4,050

Table 17. Number of Fishing Businesses holding various EGF category one hauling – regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 shareholdings.

Region	1	25	50	100	124	125	250	FBs	Shares
1						8		8	1,000
2						26		26	3,250
3						10		10	1,250
4	1			1	1	46	1	50	6,225
5			1	1		13		15	1,775
6			1			14	1	16	2,050
7		1		3		9		13	1,450

Table 18. Number of Fishing Businesses holding various EGF category two hauling – regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 shareholdings.

Region	50	75	100	125	200	225	250	FBs	Shares
1			1	7				8	975
2			5	20	1			26	3,200
3	1		1	15			1	18	2,275
4	1	1	2	45			1	50	6,200
5	1		2	7				10	1,125
6			1	11		2		14	1,925
7				9				9	1,125

Table 19. Number of Fishing Businesses holding various EGF prawning – regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 shareholdings.

Region	1	50	100	124	125	150	162	163	175	200	225	250	300	375	FBs	Shares
1					20						1				21	2,725
2			8		85				1	1			1		97	12,350
3			1		27				1			1			30	3,900
4	1	2	4	1	129	1			1			6		1	146	18,950
5		1	1		4										6	650
6		1	3		32						1	1			38	4,825
7		1	1		25		1	1		1		1			31	4,050

Table 20. Number of Fishing Businesses holding various EGF handline &amp; hauling crew – regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 shareholdings.

Region	1	10	25	50	75	100	124	125	150	175	190	200	225	250	300	325	375	650	FBs	Shares
1						3		34						1					38	4,800
2		1	1		1	12		107		2	1	1	1	2		1			130	16,475
3						3		48		1				4				1	57	8,125
4	1			1		14	1	160		1		1	4	1		1	1		186	23,800
5				1		12		39					1	1					54	6,600
6				1		5		38	2				2	1					49	6,300
7			1	2		4		30						1	1				39	4,825