

FACT SHEET – OCTOBER 2018

Boat licensing arrangements

1. Which boats must be licensed?

You only require a fishing boat licence if you are conducting certain fishing activities, known as *declared commercial fishing boat activities*. Table 1 shows when you require a fishing boat licence.

What if I don't want my licence?

If you no longer need a boat licence and do not want to keep it, you may transfer it to someone else, let it expire or complete an application form to cancel it.

2. Unlicensed boats

Boat marking requirements

If you use a boat for commercial fishing activities and are not required to have a boat licence, you must display the letters "LFB" on the outside of both sides of the bow or wheelhouse. This requirement is in addition to any AMSA boat marking requirements.

3. Boat licence holders

Using a boat

If you use a boat under the authority of a boat licence, you must make sure that the boat does not exceed the maximum length or maximum hull units specified on the front of the licence.

Changing a boat

You may use a new boat as soon as you provide the identification details for the boat to DPI. You do not need to wait to receive a new licence that includes the details of the new boat.

Modifying a boat

If a boat is modified and the modification affects the identification details on the licence, you must notify DPI before the boat is used for a *declared commercial fishing boat activity*, or otherwise within 7 days of the modification.

Disposal of a boat (lost, sold or destroyed)

If a boat is disposed of, destroyed or lost at sea, you must notify DPI within 30 days.

Boat marking requirements

There are no changes to the boat marking requirements for boats used under the authority of a boat licence.

Boat licence fees

Under the new boat licensing arrangements the fee for issue or renewal of a boat licence will be calculated based on the *maximum length* for the boat specified on the front of the licence.

DPI has waived boat licence renewal fees for 2018/2019. You are not required to pay renewal fees until 1 July 2019.

4. Checking that a boat complies

If you want be sure that an existing or new boat complies with the maximum length or maximum hull units on your licence, you may ask DPI in writing to check. There is no fee for this service.

Each request must be accompanied by a survey certificate for the boat or written confirmation of the length of the boat (and depth and breadth in the case of hull units) by an authorised marine surveyor.

5. New forms available on website

All relevant forms, including a new form for notifying changes or modifications to a boat or the disposal of a boat, can be found on the DPI website at:

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/licensing-forms>

6. Existing rules

This guide provides information on some rules. You need to be aware of all of the rules that apply to your fishery. Fisheries management legislation can be found at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au

Other information such as some endorsement conditions, fishing closures and permits can be found at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Table 1: New boat licensing requirements

Fishing activity	Boat licence not required	Boat licence required
Abalone		All boats
Estuary General	Boats less than or equal to 10 m	Boats more than 10 m
Estuary Prawn Trawl	Boats less than or equal to 10 m	Boats more than 10 m
Inland		All boats
Lobster		All boats
Ocean Hauling: Hauling net (general purpose)	Boats less than or equal to 6 m	
Ocean Hauling: Garfish net (hauling)	Boats less than or equal to 20 m	Boats more than 20 m
Ocean Hauling: Pilchard Anchovy Bait net (hauling)	Boats less than or equal to 20 m	Boats more than 20 m
Ocean Hauling: Purse seine		All boats
Ocean Trap & Line		All boats
Ocean Trawl		All boats
Sea Urchin & Turban Shell		All boats
Southern Fish Trawl		All boats

Ocean Trawl Fishery

From 1 May 2019, you will not require a fishing boat licence if you use a boat 20m or less in length in these share classes:

- Inshore / offshore prawn
- Northern fish trawl

Licences with exemption codes are still required for *large boats*

If you use a boat that is longer than the maximum boat length applying to a fishery, you must hold a boat licence and the licence must have an exemption code relevant to the fishery concerned. The maximum boat length and exemption code applying to each fishery are outlined in the Share Management Plan for the fishery and in the Commercial Fisheries Administration Guide.

Compliance

As part of the existing compliance strategy Fisheries Compliance will focus on education, assistance, directions and warnings relating to the new fishing boat licensing rules between 1 July 2018 and 30 September 2018, but may move direct to enforcement at any time if there is a need to do so. This includes moving direct to enforcement for an individual or across all of industry in response to flagrant non-compliance of the new fishing boat rules.

More information

Commercial Fisheries Hotline 1300 726 488

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (October 2018). 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.

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