

Fisheries data validation plan

Status update 2023

Fisheries Queensland currently collects commercial fishing data from a wide range of sources, including commercial logbooks, catch disposal records, quota notices and vessel tracking systems. Validation of commercial fishing data is a critical element to ensure management decisions are based on evidence.

The [Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy: 2017–2027](#) set the government’s reform agenda with clear targets to be achieved. As one of the key actions of this strategy, the [Fisheries data validation plan](#) was created in 2018. The plan provides a framework for the validation and collection of more accurate fisheries information with priority actions, including range checks, cross checks, forensic auditing, improving data systems, education, electronic logbooks and electronic monitoring.

Since the plan’s publication, Queensland fisheries legislation has gone through major reforms. Many reporting requirements have changed, including vessel tracking for all major fisheries, additional quotas, updated quota reporting process and new and updated logbooks. We have also invested in technology like the commercial fishing app (Qld eFisher) to allow for electronic logbook and quota reporting. Due to these significant changes to the commercial fishing data we receive, the plan has been reviewed and action priorities updated. We will continue to improve commercial fishing data, focusing next on:

- reviewing and updating range and cross checks
- further developing the Qld eFisher app
- progressing the electronic monitoring project with a field trial
- further improving our data systems.

Status of data validation plan deliverables (September 2023)

Range checks (Section 9.1)	Identify priority targets in commercial logbooks	Delivered	✓
	Consult with industry, other jurisdictions and government agencies	Delivered	✓
	Review existing documentation	Delivered	✓
	Review scientific literature and apply statistical techniques to identify inaccurate data	Delivered	✓
	Apply, review and implement changes to range checks	Delivered	✓
Cross checks (Section 9.2)	Review current cross-checking	Delivered	✓
	Trial use of vessel tracking data in cross-checking	Delivered	✓
	Review the Fisheries Queensland data collection and processing systems (Fisheries Management System - FMS) and identify key automation priorities	Delivered	✓
	Review use of Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) and monitoring staff in field for collection of data	Work continuing	↻
		To automate validation of this information	
	Include automatic cross-checking in the commercial fishing app (Qld eFisher)	Delivered	✓
Implementation and review		Work continuing	↻
		Cross-checking codes to be automated through reports	

Forensic auditing (Section 9.3)	Review current legislation	Delivered	☑
	Review current auditing processes and develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)	Delivered	☑
	Trial auditing on crab fishery	Delivered	☑
	Finalise SOP based on results of crab fishery audit	Delivered	☑
	Review SOP and implement in other fisheries	Delivered	☑
	Concurrently enhance systems to streamline process	Delivered	☑
Data systems (Section 9.4)	Deliver the information technology (IT) project 'Fisheries Enhancing Data Capture and Reporting Capability'	Work continuing	🔄
		Multi-year project – several milestones achieved	
Education (Section 8.1)	Review current education program	Delivered	☑
	Enhance current education materials where possible	Delivered	☑
	Develop communication plans and education plans	Delivered	☑
	Roadshow/workshops with commercial fishers	Delivered	☑
	Collate information on who, internal/external clients, use data and educational materials	Work continuing	🔄
	Implement education programs	Additional resources allocated to provide training and education materials Supported fishers to transition to new reporting requirements and electronic reporting Enhanced education program for threatened, endangered and protected animal interactions (previously known as SOCI) to be developed	
	Review and enhance education programs		
	Reinstate Species of Conservation Interest (SOCI) training		
Electronic logbooks (Section 8.2)	Review of current eLogs and manual logbook data entry methods	Delivered	☑
	Identification of key issues and requirements	Delivered	☑
	Trial of commercial app on specific fishing vessels	Delivered	☑
	Review and modification of commercial app	Delivered	☑
	Release commercial app to fishers	Delivered	☑
Electronic monitoring (Section 10)	Continue with the Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) Challenge through Advance Queensland	Delivered	☑
	Consider requiring technology on a number of fishers to validate catch information	Delivered	☑