

Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy: 2017–2027

Year 5 progress report

Key achievements: 2021–2022



Actions delivered by 2022

1. Improved monitoring and research – ALL ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 1.1: Develop a fisheries monitoring and research plan.

ACTION 1.2: Undertake additional monitoring of key biological stocks to better understand fishery performance and support management actions in a more timely way.

ACTION 1.3: Develop partnerships to trial the use of novel technologies for fisheries monitoring, such as apps, robotic vision, spatial interfaces and mapping, social media and citizen science.

ACTION 1.4: Develop and implement a data validation plan

ACTION 1.5: Develop and implement a practical and cost-effective system for collection of economic and social data.

2. Setting sustainable catch limits – ALL ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 2.1: Develop guidelines for how sustainable catch limits should be set, as part of a harvest strategy guideline.

ACTION 2.2: Using improved data, undertake regular stock assessments (annually or at least every two years) for key stocks to assess the fisheries status against the sustainable target and limit reference points.

3. Improved stakeholder engagement – 3 OF 5 ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 3.1: Appoint an expert panel to provide independent advice on best practice fisheries management and science.

ACTION 3.2: Establish fishery-specific working groups with rotational membership to provide operational advice and participation to support the harvest strategies.

ACTION 3.4: Utilise more novel engagement techniques (including online surveys) to gather a range of stakeholder feedback on particular fishery issues.

4. Environmental risk assessments – 1 OF 2 ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 4.1: Publish a guideline on assessing the ecosystem impacts of fishing activities, including the process for prioritising and undertaking ecological risk assessments.

5. Resource allocation – 1 OF 2 ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 5.1: Develop a resource allocation policy to outline how decisions about allocation and reallocation of access will be made.

6. Harvest strategies – 1 OF 2 ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 6.1: Develop a guideline on harvest strategies, including a process for how parameters should be set.

The first 5 years (2017–2022)

7. Fishing rules and access – ALL ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 7.1: Review fishing rules, regulations and access arrangements as part of developing harvest strategies for each fishery.

ACTION 7.2: Amend fisheries legislation to minimise regulation and ensure rules are clear and practical.

ACTION 7.3: Implement an ongoing latent effort removal policy to ensure entitlements that aren't being used are not reactivated.

ACTION 7.4: Help facilitate industry-led structural adjustment through a range of mechanisms (e.g. two-for-one licence requirements and industry-led buybacks).

ACTION 7.5: Pilot regional management in a key location (e.g. Moreton Bay) to assess the benefits and limitations of regionally specific management arrangements.

ACTION 7.6: Develop a traditional fishing policy to clarify arrangements and an Indigenous commercial fishing development policy to support Indigenous economic development in a way that supports sustainable fishing.

8. Responsive decision-making – ACTION DELIVERED

ACTION 8.1: Amend the fisheries legislation to clarify the roles of the responsible minister and Fisheries Queensland, to ensure decision-making is at the appropriate level and is timely and evidence-based, and that rules can be changed via declaration as far as possible to ensure sufficient flexibility.

9. Compliance – ALL ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 9.1: Continue to refine strategic compliance plans to support implementation of this strategy.

ACTION 9.2: Boost compliance resources from 2017–18 onwards.

ACTION 9.3: Undertake a thorough review to strengthen enforcement powers, particularly in relation to serious offences and black-market sales of seafood.

ACTION 9.4: Establish a cultural liaison role for some Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers to support education and other community initiatives.

ACTION 9.5: Continue to promote cross-decking with other enforcement organisations (e.g. police, maritime safety and marine parks) and establish formal arrangements to facilitate data sharing and collaborative compliance effort.





ACTION 9.6: Require installation of vessel tracking on all commercial boats by 2020, with a priority to install on net, line and crab boats by 2018.

10. Resourcing – 1 OF 2 ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 10.1: In the short term, increase government funding to Fisheries Queensland to implement the reforms set out in this strategy.



Targets met by 2022

-  Increased satisfaction of recreational fishers (compared to 2017 figures)
 -  Better data for key fisheries to underpin evidence-based management
 -  Reduced volume of fisheries regulation
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The next 5 years (2022–2027)

Actions to be delivered by 2027

3. Improved stakeholder engagement

Work continuing



ACTION 3.3: Work with Indigenous groups and communities through various forums to provide advice on fisheries management issues.

- ⇒ Indigenous Fishery Manager recruited
- ⇒ Commenced grass roots engagement and face-to-face dialogue with Cape York Indigenous fishers to identify future priorities
- ⇒ Commenced capacity building with Cape York Indigenous fishers by funding attendance to Seafood Directions 2022
- ⇒ Commenced development of a First Nations industry development plan

Action 3.5: Review the effectiveness of engagement mechanisms.

4. Environmental risk assessments

On track



ACTION 4.2: ERAs to be undertaken for priority fisheries or species, followed by the remaining fisheries.

- ⇒ 17 assessments completed or in progress – begin and complete the ecological risk assessment process for 2 remaining fisheries and complete 12 assessments

5. Resource allocation

On track



ACTION 5.2: Determine allocations as an explicit part of harvest strategies or individual stocks or regions.

- ⇒ 15 harvest strategies in place and operational – 3 remaining

6. Harvest strategies

On track



ACTION 6.2: In consultation with fishery working groups and the expert advisory panel, develop harvest strategies for all major fisheries by the end of 2020, with a priority to develop trawl, crab and inshore fisheries strategies by the end of 2018.

- ⇒ 15 harvest strategies in place and operational – 3 remaining (Rocky Reef, east coast Spanish mackerel and Gulf of Carpentaria fisheries)

10. Resourcing

Work continuing



ACTION 10.2: In the longer term, develop a resourcing strategy based on a beneficiary-pays system. This should include a review of the recreational use fee and commercial licence fees once harvest strategies are in place for key fisheries.



We continue to make strong progress and remain well-placed to deliver all 33 actions by 2027.

Our investment in additional biological monitoring and stock assessments has proven valuable, with the data now being used to inform decisions around sustainable catch limits and harvest strategies. We have modernised fisheries management to improve fishing efficiency and support a thriving industry – as well as contributing to the overall objective of ensuring the sustainability of Queensland's fisheries.

We will continue to undertake regular stock assessments, collect economic and social data, hold working groups meeting to address key fisheries issues, undertake ecological risk assessments for all remaining fisheries, review fishing rules on an ongoing basis, facilitate industry-led structural adjustments, implement traditional fishing and Indigenous commercial fishing policies, work with Indigenous communities on fisheries management issues and prepare for Pathway to Treaty, target black-marketing via intelligence-based compliance programs, and engage and work collaboratively with our stakeholders and partners. Critical work to ensure sustainable catch limits, maintain environmental approvals and establish a responsive and consultative approach to fishery management will be delivered.





Targets to be met by 2027

Harvest strategies for all Queensland fisheries

- Remaining 3 harvest strategies to be developed for Rocky Reef, east coast Spanish mackerel and Gulf of Carpentaria fisheries

On track



Maintain all Commonwealth environmental approvals

- 16 Queensland fisheries currently accredited for export under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 – 6 approvals renewed

Work continuing



Improved stakeholder satisfaction about engagement mechanisms

- 2019 survey indicated overall satisfaction rate of 50% – satisfaction increased for recreational fishers, government agencies and non-fishers, while satisfaction declined for commercial, charter and Indigenous fishers (commercial fishers continuing to have a low level of satisfaction with engagement)
- Commenced drafting a communication and engagement strategy, with resourcing to be dedicated to this in 2021–22

Work continuing



Set sustainable catch limits to achieve maximum sustainable yield (around 40–50% biomass) and then maximum economic yield (around 60% biomass) for all Queensland fisheries

On track



No Queensland fisheries overfished

- 6 stocks considered to have sustainability concerns:
 - 4 stocks considered depleted – snapper, saucer scallops, pearl perch and Spanish mackerel (east coast)
 - 2 stocks considered to be depleting – king threadfin and Spanish mackerel (Gulf of Carpentaria)

On track



Increased certainty for commercial operators

- Economic and social data for commercial and charter fisheries – published online via an interactive dashboard
- Completion of ITQ and ITE allocations, along with new and revised commercial catch limits, will not only support operationalisation of the fisheries reforms and new harvest strategies, but will provide certainty to commercial fishers about the harvest expected from their operations

On track



Improved compliance rates

- 88.1% – lower rate due to shift to intelligence-based compliance that targets non-compliant operators rather than random inspections.

Work continuing



A responsive and consultative approach to fisheries management

- Satisfaction with engagement survey completed, members appointed/reappointed to 10 fishery working groups and Sustainable Fisheries Expert Panel, and 13 harvest strategies approved

On track

