

Quota-managed fisheries

Changes to commercial fishing rules in Queensland

From **1 September 2021**, new arrangements will apply to commercial quota fisheries in Queensland.

What is quota

Total allowable commercial catch (TACC) is the sustainable commercial catch limit on a species within a defined management region. Individual transferrable quota (ITQ) is a fisheries management tool used to unitise the TACC. Being a percentage of the TACC, the ITQ units define the maximum weight of a species that can be caught per ITQ unit in a single year. Fishers can use or trade their individual ITQ units throughout the season. For ITQ-managed species, it doesn't matter how many days it takes to fish. However, fishers must ensure they have sufficient ITQ units to land their catch.

More information about quota-managed fisheries is available at fisheries.qld.gov.au.

Quota requirements

- To take an ITQ-managed species in a fishery, you must hold sufficient unused entitlement of the relevant species (in addition to the other licensing requirements).

Make sure you have sufficient quota

- It is an offence to be in possession of ITQ-managed species for which you hold insufficient unused ITQ entitlement. This is referred to as being 'over quota'.
- Fishers may incidentally land more of an ITQ-managed species than intended, and may hold insufficient ITQ entitlement to cover the amount of fish landed. If this occurs, you may be sent an 'over quota' alert via SMS.
- To avoid this, you should ensure you hold sufficient ITQ entitlement before you undertake a trip, particularly towards the end of a fishing season when availability of unused ITQ entitlement may be limited.

Monitoring your quota balance

FishNet Secure

- ITQ unit balances are available on FishNet Secure under 'view my quota balance' – make sure you check regularly and before you start a new fishing trip.
- If you have questions about how to view or manage your quota account, email fisherieslicensing@daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.

Automated Integrated Voice Response system

- You can also call the Automated Integrated Voice Response (AIVR) system to check your ITQ unit balances.

Managing your quota account and trading quota

- ITQ units are separate to the primary commercial fishing licence.
- If a primary commercial fishing licence and/or relevant fishery symbol is sold or temporarily transferred, the ITQ units are not automatically transferred with the licence.
- Fishers can permanently transfer ITQ units by submitting the relevant transfer form to fisherieslicensing@daf.qld.gov.au
- Fishers can also temporarily transfer ITQ units on FishNet Secure or by submitting the relevant paper form to fisherieslicensing@daf.qld.gov.au
- Transfer fee information and paper-based applications are available at business.qld.gov.au.

Note: Independent trading brokers may be able to help you trade quota. This is a private business relationship that is not managed by Fisheries Queensland.

Minimum quota requirement (mud crab C1 fishery only)

- In the C1 fishery, the licence holder must have **at least 1.2 tonnes of mud crab quota entitlement** (used + unused) for the relevant management region (i.e. Gulf of Carpentaria or east coast) before they are allowed to fish in that management region.
- Quota entitlement is the amount of quota units the licence holder holds or leases and is allowed to use during the fishing season.
- The quota entitlement amount does not decrease as fishing activity occurs. However, this amount can increase or decrease if quota units are permanently or temporarily transferred into or out of the licence holder's account.
- Quota entitlement is calculated as follows:
Quota entitlement = opening quota balance + quota transferred in – quota transferred out
- Quota entitlement is different to quota balance. The quota balance is the weight of product that can be landed per unit. The quota balance will decrease as fishing activity occurs, as well as increase or decrease as quota units are transferred into or out of the account.
- The licence holder can check their quota entitlement at any time through the AIVR system and on FishNet Secure.