

Interim reporting requirements for the ocean beach fishery

1 April – 31 August fishing season

Background

- The ocean beach fishery (K fishery) runs from April to August yearly and involves taking large quantities of targeted species such as sea mullet and tailor that are quota managed in the east coast inshore fishery management region 5.
- Ocean beach fishers move from one beach/foreshore to another beach/foreshore to search for fish. Fish are generally transported to processors while the fishing operation is still ongoing, and the accurate weight of fish may not be obtained until approximately 5 to 7 days later.
- Since introducing the new reporting requirements on 1 September 2021, Fisheries Queensland has received feedback from ocean beach fishers about operational concerns affecting their ability to comply with these new reporting requirements.
- The following reporting requirements are designed after taking into consideration the unique nature of the ocean beach fishery as well as balancing the need to maintain the integrity of the quota management system.

Scope

- This reporting guide applies to the K fishery areas within the K season (1 April to 31 August) only and until further notice from Fisheries Queensland.

Reporting means

- Commercial fishers can only report their catch notices (pre-trip, prior and weight notices) using the Automated Interactive Voice Response (AIVR) system by calling (07) 3031 8225.
- Daily catch and effort logbook and catch disposal record must be completed using the paper books.
- Commercial fishers are currently unable to use the commercial fishing app due to the re-designed ocean beach reporting requirements below.

Automated Interactive Voice Response (AIVR) system

- The AIVR will provide a transaction number at the end of a successful call.
- You must note the transaction numbers for all notices.
 - Prior notice transaction numbers are recorded in the logbook.
 - Prior notice and weight notice transaction numbers are recorded in the catch disposal record.

Definitions of terms

Total allowable commercial catch

Total allowable commercial catch (TACC) is the sustainable commercial catch limit on a species within a defined management region. TACC can be managed through:

- individual transferable quota (ITQ) – licence holders are individually allocated a number of units, which can be bought, sold or leased
- competitive PCC (Prescribed Commercial Catch) – a total commercial catch limit is allocated to a species that can be accessed competitively until the limit is reached. Once the catch limit is reached, the species can no longer be taken.

Fishing operation

- For the ocean beach fishery, the fishing operation **starts** when the boat enters a beach or foreshore to carry out fishing and **ends** when the boat leaves the beach or foreshore.

A day of a fishing operation (a fishing day)

A day of a fishing operation –

- is each 24-hour period between when a fishing operation starts and ends; and
- if the fishing operation ends before a 24-hour period mentioned above ends, includes the remaining part of that 24-hour period.

Vessel tracking requirements

- In line with section 85 of the Fisheries (General) Regulation 2019, vessel tracking units on your commercial fishing boats must be operational from the start until the end of a fishing operation.

Reporting requirements

Pre-trip notice

- Commercial fishers are required to give a pre-trip notice before the fishing operation starts via the AIVR. The purpose of the pre-trip notice is to provide planned details before commencing a fishing operation to support compliance activities and data validation. Pre-trip notice details include the:
 - primary commercial fishing licence being used
 - licence number of commercial fisher in control
 - intention of the fishing operation (i.e. commercial, recreational or charter)
 - landing place (only applicable for commercial fishing operation)

- The landing place is the relevant K fishery area. Use the following landing place codes when giving a pre-trip notice via the AIVR.

K fishery area	Landing code
K1	951
K2	952
K3	953
K4	954
K5	955
K6	956
K7	957
K8	958

- The pre-trip notice is only required to be given once unless there are changes to any of the pre-trip details in subsequent fishing operations.
- If there are changes to any of the pre-trip details, commercial fishers must update the pre-trip notice by giving a limited pre-trip notice or a new pre-trip notice before commencing the next fishing operation. This will become the most recent pre-trip notice.

Example: A pre-trip notice is given for fishing operation 1. One pre-trip detail changes for fishing operation 2, so a limited pre-trip notice for that detail is given. If no changes are made between fishing operations 2 and 3, no notice is required to be given for fishing operation 3.

- Commercial fishers must ensure that accurate details are provided in the pre-trip notice before starting a fishing operation.

Prior notice

- The prior notice is an indication of the quantity of quota species that has been caught/landed.
- Currently, the prior notice asks for accurate numbers or numbers of containers of quota species.
- To provide meaningful indication of the large amount of quota species caught in the ocean beach fishery, fishers are required to provide estimated weight of these species (i.e. sea mullet, tailor, whiting and yellowfin bream) in the prior notice.
 - **The AIVR will ask for number of containers of fish. For the purpose of reporting, 1kg = 1 container.**

Example: If you have caught an estimated 10,000kg of sea mullet in a K1 fishery area in a fishing day, you will report 10,000 containers of sea mullet.

- The prior notice must be given by the end of each fishing day to report fish caught in the same K fishery area within that fishing day.
- A prior notice is not required if there is zero quantity of quota species taken in a fishing day.

Weight notice

- A weight notice must be given for species managed under an ITQ or competitive PCC fisheries in a timely manner to ensure quota is deducted as it is used.
- Fish must be accurately weighed in the same form they were landed.
- Fish must be weighed at a place that is open for entry by an inspector under the Act.
- For sea mullet and tailor only:
 - The weight notice must be given within 24 hours after obtaining the accurate weight, but not more than 7 days after the relevant prior notice is given.
- For quota species other than sea mullet and tailor:
 - The weight notice must be given by the end of the fishing day.

Catch disposal record

- The catch disposal record enables the fisheries resource to be traced from harvesting to the point of disposal. It is required for species managed under an ITQ or competitive PCC fisheries.
- Commercial fishers must complete a catch disposal record page for each disposal method.
- A catch disposal record must be:
 - completed within 24 hours after giving the weight notice
 - submitted within 7 days after the record is made.

Daily catch and effort logbook

- Commercial fishers are required to record accurate number or number of containers of fish and estimated weights for each species in the logbook.
- Logbooks must be:
 - completed at the end of each fishing day
 - completed for all calendar days, even when not fishing
 - submitted within 7 days after the end of the fishing day
 - available for immediate inspection during the fishing operation.

Threatened, endangered and protected animal logbook

- The threatened, endangered and protected (TEP) animal logbook must be completed for all commercial fisheries.
- The TEP animal logbook replaces the species of conservation interest (SOI) logbook.
- The TEP animal logbook must be:
 - completed for each interaction with a TEP animal during a fishing operation – TEP species are defined in the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (e.g. green turtle, dugong)
 - completed before the end of the day of the interaction with the TEP animal or before the fishing operation ends – whichever occurs first
 - submitted within 7 days after the fishing operation ends
 - available for immediate inspection during the fishing operation.

Example scenarios

Scenario 1: You are a commercial fisher who operates in the K1 fishery area. You fish daily for 3 consecutive days. You have caught an estimated 10,000kg of sea mullet each day. The fish are transported to your processor daily. You obtain the combined accurate weight 35,000kg of the sea mullet 2 days later.

Note: In the description below, 'TN' refers to the AIVR transaction number.

Day 1:

- Before your fishing operation, give a **pre-trip notice (TN 1)**
- By the end of your fishing day,
 - give a **prior notice** to report 10,000 containers of sea mullet (**TN 2**)
 - complete logbook.

Day 2:

- By the end of your fishing day,
 - give a **prior notice** to report 10,000 containers of sea mullet (**TN 3**)
 - complete logbook.

Day 3:

- By the end of your fishing day,
 - give a **prior notice** to report 10,000 containers of sea mullet (**TN 4**)
 - complete logbook.

Day 5:

- Within 24 hours after obtaining the accurate weight,
 - give a **weight notice (TN 5)** to report 35,000kg against prior notice TN 2
 - complete the catch disposal record
 - At the top of the catch disposal record, record prior notice TN 2, TN 3 & TN 4 and weight notice TN 5.

Important note: A prior notice that does not have a corresponding weight notice will remain outstanding in the system. This means that each time you try to give a weight notice in the AIVR, it will read out all outstanding prior notices for you to select. To clear these outstanding prior notices, you can do either of the following:

- Call the AIVR to give a weight notice to report 0kg.
 - Using the scenario above as example, you will give a 0kg weight notice against prior notice TN 3 and TN 4 respectively.
- Contact Fisheries Queensland on 13 25 23 during business hours to request to speak with a member in the Quota and Vessel Tracking Team.

Scenario 2: You are a commercial fisher who operates in the K1 fishery area. You fish daily for 3 consecutive days. You have caught 100kg of whiting and an estimated 10,000kg of sea mullet each day. You must have the ability to accurately weigh the whiting by the end of each fishing day. Sea mullet are transported to your processor daily. You obtain the combined accurate weight 35,000kg of the sea mullet 2 days later.

Note: In the description below, 'TN' refers to the AIVR transaction number.

Day 1:

- Before your fishing operation, give a **pre-trip notice (TN 1)**
- By the end of your fishing day,
 - give a **prior notice** to report 10,000 containers of sea mullet and 100 containers of whiting **(TN 2)**
 - give a **weight notice** to report 100kg of whiting **(TN 3)**
 - complete logbook
 - complete catch disposal record for whiting

Day 2:

- By the end of your fishing day,
 - give a **prior notice** to report 10,000 containers of sea mullet and 100 containers of whiting **(TN 4)**
 - give a **weight notice** to report 100kg of whiting **(TN 5)**
 - complete logbook
 - complete catch disposal record for whiting

Day 3:

- By the end of your fishing day,
 - give a **prior notice** to report 10,000 containers of sea mullet and 100 containers of whiting **(TN 6)**
 - give a **weight notice** to report 100kg of whiting **(TN 7)**
 - complete logbook
 - complete catch disposal record for whiting

Day 5:

- Within 24 hours after obtaining the accurate weight,
 - give a **weight notice (TN 8)** to report 35,000kg of sea mullet against prior notice TN 2
 - complete the catch disposal record for sea mullet
 - At the top of the catch disposal record, you will record prior notice TN 2, TN 4 & TN 6 and weight notice TN 8.