

Reporting requirements

Changes to commercial fishing rules in Queensland

From **1 September 2021**, new reporting requirements will apply to commercial fisheries in Queensland.

The new requirements will play an important role in the sustainable management of our fisheries resources by improving the accuracy of catch and effort information to support informed management decisions and compliance, helping to prevent black-marketing and facilitating data validation. Some requirements will vary between fisheries to manage the unique nature of the fishing operations involved.

Reporting summary

Fishery & relevant symbols	Pre-trip notice	Amending notice (pre-trip)	Prior notice	Emergency notice	Transhipment notice	Weight notice	Retained fish notice	Catch disposal record	Daily catch & effort logbook	TEP logbook
Sea cucumber (B1)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tropical rocklobster (R)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coral (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Crab – east coast & Gulf (C1, C2)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
East coast inshore (L1, L2, L3, N1, N2, N4, N10, N11, all K)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Reef line & Spanish mackerel (RQ, SM with L1, L2, L3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rocky reef (L1, L2, L3, L8)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Trawl (T1)	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Trawl (T2, M1, M2)	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓
Trawl (T4 – stout whiting)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trochus (J1)	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Aquarium, crab & inshore trawl (A1, A2, C3, T5, T6, T7, T8, T9)	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓
Shell grit (G)						✓		✓	✓	✓
Shell, star sand, pearl, worm & yabby (F, H, P, W1, W2, Y)									✓	✓

For more detail on the new reporting processes, refer to the flowcharts for each fishery at fisheries.qld.gov.au.

Definitions

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 take the form of:

- individual transferable quota (ITQ) – commercial fishers are allocated a number of units, which can be bought, sold or leased
- competitive TACC – a total commercial catch limit is allocated to a species that can be accessed competitively until it is reached. Once the catch limit is reached, the species is no-take for the remainder of the fishing season.

Fishing operation

- Taking fish **using a boat, but not a beach seine net** – The fishing operation **starts** when the boat leaves a landing place to carry out fishing and **ends** when the boat stops being used for fishing and lands.
- Taking fish **using a boat and a beach seine net** – The fishing operation **starts** when the boat enters a beach or foreshore to carry out fishing and **ends** when the boat stops being used for fishing and leaves the beach or foreshore.
- Taking fish **without using a boat** – The fishing operation **starts** when the fisher in control or an assistant fisher arrives at a place to carry out fishing and **ends** when the fisher in control or assistant fisher stops fishing and leaves the place.

Pre-trip notice

- Fishers are required to give a pre-trip notice before commencing a fishing operation via approved means (e.g. Automated Interactive Voice Response (AIVR) system).
- The purpose of the pre-trip notice is to provide planned details before departing for a fishing operation to support compliance activities and data validation. Details required include the:
 - primary commercial fishing licence being used
 - licence number of commercial fisher in control
 - intention of the trip (i.e. commercial, recreational or charter)
 - landing place (only applicable if the trip intention is commercial).
- 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.

- Fishers must ensure that accurate details are provided in the pre-trip notice before starting a fishing operation, as the details cannot be changed after a fishing operation has begun, except for changing a landing place.
- If the landing place provided in the pre-trip notice changes during a fishing operation, fishers are required to give an **amending notice** to provide the new landing place at least 1 hour before:
 - the boat lands at the new landing place – if using a boat but **not** a beach seine net
 - fishing is carried out at the new landing place – if using a boat **and** a beach seine net.
- The new landing place provided in the amending notice is only valid for that fishing operation. For subsequent fishing operation, the pre-trip notice details will revert to the most recent pre-trip notice given prior to the amending notice.

Prior notice

- A prior notice must be given for species managed under an ITQ or competitive TACC.
- Fishers must give a prior notice to report accurate numbers of fish or containers of fish for each quota species/quota category via approved means (e.g. AIVR system).
- If landing a boat with quota species, the prior notice must be given before landing.
- For ocean beach netting operations, the prior notice must be given after the fish are loaded onto the vehicle and before the vehicle leaves the landing place.
- The prior notice is a commitment of accurate fish numbers and fish form to be landed for compliance purposes – **prior notices cannot be amended**.
- A prior notice is not required if there is zero quantity of quota species taken in an operation.

Emergency notice

- In the event of a medical emergency or extreme weather, fishers may need to land at a different landing place or may not be able to give a prior notice before landing.
- In this case, fishers are required to give an emergency notice via approved means (e.g. AIVR system) as soon as practicable and before the fish are unloaded from the boat. The emergency notice must be given before the next fishing operation.
- The emergency notice must include the new landing place and/or accurate number of fish or number of containers on the boat.
- The emergency notice is a replacement of the prior notice.

Transshipment notice

- D, R, RQ, SM and T1 licence holders may tranship fish to another boat while at sea.
- Fishers are required to give a transshipment notice before the fish are transhipped to the transport vessel at sea.
- The fish being transhipped must be clearly labelled with the primary commercial fishing licence number under which the fish were taken, and a yellow copy of the catch disposal record must accompany the fish.
 - As the weights of the fish being transhipped can only be recorded on the catch disposal record after the fish have been unloaded and weighed, weights are not required to be recorded on the catch disposal record before transhipping the fish.
 - Fishers must obtain the weights of the transhipped fish after unloading, add the weight to the white copy of the catch disposal record and submit to Fisheries Queensland.
- Fish taken under an RQ, SM or T1 licence can be transhipped to a transport vessel that is a domestic commercial vessel (class 1 or 2).
- Fish taken under a D or R licence can be transhipped to a transport vessel that is a domestic commercial vessel (class 1 or 2) or a primary boat being used under another D or R licence held by the same person (the fish must be kept separate from other fish on the boat).
- For transhipping onto a domestic commercial vessel (class 1 or 2), the following details must be provided in the transshipment notice:
 - transport vessel code
 - landing place where transport vessel will land
 - estimated landing date of the transport vessel
 - accurate number of fish or containers of fish for each quota species/quota category that are transhipped.

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- For transshipping fish taken under a D or R licence onto a primary boat used under another D or R licence held by the same person, the following details must be provided in the transshipment notice:
 - primary commercial fishing licence of the primary boat onto which fish are being transhipped to
 - accurate number of fish or containers of fish for each quota species/category that are being transhipped.

Weighing fish

- Unloading and weighing fish must take place at a location where an inspector may enter.
- The following requirement applies to species managed under an ITQ or competitive TACC fisheries.
- Fish must be weighed in the same form they were landed.
- Fish must be weighed accurately before the start of the next fishing operation, and within the following deadlines:
 - R and D fisheries – before fish leave the landing place
 - B1 and T4 fishery – before fish leave the fisher's possession or within 7 days after the end of the fishing operation, whichever occurs first
 - all other fisheries – before fish leave the fisher's possession or within 48 hours after the end of the fishing operation, whichever occurs first.

Weight notice

- A weight notice must be given for species managed under an ITQ or competitive TACC fisheries.
- Fishers must report the **accurate weight** for each quota species/quota category reported in the corresponding prior notice via approved means (e.g. AIVR system).

Note: A weight notice is not required for trochus and some coral species

- A weight notice must be given immediately after the fish are weighed and before the fish leave the fisher's possession. It must be given before the start of the next fishing operation.
- The weight given in the weight notice is used for quota deduction.
- Fish form changes between a prior notice and weight notice are not permitted.

Retained fish notice

- B1, R, RQ, SM, T1, T2, M1, M2 and T4 licence holders may retain fish on board their boat and start a new fishing operation.
- B1, R, RQ, SM and T4 licence holders who land quota fish on a boat and intend to keep the fish on the boat and start a new fishing operation, must give a retained fish notice to report the accurate number of fish or containers of fish retained.
- T1, T2, M1 and M2 licence holders do not need to give a retained fish notice before starting a new fishing operation.
- B1, R, RQ and SM licence holders must give a retained fish notice within 24 hours after the fishing operation ends or before the start of the next fishing operation – whichever occurs first.
- T4 licence holders, must give the retained fish notice within 7 days after the fishing operation ends or before the start of the next fishing operation – whichever occurs first.

Catch disposal record

- The catch disposal record enables the fisheries resource to be traced from harvesting to the point of disposal.
- It is recognised as a sales docket if the seller is the commercial fisher that caught the fish.
- A catch disposal record must be fully and correctly completed for species managed under an ITQ or competitive TACC fisheries, or in a T1, T2, M1 and M2 fishery – except the coral fishery.
- A catch disposal record must be completed when the fish are disposed of (e.g. sold, personal use, spoiled), within 7 days after the end of the fishing operation or before the start of the next fishing operation – whichever occurs first.
- The fisher in control of the fishing operation that took the fish, or an assistant fisher, must ensure the catch disposal record (or a copy) is available for immediate inspection while the fish are in their physical possession.
- The fisher in control of the fishing operation must submit each completed catch disposal record sheet via post to Fisheries Queensland within 7 days after the record is made.

Note: Different submission timeframe applies to electronic catch disposal record.

- You may scan or take a photo of the completed catch disposal record sheet and email to logbooks@daf.qld.gov.au within 7 days after the record is made. The original hard-copy catch disposal record sheet must still be posted to Fisheries Queensland.
- Hard-copy catch disposal record sheets must be received by Fisheries Queensland no more than 15 days after the end of the month in which the record is made.
- If fish transhipped in the D, R, RQ, SM and T1 fisheries have been unloaded and weighed, the fisher in control of the fishing operation must add the weight to the white copy of the catch disposal record and submit to Fisheries Queensland. Refer to the catch disposal record instructions on transhipping at the front of your catch disposal record book.
- Fishers can check if catch disposal records have been received on FishNet Secure under 'log page receipt'.

Daily catch and effort logbook

- Logbooks must be completed for all commercial fisheries.
- Fishers must have the logbooks in their possession during the entire fishing operation.
- The number and estimated weight must be reported for each fish species.
- The fisher in control of the fishing operation that took the fish, or an assistant fisher, must ensure the logbook (or a copy) is available for immediate inspection while the fish are in their physical possession.
- Logbooks must be
 - completed at end of each day and on the final day of the fishing operation before the boat lands
 - completed for all calendar days, even when not fishing
 - submitted within 7 days after the fishing operation ends.

Note: A different submission timeframe applies to electronic logbooks.

- Hard-copy logbook sheets must be received by Fisheries Queensland no more than 15 days after the end of the month in which the record is made.
- Fishers can check if logbook pages have been received on FishNet Secure under 'log page receipt'.

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 (SOCI) 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
 - available for immediate inspection during the fishing operation
 - submitted within 7 days after the fishing operation ends.
- Hard-copy logbook sheets must be received by Fisheries Queensland no more than 15 days after the end of the month in which the record is made.
- Fishers can check if TEP logbook pages have been received on FishNet Secure under 'log page receipt'.