

OCEAN HAULING – PURSE SEINE NET

Profile

Total no. of Fishing Businesses (FBs) with shares	Total no. of shares	Reported annual catch (avg.)	No. of FBs accounting for 80% of the catch value
15	1,980	1815 tonnes	5

Draft share linkage recommendation

It is recommended that, from July 2016, an Independent Allocation Panel process will commence to provide advice on allocation of new species shares for Australian sardine, blue mackerel and yellowtail scad. Once this process is complete a catch quota regime for those species will start.

Linkage	July 2016	July 2018	July 2020
MINIMUM SHAREHOLDINGS	As per current arrangements		
CATCH QUOTA* For Australian sardine, blue mackerel and yellowtail scad	Independent Allocation Panel process commences to advise on the criteria for allocating new species shares.	Allocate new species shares for the selected species following Independent Allocation Panel advice. Total Allowable Commercial Catches are set following TAC Committee advice. Allocate catch quotas to shareholders proportional to the new species shares held. Quota transfers (leasing) permitted.	

*Note that the timing of these steps will depend on the time taken by the Independent Allocation Panel process. The timing provided above is a GUIDE ONLY.

Other proposed measures

From July 2016:

- Remove requirement for boats under 20m to be licensed.
- Remove requirement for nets to be registered.

What does the recommendation deliver for fishers?

- Catch quotas will:
 - provide the strongest form of access right and improve security for operators
 - allow shareholders to secure their portion of access to the stock
 - provide a way to control the NSW catch of the main target species to ensure effective management of stocks shared with other jurisdictions (the Commonwealth in this case)
 - encourage fishing at times when it is most profitable (for example, when catch rates are good and when market demand/price is strong)
 - provide more certainty that the management arrangements can address any future resource sharing or resource sustainability issues, which is crucial for a long term viable fishery.
- Removing the need to use licensed boats and registered nets will take away an unnecessary and ongoing burden for fishers.

Things to consider

- By July 2016: If you are currently endorsed to fish, you can continue to fish as you have at this time as there is no immediate change.
- By July 2018: Contribute to the Independent Allocation Panel process by putting forward your views on how new species shares should be allocated.
- Between July 2018 and 2020: Total Allowable Commercial Catches will be set for the selected quota species. You will need to hold enough species shares/catch quota to cover your desired level of fishing for those species.
- If you no longer wish to be endorsed to fish in this share class, you can put in an offer to sell shares in the exit grant program or you can sell shares to someone else at any time.
- The exit grant program offers a good opportunity to buy or sell shares at a subsidised rate without having to find buyers or sellers yourself.