

ESTUARY GENERAL – HANDLINE AND HAULING CREW

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
511	70,925	14 tonnes	31

Draft share linkage recommendation

The linkage in the table below is proposed.

- The first change is, from July 2016, to enforce the current minimum shareholding.
- From July 2018, a new (higher) minimum shareholding will apply and the share classes will become 'handline' share classes only. Proposed changes to the category one and two hauling share classes will mean that anyone can act as crew for those endorsement holders.

Linkage	July 2016	July 2018																								
MINIMUM SHAREHOLDINGS	Enforce the current minimum shareholding of 125 shares.	Apply a new minimum shareholding as follows: <table border="1" data-bbox="730 992 1289 1438"> <thead> <tr> <th>Region</th> <th>New minimum shareholding</th> <th>Maximum number of endorsements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>370</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>384</td> <td>42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>340</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>459</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>389</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>395</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>483</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Region	New minimum shareholding	Maximum number of endorsements	1	370	12	2	384	42	3	340	23	4	459	51	5	389	16	6	395	15	7	483	9
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Other proposed measures

- Remove requirement for boats under 10m to be licenced (from July 2016).
- Remove the hauling crew component from these share classes and instead allow any licensed fisher to act as crew for category one and category two endorsement holders (from July 2018).

What does the recommendation deliver for fishers?

- Enforcing the current minimum shareholding will reduce a proportion of the excess fishing capacity that exists in the fishery.
- Increases in the minimum shareholding over time reduces the risk of excess fishing effort from becoming active and eroding profitability of active fishers. It also removes some of the risk to stock sustainability (by reducing excess capacity).
- Commencing the new minimum shareholding requirement from July 2018 provides time for fishers to adjust their businesses to prepare for that change.
- Removing the need to use licensed boats and registered nets will take away an unnecessary and ongoing burden for fishers.
- Removing the hauling crew component of this share class and allowing any licensed fisher to operate as crew provides greater flexibility for estuary hauling operations. The existing set up provides no real constraint on the number of fishers who operate as crew so the risks of hauling effort increasing as a result are negligible.

Things to consider

- By July 2016: If you currently have less than the minimum shareholding and wish to remain endorsed to fish, you will need to get hold of enough shares to get up to the minimum. You can buy shares from someone else or put in a bid to buy shares in the exit grant program. If you already hold the minimum, you may consider buying additional shares if needed in preparation for the minimum shareholding levels to apply from July 2018.
- By July 2018: You will need to hold enough shares to meet the new minimum shareholding levels to remain endorsed to fish.
- If you no longer want 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.