

Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy

2017–2027



Progress report

Year 1



Queensland Government

Key achievements in first 12 months



In June 2017, the Queensland Government released the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027, paving the way for Queensland to have a world-class fisheries management system. These reforms will ensure healthy fish stocks that will support thousands of Queensland jobs. The strategy outlines 33 actions to be delivered across 10 reform areas and sets targets to be achieved by 2020 and 2027.

Progress report

Reform area	Delivery on track	Comment
1. Improved monitoring and research	On track 	Good progress on new monitoring, including reef species, scallop, juvenile snapper, blue swimmer crab and eastern king prawn. New social and economic indicators to be rolled out in 2018–19.
2. Sustainable catch limits	On track 	Catch limits will be set out in harvest strategies.
3. Improved engagement	Minor issues 	Significant efforts have been made including traditional and novel methods of engagement. Further work is needed to build relationships and communicate the reform process and objectives of the strategy.
4. Impacts on non-target species	On track 	Good progress on finalising guidelines for ecological risk assessments, with technical work underway.
5. Resource allocation	On track 	Existing catch shares to be explicit in harvest strategies. Reallocation policy released to deal with requests for closures/net free areas.
6. Harvest strategies	On track 	Guideline released and drafting of harvest strategies underway.
7. Fishing access and rules	On track 	Discussion papers on reforms to key fisheries released. Regulatory changes expected in 2019.
8. Responsive decisions	On track 	New process proposed under amendments to the <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> to allow responsive decisions using pre-agreed harvest strategies.
9. Compliance	On track 	Excellent progress with 20 new Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers recruited and Gladstone office reopened. Vessel tracking on track to be on all net, crab and line boats by 1 January 2019. Cross-decking will continue with other enforcement organisations (e.g. police, maritime safety and marine parks). Cultural liaison officers identified.
10. Resourcing	On track 	Good progress rolling out new funding.

Overall comments

Overall progress has been good in the first 12 months. There has been particularly strong effort in compliance, engagement and rolling out new monitoring. One-third of all the actions in the strategy have been delivered in the first 12 months. All of the actions due to be delivered in 2017–18 were complete. As with any major reform program, there are challenges in communicating with stakeholders, understanding the change process and dealing with uncertainty. A strong focus has been put on better engagement, but relationships need to be further built between government, commercial fishers, recreational fishers and other community groups as the reform process progresses.

Areas for focus in next 12 months

The next 12 months will focus on reviewing fishing rules, amending legislation and developing harvest strategies. This will culminate in an amended Act and new Regulation proposed to commence in July 2019. There will be a continued focus on improved engagement and collecting better data to underpin decisions and the roll out of new technologies.

Delivery on track key

Completed or delivered 

On track 

Minor issues 

Major issues 

Not yet commenced 

Measuring progress against targets

To measure our performance over time, targets have been set for both 2020 and 2027. This progress report sets the baseline for these targets that we can measure against in future years. This will help track our performance and ensure we are achieving the outcomes identified.

2020 targets

Target	Baseline 2017–18
Sustainable catch limits based on maximum sustainable yield (around 40–50% biomass)	23 stock assessments for species or species complex that enables a biomass or on maximum sustainable yield calculation. 8 catch based quotas currently, but not explicitly set using biomass targets.
Harvest strategies for all fisheries	0 harvest strategies in place
Maintained export approvals	100% export approvals in place
Improved stakeholder satisfaction with engagement	The overall satisfaction with Fisheries Queensland’s engagement: 56/100
Increased satisfaction of recreational fishers	Overall satisfaction of recreational fishers in Queensland: 61/100
Better data for fish stocks	15 species undefined; 57 species not assessed; 4 species with negligible data

2027 targets

Target	Baseline 2017–18
Sustainable catch limits based on maximum economic yield (around 60% biomass)	23 stock assessments for species or species complex that enables a biomass or on maximum sustainable yield calculation 8 catch based quotas currently, but not explicitly set using biomass targets.
No overfished stocks in Queensland fisheries	2 overfished stocks (scallop and snapper)
Increased certainty for commercial operators	No data yet (to be collected in 2018)
Reduced volume of fisheries regulation	933 pages of regulation (733 pages of Fisheries Regulation and 200 pages in the trawl management plan)
Improved trends of compliance rates*	91% compliance rate
Responsive and consultative approach to fisheries management	The overall satisfaction with Fisheries Queensland’s engagement: 56/100 Other measures to be developed

*The QBFP has moved to an intelligence-based approach to compliance, which may result in lower compliance rates due to targeting non-compliance rather than random on-water inspections.

Major milestones and reporting timeline

