

Spanner crab fishery

Commercial fishing rules in Queensland

Since 1 June 2020, the Queensland spanner crab fishery has been managed under the *Spanner crab fishery harvest strategy*.

General

- The spanner crab fishery is split into two management regions with species-specific catch limits:
 - Management area A (south of latitude 23° south and east of longitude 151° 45' – near Yeppoon)
 - Management area B (north of latitude 23° south and east of longitude 142° 31'49" east, waters north of latitude 10° 48' south and between longitude 141° 20' east and longitude 142° 31'49" east, waters in the Gulf of Carpentaria between the 25 nautical mile line and the shore of the mainland south of latitude 10° 48' south).
- The fishery is managed as follows:
 - Management area A – individual transferrable quota declared via quota declaration and operates under the C2 fishery symbol
 - Management area B – a catch limit of 16 containers of spanner crab per trip and operates under the C3 fishery symbol.
- The spanner crab fishing seasons run from 1 July to 30 June annually.
- Measurement of vessels used in commercial fisheries are determined by national marine safety requirements under the National Standard for Commercial Vessels – for more information, visit amsa.gov.au.
- Other Australian Government requirements include displaying unique identifying numbers, safety management plans, safety equipment and licensing – for more information, visit amsa.gov.au.



Figure 1: Spanner crab fishery areas

Equipment

- A primary vessel can be up to 25 m long.
- A tender vessel can be up to 10 m long.
- Spanner crab may only be taken using a dilly.
- Management area A:
 - if only 1 person is acting under the licence, the number of dillies that can be used at the same time is 45
 - if 2 or more people are acting under the licence, the number of dillies that can be used at the same time is 75
 - no more than 25 dillies can be set on a single line
 - an additional 10 dillies may be carried on board as spares.
- Management area B:
 - a maximum of 30 dillies can be used at the same time
 - no more than 10 dillies can be set on a single line
 - an additional 5 dillies may be carried on board as spares.
- Dillies must not have an area more than 1 m² and the net cannot drop below the frame more than 10 cm.
- A dilly's net must have one layer of mesh and each mesh must be square or rectangular.
- The dilly's mesh size must be at least 25 mm.
- Marking dillies:

Dilly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a compliant float attached with tag attached detailing the owner's name or marked with the boat mark of the primary boat being used
Two or more dillies fixed to a line (trotline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One end of the line must be attached to a compliant float • The float must be attached to a flag that is at least 2 m above the water
Compliant float	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid, light-coloured and clearly visible on the surface of the water • No less than 15 cm in any dimension • Marked with the boat mark for the primary boat identified on the licence

- For management area B, the maximum capacity of a container/basket for spanner crab is 66.4 L.

Closure

- The spanner closed season runs from 1 November to 15 December annually.

Fishing operation

- The minimum legal size for spanner crab is 10 cm from the tip of the spike at the middle of the front edge of its carapace to the mid-point of the rear edge of its carapace.
- Egg-bearing spanner crabs are regulated and must be immediately removed from crab apparatus and returned to the water.
- Immediately remove all regulated crabs from equipment and return to the water.
- For management area B, spanner crabs must be landed only on the mainland west of longitude 151° 45' east.

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- Spanner crab can only be taken in one management area per trip.
 - An approved vessel tracking unit must be:
 - installed as per the department's *Vessel tracking installation and maintenance standard*
 - installed on vessel/s and confirmed working prior to commencement of fishing trip.
 - The licence holder must have a contract with an approved supplier for collection of vessel tracking positional data.
 - The licence holder is responsible for keeping vessel tracking and contact details up to date on FishNet Secure.
 - Under Queensland fisheries legislation, an assistant fisher is no longer required to be within 800 m of a commercial fisher. However, Australian Maritime Safety Authority safety rules apply – for more information, visit amsa.gov.au.
 - Fishers are allowed to fish in multiple quota-managed crab fisheries on the same fishing trip – mud, blue swimmer and spanner crab.
 - Fishers must comply with marine park and go-slow zoning – for more information, visit gbrmpa.qld.gov.au and/or des.qld.gov.au.

Post-harvest possession requirements

- Holders of a licence with a C2 or C3 symbol and an accreditation under the *Food Production (Safety) Act 2000* can process and possess spanner crab meat on land.
- A business can possess spanner crab meat if selling wholesale or retail.
- A person can possess crab meat if they have a sales docket from the seller for the product

Licensing

- Fees for licences and quota are invoiced in advance (i.e. before the fishing season starts or before the licence can be used).
- Fishers must have a primary commercial fishing licence, at least one C2 symbol and sufficient quota to operate in the spanner crab fishery management area A.
- Fishers must have a primary commercial fishing licence and at least one C3 symbol to operate in the spanner crab fishery management area B.
- The person in charge of an operation must hold a commercial fisher licence to operate under a primary commercial fishing licence.
- The licence holder is responsible for keeping contact details up to date on FishNet Secure.
- You may require accreditation with Safe Food in order to legally sell or supply your product in Queensland – for more information, visit safefood.qld.gov.au.

Reporting requirements

In summary, fishers must:

- report trip/catch notices for all catch to which a TACC applies via approved means (e.g. Automated Interactive Voice Response system)
- complete catch and effort logbooks and the threatened, endangered and protected animal logbook
- complete catch disposal records for the disposal of all catch to which a TACC applies
- keep sale dockets for all wholesale sales for 5 years, including to businesses involved in the processing and storage of fisheries resources.

For more information on reporting requirements, visit fisheries.qld.gov.au.