

East coast trawl fishery

Commercial fishing rules in Queensland

From **1 September 2021**, the Queensland east coast trawl fishery will be managed under five regional harvest strategies.

General

- The east coast trawl fishery extends across all tidal waters along Queensland's east coast eastward of longitude 142°31'89" east.
- The fishery is split into six trawl management regions (see Figure 1):
 - Northern
 - Central
 - Southern Inshore
 - Southern Offshore A (east coast effort units)
 - Southern Offshore B (formerly the T2 fishery area and concessional units)
 - Moreton Bay.
- Regional effort units are required to fish in specific trawl regions. Effort units held in each region will be displayed as separate accounts and will continue to be transferable between individuals.
- Regional effort units for Moreton Bay licence holders (M1/M2) have been established. Fishers will no longer use other regional effort units when fishing in Moreton Bay.
- Each trawl region has annual effort caps (included in the relevant harvest strategy).
- Regional harvest strategy seasons:
 - Northern and Central: 1 March to end of February
 - Southern Inshore, Southern Offshore A and B, and Moreton Bay: 1 November to 31 October

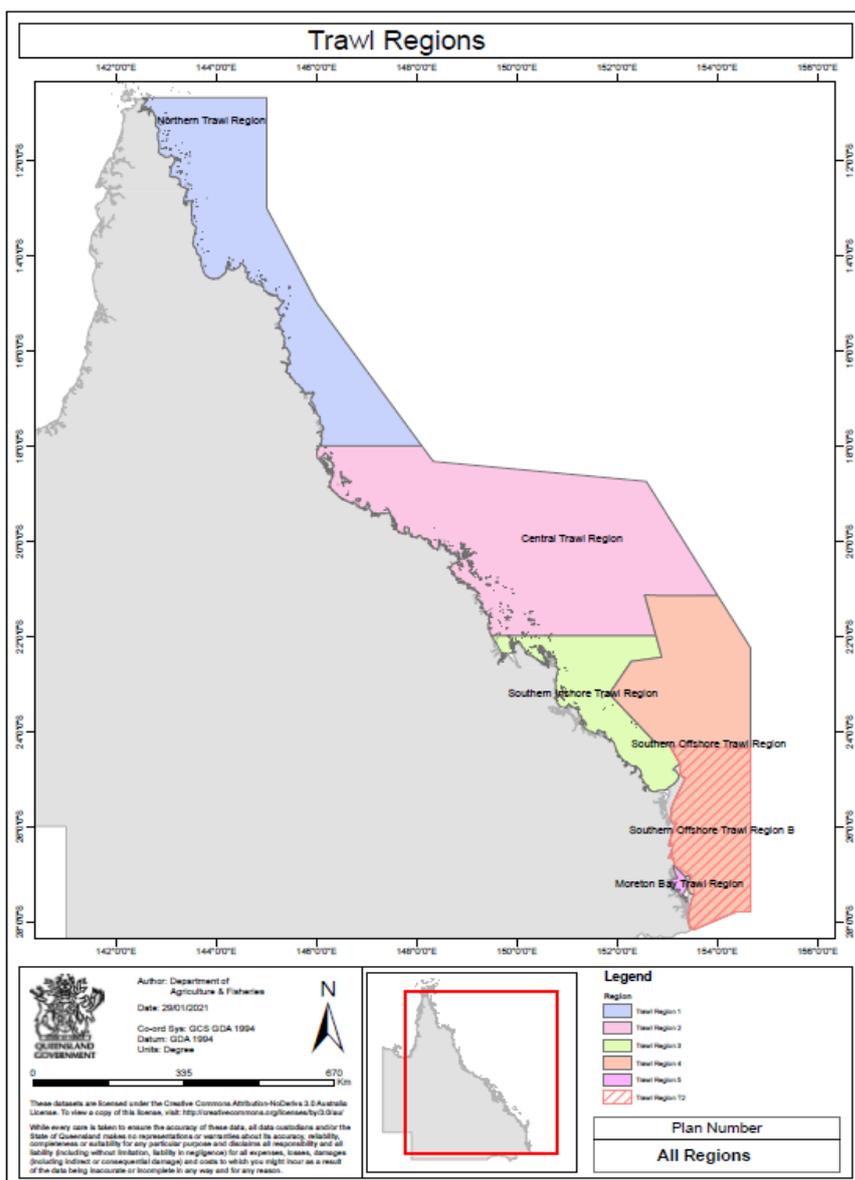


Figure 1: East coast trawl fishery management regions

Equipment

- A primary vessel can be up to 20 m long for offshore management regions, and up to 14 m long for Moreton Bay.
- Maximum vessel size is 120 hull units and the associated effort unit conversion factor has been extended to a maximum of 93 effort units.
- A range of other effort-based equipment controls are in place – visit legislation.qld.gov.au.
- Measurements of vessels used in commercial fisheries are determined by national marine safety requirements under the National Standard for Commercial Vessels – 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.

Fishing operation

- The primary commercial fishing licence must hold sufficient regional effort units for each region where fishing is conducted. Steaming across regions (provided the vessel stays above 5 knots) will not incur an effort unit charge.
- Regional effort caps will be set through the harvest strategies and are based on the key target species in each region. When the cap is reached fishing will cease in that region.
- Other effort-based equipment spatial and temporal closures are in place – visit legislation.qld.gov.au.
- 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 a fishing trip.
- Certain vessel speeds are required to be maintained to traverse defined spatial areas in Queensland where trawling is prohibited (e.g. scallop ranching areas the speed limit is 5 knots) – visit fisheries.qld.gov.au.
- Fishers must comply with marine park and go-slow zoning – for more information, visit des.qld.gov.au.

Licensing

- The commercial fisher in charge of an operation must hold a commercial fisher licence to operate under a primary commercial fishing licence and hold a relevant symbol with quota allocation.
- A range of transactions can be completed online using FishNet Secure (e.g. quota temporary transfers, registering vessel tracking units to primary commercial fishing licences, accessing quota activity statements and registering change of personal contact details).
- Fees for licences and quota are invoiced in advance (i.e. before the fishing season starts or before the licence can be used)
- 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 applicable to the east coast trawl fishery via approved means (e.g. Automated Integrated 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
- 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.