

Trawl fishery Effort unit allocation

Snapshot: trawl effort unit allocation

All existing east coast effort units will be divided between the Northern, Central, Southern Inshore and Southern Offshore management regions and allocated to licence holders in the East Coast Trawl Fishery.

New effort units for the Moreton Bay management region will also be allocated to eligible licence holders.

Once allocated, effort units can only be used in the relevant management region.

What you need to do

To be eligible for **east coast** effort unit allocation, you must own the effort units on **22 April 2021**. If you don't own a corresponding primary commercial fishing licence or the licence has no effort history, you will be able to nominate which region/s your effort units are allocated to.

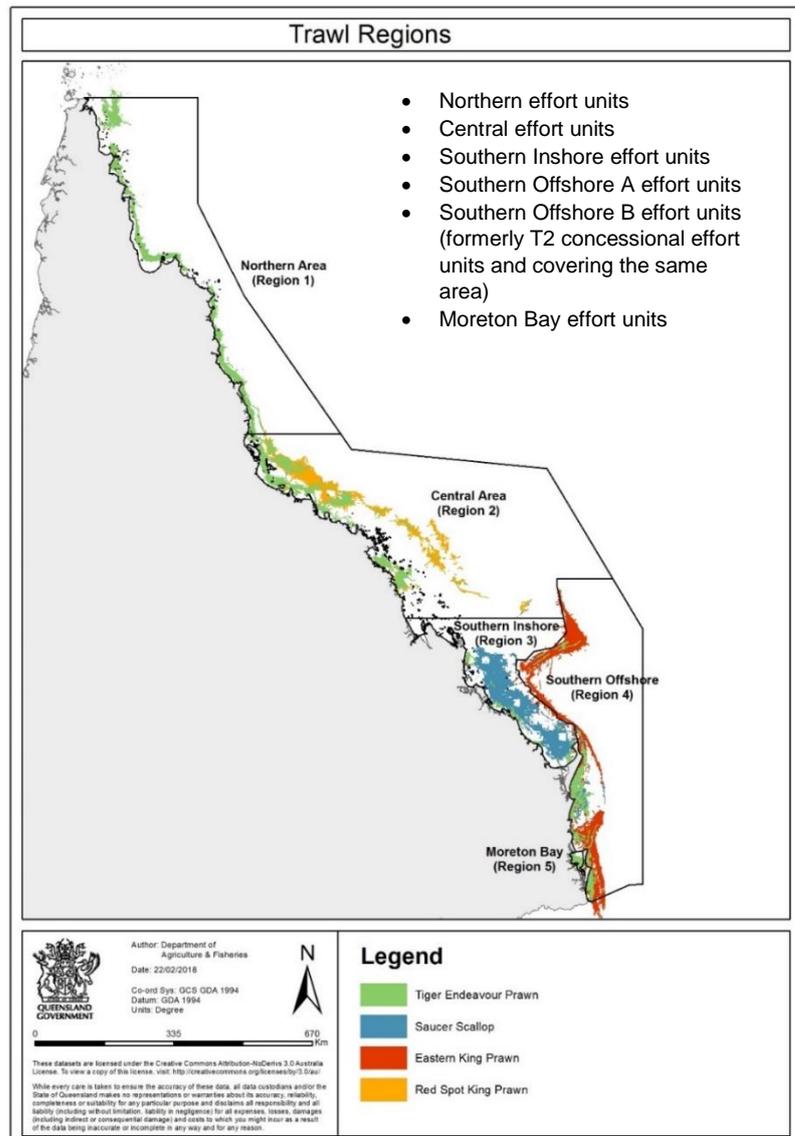
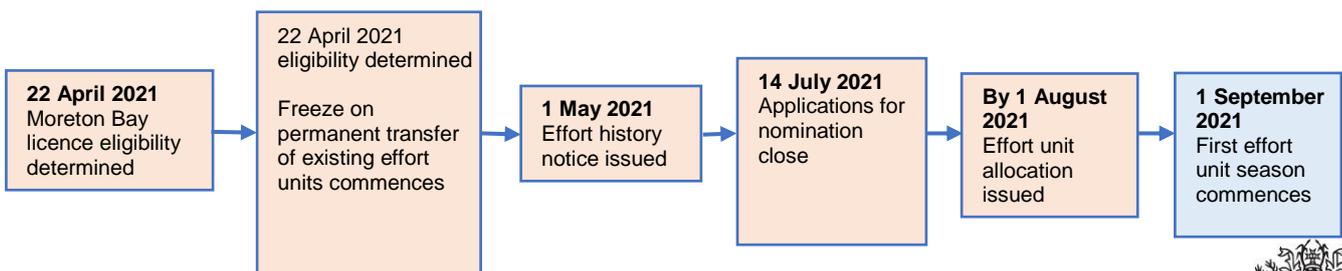
To be eligible for **Moreton Bay** effort unit allocation, you must have an M1 or M2 symbol on your primary fishing boat licence on **22 April 2021**.

You will need to **review the reported effort notice** we send you and, if relevant, follow the instructions to apply for amendment or substitution by the date outlined in the notice.

During the allocation process, there will be a **freeze on the permanent transfer** of existing east coast effort units from **22 April 2021 until 31 July 2021**. During this period, you will still be able to temporarily transfer symbols and east coast effort units to facilitate normal fishing operations.

New regional effort units will be tradeable once effort unit certificates are issued in late July, and holdings as at **1 September 2021** will represent your entitlement at the commencement of the new season.

Important dates



How the allocation is calculated

East coast

- The Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) effort history period of calendar years from 2008 to 2017 (10 years) is reviewed.
- Annual average effort units used in each defined fishery region are allocated into each region for each individual fisher.
- If you own less units than your historical usage, the proportional regional usage is used to distribute currently owned units.
- If you own 'unused' effort units, you can nominate which region/s your unused effort units are allocated to—unused units may include units above your annual average usage, units not attached to a primary licence or units attached to a licence with no history.
- If you had permanently transferred a primary commercial fishing licence with a T1 symbol attached between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2017, you can nominate an additional 50% of your used effort units into the region/s of your choice. A letter will be sent before the end of 2020 to fishers that qualify, detailing the nomination process.

Moreton Bay

- The logbook effort history period of financial years from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2017 (nine years) is reviewed.
- There is a total allocation of 8535 nights in Moreton Bay.
- History allocation to symbol holders is based on the average days fished of your seven highest effort years out of nine.
- The remaining nights of allocation are divided equally between M1 and M2 fishers (to represent historical fleet usage in Moreton Bay) and then allocated equally between symbol holders.
- Nights allocated to you will be converted to effort units based on the effort unit conversion factor of the current boat on your licence. For licences in 'no boat', the previous boat on the licence will be used.

Consultation on Moreton Bay allocation options failed to reach an agreed position between stakeholder groups that would achieve the objectives of the *Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027* and maintain consistency with other allocation processes. As a result, allocation was decided based on the consideration of all feedback received and consistent with a history-based approach similar to other fisheries.

Effort allocation caps

If you are an M1 fisher, any Moreton Bay allocation you receive may be capped by the number of east coast units you own on 22 April 2021. If you own zero east coast effort units (i.e. you lease units to fish) on this date, you will not be eligible for a Moreton Bay effort unit allocation.

Effort history

Eligible licence holders will receive an effort history notice from Fisheries Queensland with their reported effort history for each prescribed year. Alternatively, you can log-on to your Fishnet Secure account to view your relevant effort history. Moreton Bay fishers will also be asked to check their recorded effort history in Moreton Bay, before 28 February 2021, as an initial step in the allocation process. A letter will be sent before the end of 2020 detailing the process for Moreton Bay fishers. If you believe there is an error, there will be a process for requesting an amendment.

Fishing nights

To work out how many nights your boat can fish with the effort unit allocations you hold, you need to know the Effort Unit Conversion Factor (EUCF) of your boat—this is listed in the Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019. The individual hull unit value of the boat nominated against the Commercial Fishing Boat Licence is used to work out the EUCF, by dividing your regional effort unit holdings by the value of the EUCF.

Appeal process

Due to a recent amendment to the *Fisheries Act 1994*, the appeal process has changed. If you are not satisfied with the number of effort units allocated to you or where your existing effort units are allocated to,

you must seek an internal review of the departmental decision first. Following this review, if you are still not satisfied with the decision you can appeal to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).

More information on this part of the process will be sent in mid-2021.

More information

For more information, visit fisheries.qld.gov.au, email FisheriesManagers@daf.qld.gov.au or call **13 25 23**.