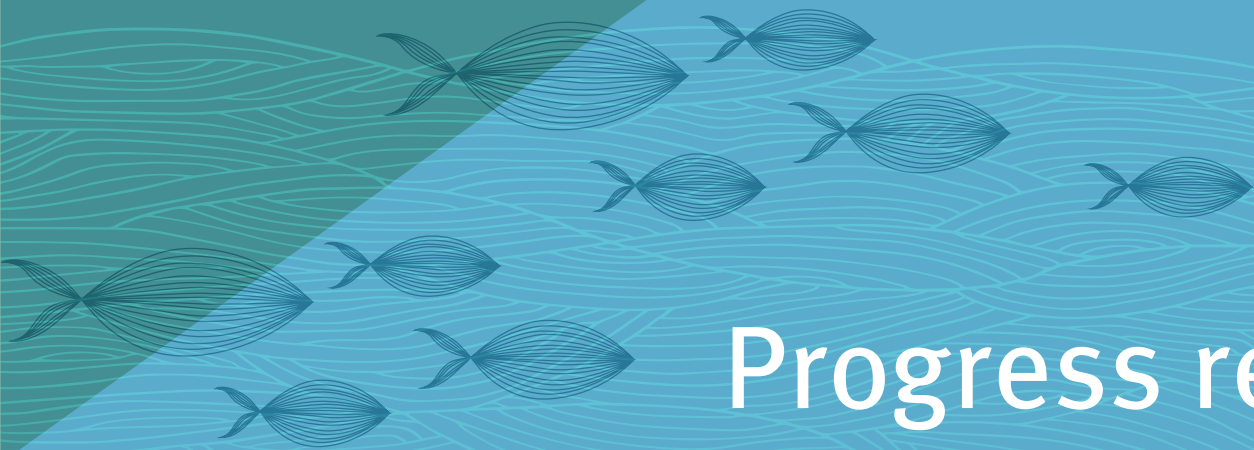


Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy

2017–2027



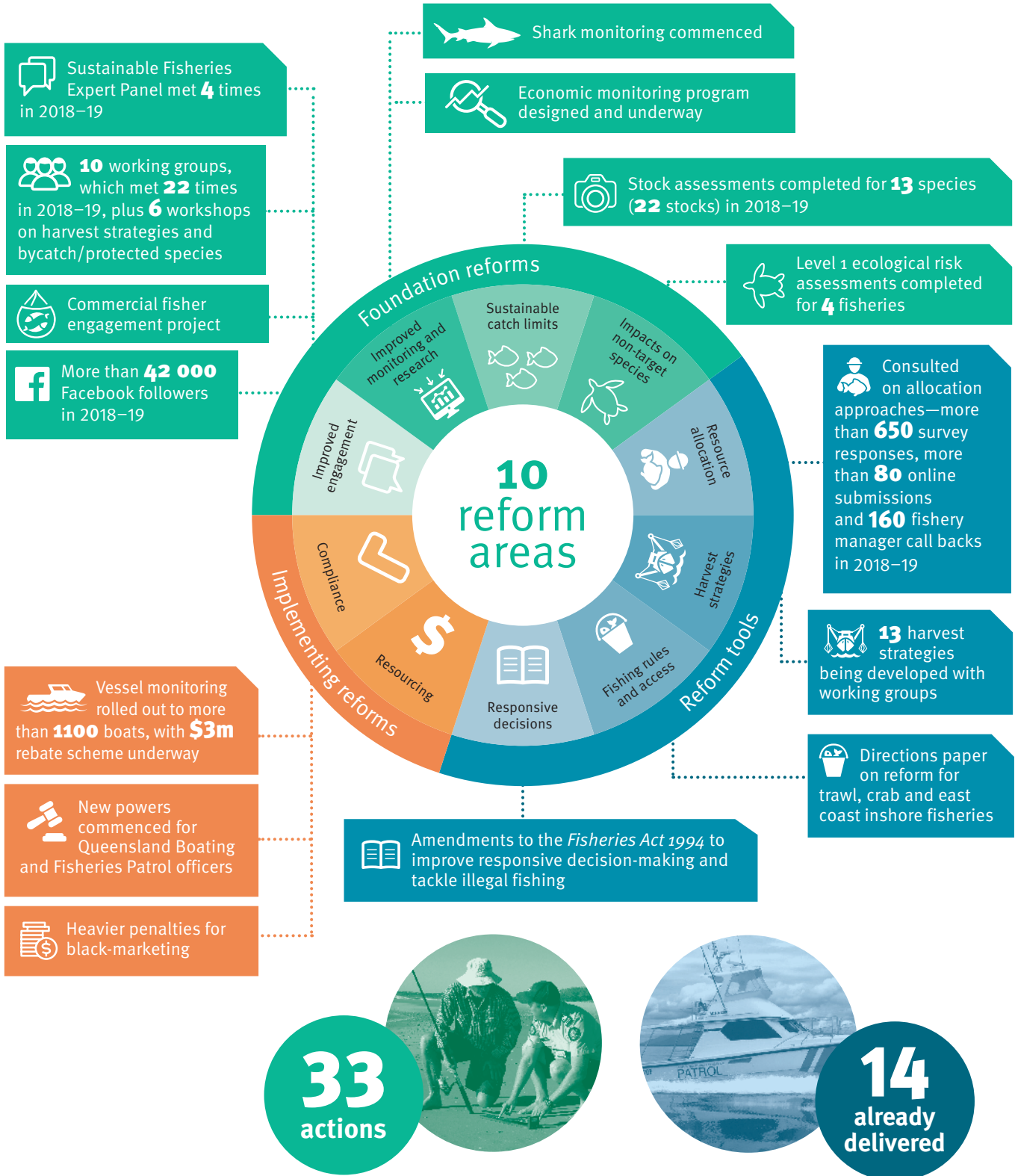
Progress report

Year 2



Queensland
Government

Key achievements



Sustainable Fisheries Expert Panel met **4** times in 2018–19

10 working groups, which met **22** times in 2018–19, plus **6** workshops on harvest strategies and bycatch/protected species

Commercial fisher engagement project

More than **42 000** Facebook followers in 2018–19






Vessel monitoring rolled out to more than **1100** boats, with **\$3m** rebate scheme underway

New powers commenced for Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers

Heavier penalties for black-marketing

In June 2017, the Queensland Government released the *Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027*, paving the way for our state 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 fish species, shark, scallop, juvenile snapper, blue swimmer crab and eastern king prawn. New statewide recreational fishing survey, and social and economic monitoring program commenced. Advance Queensland innovation challenge underway looking at electronic automated monitoring of fishing operations using cameras, sensors and image recognition.
2. Setting sustainable catch limits	On track 	Stock assessments completed for 13 species (22 stocks) in 2018–19. These stock assessments will help set sustainable catch limits and inform the development of harvest strategies.
3. Improved stakeholder engagement	Work continuing 	Significant efforts have been made to improve engagement approaches over the past 18 months, including the use of traditional and novel methods. University engaged to better understand barriers to engagement with commercial fishers. Initiatives adopted from this work include improved frequency and diversity of communication, accompanied by a specific focus on personal, face-to-face and small-group engagement opportunities. An action plan is being developed for implementation in 2019–20.
4. Environmental risk assessments	On track 	Good progress has been made, with level 1 ecological risk assessments completed for 4 priority fisheries. This work has supported the development of bycatch and protected species management strategies.
5. Resource allocation	On track 	Existing catch shares are to be set out explicitly in harvest strategies. Reallocation policy implemented to guide requests for fishing closures and net-free areas.
6. Harvest strategies	On track 	Drafting of initial 13 harvest strategies with fishery working groups underway and some workshops with industry are completed (e.g. trawl regional workshops). Consultation on harvest strategies scheduled for later in 2019 and will include setting sustainable catch limits and catch shares between sectors.
7. Fishing rules and access	On track 	Released a directions paper on reforms to key fisheries in January 2019, following consultation on options in 2018. Conducted further consultation on allocation criteria and proposed regulatory amendments that will inform final regulatory changes by the end of 2019.
8. Responsive decision-making	On track 	Changes to the <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> commenced in May 2019, which will allow more responsive decision-making through harvest strategies.
9. Compliance	On track 	Excellent progress, with 20 new Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) officers recruited and the Gladstone QBFP office reopened. New compliance powers and stronger penalties in place to help address black-marketing of fisheries resources. New tools provided to QBFP officers (e.g. drones and surveillance kits). QBFP cultural liaison officers working closely with Traditional Owners and land and sea rangers to enhance surveillance capacity in remote areas and support education and other community initiatives. Vessel tracking rolled out to all net, crab and line boats in 2019, with over 1100 units installed and operational. All remaining commercial fishing vessels required to have vessel tracking will need to comply from 1 January 2020.
10. Resourcing	On track 	Additional funding allocated through the state budget to support fish aggregating devices in South East Queensland, roll out additional recreational fishing grants and support digital transformation projects.

Overall comments

We have delivered more than one-third of actions in the strategy in the first 2 years. All of the actions due to be delivered in 2018–19 were completed.

Major changes to the *Fisheries Act 1994* were passed by Parliament and will deliver stronger compliance powers and heavier penalties for black-marketing, along with a more responsive decision-making process supported by harvest strategies. Results from investment in additional biological monitoring and stock assessment are now being used to inform decisions around sustainable catch limits and harvest strategies.

Year 2 of implementation involved narrowing down reform options for priority fisheries (crab, trawl and east coast inshore fisheries), developing allocation approaches and scoping impacts. We have considered all feedback and suggestions, and a number of changes have been made as a result. Industry engagement will remain a priority as the reform process continues. There has been a strong focus on consulting individual fishers about what the proposed reforms mean for them, so we can better understand and minimise potential impacts.

Areas for focus over the next 12 months

Over the next 12 months, we will focus on remaking the Fisheries Regulation 2008 (expected in September 2019) to legislate the fishery reforms, and finalising initial harvest strategies. This will be followed by a focus on implementing and communicating the reforms and changes to fishing rules—allowing investment warnings to be removed and giving greater certainty to industry. We will also continue to improve engagement and communication over the next year, roll out new technologies (e.g. apps, digital observers, a new compliance system to support officers in the field and better online systems) and improve data and stock assessments to support ongoing decision-making.



Measuring progress against targets

To measure our performance over time, targets have been set for both 2020 and 2027. This will help track our performance and ensure we are achieving the outcomes identified.



2020 targets

Target	Baseline in 2017–18	Progress 2018–19
Sustainable catch limits based on maximum sustainable yield (around 40–50% biomass)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock assessments completed for 28 species (43 stocks) in 2007–17 Stock assessments completed for 2 species (2 stocks) in 2017–18 8 catch-based quotas, but not explicitly set using biomass targets 	<p>Work continuing </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock assessments completed for 13 species (22 stocks), including 6 new species 9 catch-based quotas, but not explicitly set using biomass targets
Harvest strategies for all fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No harvest strategies in place 	<p>On track </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 harvest strategies in development
Export approvals maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% export approvals in place 	<p>Achieved </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% export approvals in place
Improved stakeholder satisfaction with engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall satisfaction with Fisheries Queensland engagement: 56% 	<p>Work continuing </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfaction survey to be completed in 2019–20 to assess progress against the baseline Independent contractors engaged to better understand barriers to engagement with commercial fishers—an action plan is being developed for implementation in 2019–20
Increased satisfaction of recreational fishers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall satisfaction of recreational fishers in Queensland: 61% 	<p>Work continuing </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfaction survey to be completed in 2019–20 to assess progress against the baseline Statewide recreational fishing survey to be completed to revise information on recreational fishing participation and harvest
Better data for key fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67 key species (98 stocks) considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 species (30 stocks) undefined 5 species (5 stocks) with minimal data 1 species (1 stock) not assessed 	<p>Work continuing </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67 key species (98 stocks) considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 species (31 stocks) undefined 5 species (5 stocks) with minimal data all species assessed



2027 targets

Target	Baseline in 2017–18	Progress 2018–19
Sustainable catch limits based on maximum economic yield (around 60% biomass)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock assessments completed for 28 species (43 stocks) in 2007–17 Stock assessments completed for 2 species (2 stocks) in 2017–18 8 catch-based quotas, but not explicitly set using biomass targets 	<p>Work continuing </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock assessments completed for 13 species (22 stocks), including 6 new species 9 catch-based quotas, but not explicitly set using biomass targets
No Queensland fisheries overfished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 overfished stocks (scallop and snapper) 	<p>Work continuing </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 overfished stocks (scallop, snapper and pearl perch) Further management actions proposed to take pressure off snapper and pearl perch, and rebuild scallops
Increased certainty for commercial operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No data yet (to be collected in 2018) 	<p>On track </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New social and economic monitoring program developed to collect baseline data in 2019–20
Reduced volume of fisheries regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 933 pages of regulations—733 pages in the Fisheries Regulation 2008 and 200 pages in the Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 2010 	<p>On track </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 839 pages of regulations—579 pages in the Fisheries Regulation 2008 and 260 pages of declarations Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 2010 incorporated into the Fisheries Regulation 2008 and declarations ready for harvest strategies
Improved trends of compliance rates*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% compliance rate 	<p>On track </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89%—rate is lower due to shift to intelligence-based compliance, which targets non-compliant operators rather than random inspections
Responsive and consultative approach to fisheries management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall satisfaction with Fisheries Queensland engagement: 56% Other measures to be developed 	<p>On track </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfaction survey to be completed in 2019–20 to assess progress against the baseline Changes to the <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> to establish framework for responsive decision-making—focus in 2019–20 will shift to finalising harvest strategies with pre-agreed decision rules 10 fishery-specific working groups in place and meeting regularly to provide operational advice on respective fisheries Responsive decisions about sustainability concerns for black jewfish, and molluscs in Moreton Bay 636 responses to the discussion paper about allocation approaches with very constructive feedback provided—as a result, a number of changes made to improve allocation approaches Data validation of logbook history undertaken in the crab and east coast inshore fisheries as a result of stakeholder concern about inflated catch ahead of allocation

*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.