

Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy: 2017–2027

Year 6 progress report

Key achievements: 2022–2023





Actions delivered by 2023

1. Improved monitoring and research – ALL ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 1.1: Develop a fisheries monitoring and research plan.

ACTION 1.2: Undertake additional monitoring of key biological stocks to better understand fishery performance and support management actions in a more timely way.

ACTION 1.3: Develop partnerships to trial the use of novel technologies for fisheries monitoring, such as apps, robotic vision, spatial interfaces and mapping, social media and citizen science.

ACTION 1.4: Develop and implement a data validation plan

ACTION 1.5: Develop and implement a practical and cost-effective system for collection of economic and social data.

2. Setting sustainable catch limits – ALL ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 2.1: Develop guidelines for how sustainable catch limits should be set, as part of a harvest strategy guideline.

ACTION 2.2: Using improved data, undertake regular stock assessments (annually or at least every two years) for key stocks to assess the fisheries status against the sustainable target and limit reference points.

3. Improved stakeholder engagement – ALL ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 3.1: Appoint an expert panel to provide independent advice on best practice fisheries management and science.

ACTION 3.2: Establish fishery-specific working groups with rotational membership to provide operational advice and participation to support the harvest strategies.

ACTION 3.3: Work with Indigenous groups and communities through various forums to provide advice on fisheries management issues.

ACTION 3.4: Utilise more novel engagement techniques (including online surveys) to gather a range of stakeholder feedback on particular fishery issues.

ACTION 3.5: Review the effectiveness of engagement mechanisms.

4. Environmental risk assessments – 1 OF 2 ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 4.1: Publish a guideline on assessing the ecosystem impacts of fishing activities, including the process for prioritising and undertaking ecological risk assessments.

5. Resource allocation – 1 OF 2 ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 5.1: Develop a resource allocation policy to outline how decisions about allocation and reallocation of access will be made.

6. Harvest strategies – 1 OF 2 ACTIONS DELIVERED

ACTION 6.1: Develop a guideline on harvest strategies, including a process for how parameters should be set.

7. Fishing rules and access – ALL ACTIONS DELIVERED



ACTION 7.1: Review fishing rules, regulations and access arrangements as part of developing harvest strategies for each fishery.

ACTION 7.2: Amend fisheries legislation to minimise regulation and ensure rules are clear and practical.

ACTION 7.3: Implement an ongoing latent effort removal policy to ensure entitlements that aren't being used are not reactivated.

ACTION 7.4: Help facilitate industry-led structural adjustment through a range of mechanisms (e.g. two-for-one licence requirements and industry-led buybacks).

ACTION 7.5: Pilot regional management in a key location (e.g. Moreton Bay) to assess the benefits and limitations of regionally specific management arrangements.

ACTION 7.6: Develop a traditional fishing policy to clarify arrangements and an Indigenous commercial fishing development policy to support Indigenous economic development in a way that supports sustainable fishing.

8. Responsive decision-making – ACTION DELIVERED



ACTION 8.1: Amend the fisheries legislation to clarify the roles of the responsible minister and Fisheries Queensland, to ensure decision-making is at the appropriate level and is timely and evidence-based, and that rules can be changed via declaration as far as possible to ensure sufficient flexibility.

9. Compliance – ALL ACTIONS DELIVERED



ACTION 9.1: Continue to refine strategic compliance plans to support implementation of this strategy.

ACTION 9.2: Boost compliance resources from 2017–18 onwards.

ACTION 9.3: Undertake a thorough review to strengthen enforcement powers, particularly in relation to serious offences and black-market sales of seafood.

ACTION 9.4: Establish a cultural liaison role for some Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers to support education and other community initiatives.

ACTION 9.5: Continue to promote cross-decking with other enforcement organisations (e.g. police, maritime safety and marine parks) and establish formal arrangements to facilitate data sharing and collaborative compliance effort.

ACTION 9.6: Require installation of vessel tracking on all commercial boats by 2020, with a priority to install on net, line and crab boats by 2018.




10. Resourcing – 1 OF 2 ACTIONS DELIVERED



ACTION 10.1: In the short term, increase government funding to Fisheries Queensland to implement the reforms set out in this strategy.



Targets met by 2023

-  Increased satisfaction of recreational fishers (compared to 2017 figures)
-  Better data for key fisheries to underpin evidence-based management
-  Reduced volume of fisheries regulation



Actions to be delivered

Actions to be delivered by 2027

4. Environmental risk assessments

On track



ACTION 4.2: ERAs to be undertaken for priority fisheries or species, followed by the remaining fisheries.

⇒ **Level 1 ERAs published for 14 Queensland fisheries – 5 fisheries progressed to more detailed Level 2 ERAs. Remaining ERA underway for east coast trawl fishery (expected to be published in 2023–24)**

5. Resource allocation

On track



ACTION 5.2: Determine allocations as an explicit part of harvest strategies or individual stocks or regions.

⇒ **16 harvest strategies in place and operational – 2 remaining**

6. Harvest strategies

On track



ACTION 6.2: In consultation with fishery working groups and the expert advisory panel, develop harvest strategies for all major fisheries by the end of 2020, with a priority to develop trawl, crab and inshore fisheries strategies by the end of 2018.

⇒ **16 harvest strategies in place and operational – 2 remaining (Rocky Reef and Gulf of Carpentaria fisheries)**

10. Resourcing

Work continuing



ACTION 10.2: In the longer term, develop a resourcing strategy based on a beneficiary-pays system. This should include a review of the recreational use fee and commercial licence fees once harvest strategies are in place for key fisheries.



Targets to be met by 2027

Harvest strategies for all Queensland fisheries

- Remaining 2 harvest strategies to be developed for Rocky Reef and Gulf of Carpentaria fisheries

On track



Maintain or restore Commonwealth environmental approvals

- 13 Queensland fisheries currently accredited for export under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Work continuing



Improved stakeholder satisfaction about engagement mechanisms

- New survey underway. 2019 survey indicated overall satisfaction rate of 50% – satisfaction increased for recreational fishers, government agencies and non-fishers, while satisfaction declined for commercial, charter and Indigenous fishers (commercial fishers continuing to have a low level of satisfaction with engagement)

Work continuing



Set sustainable catch limits to achieve maximum sustainable yield (around 40–50% biomass) and then maximum economic yield (around 60% biomass) for all Queensland fisheries

On track



No Queensland fisheries overfished

- 6 stocks considered to have sustainability concerns:
 - 4 stocks considered depleted – snapper, saucer scallops, pearl perch and Spanish mackerel (east coast)
 - 2 stocks considered to be depleting – king threadfin and Spanish mackerel (Gulf of Carpentaria)

On track



Increased certainty for commercial operators

- Economic and social data for commercial and charter fisheries – published online via an interactive dashboard
- Contract underway to survey commercial and charter fisheries and report on 2022–23 economic and social indicators
- Completion of ITQ and ITE allocations, along with new and revised commercial catch limits support operationalisation of the fisheries reforms and new harvest strategies, and also provide certainty to commercial fishers about the harvest expected from their operations

On track



Improved compliance rates

- 87% – lower rate due to shift to intelligence-based compliance that targets non-compliant operators rather than random inspections
- Continued focus on education and enforcement

Work continuing



A responsive and consultative approach to fisheries management

- Satisfaction with engagement survey completed, with a new survey scheduled for 2023–24
- Membership for 14 working groups being refreshed, targeting gender diversity and First Nations representation

On track

