



Qld eFisher commercial fishing app

Electronic logbook instructions

App version 1

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Document revision history

Revision date	Version number	Description of revision
December 2021	1	First version of the electronic logbook instructions
July 2022	2	Updated version to include coral and tropical rocklobster fisheries
May 2023	3	Updated version to include aquarium fishery
February 2024	4	Updated version to reflect net fishery changes

General information

Qld eFisher is a new and easy way for fishers to report their catch information that was launched in December 2021. This document is a guide to help fishers report catch and effort via the Qld eFisher commercial fishing app in accordance with chapter 5 of the Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019.

Licence holders, commercial fishers and other persons undertaking commercial fishing activities are subject to a range of requirements under the *Fisheries Act 1994*, the Fisheries (General) Regulation 2019, the Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019, the Fisheries Declaration 2019 and the Fisheries Quota Declaration 2019. To ensure you comply with all those requirements, you must be familiar with all of this legislation.

The Qld eFisher app (version 1) is an **approved logbook (commercial fishing)** and an **approved logbook (TEP animal interaction)** under the Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019. This instruction covers the Qld eFisher app version 1 including all minor and patch changes made to that version. Commercial fishers can use the Qld eFisher app (version 1) instead of paper logbooks for fishing operations in the eligible fisheries and parts of eligible fisheries specified below (except where the fish taken during a fishing operation are **transhipped**) where **all records** relating to the fishing operation (pre-trip notifications; logbook entries; catch and disposal records) are being submitted electronically, unless they are advised that:

- a different version of the Qld eFisher app or another electronic logbook is approved under the Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019 for the relevant fishery or the part of the fishery
- the Qld eFisher app (version 1) is no longer required under the Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019
- there is no longer any approved logbook (paper or electronic) for the fishery in which they operate.

NOTE: If both paper and electronic logbooks have been approved for a particular fishery or part of a fishery, and **no transhipping** of fish is occurring, commercial fishers can choose to use **either** the Qld eFisher app **or** paper logbooks. However, if a commercial fisher is not in a position to submit **all records** for a fishing operation electronically, they must use paper logbooks for that fishing operation. Paper logbooks must be used for all fishing operations with transhipped fish.

Eligible fisheries

The Qld eFisher app (version1) (the **electronic logbook**) can be used for the fisheries and parts of fisheries described below (where **no transhipping** is occurring):

- NX, N15, N10, eastern N11 area (i.e., **not** the Gulf N11 area)
- L1, L2, L3
- K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K6, K7, K8
- T1, T2, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8, T9
- M1, M2
- C1, C2, C3
- R
- D
- A1, A2

If the electronic logbook is being used, interactions with threatened, endangered and protected animals in the above fisheries must also be reported via the electronic logbook.

Privacy statement

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries collects information in the electronic logbook for fisheries management and research purposes. The collection of information is authorised under the Fisheries Act 1994 and supporting regulations which govern logbook requirements, vessel tracking, catch reporting and other information requirements. Please read our privacy statement which details what happens to your personal information when accessing the Qld eFisher app: [Qld eFisher app privacy statement | Business Queensland](#)

Your personal information may be disclosed to the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) if you apply for financial assistance. QRIDA will obtain your authority to obtain this information from the department at the time you make an application. Your personal information will not be disclosed to any other third parties without your written consent unless authorised for the management, use, development, or protection of fisheries resources, or authorised or required by law. For more information please read our [DAF](#) information privacy guide or visit [Privacy | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Instructions

NOTE: Requirements may differ between electronic logbook reporting and paper logbook reporting. For a comprehensive list of your logbook reporting requirements, refer to Chapter 5 of the Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019.

1. General requirements

- 1.1 The commercial fisher in control of the fishing operation is required to keep information about their commercial fishing activities (including fishing operation days and outside fishing operation days).
- 1.2 A specific logbook entry about a fishing operation day must be recorded for each fishing operation in each relevant fishery in a logbook relevant to that fishery. If the electronic logbook is not being used for **all records** (pre-trip notifications; logbook entries; catch and disposal records) for the relevant fishing operation, the required entry must be recorded in a paper logbook. These instructions relate to completion of entries for the **electronic logbook**. If you are using a paper logbook, different instructions may apply.
- 1.3 **All fields must be completed.**
- 1.4 A separate logbook entry must be completed for each day of a fishing operation.
- 1.5 If several fishing operations take place during a single day, an entry must be made for each fishing operation conducted during that day.
- 1.6 Entries must be completed at the end of each day of the fishing operation, except for the final day. The last entry for the fishing operation must be completed:
 - before the boat lands – if using a boat to take fish other than by using a seine net
 - when the boat stops being used for fishing and before the boat leaves the beach – if using a boat to take fish using a seine net
 - when the commercial fisher or assistant fisher stops fishing and before the fisher leaves the fishing location – if not using a boat to take fish.
- 1.7 The commercial fisher in control of the fishing operation must ensure the logbook is available for immediate inspection during a fishing operation and while any fish from the fishing operation remain in their physical possession.
- 1.8 Each daily logbook entry about a commercial fishing operation must be submitted to Fisheries Queensland via the Qld eFisher app by the commercial fisher in control of the fishing operation, within 24 hours after the fishing operation ends.
- 1.9 Fisheries Queensland will accept, under the Electronic Transactions (Queensland) Act 2001, returns from commercial fishers that comply with these requirements.

2. Who can record information in the electronic logbook

- 2.1 Logbook entries about fishing operation days must be made by the commercial fisher in control of the fishing operation.
- 2.2 Logbook entries about outside fishing operation days may be made by either the holder of the primary commercial fishing licence or by a commercial fisher that has been authorised to do this by the primary licence holder.

3. When information must be recorded

3.1 An entry about a commercial fishing operation must be made:

- at the end of each day of the relevant fishing operation
- or
- if the fishing operation ends before the end of the day:
 - before the boat lands if using a boat to take fish other than with a seine net
 - when the boat stops being used for fishing and before the boat leaves the beach if using a boat to take fish with a seine net
 - when the commercial fisher or assistant fisher stops fishing and before they leave the fishing location if not using a boat to take fish.

4. Reporting days not commercially fished

- 4.1 This section applies to days when the commercial fishing licence is not used. It is **not** a day **within** a fishing operation during which no fishing occurs.
- 4.2 Record any outside fishing operation days information in the record day/s not commercially fishing section. This section can be used to record a single outside fishing operation day or a continuous period of outside fishing operation days.
- 4.3 Entries in this electronic logbook about outside fishing operation days must be made by the primary commercial fishing licence holder or by a person authorised by that holder who is a commercial fisher.
- 4.4 Although the Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019 allows entries about outside fishing operation days to be recorded in a logbook by a person authorised by a primary licence holder who is not a commercial fisher, this version of this electronic logbook does not cater for this situation. Accordingly, if it is proposed to have outside fishing days information entered by an authorised person who is not a commercial fisher, a separate paper logbook entry must be used to record that outside fishing operation days information.
- 4.5 Entries in this logbook about outside fishing operation days, if they are made, must be made before the primary commercial fishing licence holder's relevant monthly return of logbook sheets to Fisheries Queensland (must be received by Fisheries Queensland within 15 days after the end of the relevant month to which the logs details relate).

5. Reporting fishing activity

- 5.1 The electronic logbook can be used if the pre-trip notice is submitted in the Qld eFisher app before the fishing operation starts (*if a pre-trip notice cannot be submitted via the app, a paper logbook is required to be used for the fishing operation for that fishery*).
- 5.2 A separate logbook entry must be completed for each day of a fishing operation.
- 5.3 If multiple fishing operations are undertaken in a single day, separate logbook entries for each fishing operation must be recorded.
- 5.4 Complete the activity type for the relevant fishing activity:
- steaming – the only activity was to steam to/from a fishing location
 - searching – the only activity was searching and no fish were found
 - fishing – fishing activity took place (regardless of whether any fish were caught and whether you also undertook any other activities)
 - not fishing – no fishing activity took place.

6. Reporting location

- 6.1 A location must be recorded for each fishing or searching day.
- 6.2 The location must be recorded as either:
- 30 minute GRID and 6 minute SITE (using the charts in the electronic logbook)
 - or
 - latitude and longitude (decimal degrees is the preferred format).

For coral and aquarium fish collection, dive site/collection location can only be recorded as a latitude and longitude.

- 6.3 **If the only activity undertaken was searching, and no fish were found**, the location searched must be recorded. If multiple locations were searched, the location where the most time was spent searching must be recorded.
- 6.4 **If you fished without catching any fish**, regardless of whether you also undertook any other activities on the same day, the location fished must be recorded. If multiple locations were fished, the location where the most time was spent fishing must be recorded.
- 6.5 **If any fish were caught**, regardless of whether you also undertook any other activities on the same day, the location where you took the greatest amount of catch must be recorded.

7. Net fishing

For a net fishing operation, complete the fishery-specific entries such as fishing methods, gear used, location and equipment soak times.

NOTE: Those using “as of right” access to the N15 fishery must record N15 as the fishery symbol in the pre-trip notice and keep the logbook and catch disposal record information as per the electronic logbook instructions and the electronic catch disposal record instructions.

- 7.1 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section**, you must record:
- the mesh size of the net/s used
 - the total length (m) for the nets used to fish.
 - the fishing method used (drift gill, set gill, ocean beach, tunnel, ring, haul)
 - the soak time (hr) if using gillnet fishing methods including but not limited to drift gill or set gill net methods – the soak time is defined as the total time the net/s were in the water:
 - the time a net first enters the water to the start of the first rob
 - plus
 - the time a net re-enters the water after the end of the first rob to the start of the second rob.
- 7.2 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and any fish were caught and retained**, you must record the following information in the ‘Logbook catch’ section under retained catch:
- **the number of the individual fish or containers of fish taken**, sorted by species and form as required by the relevant logbook, for example:
 - whole fish – 2 whole barramundi
 - gilled and gutted fish – 2 gilled and gutted barramundi
 - gutted shark – 1 gutted blacktip shark

- trunked fish taken – 2 trunked giant queenfish
 - **the estimated weight (kg) of the fish taken**, sorted by species and form, for example:
 - whole fish – whole barramundi 20 kg
 - gilled and gutted fish – gilled and gutted barramundi 15 kg
 - trunked fish – trunked giant queenfish 10 kg.
- 7.3 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and any fish were caught but discarded**, you must record the number of individual fish caught and discarded, sorted by species, in the ‘Logbook catch’ section under discarded catch.
- 7.4 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and no fish were caught and retained**, confirm that **zero** catch was recorded when you ‘End day’ in the logbook section.

NOTE: Sharks and rays taken or discarded during net fishing operations must also be recorded – see section 18 in this guide for instructions.

8. Line fishing

For a line fishing operation, complete the fishery-specific entries such as fishing methods, gear used, location and species targeted.

- 8.1 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section**, you must record the:
- number of tenders (dories) used to fish
 - number of crew that fished
 - number of fishing lines used
 - fishing method used (handline/rod or trolling)
 - species of fish targeted.
- 8.2 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and any fish were caught**, you must record the following information in the ‘Logbook catch’ section under retained catch:
- **the number of individual fish taken**, sorted by species and form, for example:
 - live fish – 2 live common coral trout
 - whole dead (unfilleted) fish – 2 dead common coral trout
 - **the estimated weight (kg) of the fish taken**, sorted by species and form, for example:
 - live fish – Live common coral trout 5 kg
 - whole dead (unfilleted) fish – Dead common coral trout 5 kg
- 8.3 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and no fish were caught and retained**, confirm that **zero** catch was recorded when you ‘End day’ in the logbook section.

NOTE: Sharks and rays taken or discarded during line fishing operations must also be recorded – see section 18 in this guide for instructions.

9. Trawl fishing

For a trawl fishing operation, complete the fishery-specific entries such as fishing methods, gear used, location and trawl shot times.

- 9.1 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and any fish were caught**, you must record each species of fish taken in the ‘Logbook catch’ section under retained catch:
- **the number of individual fish or containers of fish taken**, as required by the relevant logbook (e.g., 2 individual slipper lobsters, 10 containers of banana prawns)
 - **the estimated whole weight** (kg) of fish taken.
- 9.2 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort section and no fish were caught and retained**, confirm that **zero** catch was recorded when you ‘End day’ in the logbook section.

10. Inshore trawl fishing (T5–T9)

- 10.1 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section**, you must record the:
- trawl gear code – this code must correspond with the codes listed on your most recently completed gear description sheet (located at the front of the logbook)
 - number of shots
 - time shot away (24 hour time) – defined as the time the winch stops and the nets are on the bottom for the **first shot** of the day
 - total hours trawled – defined as the total time the nets are on the bottom
 - target species.

11. Fin fish trawl fishing (T4)

- 11.1 Record the following for **each shot**:
- average depth (fathoms)
 - position (latitude and longitude) for the start and end of each shot
 - time (24-hour time) for the start and end of each shot.

12. Otter trawl fishing (T1, T2, M1, M2)

- 12.1 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section**, you must record:
- the trawl gear code – this code must correspond with the codes listed on your most recently completed gear description sheet (located at the front of the logbook)
 - whether the boat being used under the primary commercial fishing licence is a wet boat or a dry boat.
 - the target species
 - details for **each shot** including:
 - shot start time (time the winch stops and the nets are on the bottom)
 - shot end time (time winch starts winching net up).
- 12.2 **You must record the number of containers and estimated weight for eastern king prawns, tiger prawns, endeavour prawns and red spot king prawns**, sorted by the **prawn grade**.
- 12.3 You must record the number of individuals or number of containers and estimated weight as required by the logbook fields, for all other species.

- 12.4 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and any scallops were caught but discarded**, you must record the number of containers and estimated whole weight (kg) in the ‘Logbook catch’ section under ‘Scallop (discarded)’.

13. Crab fishing (excluding spanner crab)

For a crab fishing operation (excluding spanner crab), complete the fishery-specific entries such as fishing methods, gear used, location and equipment soak times.

- 13.1 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section**, you must record the:

- number of pots/dillies used
- total number of lifts of the pots/dillies

For example:

- If you set 50 pots/dillies on a fishing day, check each of the 50 pots/dillies once and then 30 pots/dillies a second time, the **number of pots/dillies is 50** and the **total number of lifts is 80**.
- If you set 50 pots/dillies on a fishing day but do not lift any of the pots/dillies, the **number of pots/dillies is 50** and the **total number of lifts is zero**.

- 13.2 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and any crabs were caught**, you must record the following information in the ‘Logbook catch’ section under retained catch:

- the number of individual crabs or containers of each species of crab taken (e.g., 20 individual mud crabs, 4 containers of blue swimmer crabs)
- the estimated whole weight (kg) of each species of crab taken.

- 13.3 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and no crabs were caught and retained**, confirm that **zero** catch was recorded when you ‘End day’ in the logbook section.

14. Spanner crab fishing

For a spanner crab fishing operation, complete the fishery-specific entries such as fishing methods, gear used, location and equipment soak times.

- 14.1 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section**, you must record the:

- number of dillies used
- time first line is set and the time last line is lifted (24 hour time)
- total number of lifts of the dillies

For example:

- If you set 10 dillies per line, use 3 lines and check each line 3 times, the **number of dillies is 30** and the **total number of lifts is 90**.

- 14.2 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and any crabs were caught**, you must record the following information in the ‘Logbook catch’ section under retained catch:

- the number of containers of spanner crabs taken (e.g., 4 containers of spanner crab)
- the estimated whole weight (kg) of spanner crabs taken.

- 14.3 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and any legal crabs were caught but discarded**, you must record the estimated weight of the discarded crabs in the ‘Estimated quantity of legal crab discarded (kg)’.

- 14.4 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the 'Logbook effort' section and no fish were caught and retained**, confirm that **zero** catch was recorded when you 'End day' in the logbook section.

15. Crayfish and rocklobster collection

For a crayfish and rocklobster fishing operation, complete the fishery-specific entries for each dory each fishing operation day.

- 15.1 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the 'Logbook effort' section**, you must record the:

- fishing method used to take the fish
- the position of the greatest amount of catch
- the total hours collecting for the relevant period. Collecting time is defined as the time from the diver first entering the water to the diver leaving the water.
- the diver's name for the dory that took the fish
- the number of the dory that took the fish
- if the primary vessel is used to collect rocklobster in conjunction with the dories, record zero '0' in the dory number field and record the relevant data for the primary vessel.

- 15.2 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the 'Logbook effort' section and any fish were caught**, you must record the following information in the 'Logbook catch' section under retained catch:

- the number of individual fish taken, sorted by the form of the fish taken
- the estimated weight (kg) of the fish taken, sorted by the form of the fish taken
- the form of the fish taken can include:
 - live fish
 - dead whole fish
 - dead tails from fish (rocklobster tails must be recorded as the number of tails, not the number of containers of tails).

- 15.3 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the 'Logbook effort' section and no fish were caught and retained**, confirm that **zero** catch was recorded when you 'End day' in the logbook section.

16. Coral collection

For a coral collecting operation, complete the fishery-specific entries for each dive site/collection location.

16.1 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the 'Logbook effort' section**, you must record the:

- dive site/collection location (latitude and longitude)
- number of collectors- this is the number of people actively involved in the collecting
- total collector hours- this is the total number of collectors hours for the identified dive site/collection location.

For example, 2 people collecting for 5 hours each at a dive site or collection location equals 10 total collector hours for the dive site or collection location.

16.2 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the 'Logbook effort' section and any corals and/or sea anemones were collected**, you must record the following information in the 'Logbook Catch' section:

- the number of pieces of each species, genus or family of coral and/or sea anemone taken
- the estimated weight of each species, genus or family of coral and/or sea anemone taken.

16.3 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the 'Logbook effort' section and any live rock and/or coral rubble was collected**, you must record the following information in the 'Logbook Catch' section:

- the number of containers of live rock and/or coral rubble taken
- the estimated weight (kg) of live rock and/or coral rubble taken.

16.4 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the 'Logbook effort' section and any shell grit and/or star sand was collected**, you must record the following information in the 'Logbook Catch' section:

- the estimated weight (kg) of shell grit and/or star sand taken.

16.5 **If you record the activity type as fishing in the 'Logbook effort' section and no coral, sea anemone, live rock, coral rubble, shell grit and/or star sand was taken**, confirm that zero catch was recorded when you 'End day' in the logbook section.

17. Aquarium fish collection

For an aquarium fish collecting operation, complete the fishery-specific entries for each dive site/collection location.

17.1 If you record the activity type as fishing in the 'Logbook effort' section, you must record the:

- dive site/collection location (latitude and longitude)
- number of collectors – this is the number of people actively involved in the collecting

- total collector hours – this is the total number of collectors hours for the identified dive site/collection location. Collecting is defined as the time from when the diver first enters the water to when the diver leaves the water.

For example, 2 people collecting for 5 hours each at a dive site or collection location equals 10 total collector hours for the dive site or collection location.

- fishing method used (line, cast net, scoop net, mesh net).

17.2 If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and any aquarium fish were collected, you must record the following information in the ‘Logbook Catch’ section:

- the number of individuals of each species, genus or family of aquarium fish taken.

17.3 If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and aquarium fish were not taken, confirm that zero catch was recorded when you ‘End day’ in the logbook section.

18. Reporting sharks and/or rays

Sharks and/or rays taken during **net or line fishing operations** must be recorded.

18.1 If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and any sharks and/ or rays are taken, you must record the following information in the ‘Logbook catch’ section under retained catch:

- the number of individual sharks and/ or rays taken, sorted by species and form
- the estimated weight (kg) of sharks and/ or rays taken, sorted by species and form.

18.2 If you record the activity type as fishing in the ‘Logbook effort’ section and any sharks and/ or rays were caught but discarded, you must record the number of individual sharks or rays (sorted by the species) in the ‘Logbook catch’ section under discarded catch.

NOTE: Scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), Great hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*), Smooth hammerhead (*Sphyrna zygaena*) and Winghead shark (*Eusphyrna blochii*) are **no take** from the 1 January 2024.

Discarded hammerhead sharks and winghead sharks must be reported by species. All other sharks must be reported as the total ‘Other shark & ray’ discarded under the non-quota section of the logbook.

19. Reporting threatened, endangered and protected animals

Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), fishers must report interactions with listed threatened, migratory and marine species, and all whales and dolphins in Commonwealth waters.

Reporting interactions with protected animals is important for maintaining the Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) accreditations granted by the Australian Government for certain Queensland fisheries – this accreditation is commonly used within the Australian domestic market as an indicator of sustainability.

Without a WTO accreditation, seafood cannot be exported to international seafood markets and fishers who injure or kill a listed threatened, migratory or marine species would be committing an offence under the EPBC Act (significant penalties apply).

19.1 All interactions with threatened, endangered or protected (TEP) animals that occur during a fishing operation must be recorded in the ‘Logbook effort’ section. An interaction is defined as physical contact between a TEP animal and a person, boat or fishing apparatus involved in a fishing operation.

19.2 You must record the following details about interactions with TEP animals:

- fishing method
- location of physical contact
- interaction type
- number of TEP animals sorted by their release condition (dead, alive and uninjured, alive but injured)
- tag or band number (if present)
- TEP species (use 'whale – unspecified' or 'dolphin – unspecified' if the specific species is not listed).

19.3 An interaction with a TEP animal must be reported before the end of the day of the interaction and before the boat lands.

19.4 If there are multiple, but distinct, interactions with the same protected animal species on a single day (e.g., the interactions occur at different locations, involve different interaction types or occur when different fishing methods are being used), a separate report must be completed for each interaction.

20. Declarations

Each commercial fisher recording data about fishing operations, outside fishing operations, or TEP interactions in the electronic logbook must read the declaration and confirm that the information recorded for the entries is complete and accurate. Entries in the electronic logbook must be accompanied by a declaration made by the commercial fisher, certifying that the entries are complete and accurate.

NOTE: Should data not be recorded as required, enforcement action may be taken by a Fisheries inspector.

More information

Email logbooks@daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.