

The PFA represents its members' interests. If you need our help on any issue, please do not hesitate in contacting the PFA head office (6652-7374) &/or the Chief Executive Officer (0429303371)

AMSA CONSULTATION

In revising Marine Order 504 the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) intends to make it easier for operators to determine what crew numbers are required for the safe operation of their vessel.

There are 2 potential options which AMSA would like to get operators' thoughts on.

Option 1 would allow you to operate a vessel less than 12m in length solo if you determine that it is safe to do so by conducting an appropriate crewing evaluation.

Option 2 would allow you to operate a vessel less than 12m in length solo if all the following criteria are met:

- smooth waters,
- no passengers,
- the voyage is for less than 12 hours, and
- you determine that it is safe to do so by conducting an appropriate crewing evaluation.

These changes would **only apply to new vessels**, vessels operating under grandfathered crewing arrangements may choose to continue to operate with the same amount of crew they currently do. Temporary crewing permits and specific exemptions may also be available.

AMSA are asking operators which option they think is appropriate and how the proposed options would affect their operation.

Please contact AMSA directly or the PFA to put forward which option you prefer. Please head to <https://www.amsa.gov.au/news-community/consultations/have-your-say-make-submission> to read the full proposal and make a submission on which option you prefer.

The submissions you make will help AMSA decide which is the best approach to maximise safety, without unduly affecting people's businesses.

Talking point:

The current crewing requirements for new vessels (contained in NSCV Part E) are more restrictive than either Option 1 or Option 2, because, in addition to the restrictions in Option 2, you must also crew above the 'core complement' number by 1 if you are conducting 'normal operations'. If we adopted either Option 1 or Option 2, we would be giving more flexibility to vessel operators to determine their crewing.

Note: that this is only addressing the crewing aspect of the MO504 changes and AMSA is also interested in feedback on the other questions posed in the explanatory material on the website link above.

PFA RESPONSE TO DRAFT QUOTA ALLOCATION

The PFA has emailed out the DRAFT PFA response to the Independent Allocation Panel (IAP) to seek members input and edits. PLEASE get your comments to the PFA by Monday noon so we can incorporate within our submission – Responses are due to the IAP by Close of Business on the Monday 7th May 2018. For more information <https://www.grantthornton.com.au/IAP/>

Recommendations included:

- Financial assistance to acquire the shares to return to demonstrated catch levels across quota species – as promised by the Minister in his previous commitments
- Access to low interest loans and buyouts as offered in the earlier Business Adjustment Program
- Dedicated financial assistance and resources to advance catch methods to improve targeted fishing activity and reduce unwanted bycatch.
- Strong networks established with industry to ensure flexibility in management arrangement to adapt to identified issues that arise and can be solved in effective manner (co-management)
- Development of a policy and procedure that recognises exceptional circumstances within this quota allocation setting process.
- Improvements in the logbook system and assistance provided to the industry to adopt the new reporting systems

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- Set ITCAL until 2024 to allow industry to adjust to the levels.
- Recreational harvest and indigenous harvest – our industry is going through hardship to become a viable industry and to safeguard the stocks. However, we still witness that the recreational fishing sector remains poorly monitored and is subjected to the most basic of management arrangements. Stricter management arrangements and improved monitoring of the recreational and Indigenous sector harvests of quota species must be established.

SOUTHERN FISH TRAWL TRANSITION WORKING GROUP

The Southern Fish Trawl Transitioning Working group met today in Sydney. The meeting discussed issues raised in the consultation process and possible pathways forward. Concerns were raised regarding the total catch setting process for the quota allocation and recent issues raised by recreational fishers regarding the transition. Official advice from the working group will be to AFMA and NSW DPI. I will keep members advised as we learn more.

WARNING - GAS COOKERS ON BOARD FISHING VESSELS

Each State or Territory has an authority that regulates petroleum and gas, in this case gas appliances and installations, and in NSW this is Fair Trading. Whether a gas appliance or installation is on a vessel, caravan, property, etc. **it must be certified.**

There are Type A gas appliances, mainly domestic and light commercial, which are mass produced, e.g. a barbeque – built to AS/NZ Standards and purchased with a compliance plate or sticker attached from the manufacturer, and there are Type B appliances, defined under AS/NZ Standard 5601 as an appliance with a gas consumption in excess of 10 MJ/hr. It should be noted that a Type A appliance, when used in an industrial and commercial application for which it was not intended is considered to be a Type B appliance.

All jurisdictions in Australia class the prawn cooker as a Type B device, requiring certification.

The Gas Technical Regulator Committee, a forum comprised of gas regulatory authorities from each State and Territory in Australia are currently discussing the regulation of prawn cookers, given that there is different legislation in each State/Territory, with a view to a nationally consistent approach.

In NSW, a Type B appliance requires inspection and certification by an approved body. Fair Trading tell me they have 3 Certified Assessment Bodies (CAB's) in NSW. These requirements are not new, but hopefully a consistent application of them across the country will avoid confusion in the future. This is a Fair-Trading requirement and is not imposed by AMSA. AMSA's role would be to view that certification in the event of a vessel inspection, together with any other required certification for the vessel.

The PFA will be meeting with the Department for Fair Trading to discuss how to resolve this issue over the upcoming months.

BYCATCH REDUCTION DEVICES – NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation recently approved a project to run 12 workshops around the country to describe the latest technological solutions to reduce bycatch and improve fuel efficiencies in prawn trawls. The workshops are happening in Darwin, Cairns, Townsville, Hervey Bay, Exmouth, Shark Bay, Yamba, Coffs Harbour, Newcastle, Adelaide, Port Lincoln and Lakes Entrance. The Coffs Harbour workshop will be held on **21st May 2018** – Coffs Harbour Yacht Club (downstairs). The Clarence workshop will be held on **23rd May 2018** – Yamba Bowling Club.

The idea is for Steve Kennelly and Matt Broadhurst to visit each port and show/discuss current modifications to prawn trawl gear that reduces bycatch and/or improves efficiency, and then discuss possible solutions for each fishery given their issues. These are basically industry-focused workshops targeting fishermen, crews and netmakers. **Please RSVP your attendance with Nikki 6652-7374 or admin@pfai.com.au for catering purposes.**

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The following advice has been provided directly by the DPI for the PFA. We intend to constantly have this direct communication from DPI available to our members as we believe it is important to have these DPI statements or reminders. If you have questions re the info please contact DPI directly.

MESSAGE FROM THE DPI FISHERIES

Key dates

- Mon 14 May **Note 1-week extension** - Closing date for submissions to the IAP on its draft reports for the Ocean Trawl, Ocean Hauling, Ocean Trap and Line and Estuary General fisheries
- Mon 21 May Closing date for submissions to the IAP on its draft report for the Southern Fish Trawl Restricted Fishery

Independent Allocation Panel seeking comments on draft reports

On 16 April the IAP released its draft reports for the Ocean Trawl, Ocean Trap and Line, Ocean Haul and Estuary General fisheries. This was followed on 30 April by the release of the IAP's draft report for the Southern Fish Trawl Restricted Fishery.

DPI encourages all interested stakeholders to make a submission to the IAP by the relevant due date. A copy of the reports and information on how to make a submission can be found on the Grant Thornton website (<https://www.grantthornton.com.au/IAP/>).

The IAP has also provided a simple example to illustrate how the allocation of shares would be calculated based on their draft recommendations. This has been published on the Grant Thornton website under the heading "Update 4th May 2018".

FishOnline helpline - 1300 720 662

User guides and video demonstrations are available on the DPI website:

FisherDirect - <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/fisherdirect>

FisherMobile - <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/fishermobile>

Business Adjustment Program hotline - 1300 726 488

Ongoing assistance - please visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/assistance

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