

Fisheries (Commercial Trawl Fishery—Fin Fish) Quota Amendment Declaration 2016

Explanatory Notes for SL 2016 No. 188

made under the

Fisheries Act 1994

General Outline

Short title

Fisheries (Commercial Trawl Fishery—Fin Fish) Quota Amendment Declaration 2016

Authorising law

Section 44 of the *Fisheries Act 1994*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The objective of the subordinate legislation is to declare changes to the annual quota for the Commercial Trawl Fishery—Fin Fish for the 2017 quota year.

The quota for prescribed whiting is increased by 16 tonne from 1090 tonne to 1106 tonne. The increase is because of an overall upward trend in the estimated survival index. This indicates stronger survival of prescribed whiting as they recruited and aged. The quota for both goatfish and yellowtail scad remain unchanged (100t). The amendment has no expiry and will remain in place until the next declaration.

The annual quota for the 2017 season was calculated through established stock assessment processes in consultation with officers and scientists within Fisheries Queensland and Animal Science Queensland.

The Commercial Trawl Fishery - Fin Fish is managed using an output quota based management system to ensure the fishery remains commercially and ecologically sustainable. The proposed annual quota for each grouping of fish is determined each season based upon an analysis of the available data from the fishery, the best available scientific information on the status of the fish stocks concerned and a system of decision rules established for the fishery.

The declared quotas for the commercial trawl fishery are consistent with the established decision rules to ensure continued sustainability of the fishery.

Achievement of policy objectives

The subordinate legislation will achieve its objectives by prescribing the annual quotas for the Commercial Trawl Fishery—Fin Fish for the 2017 quota year.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The quota declaration is consistent with the main purpose of the *Fisheries Act 1994*, which is to provide for the use, conservation and enhancement of the community's fisheries resources and fish habitats.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The subordinate legislation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The Queensland Government will not incur any additional costs in the implementation of this subordinate legislation.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The subordinate legislation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

Fisheries Queensland has consulted commercial fishers who operate in the fishery on 30 August 2016. Fishers were unanimously supportive of the proposed 2017 season quotas for prescribed whiting, goatfish and yellowtail scad.

Fisheries Queensland has consulted with the Queensland Productivity Commission's Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) regarding these declarations. The OBPR advised that the proposed declarations were excluded from the Regulatory Impact Statement system on the basis that they are of a machinery nature.