

Gillnet fishing onboard camera field trial

Fisheries Queensland is committed to the independent validation of fishing activities (particularly interactions with **threatened, endangered or protected species**) and testing of onboard cameras has already been conducted in Queensland trawl fisheries.

In 2025, we will be running a voluntary field trial to test the ability of electronic monitoring technologies to effectively and independently validate logbook information for **Queensland's gillnet fisheries**.

The field trial

The gillnet fishing onboard camera field trial **will run during 2025** to:

- test the compatibility of equipment with different fishing methods, boat types and layouts
- identify challenges of operating onboard camera systems and transferring camera footage when undertaking extended multi-day fishing operations from small vessels in remote regions
- consider use of artificial intelligence to automate the validation of camera footage
- develop accurate cost estimates.

A **field trial agreement** between fishers and Fisheries Queensland will outline the full scope of the trial, specifying what will and won't be included. At the end of the trial, those fishers who participated will be included in the **evaluation process**, and all technical advice and recommendations will be considered.

Industry benefits

The onboard camera field trial **allows fishers to actively shape how the technology is tested**, ensuring that any future equipment is practical and tailored to meet the specific needs of gillnet fishing operations. This feedback loop will help create a system that works efficiently across various regions and fishing methods.

The use of onboard cameras also **promotes transparency**, helping to build community confidence in the sustainability of Queensland's fisheries and **strengthen the industry's reputation for responsible fishing**.



Get involved

We need your help to trial camera systems on small commercial vessels in the Gulf of Carpentaria and on the east coast to ensure that future designs are fit-for-purpose.

Register your interest today:

- > email DataValidation@daf.qld.gov.au
- > call 13 25 23



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Costs and maintenance

We will provide all onboard camera equipment and cover all costs for installation and ongoing maintenance of the systems. You will receive continuous technical support throughout the field trial.

You will be responsible for ensuring the system functions properly, the camera lenses are cleaned regularly, adequate lighting is maintained and power is provided. Depending on the camera system being tested, you will be required to upload the footage wirelessly or post hard drives back to Fisheries Queensland.

Installation

We will work with skippers to develop a plan for where and how the equipment is installed on each vessel, considering different layouts and fishing processes. We will install the equipment on vessels, and organise qualified marine technicians where required. At the end of the field trial, we will remove the camera systems and organise to replace or repair any changes made to your vessel.

Review of camera footage

We will review the footage to:

- ensure the camera setup and image quality meets required standards
- collect data on interactions with protected species.

A limited number of authorised staff have secure access to the web-based platform and conduct reviews within a secure room. During these reviews, staff make annotations, capture relevant clips or images, and record the necessary data. The camera footage will not be used for fisheries compliance purposes during this field trial – an educational approach will be applied. However, criminal activity will be referred to the relevant authorities.

All footage will be deleted at end of the field trial and the validated information will be used to inform the evaluation of the trial. Fishers who participate in the trial will receive a summary report following the review of camera footage and validation of logbook data. This summary report will detail all the steps and processes applied to the footage captured during the trial.

Privacy and data security

Fisheries Queensland takes the security and protection of information it collects seriously. Personal information collected as a byproduct of the monitoring program may include video footage and images of crew members. Any personal information will be collected, stored, handled and used in accordance with the privacy principles in the *Information Privacy Act 2009*. We will also work with skippers to ensure an adequate area for privacy is provided outside the camera field of view on each vessel.

Video footage is stored as encrypted data on the cameras, noting that some cameras also have inbuilt security features and procedures (e.g. a tamper-proof hard drive, automatic encryption) to protect personal information from unauthorised access and use.

Right to information process

The right to information (RTI) process ensures transparency, facilitating access to government information while protecting individual privacy. Camera footage and associated data collected by onboard cameras during the field trial are considered public records and may be requested under the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

Under this process, we may be legally required to share information from the field trial, including camera footage. RTI requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and personal information is typically not released. If footage is shared, it often consists of smaller portions or still images with identifying features redacted, and access may be granted within government offices rather than through copies. We carefully consider privacy concerns of individuals involved and will consult with the people impacted, providing the opportunity to appeal the release of information.

