

Independent onboard monitoring in Queensland trawl fisheries

Impact analysis statement consultation report

The Queensland Government recently held a public consultation on proposed options to implement independent onboard monitoring (IOM) in Queensland's the trawl fisheries, including the east coast otter trawl fishery and commercial fin fish trawl fishery.

A dedicated online engagement hub (eHub) provided public access to multiple resources, including a consultation paper, fact sheet, videos, frequently asked questions, and a survey to submit direct feedback.

Face-to-face engagement was also undertaken, including meetings and presentations with small and large groups.

A summary of the consultation process and submissions is on the next page.

The full report is available on the eHub page:
dpi.engagementhub.com.au/onboard-camera-trial

Next steps

The feedback provided throughout the consultation will help inform a decision impact analysis statement.

The decision impact analysis statement will assess options to address the need for government action. Options recommended in the decision impact analysis statement will be considered by government and if supported, used to guide the development of a regulatory framework.

Summary of key feedback

Support

- Strong support for the proposed program was received from some members of the public and environmental non-government organisations.
- The importance of enhancing sustainability and maintaining social licence of the fishery was emphasised.

Concerns

- Commercial fishing stakeholders opposed the proposed options for an IOM program.
- They raised concerns about the scale, cost and practicality of the approach, as well as privacy, data security, funding, maintenance and long-term viability of the industry.

Commercial fishing sector recommendations

- Improved training
- Targeted monitoring
- Privacy protections
- Use of fisheries observers
- Voluntary participation
- Co-management using an industry working group to co-design a program
- Equitable rollout
- Exclude low-risk fishing operations by considering vessel size, areas, fishing operations and skill level

Environmental organisation recommendations

- Mandatory IOM for all active vessels
- Prioritise high-risk areas
- Complete rollout in 2.5 years
- Minimum 20% review rate
- Invest in artificial intelligence to improve efficiency of reviews and reduce costs

Overview of consultation process

Consultation period (59 days)

11 July 2025

7 September 2025

Activities

3 sessions co-led with industry

Large group
meetings with
stakeholders



48 attendees
including PCFLs
and crew

7 engagement sessions

Small group
meetings with
stakeholders



17 attendees
including PCFLs
and crew

1 webinar and Q&A

25
attendees



33
views of
recorded
session

5 presentations and industry discussions



Harvest
Strategy
Workshop and
industry
meetings

1 information video



102
views of
recorded session

18 emails and 4 SMS

366 PCFLs
and 226 CFLs



18 expert
and industry
stakeholders

3 online communications

eHub page
FAQ,
Fact Sheet
and Survey



Catch News
article and
Fisheries
website

10,293 Submissions received

81
Survey responses



3
eHub submission



11
emails



89
verbal responses



10,109
public responses



Survey response stakeholder group

75
commercial
fishers

8
recreational
fishers

1
Traditional
Owner

5
seafood
wholesalers

4
interested
community
members

2
others

Public responses



596
Queensland Seafood
Industry Association (QSIA)
online campaign responses



9,513
Australian Marine
Conservation Society (AMCS)
online campaign responses