

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-trail

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 (QSI) online campaign responses

9,513

Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) online campaign responses