



## Developmental fisheries

Developmental fishing determines whether a potential new fishery is commercially viable, socially acceptable and ecologically sustainable.

Developmental fishing is generally regarded as:

- fishing for a species of fish that has been previously unexploited or significantly underutilised
- fishing for an existing commercial species using apparatus currently not permitted by legislation
- fishing for an existing commercial species or use of prescribed apparatus (or both) in locations where such activities have not previously occurred
- combinations of the above.

This guide provides an overview of developmental fisheries in Queensland and the process Fisheries Queensland uses to assess developmental fishery applications.

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## Developmental fishing in Queensland

### Developmental fishing permits

Developmental fisheries operate under a set of permit conditions, which are based on the principles of ecologically sustainable development, in particular, the precautionary principle.

Developmental fishing permits are usually issued for 3-5 years, during which time information is gathered through a combination of methods, including:

- logbooks [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/fisheries/monitoring-reporting/requirements/logbooks>]
- independent surveys.

### Current developmental fisheries

There are 2 developmental fishing permits that allow for the collection of sea cucumber in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The developmental fishing permits specify management arrangements for the fishery, including the permitted area of operation, permitted apparatus and boats and species catch limits.

### Also consider...

- Download a developmental fishing permit application [<https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/developmental-fishing/resource/86bebc7e-2b61-43a5-94da-8cb519bd4927>].
  - Read about fees associated with development fisheries [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/fisheries/fees-forms/fees>].
  - Read the Queensland developmental fishing policy [<https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/developmental-fishing/resource/9b9d8631-ba0c-466e-99fb-9401fee7a7f7>].
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## Developmental fishery applications

You can apply for a developmental fisheries permit through Fisheries Queensland, part of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

Fisheries Queensland uses a step-by-step process to assess and progress developmental fishery applications. Applications are advertised for public comment and are reviewed by a management and scientific advisory committee (MSAC) established by Fisheries Queensland. The committee consists of managers, scientists, compliance officers and other relevant persons.

Applications must also proceed through Native Title notification. A successful developmental fishery will operate for 3-5 years while an assessment is made on the sustainability and viability of the operation.

If Fisheries Queensland determines that the fishery is sustainable and viable, it will seek legislative changes to commercialise the fishery. Appropriate operators will then be selected to obtain licences for the fishery.

The Queensland developmental fishing policy [<https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/developmental-fishing/resource/9b9d8631-ba0c-466e-99fb-9401fee7a7f7>] outlines the complete application process.

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