

# Developmental Fisheries Management Policy

Advice for applications and supporting  
documents

February 2015



## **1. Policy Statement**

The Tasmanian Government supports providing opportunities for the development of long term environmentally sustainable, commercially profitable and socially acceptable fisheries to deliver economic growth for the State.

Developmental fishery opportunities will be supported by the Minister only where it can be satisfactorily demonstrated by a proponent that a long term, commercially profitable, environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable fishery can be developed.

A major—and increasingly important—issue in advancing developmental fishing activities is an expectation that the Government can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the community of the environmental sustainability and social acceptability of that activity.

This required a level of information to provide the necessary confidence that a particular fishing activity will not result in an unacceptable environmental or social impact. Where information is absent, unreliable, inadequate or uncertain, a risk based approach to fisheries development is necessary to ensure that there is an acceptable risk with respect to detriment of resources, the environment and/or to other stakeholders.

Where scientific understanding is such that an acceptable level of risk cannot be demonstrated there will be a cost in acquiring that understanding. This cost may prove to be a barrier in advancing a developmental fishery proposal. Proponents will be required to meet that cost and to assist where they reasonably can to the collection of data to support a scientific understanding.

A key objective of this policy is not to stimulate investment in capital equipment, vessels and fishing gear that is totally reliant on the developmental fishing operation/activity.

## **2. Requirements for Applicants**

Essentially, applicants are required to provide adequate information to enable an assessment within the above policy statement to be satisfactorily completed. The onus is on the applicant to provide the relevant required information. The more significant the issues raised by the application, the greater the corresponding level of information required.

For Category I applications the issues are likely to be more complex and potentially with less information available on facets such as life history and biology of the target species. Thus, more detailed applications are likely for this category. Three basic information areas are biological information and gaps, fishery and operational issues, and marketing and economics.

Additionally for Category I, a second step for the development of a developmental fishery management plan is likely—including a research plan developed in consultation with a fisheries research provider recognised by DPIPW. Noting that the applicant will be required to meet the costs and provide assistance where appropriate to the acquisition of necessary data and knowledge.

Such information required with respect to the target species and/or proposed fishing activity may include:

- Basic biology;
- Life history;
- Population parameters and productivity;
- Stock structure;
- Ecosystem function and interactions;
- Status of current extractions;
- Other interrelated fisheries;
- Cross jurisdictional a straddling stock issues;
- Proposed fishing techniques and impacts;
- Any allocation issues already in place;
- Proposed activities;
- Demonstrated experience in similar area that shows applicant has high probability of success, existing equipment, vessels, infrastructure etc. ;
- Other factors associated with the species, fishery, jurisdictions;
- Research proposed to accompany fishing (fishery dependent and/or fishery independent);
- Marketing opportunities and planned usage of target species (economics); and
- Developmental process proposed.

### ***Basic biology***

Information available regarding the biology of target and potential bycatch species. Summary of the information known and the knowledge gaps in this area. How the basic biology may impact upon potential developmental fishing and the research that may be required.

### ***Life history***

Information regarding early life history and implications for developmental fishing. Indications of knowledge gaps. How life history may or may not have implications for fishing activity—risk etc.

### ***Population parameters and productivity***

Knowledge of potential productivity of species and implications for the stock for potential fishing. Associated population parameters.

### ***Stock structure***

Information on distribution and potential implications relating to that distribution. An understanding of stock structuring within the population over the full distribution—and implications of this knowledge. Important knowledge gaps regarding separation of stocks in

different areas and implications for extraction—relates to corresponding management issues and straddling stock issues below.

### ***Ecosystem function and interactions***

The role of target and bycatch species in ecosystem function and interactions with the environment, other fisheries and resource user groups.

The role in any critical ecosystem pathways and importance to function—for example; the importance of small pelagic fishes. Any threatened or protected species issues.

### ***Status of current extractions***

Information on any extractions/catch of the species as target, byproduct or bycatch in any fishery—including in other jurisdictions. Any data available on catch levels.

### ***Other interrelated fisheries***

Potential interaction or impact upon the operations and catch in another established fishery—including in other jurisdictions.

### ***Cross jurisdictional a straddling stock issues***

Issues that may arise from the above information that causes an interaction or impact upon straddling and shared stocks, and the jurisdictional and management issues that may arise due to these interactions.

### ***Proposed fishing techniques and impacts***

The fishing gear that is proposed to be used—i.e., the amount, configurations etc. Any issues that arise from the gear and the potential impact of that gear type (low footprint/high footprint). Bycatch issues that may arise from the gear type and any measures to reduce impacts and bycatch. In particular, any potential issues with interactions with threatened and protected species.

### ***Any allocation issues already in place***

Are there any existing access right and/or allocation issues relating to the species and/or the gear type? Any current fisheries for the species. Is the gear type or similar already allocated or used in an existing fishery under statutory rules?

Any conflict in allocation issues?

### ***Proposed activities***

Appropriate detail of the developmental activity proposed including areas of operations, gear, vessels, target species, catch levels proposed to a level of detail to facilitate assessment against other criteria. How the target species will be processed and marketed. Licences held that may impact on proposed operations. Personnel or companies involved in on-water and onshore activities/operations.

***Demonstrated experience in similar area that shows applicant has high probability of success, existing equipment, vessels, infrastructure etc.***

Experience of the applicant and other partners in the application, particularly in similar area. Capacity for applicant to maximise likelihood of success.

Information to support that the applicant holds relevant expertise and experience that warrants progression of the permit and potentially the development of a sustainable long term fishery to the benefit of Tasmania.

Details of equipment, vessels and infrastructure etc. that supports the application without significant further investment to facilitate progression of a developmental process.

Licences held in other fisheries and licences for any potential vessel proposed including a fishing licence (vessel).

***Other factors associated with the species, fishery and jurisdictions***

Other factors that may arise due to the artifacts surrounding the species, fisheries and jurisdictions.

***Research proposed to accompany fishing (fishery dependent and/or fishery independent)***

Research that will be required to support a developmental fishing program to facilitate long term decision making on a potentially formally managed fishery.

Information needs and research program. Partnerships with research providers to provide data. Funding proposed for necessary research program.

***Marketing opportunities and usage (economics)***

Information on proposed usage of target species. Proposed process for any developments in marketing and development of markets. Value of target species and potential for increasing value. Other relevant economic information.

***Developmental process proposed***

Details of the process proposed for a developmental fishing program and assessment of long term potential. Time frame and results required.

### **3. The next step**

Applicants should complete the existing permit application form, and attach additional supporting information as detailed above to that application.

Further clarification or supporting information may be sought from the applicant.