Notice of Amended Quota Tag Determination and Allocation Method (Fishing Tour Operator's Licence holders in the West Coast Region) 2026-27

Made by the CEO under regulation 128U of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995.*

1. Instrument

This notice is the Amended Quota Tag Determination and Allocation Method (Fishing Tour Operator's Licence holders in the West Coast Region) 2026-27 and replaces the Quota Tag Determination and Allocation Method (Fishing Tour Operator's Licence holders in the West Coast Region) 2026-27 signed on 25 June 2026.

2. Interpretation

In this notice:

annual retained catch means the total number of top 15 demersal finfish species/groups taken in the West Coast region for the calculation period, as determined by the department on the basis of the relevant fishing returns;

average annual retained catch means the average of the annual retained catch for the three quota periods in the benchmark period in which the highest number of top 15 demersal finfish species/groups were recorded as having been taken in the West Coast region;

benchmark period means each quota period during the period starting on 1 July 2017 and ending on 30 June 2022;

calculation period means the most recent calendar year immediately prior to the applicable quota period, commencing 1 January and ending on 31 December;

charter boat has the same meaning as in the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*;

fishing return means a return submitted under regulation 64 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995* by the holder of a fishing tour operator's licence;

top 15 demersal finfish species/groups means West Australian dhufish, pink snapper, baldchin groper, breaksea cod, blue morwong, harlequin fish, emperor species (Family Lethrinidae), coral trout species (Plectropomus spp. and Variola spp.), redfish species (Family Berycidae), foxfish species (Bodianus spp.), blue-eye trevalla, grey banded rockcod, hapuku, bass groper, ruby snapper;

quota period means a period commencing on 1 July and ending on 30 June of the following year;

quota tag has the same meaning as regulation 128U(1) of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*;

relevant demersal finfish has the same meaning as regulation 128T(3) of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*.

3. Applicable quota period

The method in this notice is to be used to determine and allocate quota tags in the West Coast region for the quota period commencing on 1 July 2026 and ending on 30 June 2027.

4. Method for determining the number of quota tags to be allocated

The number of quota tags to be allocated for the applicable quota period is determined using the following formula:

$$\text{Number of quota tags} = \frac{A \times B \times C}{D}$$

Where:

A = the estimated total fishing mortality of relevant demersal finfish as a percentage of the estimated total fishing mortality of the top 15 demersal finfish species/groups taken by charter boats in the West Coast region, for the calculation period.

B = the annual total allowable level of fishing mortality of the top 15 demersal finfish species/groups taken by charter boats in the West Coast region for the applicable quota period.

C = the estimated retained fishing mortality of relevant demersal finfish as a percentage of the estimated total fishing mortality of relevant demersal finfish taken by charter boats in the West Coast region, for the calculation period.

D = the estimated average retained weight of relevant demersal finfish for the calculation period.

5. Method for allocating quota tags

The method for allocation is:

(a) the CEO is to determine the total number of quota tags available to be allocated under clause 4;
(b) the CEO is to identify each person who meets the criteria specified in clause 6; and

(c) the CEO is to allocate quota tags to each person who meets the criteria specified in clause 6, in proportion to the combined average annual retained catch of all persons who meet the criteria specified in clause 6.

6. Criteria

The criteria to be satisfied for the purposes of clause 5 are that:

(a) on 1 July 2026 the person was the holder of a fishing tour operator's licence authorising the conduct of a fishing tour for a commercial purpose in the West Coast region;

(b) annual retained catch was recorded as having been taken in at least three quota periods in the benchmark period; and

(c) the average annual retained catch taken by the person is not less than 140.

Dated 8th day of October 2026

Nathan Harrison
Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture