

**Question on Notice**

**No. 635**

**Asked on 25 May 2021**

**MS A CAMM ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—**

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise what consultation was undertaken with industry stakeholders when the mudcrab historical quota allocation was changed from calendar year to financial year?

**ANSWER:**

As a part of the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027, a number of fisheries are moving to quota management that requires an allocation process. Recognising the potential impacts on commercial fishers, a number of allocation approaches and formulae were explored through the relevant fishery working groups and through public consultation.

In March 2019, Fisheries Queensland released a targeted discussion paper to commercial fishers who had reported crab catch on their licences. This discussion paper outlined a proposed allocation formula based on each licence's annual catch history for the six best years from the seven-year allocation period between 2011 and 2017 using financial years. In July 2019, a second round of targeted consultation was undertaken, based on the feedback from the March 2019 consultation, using *calendar years* rather than financial years.

At the Crab Working Group meeting held on 9-10 July 2019, the working group considered the allocation modelling of the two approaches and compared each approach. The working group noted that more licence holders would likely receive less quota under the calendar year model and subsequently recommended the *financial year* model to minimise impacts. Working Group meeting communiqués are available on the departmental website at [www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/sustainable/fishery-working-groups](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/sustainable/fishery-working-groups).

The allocation process being implemented for Mud Crab and Blue Swimmer Crab is consistent with the feedback received through consultation.

Information on the fisheries reform consultation process, including discussion papers and results of consultation, are available on the departmental website [www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/sustainable/fisheries-reforms](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/sustainable/fisheries-reforms).