

## COMMERCIAL FISHING TOUR OPERATORS IN QUEENSLAND

In Queensland, a *commercial fishing tour* is defined as "a tour of fishing trip, conducted in trade or commerce, for taking fish other than for trade or commerce and carrying passengers for gain". These activities are commonly known as charter fishing, fishing guides or guided tours.

Persons who conduct *commercial fishing tours* are required to hold a permit to do so.

The objectives of the permit scheme are:

- to provide for commercial fishing tour operators to contribute towards the costs of managing fish stocks,
- to provide a capacity for management of catch and effort of the sector under sustainable use principles,
- to provide reliable information for fisheries management planning, and
- to identify and legitimise commercial fishing tour operators as significant stakeholders in fisheries matters and provide for their representation in

### *WHO REQUIRES A PERMIT*

Commercial fishing tour operations include:

- spear fishing game
- fishing tag and release
- fishing demersal reef
- fishing safari
- operations (inland)
- guided fishing
- dive charters which also take fish
- all other where a fee for service is received whilst taking fish or tagging and releasing fish

Any person engaged in any of these activities for "trade or commerce" should hold a permit to do so.

## *PERMIT.ISSUE*

Permits will be issued for each independent or lease-hold "operation".

Operations which have more than one boat over seven (7) metres in length are required to hold separate permits for each of these boats. Additional boats under seven (7) metres are allowed to operate under the one permit.

To avoid more than one permit being issued for the same operation, the applicant must be either:

- i. the owner or a lessee of the commercial fishing tour who holds statutory competency requirements to use boats and equipment in the activity or provides evidence of employing a person in the operation who is capable of satisfying such requirements, or
- ii. a guide/skipper with statutory competency certificates to cover the operation and provide documentary evidence of approval of use of capital equipment from its owner, or
- iii. a bona fide resortboat hire/tour business in which operators and/or equipment comply with all statutory requirements (i.e survey, manning certificates etc.) For the business activity

## *CONDITIONS OF PERMIT*

There are three separate permit conditions which may apply to these permits. These conditions are separated by the activities undertaken as follows:

- 1) offshore or reef water tours
- 2) inshore tidal water tours, or
- 3) non-tidal water tours

Offshore or reef water tours are those which operate in the reefal areas and <sup>in:-</sup> the waters outside the inshore tidal waters limits detailed below.

Inshore tidal water tours are those which operate in tidal waters of creeks, rivers and bays and seaward to an area one nautical mile from low water mark excluding reefal areas.

Non-tidal water tours are those which operate in non-tidal waters of river systems, including all flowing and non-flowing natural and impounded waters.

Operators need to indicate which condition/s apply to their operation. Fees payable for the permit vary with the number of conditions sought.

### *PERMIT DURATION*

Permits will be granted for a period of one year. Permits, by law, are neither transferable nor able to be renewed.

### *CATCH/ EFFORT DATA COLLECTION*

Compulsory logbooks will be supplied to each successful applicant. The logbooks cover areas of operation and fishing effort on a daily basis. The logbooks have been developed in consultation with industry representatives and are consistent with national standards for fisheries data collection.

### **Annual Fees for Commercial Fishing Tour Permits are -**

|            |   |               |
|------------|---|---------------|
| <b>(a)</b> | <b>Assessment Fee</b>                     | <b>62.70</b>  |
| <b>(b)</b> | <b>Permit Fee for 1<sup>st</sup> year</b> | <b>146.70</b> |

Plus a fee for -

|              |                                   |              |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>(i)</b>   | <b>_offshore reef waters tour</b> | <b>51.60</b> |
| <b>(ii)</b>  | <b>inshore tidal waters tour</b>  | <b>51.60</b> |
| <b>(iii)</b> | <b>non-tidal waters tour</b>      | <b>51.60</b> |

### EXAMPLES

#### **Offshore & Reef Waters Tour Only**

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Assessment Fee                     | 62.70  |
| Permit Fee (First Year)            | 146.70 |
| Offshore & Reef Waters Endorsement | 51.60  |

#### **Offshore/Reef Waters Tour plus Inshore Tidal Waters Tour**

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Assessment Fee          | 62.70  |
| Permit Fee (First Year) | 146.70 |

|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Offshore/Reef Waters Endorsement | 51.60 |
| InshoreTidal Waters Endorsement  | 51.60 |