

SFR price information collection discussion paper

Statutory fishing rights (SFRs) are fundamental to the way AFMA manages Commonwealth fisheries. Currently AFMA keeps records of SFR holdings and transfers. However, SFR price information is not collected. AFMA is proposing to collect price information on transferred SFRs to help AFMA assess the impacts of its decisions on the fishing industry and minimise unintended consequences of those decisions on SFR prices and the SFR market.

Data on SFR prices would be a valuable resource in understanding the economics of fisheries and could be used to improve the management of fisheries.

Who will need to provide SFR price information?

All Commonwealth SFR holders transferring SFRs (excluding boat SFRs) will be required to provide the price and estimated value of the SFRs being transferred.

Who will collect and store the information?

AFMA will collect and store the price information. This will remove any real or perceived conflict of interest that may arise if industry or other parties collect or store the information, and will increase confidence in the quality and confidentiality of the information.

How will the information be collected?

AFMA proposes to collect information via the SFR transfer form (electronically via AFMA's online business portal when making the transfer). This is a simple and cost effective way for industry to supply the information to AFMA and for AFMA to manage and store the information.

Who can access the information?

AFMA will treat the SFR price information as commercial in confidence.

Collection, storage and disclosure of SFR prices by AFMA will be consistent with AFMA's Information Disclosure Policy. <http://www.afma.gov.au/about/fisheries-management-policies/information-disclosure-fisheries-management-paper/>

Administrative burden

Collection of SFR prices imposes a minimal administrative burden. Those who are transferring SFRs should already know the price and estimated value of the SFRs. The information can be entered and supplied to AFMA when the transfer is being done.

Price estimates and related party/entity trades

Some SFR transfer prices will not be at market value due to business arrangements. Some transfers will be to related parties / business entities or through business arrangements such as quota and profit sharing. In these cases, the sale price may be different from the estimated market price. These off market or business arrangement transactions, will be identified on the transfer form and taken into account in the analyses.

Other collection of SFR price information

The Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF) already collects an industry wide SFR price during the annual gear survey. However, this is not at the same level of detail as what is proposed. The NPF SFR price information could be collected at the time of transfer and then aggregated. Therefore, would not need to be collected through the annual gear survey.

ABARES collects and publishes economic information. However, the ABARES information is only collected periodically and does not provide the time scale to understand the impacts on the quota market that collecting prices for each SFR transfer will provide.

How to provide feedback

AFMA is seeking your feedback on the proposal. The consultation period is from 13 Feb 2015 to 30 April 2015. Please send your feedback by 30 April 2015 to: quotapricecollection@afma.gov.au or to

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