

+ Fisheries Structural Adjustment Scheme - Stage 3

Payment for surrender of particular fishing nets

1. Purpose of Assistance

- 1.1. The purpose of this assistance under the Fisheries Structural Adjustment Scheme (FSAS) – Stage 3 is to provide a payment to former holders and lessees of primary commercial fishing licences (PCFL) on which particular fishery symbols were written to surrender usable nets.

2. Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1. To be eligible for assistance, the applicant must:

- (a) have held or leased a PCFL on which an *eligible symbol* ('N1', 'N2' and 'N4') was written for at least 1 day during the period starting on 1 September 2021 and ending on 30 June 2023; and
- (b) have taken at least 1 kilogram of fish:
 - i. in accordance with an *eligible symbol* ('N1', 'N2' or 'N4') written on the applicant's PCFL; and
 - ii. from a commercial fishery in management regions 1 to 5; and
 - iii. during the period starting on 1 September 2021 and ending on 30 June 2023.
- (c) declare that they intend to *surrender* a stated length of *usable net*; and
- (d) the stated length is at least 1 metre.

- 2.2. An applicant is also eligible for assistance if the applicant:

- (a) surrendered, on or after 8 December 2023:
 - i. a PCFL on which the fishery symbol 'N3' was written; or
 - ii. the fishery symbol 'N3'; and
- (b) declares that they intend to *surrender* a stated length of *usable net*; and
- (c) specifies in the application, the length of *usable net* they intend to *surrender*.

- 2.3. An applicant is not eligible for assistance if:

- (a) the applicant has already received assistance under this part of the Scheme; or
- (b) the applicant holds or leases a PCFL on which 1 or more of the following fishery symbols is written:
 - i. 'K1', 'K2', 'K3', 'K4', 'K5', 'K6', 'K7' or 'K8';
 - ii. 'NX', 'N3', 'N10' or 'N15'

3. Usable Net

- 3.1. A *usable net* is a mesh net that:

- (a) has floats attached to the rope at the top of the net; and

- (b) has a bottom rope; and
- (c) has a mesh size of between 50mm and 215 mm; and
- (d) could have been used under a PCFL on which the fishery symbol 'N1', 'N2' or 'N4' was written; and
- (e) is in fair or repairable condition.

3.2. Also, a *usable net* is a mesh net that:

- (a) has floats attached to the rope at the top of the net; and
- (b) has a bottom rope; and
- (c) has a mesh size between 160mm and 215mm; and
- (d) may be used under a PCFL on which the fishery symbol 'N3' is written; and
- (e) is in fair or repairable condition.

4. Amount of Assistance

4.1. The amount of assistance that may be given out under this Scheme is the *amount* worked out using the following formula:

$$L \times 12.5 = A$$

Where:

A means the amount.

L means the lesser of the length of *usable net* (expressed in meters) declared or surrendered by the applicant.

4.2. The maximum amount of assistance is as follows:

Eligible Symbol held or leased	Maximum Assistance (excluding GST)
N1	\$15,000
N1 and N2	\$45,000
N2	\$45,000
N4	\$60,000
N4 and N1	\$60,000
N2 and N4	\$100,000
N1, N2 and N4	\$100,000
N3	\$30,000
Any net not in usable condition**	N/A

Example 1: Fisher A held a primary commercial fishing licence on which the fishery symbol 'N1' was written during the relevant period. Fisher A surrenders 1 kilometre of usable net. The amount of assistance Fisher A is eligible for under the Scheme is \$12,500 (1,000 x 12.5).

Example 2: Fisher B held a primary commercial fishing licence on which the fishery symbols 'N1' and 'N4' were written during the relevant period. Fisher B surrenders 4.5 kilometres of usable net. The amount of assistance Fisher B is eligible for under the Scheme is \$56,250 (4,500 x 12.5).

5. Conditions of Assistance

- 5.1. Assistance is limited to one payment per applicant.
- 5.2. The applicant must give consent for the chief executive of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to give QRIDA a copy of the applicant's fishing data to the extent the fishing data is relevant to the application.

- 5.3. The applicant's *surrender* of any *usable net* seeking payment must be documented in an approved Net Surrender Receipt, signed by the applicant and provided to QRIDA.
- 5.4. An application for assistance under the Scheme must be given to the authority before 30 January 2025.
- 5.5. QRIDA may approve an amount of assistance that is less than the amount applied for if the length of *usable net* surrendered is **less than** in their QRIDA application.
- 5.6. The nets surrendered by the applicant are, to the satisfaction of QRIDA, *usable nets*.
- 5.7. QRIDA may request further information to determine an application.
- 5.8. Penalties apply for providing false and misleading information in accordance with the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

6. How to Apply

- 6.1. To be considered for assistance under the Scheme, please submit a completed application form or submit an application through the QRIDA portal at <https://applyonline.qrida.qld.gov.au/>, accompanied by the relevant documentation stated on the application form.
- 6.2. Application forms and related information can be accessed at www.qrida.qld.gov.au.
- 6.3. Complete applications are assessed in order of receipt, and QRIDA may request further information to help assess an application.

7. How applications will be assessed and decided

- 7.1. Upon receiving applications, QRIDA will acknowledge receipt by email and advise if any further information is required to commence assessment of the application.
- 7.2. QRIDA will assess applications in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not be assessed until all required information is received.
- 7.3. QRIDA must refuse an application if the funds for the assistance are not sufficient to pay the application.
- 7.4. Funding for applications will be secured on QRIDA's approval of initial application.
- 7.5. Upon initial application, eligible applicants will be provided with advice regarding the surrender of nets by an eligible collection service in order to progress the application.
- 7.6. Initial applications for assistance will be progressed for assessment and decision once QRIDA has received a Net Surrender Receipt from the eligible collection service that the nets have been surrendered, and QRIDA has determined the nets surrendered for assistance are *usable nets*.
- 7.7. Approved assistance will be deposited to your nominated bank account.

8. Conflict of Interest

- 8.1. A conflict of interest may arise due to a business dealing with QRIDA, if your private interests conflict with your obligations under the Scheme. Conflicts of interest could affect your eligibility for conditional approval. A conflict of interest can be:
 - real (or actual);
 - apparent (or perceived); or
 - potential.
- 8.2. We will ask you to declare, as part of your application, any business dealings that may be considered an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest. If you later identify that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to your application, you must inform us in writing immediately.

9. Fraudulent Applications

- 9.1. QRIDA takes fraud and corruption seriously. Suspected fraud will be referred to Queensland Police Services (QPS) and/or the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).
- 9.2. Fraud and corruption is a criminal offence under Sections 408C, 408D and 87 of the *Criminal Code 1899 (Qld)*. For corporations, directors and company officials, Section 596 and 184 of the *Australian Corporations Act 2001 (Clth)* will also apply.
- 9.3. Providing false or misleading information or documents in the QRIDA application process is an offence. Penalties may apply under Section 41 and 42 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.
- 9.4. By signing the application form, you acknowledge that the information you provide is true and accurate, and agree to be bound by the Scheme's guidelines and provisions.
- 9.5. QRIDA reserves the right to pursue and recover funding provided under fraudulent and dishonest circumstances.

10. Your privacy

- 10.1. QRIDA's Privacy Policy, available at www.qrida.qld.gov.au/privacy, sets out general information on how QRIDA collects, uses and discloses individuals' personal information
- 10.2. The application portal for this Scheme contains specific information on how personal information will be collected, used, and disclosed.

11. More information

For more information on the Fisheries Structural Adjustment Scheme, contact QRIDA on **Freecall 1800 623 946** or email contact_us@qrida.qld.gov.au

12. Definitions

Applicant means an entity applying for assistance under the Scheme.

Commercial fishery means a fishery under the *Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019*.

Eligible collection service means an approved collection agency contracted by the State to, upon an applicant's initial application, enable the surrender of usable nets, confirm the length of nets, collect and advise the authority on the surrender of usable nets under the Scheme.

Eligible symbol means the fishery symbols 'N1', 'N2' or 'N4'.

Fishery symbol has the meaning given by the *Fisheries (General) Regulation 2019*.

Hold, in relation to a PCFL, includes holding a suspended PCFL.

Holder, of a PCFL, means the person to whom the licence is used or transferred to, other than temporarily transferred, under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

Management region means an inshore management region under the *Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019*.

Net Surrender Receipt means a receipt from an *eligible collection service* confirming the collection and length of usable nets surrendered by the applicant, to be provided to QRIDA for application assessment and decisioning.

Primary commercial fishing licence means a primary commercial fishing licence issued under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

Surrender in relation to a usable net, means surrender to QRIDA.

Usable net see section 3.