

ADVICE FOR PERMIT APPLICANTS

Why Permits Are Issued

Permits allow people to undertake actions that would otherwise contravene a provision of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* (the Act). The Act sets out the purposes for which permits can be issued. These are:

- scientific research;
- the promotion of fishing or fish products;
- the development of fisheries;
- the development of fishing technology;
- educational and community awareness programs;
- fish stock depletion or enhancement;
- the collection, keeping, breeding, hatching or cultivating of rare or endangered fish;
- sport or recreation purposes by a person who would otherwise be unable by reason of their disability to engage in fishing by methods permitted under the Act;
- Aboriginal cultural and ceremonial activities;
- the development of marine farming;
- law enforcement;
- environmental monitoring; and
- bioprospecting.

Many factors are considered when assessing permits including legislative requirements, resource sustainability, environmental interactions, and the costs and benefits to all extractive and non-extractive users of Tasmania's marine resources.

Any access given under a permit is not guaranteed, and permits should not, therefore, be used for the establishment of a business or a long-term fishing operation. The permit holder should be cautious about making any investment into such an operation on the basis of access provided under a permit.

Who Can Apply

Any person can apply for a permit under Section 12 of the Act. Typically, they are issued to commercial fishers, scientific researchers, community groups, individuals, fish processors, marine farmers and educational institutions.

Application Process

It is strongly recommended that you contact the Permit Section of the Wild Fisheries Management Branch to discuss your proposal prior to submitting an application.

Applications must be on the approved form which can be downloaded from the web www.fishing.tas.gov.au/permits and they must be signed and dated with all sections completed. Applicants are encouraged to attach additional supporting information, where relevant.

A minimum of 21 days should be allowed for assessment and processing, and no guarantee of an expedited service can be made. Under the Act, the Minister is to consult with relevant bodies prior to issuing certain permits. This may include peak fishing bodies, government bodies, community groups and/or expert scientific advisers. Some applications, including all relating to the Developmental Fisheries Management Policy, will require additional time to allow this to occur.

Should your application be successful, the Department will advise you in writing and the Minister or their Delegate will issue you a permit authorising certain activities. If your application is unsuccessful, the Department will advise you in writing and provide an explanation.

Permit Conditions and Reporting

Permits authorise a specific activity to occur in accordance with a range of conditions. Conditions often include, but are not limited to, restrictions on species, quantities, fishing area, allowable gear or fishing methods, and persons authorised to act as agents under a permit.

Conditions may also relate to reporting, with permit holders required to pre-report certain activities, or provide a report about activities at the end of the permit period. The information provided informs fisheries resource management decisions and assists the Department to meet its responsibilities under the Act.

Compliance with all conditions is mandatory, and it is an offence to fail to comply with permit conditions.

Permit Duration

Under the Act, permits can be issued for a period of up to 12 months only. The expiry date is written on the permit and the Department will not notify permit holders when permits expire. You will need to re-apply for a new permit if you wish to continue the permitted activity/actions.

Fees

Fees apply for the issue of some permits, and these will be invoiced to you. The fee will be determined by estimation of costs associated with administration, research, monitoring and compliance activities.

Personal Information Protection

The Department complies with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*. The full statement can be found on the webpage: www.fishing.tas.gov.au/CommFishFAQ.

Further Information and Application Lodgement Details:

Phone: 0457 124 668

Email: fisheries.permits@nre.tas.gov.au

Post: Wild Fisheries Management Branch
GPO Box 44
HOBART TAS 7001

In person: Level 1, Lands Building
134 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania