

LIVING MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT 1995
SECTION 75 - MINISTERIAL GUIDELINE

SUBJECT: FISHING VESSEL DISTINGUISHING MARKS

This guideline replaces the guideline dated 1 February 2002.

BACKGROUND:

It was recognised in 1996 that some formal arrangements needed to be put in place for the administering of distinguishing marks for commercial fishing vessels.

Since then it has come to light that strict adherence to the policy is causing impediments to some fishers when re-marking their fishing equipment when a licence transfer or boat replacement transaction has been carried out. Therefore, a degree of flexibility needs to be introduced into the current system.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Any future requests from commercial licence holders to alter distinguishing marks will be considered individually and on merit, within the parameters of the guideline and in consultation with Marine & Safety Tasmania (MAST).

OBJECTIVES OF POLICY:

To maintain a system that administers commercial fishing vessel distinguishing marks in a methodical consistent manner that also provides for concise files being maintained by the Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) and MAST.

COMMENT:

Many requests are received from licence holders to keep their distinguishing marks when carrying out licence variations. The types of requests received are from fishers that have replaced their vessels and have to re-mark all of their fishing gear with a new distinguishing mark. This is a costly exercise, particularly for rock lobster fishers who can hold up to fifty pots.

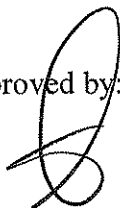
ADMINISTRATION OF THE POLICY:

- Distinguishing marks are assigned to a vessel in accordance with rule 19 of the *Fisheries Rules 1999*. A register of distinguishing marks is maintained by Marine Resources.
- MAST will be advised when a new distinguishing mark is assigned to a vessel.
- Once assigned to a vessel, a distinguishing mark cannot be transferred to another vessel.
- If a new vessel enters the fishery a new mark is assigned.
- If a vessel leaves the fishery, its mark is held in the register until such time as it re-enters the fishery.
- If a vessel is lost at sea or demolished, the mark is maintained on the register and never re-assigned to another boat.

Example:

If a vessel replacement occurs, a new distinguishing mark will be allocated to the new vessel. An original distinguishing mark will be used if the vessel has been registered previously. To make the altering of fishing gear cost effective and simple for a new vessel, an additional letter can be added to an existing distinguishing mark if necessary.

Approved by:



David Llewellyn MHA
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Date: 24/07/2006