



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Securing our Fishing Future

Guidelines for Assistance for Skippers and Crew

Introduction

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the Department) is providing a one-off lump sum of \$5,000 for skippers and \$3,000 for individual crew members who lose employment as a direct result of a successful tender for Business Exit Assistance – Fishing Concession Voluntary Surrender. This assistance is being provided to help offset any costs that may be incurred with relocation and/or retraining for alternate employment.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for Assistance for Skippers and Crew, an individual must:

- Have been principally employed as a skipper or crew member on a fishing boat associated with a successfully tendered fishing concession;
 - Please note that to be “principally employed” means that this is the primary occupation of the applicant, and this occupation must have provided the main source of income and taken the majority of their working hours.
- Have been employed prior to the 23 November 2005 and the date that concession was surrendered;
- Have paid all relevant taxes such as income tax, GST and payroll tax throughout their employment;
- Have lost their employment as a skipper or crew member as a result of the surrender of a fishing concession through the Business Exit Assistance tender process, and have not received any financial or in-kind benefit from the surrender of that concession;
- Agree to provide additional information to the Department upon request so that it can verify that the individual meets the eligibility criteria; and
- Agree not to work as a skipper or crew member on any fishing vessel for five years for the same employer, or any organisation associated with that employer.

Process for applying for Assistance for Skippers and Crew

Applicants, and their employer who was successful in the Business Exit Assistance tender process, should each complete statutory declarations for Assistance for Skippers and Crew.

Fishing concession holders successful in the Business Exit Assistance tender will be forwarded statutory declarations by the Department that they should distribute to employees who may be eligible for Assistance for Skippers and Crew. Employees who feel they may be eligible for this assistance should contact the Department directly.

Applicants and employers should carefully read the instructions for completing the statutory declarations, and note specifically the penalties for providing false or misleading information.

Applicants are required to provide the Department with evidence of their employment. Suitable evidence of employment includes, but is not limited to, a Payment Summary (formerly Group Certificate), three recent pay advices or Business Activity Statements.

For applicants seeking Assistance for Skippers and Crew as a result of lost employment in the first tender round, completed application forms must be received by the Department no later than **15 December 2006**. For applicants seeking Assistance for Skippers and Crew as a result of lost employment in the second tender round, completed application forms must be received by the Department no later than **23 March 2007**.

Assistance for Skippers and Crew is a one-off lump sum payment and will not be included as income for the purposes of determining social security payments.

The Department can not provide advice relating to taxation issues. Applicants are advised to contact the Australian Taxation Office (13 28 61) for more information relating to the taxation treatment of payments made under Assistance for Skippers and Crew.

Applicants should forward completed statutory declarations and evidence of employment to:

Assistance for Skippers and Crew
Fisheries Adjustment Taskforce
Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Process for paying Assistance for Skippers and Crew

Once the Department is satisfied of the applicant's eligibility, payment will be forwarded to the applicant's nominated bank account as specified on the statutory declaration. If the applicant requires other arrangements for payment they should outline these in writing to the Department when they lodge their statutory declaration, noting however, that the Department may not be able to meet these requests.

Further Information

For further information contact the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on fishingfuture@daff.gov.au or phone the helpdesk on 1800 617 866 (toll free).