

**MEDIA RELEASE
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Gaslighting Commercial Otter Trawl Fishers

RIDICULOUS is the best way to describe the current state of so-called fisheries reform in Queensland. “Trawl fishers are being asked to make long-term, vital business decisions with an unknown management decision pending in the Scallop fishery” said Queensland Seafood Industry Association’s (QSIA) CEO, Eric Perez.

Under the State Government’s reform process, otter trawl fishers are being asked to allocate their unused effort units to a particular region by the 16 July 2021. How can operators make life altering business decision before we know if? Or when? And for how long the Scallop fishery may be closed. Once an operator nominates effort in a region they are locked in, NO change is possible.

Fisheries Queensland are managing a feedback process that will significantly shape our business into the future. Industry feedback is being sought by Fisheries Queensland regarding changes to the Scallop fishery by 30 July.

“Industry will not know the outcome of fisheries management decisions by 16 July – how can trawl fishers allocate effort units in an area that may be closed trawling. Once effort units are allocated, the decisions made by trawl fishers cannot be reversed,” said Mr Perez.

Demanding that otter trawl fishers make a considered business decision with limited information makes no sense and highlights the disdain in which industry is held by the State Government.

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