

Explanatory leaflet for completing form AFL 19

Disaggregation of a fishing vessel licence entitlement

1. Introduction

- a. A fishing vessel licence entitlement may be split to provide component elements of tonnage and engine power (KW's) to license two or more incoming fishing vessels. In addition component elements of tonnage and/or KW's may be used in aggregation to license a vessel, with any residual balance/s of tonnage/kilowatts not earmarked for a specific transaction, being established as a licence entitlement. In any subsequent split of the residual balance/s, the original validity date will continue to apply to the new entitlements created.
- b. All owners wishing to secure shares of the licence entitlement should submit a single application (AFL 19).

2. Arrangements

- a. The disaggregation of a licence entitlement is permitted to provide for greater flexibility when introducing new vessels to the fleet and when topping up the tonnage and/or kilowatts of an existing vessel. However the vessels to be licensed must be within the same vessel fleet band (either - Over 10 metres or 10 metres and under) as the donor entitlement.
- b. Where the donor licence carries with it eligibility to fish in the cod recovery zone (CRZ) and/or the sole recovery zone (SRZ) provided the donor vessel will no longer be using that eligibility, such eligibility to fish in the CRZ and/or SRZ will transfer to all the vessels being licensed by the component elements.
- c. On disaggregation any beam trawl, scallop dredging, or shellfish permits associated with the licence, will be permitted to be allocated to be used, in one transaction only, either collectively or singly (nominated in section B of the AFL19 form). However, other components of the disaggregated licence, not allocated with any of these permits will retain track record and may be aggregated with base licences which do carry any of these permits, without the resultant licence losing that authority (aggregations involving components without such permits or track record would result in the loss of these permits).
- d. Any fixed quota allocation (FQA) units linked to the licence to be disaggregated must be removed, in line with current procedures (see Section C).

3. Section A

- a. This section records the relevant details of the licence or licence entitlement to be disaggregated.

4. Section B

- a. This section sets out the tonnage and KW's available for transfer (see section A) and the details of the vessels to be licensed by the component elements.
- b. The total components of tonnage and KW's should not exceed the stated levels available for transfer

5. Section C

- a. This section is to confirm that the entitlement to be disaggregated does not hold any fixed quota allocations (FQA) units. This form cannot be processed until the FQAs have been removed and either placed onto a holding statement, transferred to another entitlement or to a Producer Organisation by using the FQA register located at: <https://www.fqaregister.service.gov.uk/>

6. Section D: Recipient's declaration

- a. A separate section D must be completed by:
 - the owners (licence holders) for each vessel to be licensed by component elements
 - the owners (licence holders) for each licensed vessel or entitlement.
- b. A spare copy of section D is published from which additional photocopies may be taken.
- c. Once sections A to D are complete, the AFL 19 should be returned to the issuing fisheries administration.

7. Section E: Current licence holder's declaration

- a. Once it is satisfied that Sections A to D have been correctly completed, the fisheries administration will arrange for the current holder(s) of the licence or licence entitlement to be disaggregated to sign section E of the AFL 19 waiving all rights over that licence/entitlement. The holder(s) are also required to confirm intentions regarding any eligibility to fish in the Cod Recovery Zone (CRZ) and/or sole Recovery Zone (SRZ).
- b. It is possible and permitted for the current holder of the licence or licence entitlement to be a recipient (section D) as well. For example an owner may wish to introduce a smaller replacement vessel and use only part of the licence capacity for this.
- c. Once section E has been completed the AFL 19 should be returned to the issuing fisheries administration.

8. Section F

- a. Once the fisheries administrations have obtained the agreement of the current holders of the licence or licence entitlement to be disaggregated, they will complete section F and send an authenticated copy of the AFL 19 to the owners (licence holders) for each vessel to be licensed by component elements and for the residual balance/s

9. The next steps

- a. To license the recipient vessels using the component elements of the disaggregated licence, vessel owners will need to complete a licence application form AFL 2 and return it to their fishery office, together with the authenticated AFL 19 and the vessel's Certificate of Registry. Further guidance will be provided when the authenticated AFL 19 is issued.