

*New crabbing rules designed to protect the sustainability of Queensland's crab fishery have been introduced.*

*Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland Tim Mulherin said the changes had been implemented to ensure future generations could enjoy catching species such as the famous Queensland mud crab.*

*"Changes to the rules include a new single measurement requirement for mud crabs," Mr Mulherin said.*

*"The size of the crab now needs to be measured across the top of the shell (carapace) at the widest point with a 15cm minimum size limit.*

*"Previously fishers could measure the underside of the crab if the topside was damaged – this new measurement is irrespective of whether the shell is damaged or chipped.*

*"While the size limit for a crab is unchanged, the single measurement removes the capacity for smaller crabs to be taken by fishers using the alternate under body measurement."*

*Mr Mulherin said the changes had also been made to crab pot use.*

*"If a crab pot is attached to a fixed object, such as a tree, it must be attached by a rope with a tag visible above the high water mark.*

*"The tag has to bear the owner's name for recreational fishers or boat mark for commercial fishers," he said.*

*"All other pots must have a surface float attached measuring 15 cm in all directions."*

*Mr Mulherin said changes had also been made to the use of trot line apparatus for commercial fishers.*

*For more information contact the Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries Business Information Centre on 13 25 23 or visit [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)*