



Fishery approvals under the EPBC Act

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

This publication has been compiled by Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

© State of Queensland, 2015.

The Queensland Government supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of its information. The copyright in this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY) licence.

Under this licence you are free, without having to seek our permission, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms.



You must keep intact the copyright notice and attribute the State of Queensland as the source of the publication.

For more information on this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/deed.en>

The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The Queensland Government shall not be liable for technical or other errors or omissions contained herein. The reader/user accepts all risks and responsibility for losses, damages, costs and other consequences resulting directly or indirectly from using this information.



Fishery approvals under the EPBC Act

Since 2000, the Commonwealth Government has required that all fisheries which export product, or interact with protected marine species (including cetaceans) in Commonwealth waters, be assessed and accredited under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (cth) (EPBC Act). This accreditation demonstrates Queensland's fisheries operate under national sustainability guidelines (Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - Edition 2).

What are fishery approvals?

In order to export product, a fishery must be granted a Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) under Part 13A of the EPBC Act. WTO export approvals are generally for three years; however, low risk fisheries may be given an exemption from export controls for five years.

- Part 13 of the EPBC Act relates to interacting with threatened species, migratory species and cetaceans in Commonwealth areas. Without this accreditation, fishers who injure or kill these species would be committing an offence under Commonwealth legislation.
- Conditions can be attached to both the export (Part 13A) and protected species (Part 13) provisions; if conditions are not met, the Commonwealth can remove export accreditation, meaning a fishery will not be able to export product, or that they are committing an offence when interacting with protected species.

Roles and responsibilities

- Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries negotiates these new conditions and recommendations on behalf of Industry. Meeting these conditions and recommendations requires a joint effort by the government and fishers in order to attain and retain accreditation.
- Accurate logbook reporting is an important part of this process, including reporting of interactions with species of conservation interest (SOCI). Under the EPBC Act fishers must report all interactions with SOCI. Fishers who fail to report an interaction are committing an offence.
- EPBC accreditation is important to ensure Queensland's fisheries continue to operate, export and trade, and be a key contributor to the State's economy. The commercial fishing industry generally needs to understand the importance of EPBC approvals to the future of Queensland's commercial fisheries. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is looking to the Queensland commercial fishing industry to play a more prominent role in EPBC assessments and approvals, and particularly in regards to complying with approval conditions.

Table 1: EPBC Act accreditation expiry dates for Queensland managed fisheries

Fishery assessments	Current approval expires
Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery	12/10/2018
Commercial Crayfish and Rocklobster Fishery (formerly East Coast Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery)	28/08/2025
Coral Fishery	22/06/2018
Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery	06/05/2016
East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery	05/03/2016
East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery	25/11/2016
East Coast Pearl	28/08/2025
East Coast Spanish Mackerel Fishery	14/07/2017
East Coast Trochus Fishery	28/08/2025
Eel Fishery	28/08/2025
Fin Fish (Stout Whiting) Trawl Fishery	16/02/2017
Gulf of Carpentaria Developmental Fin Fish Trawl Fishery	25/11/2016
Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery	07/09/2017
Gulf of Carpentaria Line Fishery	24/11/2016
Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery	17/11/2017
Mud Crab Fishery	12/10/2018
River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery	15/02/2019
Sea Cucumber Fishery (East Coast) (formerly East Coast Beche-de-mer Fishery)	13/07/2017
Spanner Crab Fishery	28/08/2025

Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery

Approval expires 12/10/2018

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Queensland Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery

1. Operation of the Queensland Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery (BSCF) will be carried out in accordance with the management regime in force under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.
2. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF) to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended material changes to the BSCF management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.
3. QDAF, to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. QDAF, in collaboration with crab fishery stakeholders, to investigate and implement management measures to monitor and manage the distribution of C1 symbols between the respective crab fisheries (Gulf of Carpentaria and Queensland East Coast Mud Crab Fisheries, and the BSCF) to ensure there is minimal risk to the target stock, bycatch, EPBC Act listed threatened, endangered and protected (TEP) species or the broader ecosystem from unsustainable fishing pressure.
5. QDAF to review the BSCF management regime and operations to ensure that indicators for target stocks, bycatch and TEP species are relevant, informative and achieve precautionary management outcomes. The review must consider:
 - a) the relevance, precision and validity of the information collected from the commercial and recreational sectors;
 - b) measures to effectively monitor and respond to triggered performance indicators;
 - c) methods to improve accountability to discourage false data; and
 - d) developing limit reference points.

Recommendations to the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the ecologically sustainable management of the Queensland Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery, October 2015

1. QDAF to work with relevant agencies and crab fishery stakeholders to further assess and actively promote the use of escape vents in the commercial and recreational crab fishing sectors.



Conditions on the Part 13 accreditation's for the Queensland Mud Crab and Blue Swimmer Crab Fisheries

1. QDAF, in consultation with crab fishery stakeholders and other government agencies to:
 - a) complete a robust evaluation of operational management measures to examine the risk of TEP species entanglements with crab pots; and
 - b) taking into account the evaluation of management arrangements, implement a suite of management measures to minimise the risk of TEP species entanglement with crab pots. Measures could include spatial and seasonal closures and/or potential gear modifications.
2. QDAF to work with crab fishery stakeholders, to:
 - a) investigate and improve monitoring and reporting of protected species interactions by fishers in the commercial sector; and
 - b) implement a system to independently validate commercial fishery interactions with TEP species.



Commercial Crayfish and Rocklobster Fishery (formerly East Coast Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery)

Approval expires 28/08/2025

The Commercial Crayfish and Rocklobster Fishery was recently assessed by the Department of the Environment in consideration of a ten year LENS as a low risk fishery. On 17 November 2015, it was approved for a ten year LENS.

Coral Fishery

Approval expires 22/06/2018

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Queensland Coral Fishery, June 2015

1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.
2. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended material changes to the Queensland Coral Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.
3. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, in consultation with the Department of the Environment, to finalise the review and update of the performance measurement system for the Queensland Coral Fishery.
5. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to continue annual reviews of the harvest of CITES listed taxa in the Queensland Coral Fishery and to report the results of the review to the Department of the Environment during the following fishing season. The report should include:
 - analysis of harvest and harvest trends by species/species group
 - spatial analysis of harvest by species/species group
 - updated risk assessments for species/ groups as they become available, and
 - any changes to management arrangements for CITES listed species.
6. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to strengthen management measures in the Mackay region through:
 - a) separating catch data from the Mackay region for reporting purposes
 - b) evaluating the eligibility of the Mackay region as a distinct Coral Collection Area, and
 - c) providing updates to the Department of the Environment on (a) and (b) in the annual review described under **Condition 5**.



**Recommendations to the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on
the ecologically sustainable management of the Queensland Coral Fishery,
June 2015**

1. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to commence a review of the vulnerability assessment for coral taxa and a review of the ecological risk assessment for the fishery when significant new data becomes available.

Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery


Approval expires 06/05/2016

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Queensland Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery, June 2013

1. Operation of the Queensland Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the Queensland *Fisheries (Coral Reef Fin Fish) Management Plan 2003* in force under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Fisheries Regulation 2008.
2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to advise the Department of the Environment of any intended material change to the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (cth) (EPBC Act) decisions are made.
3. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B to the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition*.
4. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, taking into consideration the outputs of the coral trout stock assessment and in consultation with the department and relevant stakeholders, to review the Performance Measurement System for the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery within twelve months of the delivery of the final stock assessment report.
5. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to ensure that, based on stock indicators, appropriate management actions are implemented to ensure the ongoing sustainability of target stocks.

Recommendations to Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the ecologically sustainable management of the Queensland Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery, June 2013

1. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, taking into consideration the outputs of the Reef Line Working Group, the coral trout stock assessment and the Fisheries Research and Development Project 2011/030, to investigate the implementation of total allowable commercial catch setting based on fishery dependent and independent stock indicators.
2. As part of the review of the Performance Measurement System, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to consider measures to minimise the risk of localised depletion of coral trout.
3. Prior to any reduction or removal of the current spawning closures, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to conduct an independent review of the 2009 spawning closure risk assessment and its supporting documentation.

- 
4. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to review current strategies used to address the information reporting compliance risks in the fishery.
 5. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to investigate the use of electronic vessel monitoring systems for motherships and tenders operating in the fishery.
 6. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to, as appropriate, review the performance measures for 'other species' incorporating the outcomes of the project:
Assessing technology changes and risks to the sustainable management of deepwater line fisheries in southern Queensland.

East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery

Approval expires 05/03/2016


1. Operation of the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime for the fishery in force under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.
2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended amendments to the management arrangements for the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery that may affect the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (cth) (EPBC Act) decisions are based.
3. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce and present reports for the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery to the department annually as per Appendix B to the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to continue to improve knowledge of stock for those fish resources where the stock status process determines that further information is required and progress appropriate stock assessments for key species in the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery which have not yet had stock assessments completed.
5. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to progress the development and implementation of stock assessment models for shark species identified as priority species in the Plan for Assessment of Queensland East Coast Shark Resources 2009-14.
6. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to develop and implement an updated harvest strategy for sharks focussed on species based management of high risk species and/or species groups.
7. In the absence of a species based harvest strategy for sharks in the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:
 - a) conduct annual reviews of the management arrangements for sharks, including the total allowable commercial catch; and
 - b) revise management arrangements as appropriate following annual reviews.
8. By 1 September 2014, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to review and report to the Department of the Environment on:
 - a) the distribution of catch and effort in the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery since the 2009 management changes; and
 - b) progress in developing and implementing finer scale management arrangements for the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery which ensure that the impact of fishing to target, byproduct and bycatch species, including species of conservation interest, is ecologically sustainable.
9. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to review the performance measurement system for the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery in consultation with

relevant stakeholders to incorporate the most up to date information and ensure that it is capable of identifying when a management response is needed to maintain the ecological sustainability of the fishery, including its subcomponents.

10. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to, as a minimum, maintain a risk based fishery monitoring regime for the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery, designed in conjunction with relevant experts, to collect data sufficient to allow:
 - completion of stock assessments for key target species;
 - identification of risks at the regional level to target, byproduct and bycatch species, including protected species; and
 - evaluation of the effectiveness of East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery management measures.

**Recommendations to Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the ecologically sustainable management of the Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery,
February 2012**

1. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to include additional recreationally important East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery species in the annual stock status assessment program if indicated by the results of the recreational fishing survey.
2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to maintain the Plan for Assessment of Queensland East Coast Shark Resources 2009-14 and update it as appropriate to deliver species based management of sharks in the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery.
3. In the absence of a species based harvest strategy for sharks in the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to facilitate an advisory group comprising relevant experts to provide input to the interim management arrangements and the development of the longer term harvest strategy for sharks in the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery to ensure that harvest of sharks is sustainable.
4. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to report annually on the progress in development of the shark harvest strategy to the advisory group established under Recommendation 3.
5. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to report the results of the reviews to the advisory group established under Recommendation 3. The reports should include at a minimum:
 - analysis of catch composition;
 - analysis of spatial distribution of catch by species;
 - update of risk assessments for individual species; and
 - once sufficient data is available, appropriate stock assessments for key shark species caught in the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery.

- 
6. Taking into account all available information and in collaboration with other relevant jurisdictions, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to work with Maritime Safety Queensland on compliance measures to deter illegal finning of sharks in the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery.
 7. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:
 - continue to improve knowledge of the number and rate of interactions with species of conservation interest in the ECIFFF, including the recognition of important habitats and identification of locations, areas or regions with higher risk of interactions and/or mortalities occurring;
 - support relevant research into methods to reduce fishing related mortalities of species of conservation interest;
 - continue to work with industry and all relevant stakeholders to identify and implement appropriate gear selectivity and operational improvements and/or other management measures that minimise capture and mortality of species of conservation interest; and
 - in conjunction with relevant stakeholders develop a framework to enable implementation of measures to avoid interactions and/or reduce mortalities at an appropriate spatial scale.
 8. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to implement appropriate management measures identified in Recommendation 7 to ensure that risks to species of conservation interest in the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery are minimised.
 9. In reviewing the performance measures for the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to give consideration to:
 - a) refining the performance measures for all high risk species;
 - b) including spatially appropriate indicators and performance measures; and
 - c) incorporating timeframes and predetermined management actions, where appropriate, for responding to review events.
 10. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to continue to pursue and report on collaborative and complementary management of shared East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery stocks with relevant fisheries management agencies.
 11. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to continue education programs across all sectors of the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery on species identification and recording, safe handling and release procedures and conservation.

East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery


Approval expires 25/11/2016

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery, November 2013

1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the Queensland Fisheries (East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery) Management Plan 2010 under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994*.
2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended material changes to the Queensland East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (cth) (EPBC Act) decisions are made.
3. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B of the Guidelines for the *Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:
 - a) continue to monitor and report on effort levels within each sector of the east coast trawl fishery, given fishing effort is a key driver of ecological risk; and
 - b) review total effort expended in the fishery, particularly effort in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, to ensure that it is ecologically sustainable.
5. Until the outcomes of the Trawl Plan Review are known, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:
 - a) closely monitor effort in the fishery; and
 - b) should total effort exceed total effort levels expended in 2009,
 - review the relative changes in ecological risk attributable to the increased effort; and
 - determine an appropriate management response to ensure identified increases in ecological risk do not result in unsustainable outcomes.

Conditions on the accreditation of the management regime for the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery under Part 13 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

1. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to work closely with the fishing industry to:
 - a) reduce the bycatch of sea snakes, including by methods such as trawl nets to be fitted with bycatch reduction devices that are demonstrably capable of minimising the bycatch, with a progress report to be provided by 1 December 2014;

- 
- b) continue to monitor and report on the uptake and correct use of bycatch reduction devices to assist achieving reductions in sea snake bycatch;
 - c) increase the accuracy of reporting of EPBC Act protected species interactions in fishers' log books; and
 - d) following the progress report outlined in a) above, obtain independent verification of the effectiveness of the bycatch reduction devices in minimising EPBC Act protected species bycatch.

**Recommendations to Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the
ecologically sustainable management of the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery,
November 2013**

1. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:
 - a) monitor changes to sea snake catch and catch-per-unit-effort, using the best information available; and
 - b) continue to support research where possible with the aim of understanding and reducing the ecological risk posed by the fishery to sea snakes.
2. Taking into account relevant research, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:
 - a) continue to develop stock assessments for principal species; and
 - b) continue to improve knowledge of stock status for principal and permitted species including pipefish.
3. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:
 - a) complete and publish the ecological risk assessment for the area of the fishery south of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
 - b) investigate measures to mitigate risks to species identified to be at probable high risk from the impacts of fishing in the risk assessments; and
 - c) continue to monitor and improve compliance with rules concerning turtle excluder devices and bycatch reduction devices.
4. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to continue to:
 - a) develop and implement measures to reduce bycatch in the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery; and
 - b) develop a performance measure aimed at reducing bycatch levels in the fishery.



East Coast Pearl

Approval expires 28/08/2025

The East Coast Pearl Fishery was recently assessed by the Department of the Environment in consideration of a ten year LENS as a low risk fishery. On 17 November 2015, it was approved for a ten year LENS.



East Coast Spanish Mackerel Fishery

Approval expires 14/07/2017

1. Operation of the Queensland East Coast Spanish Mackerel Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime for the fishery made under the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008 in force under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994*.
2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to advise the Department of the Environment of any intended amendments to the Queensland East Coast Spanish Mackerel Fishery management arrangements that could affect the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (cth) (EPBC Act) decisions are based.
3. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B to the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to ensure that:
 - a) future management arrangements for the East Coast Spanish Mackerel Fishery are developed transparently; and
 - b) relevant stakeholder views and scientific and management expertise inform the management arrangements for the fishery.



East Coast Trochus Fishery

Approval expires 28/08/2025

The Queensland East Coast Trochus Fishery was recently assessed by the Department of Environment in consideration of a ten year LENS as a low risk fishery. On 17 November 2015, it was approved for a ten year LENS which now expires on the 28th August 2025.



Eel Fishery

Approval expires 28/08/2025

The Queensland Eel Fishery was recently assessed by the Department of Environment in consideration of a ten year LENS as a low risk fishery. On 17 November 2015, it was approved for a ten year LENS which now expires on the 28th August 2025.

Fin Fish (Stout Whiting) Trawl Fishery

Approval expires 16/02/2017

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Queensland Fin Fish (Stout Whiting) Trawl Fishery, 12 February 2016

1. Operation of the Queensland Fin Fish (Stout Whiting) Trawl Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime for the fishery in force under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.
2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended amendments to Queensland Fin Fish (Stout Whiting) Trawl Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment of the fishery against the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) decisions are based.
3. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B to the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.

Recommendation to Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the ecologically sustainable management of the Queensland Fin Fish (Stout Whiting) Trawl Fishery.

1. Taking into account all available information, including, but not limited to:
 - relevant risk assessments for bycatch species; and
 - the results of analyses of bycatch data from the Fishery Observer Program;

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to complete the review of future management directions for the Fin Fish (Stout Whiting) Trawl Fishery, and:

- i. ensure that appropriate measures to ensure sustainability of bycatch species are implemented; and
- ii. develop and implement appropriate performance measures related to the minimisation of bycatch of species determined to be at risk of adverse impacts from fishing.

Gulf of Carpentaria Developmental Fin Fish Trawl Fishery

Approval expires 25/11/2016

Condition on the accreditation of management arrangements under Part 13 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for the Queensland Gulf of Carpentaria Developmental Fin Fish Trawl Fishery

1. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, by September 2012, taking into consideration the results of bycatch reduction trials, to implement appropriate bycatch reduction devices as an operational requirement in the Gulf of Carpentaria Developmental Fin Fish Trawl Fishery.

Recommendation to Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the ecologically sustainable management of the Gulf of Carpentaria Developmental Fin Fish Trawl Fishery.

1. Operation of the Gulf of Carpentaria Developmental Fin Fish Trawl Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.
2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended changes to management arrangements that may affect the assessment of the fishery against the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (cth) (EPBC Act) decisions are based.
3. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce and present reports to the department annually as per Appendix B to the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries* - 2nd Edition.
4. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:
 - a) continue to implement measures to reduce bycatch; and
 - b) complete, by June 2012, a structured trial of bycatch reduction devices, including methodology to assess the effectiveness of devices trialed.
5. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to continue to cooperate with other relevant jurisdictions to pursue complementary research and management of shared stocks for target and by-product species that may be affected by cross-jurisdictional issues.

Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery


Approval expires 07/09/2017

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Queensland Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery, September 2014

1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime for the Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery in force under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.
2. The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended amendments to the management arrangements that may affect the assessment of the fishery against the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are based.
3. The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B to the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to:
 - a. taking into account the outcomes of recent research and in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, evaluate the effectiveness of the current management measures and operation of the Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery in minimising interactions with and mortality of speartooth sharks, to ensure the survival and recovery of important populations of the species. This may include consideration of, for example, habitats fished, specifications of the gear used, the timing of fishing operations (seasonal, monthly, daily, tidal), etc.
(Note: This evaluation may be undertaken as part of the ecological risk assessment update referred to in Recommendation 1.)
 - b. encourage further relevant research, for example, as indicated by the Australian Government *Multispecies Issues Paper for Sawfish and River Sharks* and any recovery plan for the speartooth shark, to assist in determining if Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery operations are affecting the survival or recovery of the speartooth shark.

Recommendations to Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the ecologically sustainable management of the Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery, September 2014.

1. The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to update the ecological risk assessment for the Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, including the Department of the Environment, and make public the results of the risk assessment.

- 
2. QDAFF to continue to encourage relevant research on shark species at risk from fishing in the Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery through consultation at appropriate intra- and inter-state forums and apply relevant research outcomes to the fishery as appropriate.
 3. The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to:
 - a. report annually on the management and monitoring of all species listed on Appendix II of CITES which are permitted to be retained in the Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery;
 - b. in consultation with the Department of the Environment and Australia 's CITES Scientific Authority, annually evaluate the management arrangements for species listed on Appendix II of CITES which are permitted to be retained in the fishery, to ensure that CITES non detriment findings can continue to be made; and
 - c. continue and encourage further co-operation with relevant jurisdictions to pursue increased knowledge and complementary management of CITES listed species encountered in the fishery across fisheries and across jurisdictions.
 4. Taking into account all available information and in collaboration with other relevant jurisdictions, the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to encourage research into alternate best practice compliance measures to deter illegal finning of sharks in the Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery.
 5. By 31 December 2015, the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to analyse and report to the Department of the Environment the results of the past Fisheries Observer Program in the N3 (inshore) sector of the Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery for interactions with species protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
 6. By 30 November 2016, taking into account the outcomes of relevant research, the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to identify areas where fishing effort in the Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery overlaps with known and likely important habitats of inshore dolphin and sawfish species and seek to identify locations, areas or regions with higher or lower risk of interactions and/or mortalities occurring.
 7. QDAFF to encourage relevant research into sawfish and inshore dolphin species found in the Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fin Fish Fishery to ensure that fishing operations do not affect the survival or recovery of sawfish species protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* or the conservation status of inshore dolphin species.



Gulf of Carpentaria Line Fishery

Approval expires 24/11/2016

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Queensland Gulf of Carpentaria Line Fishery, November 2013

1. Operation of the Queensland Gulf of Carpentaria Line Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime in force under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.
2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended material changes to the Queensland Gulf of Carpentaria Line Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (cth) (EPBC Act) decisions are made.
3. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries* - 2nd Edition.

Recommendations to Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the ecologically sustainable management of the Gulf of Carpentaria Line Fishery, November 2013.

1. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to ensure that:
 - its PMS remains robust and has appropriate sustainability yield estimates for key target species, particularly Spanish mackerel; and
 - long-term monitoring of target species' stock status in the fishery continues.

Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery


Approval expires 17/11/2017

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Queensland Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery, November 2014

1. Operation of the Queensland Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994*, the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008 and the Fisheries (Coral Reef Fin Fish) Management Plan 2003.
2. The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended material changes to the Queensland Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.
3. The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B of the Guidelines for the *Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.

Recommendations to Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the ecologically sustainable management of the Queensland Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery, November 2014

1. The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to:
 - a) ensure that risks to the sustainability of the species collected in the fishery are identified, managed, monitored and regularly reviewed;
 - b) ensure that existing performance indicators are adjusted and new performance indicators are implemented as appropriate; and
 - c) put in place appropriate measures to mitigate any high risks identified to target species.
2. The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to:
 - a) ensure harvest of CITES listed species is limited according to current non-detriment findings;
 - b) report annually to the Department of the Environment on the harvest (at species level), management and monitoring of all species listed on CITES which are permitted to be retained in the Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery, and under General Fisheries Permits which allow collection of CITES species for the aquarium trade, to ensure that CITES non-detriment findings can continue to be made; and
 - c) continue to cooperate with relevant jurisdictions where appropriate to pursue increased knowledge and complementary management of CITES listed species harvested in the fishery.
3. The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to:

- 
- a) provide details of any permitted take of EPBC Act listed species under the management arrangements for the fishery, or under General Fisheries Permits allowing take of species for the aquarium trade, to the Department of the Environment; and
 - b) ensure that take of EPBC Act listed species permitted under the management arrangements for the fishery, or under General Fisheries Permits allowing take of species for the aquarium trade, has been shown to not have a significant impact on the species, and to not be inconsistent with recovery plans for EPBC Act listed species.



Mud Crab Fishery

Approval expires 12/10/2018

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Queensland Mud Crab Fishery

1. Operation of the Queensland Mud Crab Fishery (MCF) will be carried out in accordance with management regime in force under the Queensland Fisheries Act 1994 and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.
2. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF) to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended material changes to the MCF management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.
3. QDAF to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. QDAF, in collaboration with crab fishery stakeholders, to investigate and implement management measures to monitor and manage the distribution of C1 symbols between the respective crab fisheries (Gulf of Carpentaria and Queensland East Coast Mud Crab Fisheries, and the Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery) to ensure there is minimal risk to the target stock, bycatch, EPBC Act listed threatened, endangered and protected (TEP) species or the broader ecosystem from unsustainable fishing pressure.

Recommendations to the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the ecologically sustainable management of the Queensland Mud Crab Fishery, October 2015

1. QDAF to work with relevant agencies and crab fishery stakeholders to improve data confidence and accountability of stock estimates for target and discard species. This should include:
 - a) robust catch-and-effort data should be recorded for the commercial sector and estimated from surveys for the recreational and Indigenous fishing sectors;
 - b) robust estimates of bycatch and discard species interaction and mortality should be determined for all sectors;
 - c) measures to effectively monitor and respond to triggered performance indicators;
 - d) appropriate triggers for the commercial sector that account for the cumulative impact of the recreational sector.
2. QDAF to work with relevant agencies and crab fishery stakeholders to further assess and actively promote the use of escape vents in the commercial and recreational crab fishing sectors.



Conditions on the Part 13 accreditation's for the Queensland Mud Crab and Blue Swimmer Crab Fisheries

1. QDAF, in consultation with crab fishery stakeholders and other government agencies to:
 - a) complete a robust evaluation of operational management measures to examine the risk of TEP species entanglements with crab pots; and
 - b) taking into account the evaluation of management arrangements, implement a suite of management measures to minimise the risk of TEP species entanglement with crab pots. Measures could include spatial and seasonal closures and/or potential gear modifications.
2. QDAF to work with crab fishery stakeholders, to:
 - a) investigate and improve monitoring and reporting of protected species interactions by fishers in the commercial sector; and
 - b) implement a system to independently validate commercial fishery interactions with TEP species.



River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery

Approval expires 15/02/2019

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery, 15 February 2016

1. Operation of the Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime in force under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland Fisheries East Coast Trawl Management Plan 2010.
2. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to advise the Department of the Environment of any intended amendments to the River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery management arrangements that could affect the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are based.
3. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce and present reports for the River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to finalise and publish, by 1 March 2017, the outcomes of the River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery ecological risk assessment.
5. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to ensure that by 15 February 2019, any unacceptable risks to bycatch (including protected species) that are identified through the ecological risk assessment have been mitigated.

Sea Cucumber Fishery (East Coast) (formerly East Coast Bêche-de-mer Fishery)


Approval expires 13/07/2017

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Queensland Sea Cucumber Fishery (East Coast), July 2014

1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.
2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended material changes to the Queensland Sea Cucumber Fishery (East Coast) management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (cth) (EPBC Act) decisions are made.
3. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.

Recommendations to Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the ecologically sustainable management of the Queensland Sea Cucumber Fishery (East Coast), July 2014

1. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to continue to develop and improve management arrangements for the fishery that allow for appropriate management actions to be taken, including if catch exceeds reference points, to ensure stocks levels remain ecologically viable.
2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to encourage research relevant to management of sea cucumber species harvested in the fishery, including:
 - research identified as necessary to address current information gaps and reduce sustainability risks in the fishery; and
 - other research to continue to improve the understanding of the stock status of target species.
3. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to continue and encourage further co-operation with other relevant jurisdictions to pursue increased knowledge and complementary management of sea cucumber resources across fisheries and across jurisdictions.
4. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to compare spatial distribution of fishing effort before and after the north/south boundary in the fishery is removed and provide a report detailing the findings to the Department. Should any unsustainable trends be identified, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries should consider appropriate management intervention.

- 
5. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to ensure any change to the total allowable catch for black teatfish is supported by independent scientific verification of sustainable harvest levels.



Spanner Crab Fishery

Approval expires 28/08/2025

The Queensland Spanner Crab Fishery was recently assessed by Department of Environment in consideration of a ten year LENS as a low risk fishery. On 17 November 2015, it was approved for a ten year LENS which now expires on the 28th August 2025.