



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

**Revocation of Accreditation of a Plan, Regime or Policy for the purposes of Part 13.
Accreditation of a Plan, Regime or Policy for the purposes of Part 13 of the EPBC Act.
Queensland East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery, December 2021**

I, ADAM SINCOCK, Principal Director, Wildlife Trade Office, as Delegate of the Minister for the Environment:

a) revoke the accreditation of the management regime for the Queensland East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery dated 26 November 2013, and

b) being satisfied that:

i) the management regime for the Queensland East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery in force under the:

- *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld)
- Fisheries (General) Regulation 2019 (Qld)
- Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019 (Qld)
- Fisheries Declaration 2019 (Qld)
- Fisheries Quota Declaration 2019 (Qld)
- *Marine Parks Act 2004* (Qld)
- Marine Parks Regulations 2019 (Qld)
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Cth)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019 (Cth),

requires persons engaged in fishing under the management regime to take all reasonable steps to ensure that members of listed threatened species, listed migratory species, cetaceans and listed marine species are not killed or injured as a result of the fishing, and

ii) the fishery to which the management regime relates does not, or is not likely to, adversely affect:

- a) the survival or recovery in nature of any listed threatened species, or
- b) the conservation status of a listed migratory species, cetacean, or listed marine species or a population of that species,

accredit the management regime for the Queensland East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery in force under the:

- *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld)
- Fisheries (General) Regulation 2019 (Qld)
- Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019 (Qld)
- Fisheries Declaration 2019 (Qld)
- Fisheries Quota Declaration 2019 (Qld)
- *Marine Parks Act 2004* (Qld)

- Marine Parks Regulations 2019 (Qld)
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Cth)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019 (Cth),

under sections 208A, 222A, 245 and 265 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for the purposes of Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively of Part 13 of the EPBC Act.

This accreditation is subject to the following conditions under section 303AA of the EPBC Act:

Part 13 Condition A

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must:

- a) by 30 November 2022, develop and implement a best practice management strategy for the Queensland East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery that includes best practice handling and release techniques for non-target species to reduce discard mortality.
- b) by 30 November 2023 develop and implement mitigation measures to address all risks identified as being at intermediate or above risk from the impacts of fishing in the existing Ecological Risk Assessments, according to protocols described in the *Fisheries Queensland Ecological Risk Assessment Guideline*.
- c) continue to monitor any new research and development to support consideration of further management actions that respond to the ecological risks that may be posed by the Queensland East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery to sea snakes. This may include additional research and monitoring activities, including at sea trials of any identified improvements to mitigation devices, to guide the uptake of improved sea snake bycatch reduction devices in the fishery.

Part 13 Condition B

By 20 May 2024, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must develop and implement a statistically robust, independent, quantitative and validated monitoring and data collection regime in the Queensland East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery. This may involve the use of electronic monitoring, onboard observers, or other means. The information collected must be sufficient to reliably demonstrate the accuracy of all reported catch, effort and protected species interaction data collected via logbooks. The regime needs to gather suitable data on the level of catch, discards and interactions in the fishery to inform the sustainable management of byproduct and bycatch species (including protected species).

Dated this 17th day of December 2021



Delegate of the Minister for the Environment