

Revised Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy

Submission No.: 07

Submission by: Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

Submission:

Please find below a response from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) in relation to:

- the revised Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy

General comment

EHP does not consider that the attached Commonwealth fisheries documents raise any substantial issues for this Department. Largely the documents deal at a high level with strategies around minimising bycatch in Commonwealth capture fisheries, avoiding seabird bycatch, and approaches to setting harvest levels in Commonwealth fisheries, and thus the matters they deal with are substantially in the realm of fisheries management.

Specific comments

- Section 3.3 Risk equivalency – EHP recommends change the wording within the paragraph as per the text in red:

*“Populations should be maintained above a limit where they are not depleted to a level that results in long-term recruitment failure. The risk to a bycatch population beyond this limit must not be traded-off for other considerations in the management of the fishery. Where there is evidence a bycatch population has fallen below the limit reference point, **where bycatch is identified as one of the causes of this recruitment failure**, there is a need to manage and support recovery of these species and implement appropriate data collection and reporting arrangements that support that recovery”*

- Section 3.7 Data collection, reporting and monitoring – EHP recommends adding the following sentence at the end of this section

Data collected within the reporting and monitoring framework should be at a level appropriate for guiding management and will be collated from all fisheries into a single relational data base and be available to Federal and State fisheries and wildlife management agencies for development of conservation policy and management of the protected species within their jurisdictions.