



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. Northern Territory Offshore Net and Line Fishery, March 2022

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 Northern Territory Offshore Net and Line Fishery dated 28 March 2019, and

b) being satisfied that:

i) the management regime for the Northern Territory Offshore Net and Line Fishery, in force under the:

- *Fisheries Act 1988* (NT)
- Fisheries Regulations 1992 (NT),

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 Northern Territory Offshore Net and Line Fishery in force under the:

- *Fisheries Act 1988* (NT)
- Fisheries Regulations 1992 (NT),

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

Operation of the Northern Territory Offshore Net and Line Fishery must be carried out in accordance with the Offshore Net and Line Fishery Management Framework and Harvest Strategy 2018 in force under the *Fisheries Act 1988* (NT) and the Fisheries Regulations 1992 (NT).

Part 13 Condition B

The Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade must inform the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment of any intended material changes to Northern Territory Offshore Net and Line Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.

Part 13 Condition C

The Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade must inform the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment of any intended changes to fisheries legislation that may affect the legislative instruments relevant to this approval.

Part 13 Condition D

The Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade must produce and present reports on the Northern Territory Offshore Net and Line Fishery, including progress against all Part 13 conditions, to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment by 30 June annually, as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition*.

Part 13 Condition E

By 1 December 2022 the Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade must ensure that data collection and data validation systems are in place, sufficient to ensure that all necessary fishery data, including protected species interaction data is accurately reported and available for management of the Offshore Net and Line Fishery.

Part 13 Condition F

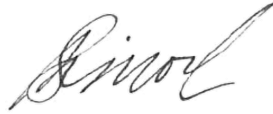
The Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade must:

- a) By 1 September 2022, develop precautionary, interim ecological risk mitigation strategies for any bycatch or protected species which have been caught or interacted with in numbers greater than those considered in the 2020 Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for the Offshore Net and Line Fishery. These ecological risk mitigation strategies must include, but are not limited to, plans for the Australian snubfin dolphin (*Orcaella heinsohni*), leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), dwarf sawfish (*Pristis clavata*), dugong (*Dugong dugon*), giant manta rays (*Mobula birostris*) and pygmy devilrays (*M. eregoodoo* and *M. kuhlii*). The ecological risk mitigation strategies must also be developed for winghead sharks, and any other taxa found to be at high risk or greater in the 2020 ERA.
- b) By 1 December 2022, implement the ecological risk mitigation strategies. These must remain in effect until it can be determined whether risks to these species from the operation of the fishery are sustainable. After that time, all reasonable steps must be taken to minimise future interactions and ensure impacts remain sustainable.

Part 13 Condition G

By 27 June 2024, the Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade must provide an updated Ecological Risk Assessment to the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment that considers all species interacted with by the Offshore Net and Line Fishery.

Dated this 29th day of March 2022

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Wood", is written above a horizontal dotted line.

Delegate of the Minister for the Environment