



**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**

**QUEENSLAND BLUE SWIMMER CRAB FISHERY AND QUEENSLAND MUD CRAB  
FISHERY, MAY 2019**

I, JOHN GIBBS, Assistant Secretary, Wildlife Trade and Biosecurity Branch, as Delegate of the Minister for the Environment:

- a) revoke the accreditation of the management regime for the Queensland Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery, and the Queensland Mud Crab Fishery dated 12 October 2015, and
- b) being satisfied that:
  - i) the management regimes for the Queensland Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery, and the Queensland Mud Crab Fishery, in force under the *Fisheries Act 1998* (Queensland) and the Fisheries Regulation 2008 (Queensland), require persons engaged in fishing under the management regimes 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 fisheries to which the management regimes relate do not, or are 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 regimes for the Queensland Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery, and the Queensland Mud Crab Fishery in force under the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Queensland) and the Fisheries Regulation 2008 (Queensland) 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.

Unless amended or revoked, this accreditation is subject to the following conditions applied under section 303AA:

**Queensland Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery**

1. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:
  - a. Develop risk mitigation strategies for marine turtles (identified as 'high' risk in the Level 1 assessment completed in 2019) by January 2021. Mitigation strategies to be implemented in parallel with the development of a harvest strategy for the fishery.
  - b. Develop and publish Level 2 ecological risk assessments (ERAs) according to the Queensland Government ERA guidelines, and implement appropriate risk mitigation strategies.

All precautionary risk management strategies should be developed and implemented in consultation with relevant experts and stakeholders, and performance should be monitored and reported annually to the Department of Environment and Energy.

2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to continue to work with crab fishery stakeholders to:

- a. Implement the relevant plans under Queensland's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027 to 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 protected species.

### **Queensland Mud Crab Fishery**

1. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:

- c. Develop risk mitigation strategies for marine turtles (identified as 'high' risk in the Level 1 assessment completed in 2019) by January 2021. Mitigation strategies to be implemented in parallel with the development of a harvest strategy for the fishery.
- d. Develop and publish Level 2 ecological risk assessments (ERAs) according to the Queensland Government ERA guidelines, and implement appropriate risk mitigation strategies.

All precautionary risk management strategies should be developed and implemented in consultation with relevant experts and stakeholders, and performance should be monitored and reported annually to the Department of Environment and Energy.

2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to continue to work with crab fishery stakeholders to:

- c. Implement the relevant plans under Queensland's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027 to improve monitoring and reporting of protected species interactions by fishers in the commercial sector; and
- d. Implement a system to independently validate commercial fishery interactions with protected species.

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Gillh", written over a dotted line.

Delegate of the Minister for the Environment