

## **Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery, February 2012**

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. Fisheries Queensland to inform the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 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* decisions are based.
3. Fisheries Queensland 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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*.
4. Fisheries Queensland 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. Fisheries Queensland 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. Fisheries Queensland 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, Fisheries Queensland 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, Fisheries Queensland to review and report to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 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. Fisheries Queensland 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. Fisheries Queensland 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 Fisheries Queensland on the ecologically sustainable management of the Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery, February 2012**

1. Fisheries Queensland 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. Fisheries Queensland 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, Fisheries Queensland 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. Fisheries Queensland to report annually on the progress in development of the shark harvest strategy to the advisory group established under Recommendation 3.
5. Fisheries Queensland 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, Fisheries Queensland to work with Maritime Safety Queensland on compliance measures to deter illegal finning of sharks in the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery.
7. Fisheries Queensland to:
  - continue to improve knowledge of the number and rate of interactions with species of conservation interest in the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery, 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. Fisheries Queensland 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, Fisheries Queensland 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. Fisheries Queensland 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. Fisheries Queensland 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.