



**THE HON MELISSA PRICE MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

MS18-001419

The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
GPO Box 262
FERNY HILLS DC QLD 4055

Dear Minister *Mark,*

In July 2018, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries applied for export approval for the Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery under the EPBC Act.

The application has been assessed and I have declared the fishery an approved wildlife trade operation under Part 13A of the EPBC Act until 10 December 2021. The list of exempt native specimens has also been amended to allow export of product from the fishery while the specimens are covered by the declaration as an approved wildlife trade operation.

The Part 13A declaration includes conditions that were agreed by our officials, as areas requiring ongoing attention. The conditions are designed to support the important fishery reforms currently being undertaken by your Government. These conditions are set out at Attachment A.

As the fishery operates within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, I have copied this letter to the Chairperson of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Dr Ian Poiner, for his information. I have also sent a copy of this letter to the Director-General of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dr Beth Woods.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Price'.

MELISSA PRICE

cc: Dr Beth Woods, Director-General, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Dr Ian Poiner, Chairperson, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Enc.

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery – December 2018

Condition 1:

Operation of the Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the *Queensland Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.

Condition 2:

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to inform the Department of any intended material changes to the Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.

Condition 3:

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce and present reports to the Department annually as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.

Condition 4:

By **January 2020** the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to implement foundational reforms (actions 1.1-1.4) identified in the Queensland Government's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027 for the ECIFFF and collect accurate and reliable data, sufficient to monitor and assess the fishery's impact on target and non-target species, including protected species, with a high degree of confidence.

Condition 5:

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries progress the development and implementation of an independent data collection and validation program including:

- a. Assess feasibility and complete proof of concept trials for electronic monitoring by **December 2019**.
- b. Implement an independent data collection and validation program in ECIFFF from **January 2020** (this may include electronic monitoring or alternative interim solutions).

Condition 6:

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:

- a. Continue to support fishers to accurately identify and record sharks at the species level. This should include some assessment and monitoring of reporting performance to identify and target ongoing improvements where necessary
- b. Ensure all commercial catches of shark species of conservation concern can be readily and reliably determined, at a taxonomic level sufficient to monitor and manage risks at the species level. This may require a prohibition on removal of fins, fillets or other morphological features that assist in identifying species prior to landing.
- c. By February 2020, report results of the Queensland Government's scheduled June 2019 review of hammerhead stock status to the Department, in a form suitable for the TSSC's review of Conservation Dependent species.
- d. Review and provide catch data for Scalloped Hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), Great Hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*) and Winghead Sharks (*Eusphyrna blochii*) to the Department of Environment and Energy for the TSSC's consideration. The data should be in a form that facilitates a comparison of catch levels between the three species, and provide advice on the level of confidence in the various data collected by Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

- e. Provide annual reports to the Department of Environment and Energy (as per **Condition 3**) on the performance of management arrangements, including actions undertaken as part of these conditions, and which comprise the 'plan of management' for the purposes of subparagraph 179(6)(b)(ii) of the EPBC Act for Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks.

Condition 7:

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:

- a. Continue to improve understanding of stock status of all commercially and recreationally important species which are currently classified as 'undefined' in the area of the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery.
- b. Ensure catch composition is sufficiently monitored and understood to ensure that all stocks impacted by the fishery are sustainably managed, not overfished or subject to overfishing.

Condition 8:

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:

- a. Publish a level 1 ecological risk assessment for the Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery by **July 2019**.
- b. Implement strategies to mitigate risks identified in the level 1 ecological risk assessment by **December 2019**.
- c. Develop and publish level 2 ERAs according to the Queensland Government ERA guidelines and implement appropriate risk mitigations 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 in accordance with **Condition 3**.

Condition 9:

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to implement by **January 2020** harvest strategies that monitor and manage impacts associated with the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery on target, byproduct and bycatch (including protected species).

The harvest strategy must include decision rules and reference points that trigger management actions to ensure the fishery remains ecologically sustainable.

Performance against this strategy must be included in annual reports specified at **Condition 3**.