



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Assessment of the
Northern Territory Coastal Line Fishery

January 2019

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Disclaimer

This document is an assessment carried out by the Department of the Environment and Energy of a commercial fishery against the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition*. It forms part of the advice provided to the Minister for the Environment on the fishery in relation to decisions under Parts 13 and 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Minister for the Environment or the Australian Government.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY COASTAL LINE FISHERY

In March 2018, the Department of the Environment and Energy received an application from Mr Campbell G. Druitt (Licence holder) for the Northern Territory Coastal Line Fishery (the fishery) for assessment under the EPBC Act as an approved wildlife trade operation (WTO), against the Australian Government 'Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition' (the Guidelines). A public comment period was open from 7 May 2018 until 23 July 2018. No comments were received.

The fishery

The fishery is managed by the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources (NTDPIR) under the *Northern Territory of Australia Fisheries Act 1988* and the Northern Territory of Australia Fisheries Regulations 1993.

The fishery operates along the Northern Territory coastline between the high water mark and 15 nautical miles out from the low water mark. The fishery is managed in two zones, the Eastern Zone and Western Zone. The Western Zone extends from the Western Australia border to Vashon Head on Cobourg Peninsula, while the Eastern Zone extends from Vashon head to the Queensland Border. Most fishing activity is concentrated around rocky reefs within 150 km of Darwin.

The commercial fishery is managed using input and output controls. The Eastern Zone is primarily managed through input based controls such as gear restrictions and limited entry. The Western Zone input and output controls include: limited entry; individual transferable effort allocations within each area of the fishery; gear restrictions; total allowable commercial catch limits, and spatial closures. Satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) was brought in the fishery in 2019.

Harvest is primarily by vertical line. There is the ability to use drop lines (6-40 hooks), fish traps (maximum up to 5 traps in Eastern Zone only), and scoop nets (for bait).

Target stocks

The primary target species, Black Jewfish (*Protonibea dicanthus*) and Golden Snapper (*Lutjanus johnii*) are classified as overfished in the Darwin region. NTDPIR has taken action to ensure recovery of the stocks in the fishery, including:

- Zoning of the fishery (Western Zone and Eastern Zone) and restricted access in the Western Zone
- Introduction of an individual transferable quota of 145 tonne for black jewfish and 4.5 tonne for golden snapper in the Western Zone
- Creation of five temporary reef protection areas (spatial closures)
- Establishment of a Management Advisory Committee to develop management framework that includes a harvest strategy and detailed research and monitoring plan.

The Western Zone has reef areas that are known spawning aggregations for Black Jewfish and Golden Snapper species. These reef areas have been given temporary (five year) protection to aid in the protection and recovery of 'at risk' reef fish caught in the Western Zone.

Ongoing monitoring for signs of key species recovery in the Western Zone is being addressed using catch and effort information from all fishing sectors in the fishery, abundance surveys conducted before and after the implementation of the spatial closures, as well as biomass estimates of reef fish using acoustic sonar techniques on habitats inside the spatial closures.

Protected species and threatened ecosystems

Due to the highly selective fishing methods, the fishery has a low risk of interactions with protected species or causing damage to the ecosystem.

Conclusion

While the fishery is well managed the Department has identified a number of risks and uncertainties that should be managed through conditions listed at Section 4. These include:

- continue data collection, stock assessments, management, and monitoring of target species.
- ensure there are effective controls in all fishing zones that seek to avoid overfishing and support the recovery of overfished stocks.

Based on the Department's assessment of the application against the Australian Government 'Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition', the Department recommends the fishery be granted export approval for three years until 23 January 2022, by declaring the fishery an approved wildlife trade operation and including the fishery on the list of exempt native specimens under the EPBC Act.

The Department also recommends accrediting the management regime for the fishery under Part 13 of the EPBC Act.

SECTION 1: ASSESSMENT SUMMARY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY COASTAL LINE FISHERY AGAINST THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES (2ND EDITION), CONSISTENT WITH THE EPBC ACT

Guidelines assessment	Meets	Partially meets	Does not meet	Details
Management regime	8 of 9	1 of 9		Overall the management regime appears to be effective. The ongoing implementation of recent reforms will further increase effectiveness in the immediate future. There is a strategic framework in place for assessing, monitoring or managing fishery performance and ecological impacts.
Principle 1 (target stocks)	10 of 11	1 of 11 (1.1.6)		There is generally robust management of target stocks. There is a precautionary risk management strategy in place to support the recovery of overfished stocks in the Western Zone. No total allowable catch limits are set for the Eastern zone.
Principle 2 (bycatch and TEPS)	8 of 12 (4 N/A)			Bycatch and TEPS interactions are considered to be negligible.
Principle 2 (ecosystem impacts)	5 of 5			Ecosystem impacts are likely to be low due to fishing method used as well as input and output controls in place.
EPBC requirements	Meets	Partially meets	Does not meet	Details
Part 12	Meets requirements subject to conditions specified at Section 4 of this report.			
Part 13	Meets requirements Due to the fishing method employed, interactions with EPBC Act protected species are considered to be negligible.			
Part 13A	Meets requirements subject to conditions specified at Section 4 of this report. The fishery is consistent with the Objects of Part 13A. Declaration of the fishery as a Wildlife Trade Operation for three years, until 23 January 2022 is recommended, subject to conditions detailed in Section 4 of this report.			
Part 16	Meets requirements Appropriate precautionary measures are in place to prevent serious or irreversible environmental damage being caused by this fishery.			

Notes:**Assessment history:**

This is the fishery's first assessment under the EPBC Act.

Key Links:**Fishery reporting:**

Stock status – reported through the State of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources reports.

- see pages 56-59 of the [Status of Key Northern Territory Fish Stocks Report 2015 Fishery Report No. 118](#)

Enforcing legislation

The fishery is managed in accordance with provisions in the following Northern Territory legislation and regulations available at <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en> (Sourced: Nov 2018):

[Northern Territory of Australia Fisheries Act 1988](#)

[Northern Territory of Australia Fisheries Regulations 1993](#)

Key links:

Fishery information page on agency website: – <https://nt.gov.au/marine/commercial-fishing/coastal-line-fishery-and-licences>

Reef Fish Protection Areas - <http://ntqfia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/DPIF-Reef-Fish-Fact-Sheet-print.pdf>

Optimising the Management of Tropical Reef Fish through the Development of Indigenous Scientific Capability - [file://pvac01file02/user\\$/A20524/Profile/Downloads/2013-17_FR117.pdf](file://pvac01file02/user$/A20524/Profile/Downloads/2013-17_FR117.pdf)

Ecological Risk Assessment:

Northern Territory Government Department of Resources - Ecological Risk Assessment, Northern Territory Coastal Line Fishery 2010 https://dpir.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/233278/fr103.pdf.

Northern Territory Government Department of Resources - Ecological Risk Assessment, Northern Territory Coastal Line Fishery 2018

https://dpir.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/619405/NTCLF-ecological-risk-assessment-052018.pdf

Harvest Strategy:

Harvest strategy for the NT Coastal Line Fishery is being developed.

Stock assessments

Reported through the State of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources reports (see pages 56-59): [Status of Key Northern Territory Fish Stocks Report 2015 Fishery Report No. 118](#)

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation:

Black jewfish - <http://fish.gov.au/report/9-Black-Jewfish-2016?jurisdictionId=3>

Golden snapper - <http://fish.gov.au/report/31-Golden-Snapper-2016?jurisdictionId=3>

SECTION 2: DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY COASTAL LINE FISHERY AGAINST THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES (2ND EDITION)

Guidelines criteria	Comment
THE MANAGEMENT REGIME	
The management regime does not have to be a formal statutory fishery management plan as such, and may include non-statutory management arrangements or management policies and programs. The regime should:	
Be documented, publicly available and transparent.	<p>Meets</p> <p>The fishery is managed under the Northern Territory of Australia Fisheries Act 1988 (NT Fisheries Act) and the Northern Territory of Australia Fisheries Regulations 1993 (NT Fisheries Regulations), which apply throughout Northern Territory waters and are considered to be effective.</p> <p>An overview of the fishery's management arrangements is available in annual reports (last published 2016) and recent management changes in 2015 can be found on the Northern Territory Government website http://ntgfa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/DPIF-Commercial-Fact-Sheet-print.pdf (last updated 2015).</p> <p>Catch summaries are available on the NT DPIR website (https://dpir.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/434878/FR118.pdf) (last updated 2015).</p>
Be developed through a consultative process providing opportunity to all interested and affected parties, including the general public.	<p>Meets</p> <p>Management arrangements are developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders. Consultation involves publication of discussion papers, public consultation and regular meeting of the Management Advisory Committee (MAC).</p>
Ensure that a range of expertise and community interests are involved in individual fishery management committees and during the stock assessment process.	<p>Meets</p> <p>The MAC includes stakeholders from commercial, recreational and charter fishing, members from the Aboriginal traditional sector, conservationists, research, seafood marketing and other government sectors. The group provides advice on operational aspects of the fishery and assists with the development of management options.</p>
Be strategic, containing objectives and performance criteria by which the effectiveness of the management arrangements are measured.	<p>Meets</p> <p>The management framework for the fishery contain objectives and performance criteria which trigger management responses and by which effectiveness of management is measured. These are detailed in the <i>NT Fisheries Act</i> and the NT Fisheries Regulations.</p>
Be capable of controlling the level of harvest in the fishery using input and/or output controls.	<p>Partially Meets</p> <p>The level of take for commercial fishing in the Western Zone is managed primarily through input controls including: limited entry, gear restrictions, temporary closures and total allowable commercial catch (TACC) limits for the target species, black jewfish and golden snapper. The TACC is managed using an Individual Transferable Quota. Licences operating in the Western Zone each hold an allocation of quota that totals the TACC. Quota is reconciled using the Catch Disposal Record completed at the time of unload.</p> <p>The level of take for the Eastern Zone is managed through limited entry and gear type restrictions.</p>

<p>Contain the means of enforcing critical aspects of the management arrangements.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>Management arrangements are contained in the NT Fisheries Regulations 1993 and in fishing licence conditions.</p> <p>NTDPIR appointed fisheries inspectors and the Northern Territory Police enforce compliance on-land and at-sea and undertake inspections of vessels, gear, licences and catches.</p> <p>A current compliance and enforcement priority for the fishery is the illegal targeting of black jewfish stocks for swim bladders. A number of changes have been introduced to help address this issue, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved traceability through mandatory reporting of swim bladders in Catch Disposal Records and statutory Logbooks • increased transparency of operations through the implementation of a 1:1 ratio of swim bladders to fish on licence conditions, and • the introduction of swim bladder authentication tags. <p>Offences and penalties are prescribed in the <i>NT Fisheries Act</i>.</p>
<p>Provide for the periodic review of the performance of the fishery management arrangements and the management strategies, objectives and criteria.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>The performance of the management arrangements are reviewed in conjunction with regular stock assessments undertaken for primary target species.</p>
<p>Be capable of assessing, monitoring and avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse impacts on the wider marine ecosystem in which the target species lives and the fishery operates.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>A risk assessment process is used periodically which considers log-book and on-board observer data collection, monitoring needs and management actions, to assist in mitigating any adverse impacts to the marine ecosystem.</p> <p>The 2018 Ecological Risk Assessment (2018 ERA) identified issues to be addressed when the harvest strategy and management plan for the CLF is being developed. This will include implementing operational objectives, indicators and performance measures.</p>
<p>Requires compliance with relevant threat abatement plans, recovery plans, the National Policy on Fisheries Bycatch, and bycatch action strategies developed under the policy.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>The fishery is compliant with the Commonwealth's Threat Abatement Plan for the impacts of marine debris on the vertebrate wildlife of Australia's coasts and oceans, as well as the North Marine Parks Network policy (https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/north/).</p>
<p>PRINCIPLE 1 - A fishery must be conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing, or for those stocks that are over-fished, the fishery must be conducted such that there is a high degree of probability the stock(s) will recover.</p>	
<p>Objective 1 - The fishery shall be conducted at catch levels that maintain ecologically viable stock levels at an agreed point or range, with acceptable levels of probability.</p>	
<p>Information requirements</p>	

<p>1.1.1 There is a reliable information collection system in place appropriate to the scale of the fishery. The level of data collection should be based upon an appropriate mix of fishery independent and dependent research and monitoring.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>Commercial fishing logbooks that record detailed catch, effort and spatial data are required to be submitted after the completion of each fishing trip by all commercial fishers in both zones of the fishery.</p> <p>The Western zone is also subject to additional monitoring by on-board NT DPIR observers and requirements to notify authorities of departure and landing; notify unload catches to an authorised fish receiver; report all catch on return to port. The Department considers that these arrangements may need to be extended to monitor and manage fishing throughout the fishery.</p> <p>Information is regularly collected on recreational and charter catches, and together with commercial catch data these are used to inform stocks assessments for key target species. Charter catches are reported using fishing logbooks and recreational catches are reported during recreational surveys (currently being conducted annually around Darwin).</p> <p>Satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) was brought in the fishery in 2019.</p>
Assessment	
<p>1.1.2 There is a robust assessment of the dynamics and status of the species/fishery and periodic review of the process and the data collected. Assessment should include a process to identify any reduction in biological diversity and /or reproductive capacity. Review should take place at regular intervals but at least every three years.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>NT DPIR undertakes annual stock assessments to support its management of key species in the fishery. These assessments include consideration of all sources of mortality, including recreational and charter catches, to include it in any Stock Reduction Analysis or data limited modelling.</p> <p>Stock status assessments are undertaken annually using protocols adopted by all jurisdictions in the Status of Australian Fish stocks Report. Outcomes are reported on the NT DPIR website and the Status of Australian Fish Stocks website.</p> <p>Stock status across Northern Australia are assessed collaboratively with Western Australia and Queensland in FRDC's biennial SAFS reports.</p> <p>Monitoring the health of reef fish stocks including Black Jewfish and Golden Snapper in the fishery is ongoing using catch and effort information from each fishing sector, abundance surveys conducted before and after the implementation of the spatial closures, as well as biomass estimates of reef fish using acoustic sonar techniques on habitats inside the spatial closures.</p> <p>The Department recognises that in some cases it may not be possible to determine stock status, however in all cases stocks must be managed to ensure they remain sustainable, not overfished or subject to overfishing. While significant effort is invested in assessing and managing many of the target species, management of byproduct species could benefit from further development.</p>

<p>1.1.3 The distribution and spatial structure of the stock(s) has been established and factored into management responses.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>Reef fin fish species, in particular, Black Jewfish and Golden Snapper, are taken in the fishery. The fishery also has overlapping resource access rights with other managed fisheries in the Northern Territory including the Coastal Net Fishery, Bait Net Fishery, Spanish Mackerel Fishery and Offshore Net & Line Fishery. These fisheries are permitted to retain most species, including Black Jewfish and Golden Snapper, each trip as byproduct.</p> <p>Black Jewfish (<i>Protonibea diacanthus</i>): Form discrete and predictable aggregations at a number of sites along the NT coastline. The most recent stock assessment for this species estimated that both the biomass and egg production of Black Jewfish in NT waters was at 28 per cent of unfished levels. There was a high probability (98 per cent) that Black Jewfish have been overfished and that current fishing pressure is continuing to cause overfishing (80 per cent) (Grubert et al, 2013).</p> <p>Golden Snapper (<i>Lutjanus johnii</i>): Juveniles form schools that inhabit estuaries whereas adults can be encountered on coastal and offshore reefs. The most recent stock assessment for this species estimated that both the biomass and egg production of Golden Snapper in NT waters was at 18 per cent and 10 per cent of unfished levels (Grubert et al, 2013).</p> <p>The Black Jewfish and the Golden Snapper are widespread Indo-Pacific species, and are found from Western Australia across northern Australia to the east coast of Queensland. Both species has a tendency to aggregate annually in large numbers at well-defined times and is typically found in coastal waters up to a depth of a 100 m (NT fish Stocks Report – 2015). Both species are highly susceptible to severe (fatal) barotrauma when caught in waters deeper than 10-15 metres.</p> <p>The immediate area of concern of overfishing for Black Jewfish and the Golden Snapper are in waters around Darwin, where most of the fishing pressure occurs. Management methods, in the form of catch limits and spatial closures have been implemented to reduce harvest by a recommended 20 per cent (Black Jewfish) and 50 per cent (Golden Snapper) to allow for the biomass of stocks to recover. This level of fishing pressure is expected to allow the stocks to recover from their recruitment overfished state.</p>
<p>1.1.4 There are reliable estimates of all removals, including commercial (landings and discards), recreational and indigenous, from the fished stock. These estimates have been factored into stock assessments and target species catch levels.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>The fishery is a large and diverse fishery. It comprises significant commercial, recreational and charter sectors, as well as an Indigenous fishing sector.</p> <p>Information on the commercial catch is collected through logbooks and on-board observers. Target, by-product and discards are reported. All estimates of removals were considered in setting the Western Zone's TACC for Black Jewfish and Golden Snapper.</p> <p><u>Commercial:</u> Target catch is Black Jewfish (97%) and Golden Snapper (1%). All catch is retained. The total commercial catch was approximately 156 tonnes annually. The commercial sector is responsible for the largest catch of Black Jewfish in the fishery.</p> <p><u>Recreational</u> (greater Darwin region (150 km radius of Darwin)): The most commonly caught species by weight includes snappers (32%), cods (14%), Black Jewfish (13%) and sharks and rays (12%). The total recreation catch was approximately 350 tonnes.</p> <p><u>Tourism:</u> The most common caught species by weight includes snappers (31%), Black Jewfish (13%), trevally (9%) cods (8%), emperors (8%) and sharks and rays (7%). The estimated fishing tourism catch was 131 tonnes in 2016.</p> <p><u>Indigenous:</u> There is no estimate of Indigenous take available within the fishery area, however a recreational and Indigenous fishing survey in 2000–2001 (Henry and Lyle, 2003) suggested Indigenous harvest was likely to be low relative to other sectors.</p>

<p>1.1.5 There is a sound estimate of the potential productivity of the fished stock/s and the proportion that could be harvested.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>Fisheries independent stock monitoring of target species, along with catch and effort data (logbook and on-board observer data), inform annual resource assessment reviews and TACC setting.</p> <p>Not all stocks of species caught are assessed. NTDPIR uses other methods, such as analysing stock status of key species with similar biological characteristics and catch trend data (via logbooks and on-board observers), to detect and respond to concerns.</p>
<p>Management responses</p>	
<p>1.1.6 There are reference points (target and/or limit), that trigger management actions including a biological bottom line and/or a catch or effort upper limit beyond which the stock should not be taken.</p>	<p>Partially Meets</p> <p>The level of take is controlled through limited entry, quota management, gear restrictions, and spatial closures.</p> <p>In the Western Zone there is a 145 tonne TACC for Black Jewfish and 4.5 tonne for Golden Snapper.</p> <p>In the Eastern Zone there is limited entry and gear restrictions.</p> <p>The harvest strategy being developed for the fishery is expected to include target and limit reference points that will trigger management actions, including limits beyond which the stocks should not be taken.</p>
<p>1.1.7 There are management strategies in place capable of controlling the level of take.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>In the Western Zone fishing effort is controlled through licence restrictions, temporary spatial closures, gear restrictions, TACCs and monitored by a satellite-based Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) (commenced in 2019).</p> <p>In the Eastern Zone fishing effort is controlled through input based controls such as gear restrictions, limited entry and monitored by a satellite-based VMS.</p> <p>Commercial fishers are required to submit logbook records of their catches in both the Eastern and Western Zones, with additional reporting requirements for operators in the Western Zone, including Catch Disposal Records as well as pre-departure notices.</p>
<p>1.1.8 Fishing is conducted in a manner that does not threaten stocks of byproduct species.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>A wide range of species (byproduct) are caught by the fishery and retained in sustainable numbers, including: Mangrove Jack, Grass Emperor, Blue Salmon, Cods, Coral Trout, Red Snapper, Strikey Snapper, sharks, Trevally and Tuskfish.</p> <p>Byproduct species stocks are not considered to be threatened by fishing activity in this fishery, however the 2018 ERA identified a high risk of overfishing for Mangrove Jack and Grass Emperor species around the Greater Darwin Region (Western Zone). There were a number of different factors that contributed to this risk rating including their similar biological characteristics to the target species (noting that many of the other byproduct species also have similar biological characteristics).</p> <p>NTDPIR uses methods, such as analysing stock status of species with similar biological characteristics and catch trend data (via logbooks and on-board observes), to detect and respond to concerns in byproduct species.</p> <p>NTDPIR notes that while the developing harvest strategy will likely focus on key target species, it will also include management arrangements for other species, including byproduct species through a tiered monitoring and management approach.</p>
<p>(Guidelines 1.1.1 to 1.1.7 should be applied to byproduct species to an appropriate level)</p>	

<p>1.1.9 The management response, considering uncertainties in the assessment and precautionary management actions, has a high chance of achieving the objective.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>Given the fishing method, logbook reporting, and detailed risk assessments, the management response has a high chance of achieving the objective of maintaining ecologically viable stock levels.</p>
<p>If overfished, go to Objective 2: If not overfished, go to PRINCIPLE 2:</p>	
<p>Objective 2 - Where the fished stock(s) are below a defined reference point, the fishery will be managed to promote recovery to ecologically viable stock levels within nominated timeframes.</p>	
<p>Management responses</p>	
<p>1.2.1 A precautionary recovery strategy is in place specifying management actions, or staged management responses, which are linked to reference points. The recovery strategy should apply until the stock recovers, and should aim for recovery within a specific time period appropriate to the biology of the stock.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>The primary target species, Black Jewfish (<i>Protonibea dianthus</i>) and Golden Snapper (<i>Lutjanus johnii</i>), are assessed as overfished based on NT stock assessments (NT fish Stocks Report – 2015). Most of the commercial catch was concentrated at three locations that are fairly accessible and where Black Jewfish and Golden Snapper are known to aggregate (Grubert et al. 2013) (2018 ERA).</p> <p>The stock structure for Black Jewfish and Golden Snapper was determined using data up until 2014 (Grubert et al. 2013), and this information was used to inform management and the appropriate changes were introduced to the fishery in 2015. These changes seek to ensure recovery of both Black Jewfish and Golden Snapper, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning of the fishery (Western Zone and Eastern Zone) • Restricted access in the Western Zone • Creating five temporary Reef Fish Protection Areas (spatial closures) for 5 years. • Introduction of individual transferable quota (TACC 145 tonnes black jewfish, 4.5 tonne golden snapper) in the Western Zone. <p>It was acknowledged by all stakeholders that the recovery period would be a minimum of 5 years and that ongoing monitoring and data collection would inform the appropriateness of the recovery strategy (including timeframes).</p>
<p>1.2.2 If the stock is estimated as being at or below the biological and / or effort bottom line, management responses such as a zero targeted catch, temporary fishery closure or a ‘whole of fishery’ effort or quota reduction are implemented.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>Monitoring signs of recovery for Black Jewfish will occur using catch and effort information from each fishing sector, abundance surveys conducted before and after the implementation of the spatial closures, as well as biomass estimates of reef fish using acoustic sonar techniques on habitats inside the spatial closures.</p> <p>It was acknowledged by all stakeholders that the recovery period would be a minimum of 5 years and that ongoing monitoring and data collection would inform the appropriateness of the recovery strategy (including timeframes).</p> <p>The commercial catch of Golden Snapper has decreased by two thirds since the TACC was introduced to the Western Zone in 2015.</p>
<p>PRINCIPLE 2 - Fishing operations should be managed to minimise their impact on the structure, productivity, function and biological diversity of the ecosystem.</p>	
<p>Objective 1 - The fishery is conducted in a manner that does not threaten bycatch species.</p>	
<p>Information requirements</p>	

<p>2.1.1 Reliable information, appropriate to the scale of the fishery, is collected on the composition and abundance of bycatch.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>Reliable information appropriate for the scale of the fishery for abundance and composition of all bycatch is recorded primarily in commercial fishing logbooks and by on-board observers. There has not been any recorded bycatch since 2015.</p> <p>There is mandatory reporting of all threatened, endangered and protected species (TEPS) interactions in the fishery in commercial fishing logbooks. NTDPIR has confirmed that there has been no recorded interactions with TEPS since 1995.</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	
<p>2.1.2 There is a risk analysis of the bycatch with respect to its vulnerability to fishing.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>The recent ERA for this fishery (2018) found the fishery posed a negligible risk to bycatch due to the selectivity of the fishing methods used. Based on fisher's logbooks and on-board observer data, there has been no recorded bycatch in the fishery since 2015.</p>
<p>Management responses</p>	
<p>2.1.3 Measures are in place to avoid capture and mortality of bycatch species unless it is determined that the level of catch is sustainable (except in relation to endangered, threatened or protected species). Steps must be taken to develop suitable technology if none is available.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>Due to the fishing method employed, bycatch is considered minimal.</p> <p>Bycatch is recorded primarily in commercial fishing logbooks and by on-board observers. There has not been any recorded bycatch since 2015.</p>
<p>2.1.4 An indicator group of bycatch species is monitored.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>No bycatch indicator species monitored. There has been no reported bycatch since 2015.</p>
<p>2.1.5 There are decision rules that trigger additional management measures when there are significant perturbations in the indicator species numbers.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>Due to the fishing method employed, bycatch is considered minimal.</p>
<p>2.1.6 The management response, considering uncertainties in the assessment and precautionary management actions, has a high chance of achieving the objective.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>It is likely that the fishery is conducted in a way that does not threaten bycatch species. Various management measures (as described in Section 1) and the fishing methods used assist in reducing the impacts of fishing to bycatch species.</p>
<p>Objective 2 - The fishery is conducted in a manner that avoids mortality of, or injuries to, endangered, threatened or protected species and avoids or minimises impacts on threatened ecological communities.</p>	
<p>Information requirements</p>	
<p>2.2.1 Reliable information is collected on the interaction with endangered, threatened or protected species and threatened ecological communities.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>All operators are required to report any interactions with TEPS and there are no threatened ecological communities in the area of the fishery.</p>

Assessments	
2.2.2 There is an assessment of the impact of the fishery on endangered, threatened or protected species.	Meets A robust ERA was conducted in 2018 and most risks were identified as low, or suitable management practices are in place.
2.2.3 There is an assessment of the impact of the fishery on threatened ecological communities.	Not applicable There are no EPBC Act listed threatened ecological communities in the area of the fishery.
Management responses	
2.2.4 There are measures in place to avoid capture and/or mortality of endangered, threatened or protected species.	Not applicable TEPS interactions are considered negligible therefore it is considered that no specific management measures are required.
2.2.5 There are measures in place to avoid impact on threatened ecological communities.	Not applicable There are no EPBC listed threatened ecological communities within the area of the fishery.
2.2.6 The management response, considering uncertainties in the assessment and precautionary management actions, has a high chance of achieving the objective.	Meets The management arrangements are likely to have a high chance of achieving the objective of ensuring that fishing is conducted in a manner that avoids mortality of, or injuries to TEPS and avoids or minimises impacts on threatened ecological communities.
Objective 3 - The fishery is conducted, in a manner that minimises the impact of fishing operations on the ecosystem generally.	
Information requirements	
2.3.1 Information appropriate for the analysis in 2.3.2 is collated and/or collected covering the fishery's impact on the ecosystem and environment generally.	Meets A robust ERA was conducted in 2018. The nature of the fishing gear used in the fishery means that impacts on ecosystem and the environment are likely to be negligible.
Assessment	

<p>2.3.2 Information is collected and a risk analysis, appropriate to the scale of the fishery and its potential impacts, is conducted into the susceptibility of each of the following ecosystem components to the fishery.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impacts on ecological communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benthic communities • Ecologically related, associated or dependent species • Water column communities 2. Impacts on food chains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure • Productivity/flows 3. Impacts on the physical environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical habitat • Water quality 	<p>Meets</p> <p>Anchoring used in the fishery has the potential to have interactions with reefs or wrecks. The methods used in the fishery are considered to have a minor measurable impact on habitats.</p> <p>Discarded lines, hooks and lost fish traps have the potential to ghost fish. The preferred vertical line uses less hooks and less chance to snag. Commercial fishing operations must report all lost fish traps in logbooks. These methods used in the fishery are considered to have a minor measurable impact on habitats.</p> <p>The Marine Bioregional Plan for the North Marine Region 2012 (the Plan) identified a number of regional priorities relevant to the fishery for which the extraction of living resources is considered to be a pressure 'of potential concern'. The Plan also identified physical habitat modification as a pressure 'of concern', bycatch from commercial fisheries as a pressure 'of potential concern' with relation to EPBC Act protected species (including marine turtles, sawfishes, river sharks and dugongs), and marine debris and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as other pressures that exist in the area of the fishery.</p> <p>The 2018 ERA assessed the impacts of the fishery on target, byproduct and TEP species, and the fishery's impact on ecological communities, food chains and the physical environment as minor.</p> <p>The fishery also has means of enforcing critical aspects of the management arrangements and illegal fishing practises (as mentioned under management regime).</p>
Management responses	
<p>2.3.3 Management actions are in place to ensure significant damage to ecosystems does not arise from the impacts described in 2.3.1.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>The current suite of management arrangements are likely to be sufficient to minimise impacts on the ecosystem more broadly. The implementation of appropriate risk mitigation strategies through a harvest strategy should remain a priority for completion.</p>
<p>2.3.4 There are decision rules that trigger further management responses when monitoring detects impacts on selected ecosystem indicators beyond a predetermined level, or where action is indicated by application of the precautionary approach.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>Overall, impacts on the ecosystem are generally considered to be low. However, a harvest strategy and control rules will recognise further needs required to protect the ecological importance of healthy populations of target stocks, particularly Black Jewfish and Golden Snapper, in the ecosystem.</p>
<p>2.3.5 The management response, considering uncertainties in the assessment and precautionary management actions, has a high chance of achieving the objective.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>The management arrangements appear to have a high chance of achieving the objective of ensuring that the fishery is conducted in a manner that minimises the impact of fishing operations on the ecosystem generally.</p>

SECTION 3: ASSESSMENT OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY COASTAL LINE FISHERY AGAINST THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EPBC ACT

The table below is not a complete or exact representation of the EPBC Act. It is intended to show that the relevant sections and components of the EPBC Act have been taken into account in the formulation of advice on the fishery in relation to decisions under Part 13 and Part 13A.

Part 12

Section 176 Bioregional Plans	Comment
(5) Minister must have regard to relevant bioregional plans	<p>Meets</p> <p>The Marine Bioregional Plan for the North Marine Region 2012 (the Plan) has been considered in the preparation of advice in relation to section 303DC and section 303FN (part 13A) as the fishery operates within the region.</p> <p>The Plan identifies the following key ecological features in the area of the fishery: the carbonate bank and terrace system of the Van Diemen Rise, the Gulf of Carpentaria Basin, and the Gulf of Carpentaria coastal zone. The Gulf of Carpentaria Basin and the Gulf of Carpentaria coastal zone are regional priorities in the Plan.</p> <p>'Extraction of living resources' and 'physical habitat modification' have been identified as pressures of potential concern to these key ecological features. Physical habitat modification is listed as a priority for conservation effort within the Region as is considered to be 'of concern' with relation to protected species such as cetaceans, marine turtles, dugongs, sawfish, river sharks, sea snakes, seahorses and pipefishes and seabirds.</p> <p>Based on findings from the fishery's 2018 ERA, the nature of the fishery operation and the management measures in place, the risk to threatened species and impacts to key ecological features is considered low.</p>

Part 13

Accreditable plan, regime or policy (Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, Division 4)	Comment
s. 208A (1) (a-e) , s.222A (1) (a-e), s.245 (1) (a-e), s.265 (1) (a-e) Does the fishery have an accreditable plan of management, regime or policy?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The fishery is managed under the Northern Territory of Australia Fisheries Act 1988 (NT Fisheries Act) and the Northern Territory of Australia Fisheries Regulations 1993 (NT Fisheries Regulations) and arrangements established under this legislation.</p>
Division 1 Listed threatened species, Section 208A Minister may accredit plans or regimes	Comment
(f) Will the plan, regime or policy require fishers to take all reasonable steps to ensure that members of listed threatened species (other than conservation dependent species) are not killed or injured as a result of the fishing?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Commercial fishers are required to report all interactions with protected species to NTDPIR within a month after cessation of each fishing trip. This allows NTDPIR to monitor and respond to emerging issues.</p>

(g) And, is the fishery likely to adversely affect the survival or recovery in nature of the species?	No No interactions have been reported in logbooks or by observer coverage, and the risk to threatened species is considered low due to the fishing method employed.
Division 2 Migratory species, Section 222A Minister may accredit plans or regimes	Comment
(f) Will the plan, regime or policy require fishers to take all reasonable steps to ensure that members of listed migratory species are not killed or injured as a result of the fishing?	Yes Measures outlined for listed threatened species (Division 1 (f) in this section of the report) also apply to listed migratory species. Given the available information, the Department considers that all reasonable steps are being taken to prevent the killing or injuring of members of listed migratory species.
(g) And, is the fishery likely to adversely affect the conservation status of a listed migratory species or a population of that species?	No No interactions have been reported in logbooks or by observer coverage, and the risk to listed migratory species is considered low due to the fishing method employed.
Division 3 Whales and other cetaceans, Section 245 Minister may accredit plans or regimes	Comment
(f) Will the plan, regime or policy require fishers to take all reasonable steps to ensure that cetaceans are not killed or injured as a result of the fishing?	Yes Measures outlined for listed threatened species (Division 1 (f) in this section of the report) also apply to whales and other cetaceans. Given the available information, the Department considers that all reasonable steps are being taken to prevent the killing or injuring of members of whales and other cetaceans.
(g) And, is the fishery likely to adversely affect the conservation status of a species of cetacean or a population of that species?	No No interactions have been reported in logbooks or by observer coverage, and the risk to whales and other cetaceans is considered low due to the fishing method employed.
Division 4 Listed marine species, Section 265 Minister may accredit plans or regimes	Comment
(f) Will the plan, regime or policy require fishers to take all reasonable steps to ensure that members of listed marine species are not killed or injured as a result of the fishing?	Yes Measures outlined for listed threatened species (Division 1 (f) in this section of the report) also apply to listed marine species. Given the available information, the Department considers that all reasonable steps are being taken to prevent the killing or injuring of members of listed marine species.
(g) And, is the fishery likely to adversely affect the conservation status of a listed marine species or a population of that species?	No No interactions have been reported in logbooks or by observer coverage, and the risk to listed marine species is considered low due to the fishing method employed.
Section 303AA Conditions relating to accreditation of plans, regimes and policies	Comment
(1) This section applies to an accreditation of a plan, regime or policy under section 208A, 222A, 245 or 265.	

<p>(2) The Minister may accredit a plan, regime or policy under that section even though he or she considers that the plan, regime or policy should be accredited only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) during a particular period; or (b) while certain circumstances exist; or (c) while a certain condition is complied with. <p>In such a case, the instrument of accreditation is to specify the period, circumstances or condition.</p>	<p>The Department recommends accreditation of the fishery's management regime under sections 208A, 222A, 245 and 265.</p> <p>No additional conditions are considered necessary at this time.</p>
<p>(7) The Minister must, in writing, revoke an accreditation if he or she is satisfied that a condition of the accreditation has been contravened.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

Part 13A

Section 303BA Objects of Part 13A	
<p>(1) The objects of this Part are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to ensure that Australia complies with its obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Biodiversity Convention; (b) to protect wildlife that may be adversely affected by trade; (c) to promote the conservation of biodiversity in Australia and other countries; (d) to ensure that any commercial utilisation of Australian native wildlife for the purposes of export is managed in an ecologically sustainable way; (e) to promote the humane treatment of wildlife; (f) to ensure ethical conduct during any research associated with the utilisation of wildlife; and (h) to ensure the precautionary principle is taken into account in making decisions relating to the utilisation of wildlife. 	
Section 303 CG Minister may issue permits (CITES species)	Comment
<p>(3) The Minister must not issue a permit unless the Minister is satisfied that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the action or actions specified in the permit will not be detrimental to, or contribute to trade which is detrimental to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the survival of any taxon to which the specimen belongs; or 	<p>Not applicable - No specimens listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) are permitted to be harvested in the fishery. Therefore, no assessment of the fishery's impact on specimens listed under CITES has been conducted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) the recovery in nature of any taxon to which the specimen belongs; or 	<p>Not applicable – The fishery does not harvest species listed under CITES.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iii) any relevant ecosystem (for example, detriment to habitat or biodiversity); and 	<p>Not applicable – The fishery does not harvest species listed under CITES.</p>
Section 303DC Minister may amend list (non CITES species)	Comment
<p>(1) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, amend the list referred to in section 303DB [list of exempt native specimens] by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) doing any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) including items in the list; (ii) deleting items from the list; 	<p>Applicable</p> <p>The Department recommends that specimens that are or are derived from fish or invertebrates taken in the fishery as defined in the management regime in force under the <i>Fisheries Act 1988</i> (NT) and Fisheries Regulation 1993 (NT), be included in the list of exempt native specimens subject to the following conditions:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iii) imposing a condition or restriction to which the inclusion of a specimen in the list is subject; (iv) varying or revoking a condition or restriction to which the inclusion of a specimen in the list is subject; or <p>(b) correcting an inaccuracy or updating the name of a species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the specimen, or the fish or invertebrate from which it is derived, was taken lawfully; and • the specimens are covered by the declaration of an approved wildlife trade operation under section 303FN of the EPBC Act in relation to the fishery.
<p>(1A) In deciding to amend the LENS, the Minister must rely primarily on outcomes of Part 10, Div. 1 or 2 assessment.</p>	<p>Not applicable The fishery is not managed by the Commonwealth.</p>
<p>(1C) The above does not limit matters that may be considered when deciding to amend LENS.</p>	<p>Meets The Department considers that it has taken into account all matters relevant to making an informed decision to amend the list of exempt native specimens to include product taken in this fishery.</p>
<p>(3) Before amending the LENS, the Minister must consult:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) other Minister or Ministers as appropriate; and (b) other Minister or Ministers of each State and self-governing Territory as appropriate; and (c) other persons and organisations as appropriate. 	<p>Meets The submission from Mr Campbell G. Druitt (Licence holder) was made available on the Department's website from 7 May 2018 until 23 July 2018. No comments were received.</p>
<p>Section 303FN Approved wildlife trade operation</p>	<p>Comment</p>
<p>(2) The Minister may, by instrument published in the <i>Gazette</i>, declare that a specified wildlife trade operation is an approved wildlife trade operation for the purposes of this section.</p>	<p>The fishery is eligible for declaration as an approved wildlife trade operation.</p>
<p>(3) The Minister must not declare an operation as an approved wildlife trade operation unless the Minister is satisfied that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the operation is consistent with the objects of Part 13A of the Act; and 	<p>Meets The operation of the fishery is consistent with Objects of 13A – see assessment against the Guidelines (Section 2).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) the operation will not be detrimental to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the survival of a taxon to which the operation relates; or (ii) the conservation status of a taxon to which the operation relates; and (ba) the operation will not be likely to threaten any relevant ecosystem including (but not limited to) any habitat or biodiversity; and 	<p>Meets The fishery will not be detrimental to the survival or conservation status of a taxon to which it relates, nor will it threaten any relevant ecosystem, within the period of the new export declaration, given the management measures currently in place, which include; limited entry, spatial closures, gear restrictions and TACC limits.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) if the operation relates to the taking of live specimens that belong to a taxon specified in the regulations – the conditions that, under the regulations, are applicable to the welfare of the specimens are likely to be complied with; and 	<p>Not applicable The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (EPBC Regulations) do not specify Crustacea or fish as a class of animal in relation to the welfare of live specimens.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (d) such other conditions (if any) as are specified in the regulations have been, or are likely to be, satisfied. 	<p>Not applicable No other conditions are specified in relation to commercial fisheries in the EPBC Regulations.</p>

<p>(4) In deciding whether to declare an operation as an approved wildlife trade operation the Minister must have regard to:</p> <p>(a) the significance of the impact of the operation on an ecosystem (for example, an impact on habitat or biodiversity); and</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>The fishery will not have a significant impact on any relevant ecosystem within the period of the new export declaration, given the management measures in place, which include the arrangements described above at s303FN 3(b).</p> <p>The management arrangements include; limited entry, spatial closures, gear restrictions and TACC limits.</p>
<p>(b) the effectiveness of the management arrangements for the operation (including monitoring procedures).</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>The management arrangements that will be employed for the fishery, as outlined in the assessment against the Guidelines, are likely to be effective.</p>
<p>(5) In deciding whether to declare an operation as an approved wildlife trade operation the Minister must have regard to:</p> <p>(a) whether legislation relating to the protection, conservation or management of the specimens to which the operation relates is in force in the State or Territory concerned; and</p> <p>(b) whether the legislation applies throughout the State or Territory concerned; and</p> <p>(c) whether, in the opinion of the Minister, the legislation is effective.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>The fishery will be managed under the <i>NT Fisheries Act 1988</i> and the NT Fisheries Regulations 1993, which apply throughout Northern Territory waters and is considered to be effective.</p>
<p>(10) For the purposes of section 303FN, an operation is a wildlife trade operation if, and only if, the operation is an operation for the taking of specimens and:</p> <p>(a) the operation is a commercial fishery.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>The fishery is a commercial fishery.</p>
<p>Section 303FR Public consultation</p>	<p>Comment</p>
<p>(1) Before making a declaration under section 303FN, the Minister must cause to be published on the Internet a notice:</p> <p>(a) setting out the proposal to make the declaration; and</p> <p>(b) setting out sufficient information to enable persons and organisations to consider adequately the merits of the proposal; and</p> <p>(c) inviting persons and organisations to give the Minister, within the period specified in the notice, written comments about the proposal.</p> <p>(2) A period specified in the notice must not be shorter than 20 business days after the date on which the notice was published on the Internet.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>A public notice, which set out the proposal to declare the fishery an approved wildlife trade operation and included the application from Mr Campbell G. Druitt (Licence holder), was released for public comment on 7 May 2018 and closed 23 July 2018, a total of 55 business days.</p> <p>The public comment period was extended as a letter to interested persons to comment was not sent out at the time the proposal to declare the fishery an approved wildlife trade operation was released on the Department's website.</p> <p>No comments were received.</p>
<p>(3) In making a decision about whether to make a declaration under section 303FN, the Minister must consider any comments about the proposal to make the declaration that were given in response to the invitation in the notice.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>No public comments about the proposal were received.</p>
<p>Section 303FT Additional provisions relating to declarations</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p>(1) This section applies to a declaration made under section 303FN, 303FO or 303FP.</p>	<p>A declaration for the fishery will be made under section 303FN.</p>
<p>(4) The Minister may make a declaration about a plan or operation even though he or she considers that the plan or operation should be the subject of the declaration only:</p> <p>(a) during a particular period; or</p> <p>(b) while certain circumstances exist; or</p> <p>(c) while a certain condition is complied with.</p>	<p>The standard conditions applied to commercial fishery wildlife trade operations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operation in accordance with the management regime • notifying the Department of changes to the management regime, and • annual reporting in accordance with the requirements of the Guidelines.

In such a case, the instrument of declaration is to specify the period, circumstances or condition.	The wildlife trade operation instrument for the Northern Territory Coastal Line Fishery specifies the standard and any additional conditions applied.
(8) A condition may relate to reporting or monitoring.	Meets One of the standard conditions relates to reporting.
(9) The Minister must, by instrument published in the <i>Gazette</i> , revoke a declaration if he or she is satisfied that a condition of the declaration has been contravened.	Not applicable.
(11) A copy of an instrument under section 303FN, or this section is to be made available for inspection on the internet.	Meets The wildlife trade operation instrument for the Northern Territory Coastal Line Fishery made under sections 303FN and the conditions under section 303FT will be registered as a notifiable instrument and made available through the Department's website.

Part 16

Section 391 Minister must consider precautionary principle in making decisions	Comment
<p>(1) Minister must take account of the precautionary principle in making a decision, to the extent that the decision is consistent with other provisions under this Act.</p> <p>(2) The precautionary principle is that lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing a measure to prevent degradation of the environment where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.</p>	<p>Meets</p> <p>Many of the arrangements in the fishery are in place for the Western Zone, however further progress is required to address uncertainty around status of some stocks, impacts of localised fishing effort, and recovery of target stock species. Conditions recommended in section 4 of this assessment reflect the need to progress better management for the whole fishery.</p>

SECTION 4: NORTHERN TERRITORY COASTAL LINE FISHERY – SUMMARY OF ISSUES REQUIRING CONDITIONS, JANUARY 2019

Issue	Condition
<p><u>General Management</u></p> <p>Export decisions relate to the arrangements in force at the time of the decision. To ensure that these decisions remain valid and export approval continues uninterrupted, the Department of the Environment and Energy (the Department) needs to be advised of any changes that are made to the management regime and make an assessment that the new arrangements are equivalent or better, in terms of ecological sustainability, than those in place at the time of the original decision. This includes operational and legislated amendments that may affect sustainability of the target species or negatively impact on byproduct, bycatch, EPBC Act protected species or the ecosystem.</p>	<p>Condition 1:</p> <p>Operation of the Northern Territory Coastal Line Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources fisheries management arrangements in force under the <i>Northern Territory of Australia Fisheries Act 1988</i> and Northern Territory of Australia Fisheries Regulations 1993.</p> <p>Condition 2:</p> <p>The Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources to inform the Department of any intended material changes to the Northern Territory Coastal Line Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> decisions are made.</p>
<p><u>Annual Reporting</u></p> <p>It is important that reports be produced and presented to the Department annually in order for the performance of the fishery and progress in implementing the conditions in this report, and other managerial commitments to be monitored and assessed throughout the life of the declaration. Annual reports should follow Appendix B to the 'Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition' and include a description of the fishery, management arrangements in place, research and monitoring outcomes, recent catch data for all sectors of the fishery, status of target stock, interactions with EPBC Act protected species, impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem in which it operates and progress in implementing the Department's conditions. Electronic copies of the guidelines are available from the Department's website at http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/guidelines-ecologically-sustainable-management-fisheries.</p>	<p>Condition 3:</p> <p>The Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources to produce and present reports to the Department annually as per Appendix B of the <i>Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition</i>.</p>
<p><u>Vulnerable and overfished species</u></p> <p>The target species, Black Jewfish, and Golden Snapper, caught in the Western Zone of the fishery are currently classified as overfished. This classification is representative of stocks around Darwin where most of the fishing occurs. While the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources invest significant effort in assessing, monitoring and managing primary species in the Western Zone (including around Darwin), the Department considers that</p>	<p>Condition 4:</p> <p>The Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. continue data collection, stock assessments, management and monitoring of target species in the fishery. b. ensure there are effective controls in all zones of the fishery, which should include decision rules and reference points that trigger

Issue	Condition
<p>management of target and non-target species (byproduct) requires further development in the Eastern Zone of the fishery.</p> <p>While no stock assessments exist in the Northern Territory for the byproduct species Mangrove Jack and Grass Emperor, the 2018 ERA has identified these species as being vulnerable to overfishing. The Department considers that it is important that appropriate measures are in place to avoid overfishing of these stocks.</p>	<p>management actions, that seek to avoid overfishing and support the recovery of overfished stocks.</p> <p>c. ensure catch composition is sufficiently monitored and understood to inform whether stocks impacted by the fishery are being sustainably managed and not overfished or subject to overfishing. Performance against this condition must be included in annual reports specified at Condition 3.</p>

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