



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Ref: 002068376

Ms Helen Kroger
Chair
Australian Fisheries Management Authority Commission
GPO Box 7051,
CANBERRA ACT 2610

Dear Ms Kroger

I am writing to you as the Delegate of the Minister for the Environment in relation to the reassessment of the Commonwealth Northern Prawn Fishery (the fishery) under Part 13A (wildlife trade provisions) and Part 13 (protected species interactions) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

In September 2018, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority applied for export approval for the fishery under the EPBC Act. The application has been assessed, and I have amended the List of Exempt Native Specimens to allow export of product from the fishery until 06 January 2024.

The amendment to the List of Exempt Native Specimens includes three recommendations (**Attachment 1**) that were agreed by officials from both agencies as issues to be addressed before the next assessment of the fishery.

I have also reaccredited the management plan for the fishery under Part 13 of the EPBC Act. Accreditation is subject to three conditions (**Attachment 2**) requiring ongoing monitoring and research that aims to develop appropriate protective measures for sawfish and sea snake species.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'V Blazely'.

Veronica Blazely

Delegate of the Minister for the Environment
9 January 2019

Recommendations to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority on the ecologically sustainable management of the Commonwealth Northern Prawn Fishery, December 2018

1. Operation of the Commonwealth Northern Prawn Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995* in force under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (Cth) and the *Fisheries Management Regulation 1992* (Cth).

2. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to inform the Department of the Environment and Energy of any intended material changes to the Northern Prawn Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which EPBC Act decisions are made.

3. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment and Energy annually as per Appendix B of the Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition.

**Conditions on the Part 13 accreditation for the Commonwealth Northern Prawn Fishery –
December 2018**

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to:

- A. ensure that there is sufficient ongoing monitoring (electronic or human) to evaluate the nature and level of impacts of fishing on EPBC Act protected species.

- B. ensure that interactions with species of sawfish and sea snakes are minimised by facilitating research and monitoring programs that contribute to:
 - i. understanding the unique characteristics of sawfish and sea snake interactions with the fishing gear,
 - ii. understanding the population dynamics, including size and structure of sawfish species populations that occur within the fishing area, and
 - iii. implementing appropriate mitigation measures that aim to increase the survival of sawfish and sea snake species.

- C. develop an education program or materials that improve the accurate identification of sawfish and sea snake species.