



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Assessment of the
River and Inshore (Beam) Trawl Fishery

February 2009

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Disclaimer

This document is an assessment carried out by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts 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, Heritage and the Arts 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, Heritage and the Arts or the Australian Government.

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Table 1: Summary of the River and Inshore (Beam) Trawl Fishery (RIBTF)

Publicly available information relevant to the fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland <i>Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999</i> (Trawl Plan). • Queensland <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> • Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008 • <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975</i> • Queensland <i>Marine Parks Act 2004</i> • Annual Status Report – Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery 2006 • Annual Status Report – Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery, 2007 • Annual Status Report 2008 –River and Inshore (Beam) Trawl Fishery
Area	The area of the RIBTF encompasses rivers and inshore waters of the Queensland east coast (including Commonwealth waters) between Cape York and the Queensland/NSW border.
Fishery status	The target species are thought to be fully exploited.
Target Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greasyback prawns (<i>Metapenaeus bennettiae</i>); • school prawns (<i>M. macleayi</i>); and • banana prawns (<i>Penaeus merguensis</i>); <p>Small amounts of tiger and endeavour prawns, squid and bugs are also targeted within the RIBTF.</p>
Byproduct species	Small amounts of byproduct, generally less than one tonne of blue swimmer crab and cuttlefish, are taken within the RIBTF.
Gear	Vessels towing a single five metre head rope trawl with a maximum combined net length of 10 metres.
Season	The fishing season for the RIBTF is 1 January through to 31 December with numerous spatial and temporal closures relevant to the RIBTF in force under the Trawl Plan.
Commercial harvest 2008	366 tonnes (t) consisting of 364 t of prawns and 2 t of squid and bugs combined were harvested.
Value of commercial harvest 2008	approximately \$4.8 million
Take by other sectors	<p>The amount of indigenous harvest within the RIBTF is currently uncertain but considered to be negligible.</p> <p>Recreational harvest for 2008 within the RIBTF consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 t banana prawn; • 140 t blue swimmer crab; and • 50 t squid.
Commercial licences issued	143 beam trawl licences as at June 2007
Management arrangements	The RIBTF is managed under the Trawl Plan in force under the Queensland <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008. The East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery (ECOTF) is also managed under the Trawl Plan. The RIBTF and the ECOTF often referred to collectively as the East Coast Trawl Fishery (ECTF) although they are actually individual fisheries.

	<p><u>Output controls</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs); • Mandatory Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in areas other than a river or creek; • ‘In possession’ limit for banana prawns (10 litres per person) in the recreational sector; and • Recreational fishers must not possess prawns if more than 10 prawns have had their head or any other part removed, unless the removal was to process the prawns for immediate consumption. <p><u>Input controls</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited entry; • Boat restrictions; • Gear restrictions eg. net head rope length and mesh size; and • Spatial and temporal closures.
Export	Catch from the RIBTF is mainly destined for domestic markets with no export currently taking place. Although, there is growing interest and scope for product to be exported in the future.
Bycatch	Bycatch within the RIBTF consists mainly of small fish, crabs and other penaeid prawns.
Interaction with protected species¹	<p>In 2007 there was 18 interactions with protected species with 17 being released alive. BRDs and TEDs used in the fishery help to reduce the number of interactions.</p> <p>The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) have in place a species of conservation interest logbook for operators to report interactions with protected species (for species protected under Part 13 of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) and under Queensland environment legislation).</p> <p>Under sections 199, 214, 232 and 256 of the EPBC Act, persons who interact with a protected species must report that interaction within seven days of the incident occurring to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).</p> <p>A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DPI&F and DEWHA for the reporting of fisheries interactions with protected species has been in operation since 2005. The MOU streamlines reporting requirements for interactions with protected species, assisting fishers in meeting their requirements under the EPBC Act. As such, the MOU reduces the administrative reporting burden on individual fishers and provides for regular reporting of protected species interactions.</p> <p>Unless exceptional circumstances exist, DEWHA will not take any action against the authority holders in respect of a failure to meet the</p>

¹ ‘Protected species’ means all species listed under Part 13 of the EPBC Act, including whales and other cetaceans and threatened, marine and migratory species.

	seven day reporting requirement of protected species interactions, if the interaction was recorded in the authority holder's logbook at the time of the interaction and in accordance with the requirements of the MOU.
Ecosystem impacts	Trawling activity in the RIBTF is heavily focused on soft substrates (sand, silt, and mud) being the preferred habitat for the main species harvested. DPI&F's report states that repeated trawling over the same ground in areas supporting attached sedentary species may be cause for localised depletion but recovery is expected to occur once trawling is removed. The <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975</i> and the <i>Queensland Marine Parks Act 2004</i> place restrictions on the RIBTF through permanent closures to beam trawling.
Impacts on CITES-listed specimens	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 RIBTF's impact on specimens listed under CITES has been conducted.
Impacts on World Heritage property	<p>The assessment also considered the possible impacts on the World Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA).</p> <p>Since the re-zoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP) came into effect on 1 July 2004, 66.2% of the GBRMP is protected from trawling, offering significant benefits to benthic habitats and the communities that these support.</p> <p>Given the RIBTF largely operates in rivers or creeks outside of the GBRMP and the permanent closures in place, DEWHA considers that an action taken by an individual fisher, acting in accordance with the Trawl Plan, would not be expected to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p>Any significant change to existing practices, which is likely to significantly impact on the Great Barrier Reef's World Heritage values, may require approval by the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts.</p>

Table 2: Progress in implementation of conditions and recommendations made in initial assessment of the RIBTF

Condition	Progress	Recommended Action
1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime in force under Trawl Plan, which obtains its authority from the Queensland <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> .	The operations of the RIBTF have been carried out in accordance with the <i>Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999</i> in force under the Queensland <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> and the Queensland <i>Fisheries Regulations 1995 and 2008</i> .	This condition has been met and will continue to apply under the new Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) declaration for this fishery for the next three years. Refer to Condition 1, Table 4 .
2. DPI&F to inform the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) of any intended amendments to the management arrangements that may affect sustainability of the target species or negatively impact on byproduct, bycatch, protected species or the ecosystem.	There were no changes to the management arrangements for the RIBTF throughout the life of the WTO.	This condition has been met and will continue to apply under the new WTO declaration for this fishery for the next three years. Refer to Condition 2, Table 4 .
3. Reports to be produced and presented to DEH annually, and to include: • information sufficient to	Prior to 2008, DPI&F reported annually on the RIBTF as part of the <i>Annual Status Report East Coast Trawl Fishery</i> which can be found on DPI&F's website. Since 2008 DPI&F have reported	This condition has been met and will continue to apply under the new WTO declaration for this fishery for the next three years. Refer to Condition 3, Table 4 .

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a description of the status of the fishery and catch and effort information; • a statement of the performance of the fishery against objectives, performance indicators and measures once developed; and • research undertaken or completed relevant to the fishery. 	<p>on the RIBTF separately.</p>	
Recommendation	Progress	Recommended Action
<p>1. DPI&F to inform DEH of any intended amendments to the management arrangements that may affect sustainability of the target species or negatively impact on</p>	<p>There were no changes to the management arrangements for the RIBTF throughout the life of the WTO.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been met and will continue to apply under the new WTO declaration for this fishery for the next three years.</p> <p>Refer to Condition 2, Table 4.</p>

<p>2. As part of the review of the <i>Trawl Plan</i>, DPI&F to, by the end of 2006:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate RIBTF data into the development of review events and performance measures being undertaken for East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery principal and permitted species; and • Revise current review events and develop appropriate performance measures, including limit reference points, for those inshore species predominantly harvested by the RIBTF. 	<p>Development of performance measures for Queensland's trawl fisheries was undertaken as a priority in 2006. Preliminary performance criteria for principal species (banana prawns) and bycatch have been developed for the RIBTF. The annual landings of permitted trawl (byproduct) species in the RIBTF are negligible compared to byproduct landings in the ECOTF. Performance criteria for the RIBTF byproduct harvest will be incorporated when the ECTF Performance Measurement System (PMS) is updated in early 2009 for consideration by the Scientific Advisory Group of the Trawl Management Committee.</p>	<p>DEWHA commends DPI&F for the current draft PMS and considers the performance criteria for the RIBTF harvest necessary to enable the finalisation of the PMS for the ECTF whilst being a capable and effective management tool for the RIBTF.</p> <p>DEWHA considers the recommendation to be partially met and ongoing, refer to Condition 4, Table 4.</p>
<p>3. DPI&F to monitor the status of the fishery in relation to the performance measures (review events and/or reference points) specified</p>	<p>DPI&F reports annually on review events currently in the Trawl Plan. Assessment of the review events for RIBTF harvested species that are taken substantially in the ECOTF will be included in the</p>	<p>DEWHA acknowledges that review events are reported on annually and encourage the continuation of this. In regards to the monitoring of the RIBTF's harvest and its contribution to the ECTF as a whole, this is considered to be an important factor in ecologically sustainable management of the fishery. Timeframes for reference points and triggers being reached within the fishery</p>

	consolidated Annual Status Report 2008 – ECTF currently in preparation. Upon completion in 2009, the ECTF PMS, will provide the basis from which to monitor the contribution of the RIBTF to the ecologically sustainable development of east coast trawl resources; performance measures relevant to the RIBTF will be regularly assessed and reported in future Annual Status Reports.	<p>should also be included as part of the PMS to ensure effective management of the fishery.</p> <p>DEWHA considers this recommendation to be partially met and ongoing. Refer to Condition 4, Table 4.</p>
4. By the end of 2007, DPI&F to develop a system to ensure that catch and effort data collected in compulsory logbooks is validated on an ongoing basis.	In 2007, fisheries observers monitored catch and effort, Species of Conservation Interest interactions and bycatch composition in the RIBTF. These data will be used in the next validation and assessment of fisher logbook data. Regular validation will ensure that issues of reporting accuracy and data quality are identified and managed. A data validation exercise was undertaken in January 2008 and recommendations made to improve logbook reporting accuracy.	<p>DEWHA acknowledges the Fishery Observer Program (FOP) that is currently in place for the RIBTF and considers investigation into the minimum level of coverage required to effectively validate logbooks necessary for the management of the RIBTF.</p> <p>DEWHA considers the recommendation to be met and ongoing. Refer to Recommendation 2, Table 4.</p>
5. DPI&F to incorporate RIBTF research priorities into the strategic research plan being developed for	The research plan provides information to the public and research organisations on the DPI&F research priorities for the	DEWHA commends DPI&F on the development of the <i>East Coast Trawl Fishery Five Year Research Plan</i> and recommends the research priorities identified within the plan be implemented.

	<p>2006 to 2011 period in the ECTF. There is significant overlap with research needs for the RIBTF and ECOTF, however, the draft strategic research plan has also incorporated specific beam trawl issues where appropriate. The strategic research plan has been publicly released and is available on the internet at: www.dpi.qld.gov.au</p>	<p>DEWHA considers the recommendation to be partially met and ongoing. Refer to Recommendation 4, Table 4.</p>
<p>6. DPI&F to include RIBTF catch estimates of juvenile East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery target species, where relevant, in future stock assessments undertaken for these species.</p>	<p>Stock assessment of banana prawns explicitly incorporates RIBTF banana prawn catch data with otter trawl catch and effort data and recreational catches for banana prawns. More than 95% of the total eastern king and tiger prawn harvest is assessed in regular stock assessments using otter trawl catch data. Only a minor part (5%) of the catch of these species is taken in the RIBTF. It is expected that the stock assessment models will continue to acknowledge the otter trawl catch of these species as the primary focus of regular assessments and the most significant fishery impact in their sustainable use. Observers have been introduced</p>	<p>DEWHA notes the data from banana prawns caught within the RIBTF have been taken into account as part of the stock assessment and considers further improvement in species specific data collection and work with industry to determine species composition of “bay prawns” necessary to ensure sustainability of other target species within the RIBTF.</p> <p>DEWHA considers the recommendation to be partially met and ongoing. Refer to Recommendation 3, Table 4.</p>

	into the fishery with the aim of collecting information on catch composition, bycatch and interactions with protected species. The contribution to the RIBTF catch of juvenile ECOTF target species will be estimated through observer data.	
7. By the end of 2007, DPI&F to implement a system to collect data on the composition (species and life-stage) of bay prawn catches in the RIBTF for use in species specific stock assessments.	Observers have been introduced into the fishery with the aim of collecting information on catch composition, bycatch and interactions with protected species. The contribution to the RIBTF catch of juvenile ECOTF target species will be estimated through observer data.	<p>Observer coverage being introduced into the fishery has been noted by DEWHA although improvement in species specific reporting and data collection in the RIBTF to determine the composition of “bay prawn” species should be considered a high priority for the fishery.</p> <p>DEWHA considers the recommendation to be ongoing. Refer to Recommendation 3, Table 4.</p>
8. In conjunction with work being undertaken on ECOTF principal and permitted species, DPI&F to develop a robust and regular fishery assessment process for the RIBTF, that provides a basis for management decisions, which are precautionary and recognise the uncertainty and level of risk. The assessment process will examine the	DPI&F has an ongoing commitment to undertake periodic stock assessments for banana prawns and risk assessments for permitted and bycatch species. A stock assessment for banana prawns was completed in 2006 as a product of an annually reviewed rolling program of stock assessments for priority species in Queensland fisheries. An ecological risk situation report is being prepared for the ECOTF and RIBTF preliminary to further	<p>DEWHA commends DPI&F for the stock assessment done for banana prawns in 2006 and the annually reviewed rolling program in place for future stock assessments. Further research is recommended by DEWHA for the RIBTF and implementation of research priorities identified within the <i>East Coast Trawl Fishery Five Year Research Plan</i>.</p> <p>DEWHA considers the recommendation to be partially met and ongoing. Refer to Recommendation 4, Table 4.</p>

	development of the ECTF PMS in early 2009. It is anticipated that this report will act as a precursor to a comprehensive ecological risk assessment of the ECTF in 2011/2012.	
9. By the end of 2007, DPI&F to develop and implement a system sufficient to identify changes in the composition and quantity of bycatch in the RIBTF over time.	Bycatch monitoring in the RIBTF is being addressed as part of the Fishery Observer Program (FOB) ECTF Bycatch Monitoring Strategy. In 2007 bycatch data were collected by fishery observers for analysis and proposed development of RIBTF bycatch performance measures in early 2009. DPI&F are currently in the process of reviewing and evaluating the outputs of the ECTF Bycatch Monitoring Strategy.	DEWHA notes the progress made towards this recommendation with having the FOP and Bycatch Monitoring Strategy in place. Observer coverage was less than 0.5% of total effort in 2007. DPI&F proposes revisiting observer coverage in the RIBTF next in 2010. DEWHA consider this recommendation to be ongoing. Refer to Recommendation 1, Table 4.
10. DPI&F to continue to pursue a reduction in the amount of bycatch taken in the RIBTF through the refinement of bycatch mitigation technology and to support the investigation of methods for increasing the survivability of bycatch	Operators in the RIBTF are currently required to have BRDs fitted when trawling. Two new BRDs have recently been added to the list of recognised BRDs – the popeye fish excluder and the v-cut and bell codend. In certain areas, TEDs must also be used. However, the small size of the nets used precludes the use	DEWHA recognise the implementation of BRD's in the RIBTF and the use of TEDs in areas other than rivers or creeks and consider further management measures as appropriate capable of reducing the capture and mortality of protected species and other bycatch in all areas of the RIBTF should be implemented. DEWHA considers the recommendation to be partially met and ongoing. Refer to Recommendation 1, Table 4.

	of TEDs in certain areas such as rivers and creeks. Due to the short shot times, the risk to turtles is considered to be low.	
11. DPI&F to, by the end of 2008, implement precautionary performance measures related to bycatch in the RIBTF. In the interim, DPI&F to develop bycatch related performance measures based on the best available information by the end of 2006.	In late 2005, the Trawl Scientific Advisory Group developed interim precautionary performance measures for bycatch — that non-compliance with BRD and TED regulations should not exceed 5%. Proposed development of additional performance measures is proposed for the fishery, and is scheduled for early 2009.	DEWHA note the interim performance measures in place for bycatch and encourage the development of formal performance measures proposed for early 2009. DEWHA considers the recommendation to be partially met and ongoing. Refer to Condition 4 and Recommendation 1, Table 4.
12. DPI&F to continue to take all reasonable steps to reduce protected species interactions. Each year, DPI&F to report publicly on interactions with protected species, incorporating the latest research findings.	A comprehensive protected species education program was released in September 2005 and included information on how operators can minimise interactions with protected species.	DEWHA commends DPI&F on the protected species education program which was released in 2005. DEWHA considers that further steps to reduce the interactions with protected species is necessary. DEWHA considers the recommendation to be partially met and ongoing. Refer to Recommendation 1, Table 4.

Table 3: DEWHA assessment of the RIBTF against the requirements of the EPBC Act related to decisions made under Parts 13 and 13A

Please Note – the table below is not a complete or exact representation of the EPBC Act. It is intended as a summary of relevant sections and components of the EPBC Act to provide advice on the fishery in relation to decisions under Parts 13 and 13A. A complete version of the EPBC Act can be found on the DEWHA website.

Part 13

Division 1 Listed threatened species Section 208A Minister may accredit plans or regimes	DEWHA assessment of the RIBTF
<p>(1) Minister may, by instrument in writing, accredit for the purposes of this Division:</p> <p>(c) a plan of management, or a policy, regime or any other arrangement, for a fishery that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. made by a State or self-governing Territory; and ii. in force under a law of the State or self-governing Territory; <p>if satisfied that:</p> <p>(f) the plan, regime or policy requires persons engaged in fishing under the plan, regime or policy to take all reasonable steps to ensure that members of listed threatened species (other than conservation dependent species) are not</p>	<p>The RIBTF will be managed under the Trawl Plan in force under the Queensland <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> and the Queensland <i>Fisheries Regulation 2008</i>.</p> <p>The management plan for the RIBTF was accredited in February 2006.</p> <p>In March 2008, DPI&F advised DEWHA that on 1 April 2008 the <i>Fisheries Regulation 1995</i> was being replaced with the <i>Fisheries Regulation 2008</i>. The change in regulations did not result in any change to the management of the RIBTF and were administrative in nature. Although the change did not affect the original assessment of the RIBTF against the criteria on which the February 2006 decisions were made, the RIBTF required a new accreditation to be granted which referred to the correct Queensland legislation. As such the RIBTF was given a new Part 13 accreditation in April 2008.</p> <p>The management arrangements for the RIBTF have not significantly changed since the April 2008 accreditation was granted. Consequently, a new Part 13 declaration is not needed at this time as DEWHA considers that all reasonable steps are being taken to prevent the killing</p>

<p>(g) the fishery to which the plan, regime or policy relates does not, or is not likely to, adversely affect the survival or recovery in nature of the species.</p>	<p>or injuring of any listed threatened species and that the RIBTF does not, and is not likely to, adversely affect the survival or recovery in nature of any listed threatened species. Currently, evidence suggests that the RIBTF only has minimal interactions with listed migratory species.</p>
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<p>Division 2 Migratory species Section 222A Minister may accredit plans or regimes</p>	<p>DEWHA assessment of the RIBTF</p>
<p>(1) Minister may, by instrument in writing, accredit for the purposes of this Division:</p> <p>(c) a plan of management, or a policy, regime or any other arrangement, for a fishery that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. made by a State or self-governing Territory; and ii. in force under a law of the State or self-governing Territory; <p>if satisfied that:</p> <p>(f) the plan, regime or policy requires persons engaged in fishing under the plan, regime or policy to take all reasonable steps to ensure that members of listed migratory species are not killed or injured as a result of the fishing;</p>	<p>The RIBTF will be managed under the <i>Trawl Plan</i> in force under the <i>Queensland Fisheries Act 1994</i> and the <i>Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008</i>.</p> <p>The management plan for the RIBTF was accredited in February 2006.</p> <p>In March 2008, DPI&F advised DEWHA that on 1 April 2008 the <i>Fisheries Regulation 1995</i> was being replaced with the <i>Fisheries Regulation 2008</i>. The change in regulations did not result in any change to the management of the RIBTF and were administrative in nature. Although the change did not affect the original assessment of the RIBTF against the criteria on which the February 2006 decisions were made, the RIBTF required a new accreditation to be granted which referred to the correct Queensland legislation. As such the RIBTF was given a new Part 13 accreditation in April 2008.</p> <p>The management arrangements for the RIBTF have not significantly changed since the April 2008 accreditation was granted. Consequently, a new Part 13 declaration is not needed at this time as DEWHA considers that the RIBTF takes all reasonable steps to ensure that listed</p>

<p>(g) the fishery to which the plan, regime or policy relates does not, or is not likely to, adversely affect the conservation status of a listed migratory species or a population of that species.</p>	<p>migratory species are not killed or injured and will not adversely affect the conservation status of a listed migratory species or a population of that species. Currently, evidence suggests that the RIBTF only has minimal interactions with listed migratory species.</p>
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<p>Division 3 Whales and other cetaceans Section 245 Minister may accredit plans or regimes</p>	<p>DEWHA assessment of the RIBTF</p>
<p>(1) Minister may, by instrument in writing, accredit for the purposes of this Division:</p> <p>(c) a plan of management, or a policy, regime or any other arrangement, for a fishery that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. made by a State or self-governing Territory; and ii. in force under a law of the State or self-governing Territory; <p>if satisfied that:</p> <p>(f) the plan, regime or policy requires persons engaged in fishing under the plan, regime or policy to take all reasonable steps to ensure that cetaceans are not killed or injured as a result of the fishing; and</p>	<p>The RIBTF will be managed under the Trawl Plan in force under the Queensland <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> and the Queensland <i>Fisheries Regulation 2008</i>.</p> <p>The management plan for the RIBTF was accredited in February 2006.</p> <p>In March 2008, DPI&F advised DEWHA that on 1 April 2008 the <i>Fisheries Regulation 1995</i> was being replaced with the <i>Fisheries Regulation 2008</i>. The change in regulations did not result in any change to the management of the RIBTF and were administrative in nature. Although the change did not affect the original assessment of the RIBTF against the criteria on which the February 2006 decisions were made, the RIBTF required a new accreditation to be granted which referred to the correct Queensland legislation. As such the RIBTF was given a new Part 13 accreditation in April 2008.</p> <p>The management arrangements for the RIBTF have not significantly changed since the April 2008 accreditation was granted. Consequently, a new Part 13 declaration is not needed at this time as DEWHA considers that the RIBTF takes all reasonable steps to ensure that</p>

<p>(g) the fishery to which the plan, regime or policy relates does not, or is not likely to, adversely affect the conservation status of a species of cetacean or a population of that species.</p>	<p>cetaceans are not killed or injured and will not adversely affect the conservation status of a cetatean species or a population of that species. Currently, evidence suggests that the RIBTF only has minimal interactions with cetaceans species.</p>
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<p>Division 4 Listed marine species Section 265 Minister may accredit plans or regimes</p>	<p>DEWHA assessment of the RIBTF</p>
<p>(1) Minister may, by instrument in writing, accredit for the purposes of this Division:</p> <p>(c) a plan of management, or a policy, regime or any other arrangement, for a fishery that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. made by a State or self-governing Territory; and ii. in force under a law of the State or self-governing Territory; <p>if satisfied that:</p> <p>(f) the plan, regime or policy requires persons engaged in fishing under the plan, regime or policy to take all reasonable steps to ensure that members of listed marine species are not killed or injured as a result of the fishing; and</p>	<p>The RIBTF will be managed under the Trawl Plan in force under the Queensland <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> and the Queensland <i>Fisheries Regulation 2008</i>.</p> <p>The management plan for the RIBTF was accredited in February 2006.</p> <p>In March 2008, DPI&F advised DEWHA that on 1 April 2008 the <i>Fisheries Regulation 1995</i> was being replaced with the <i>Fisheries Regulation 2008</i>. The change in regulations did not result in any change to the management of the RIBTF and were administrative in nature. Although the change did not affect the original assessment of the RIBTF against the criteria on which the February 2006 decisions were made, the RIBTF required a new accreditation to be granted which referred to the correct Queensland legislation. As such the RIBTF was given a new Part 13 accreditation in April 2008.</p> <p>The management arrangements for the RIBTF have not significantly changed since the April 2008 accreditation was granted. Consequently, a new Part 13 declaration is not needed at this time as DEWHA considers that the RIBTF takes all reasonable steps to ensure that listed marine species or a population of that species are not killed or injured</p>

(g) the fishery to which the plan, regime or policy relates does not, or is not likely to, adversely affect the conservation status of a listed marine species or a population of that species.	and will not adversely affect the conservation status of a listed marine species or a population of that species. Currently, evidence suggests that the RIBTF only has minimal interactions with listed marine species.
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Section 303AA Conditions relating to accreditation of plans, regimes and policies	DEWHA assessment of RIBTF
(1) This section applies to an accreditation of a plan, regime or policy under section 208A, 222A, 245 or 265.	DEWHA recommends that RIBTF be accredited under sections 208A, 222A, 245 and 265.
(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: <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. In such a case, the instrument of accreditation is to specify the period, circumstances or condition.	No condition has been imposed on RIBTF under Part 13.
(7) The Minister must, in writing, revoke an accreditation if he or she is satisfied that a condition of the accreditation has been contravened.	

Part 13A

Section 303DC Minister may amend list	DEWHA assessment of the RIBTF
(1) Minister may, by instrument published in the Gazette, amend the list referred to in section 303DB (list of exempt native specimens) by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) including items in the list; (b) deleting items from the list; or (c) imposing a condition or restriction to which the inclusion of a specimen in the list is subject; or (d) varying of revoking a condition or restriction to which the inclusion of a specimen in the list is subject; or 	No amendment to the List of Exempt Native Specimens (LENS) is required as product derived from the RIBTF approved WTO is already included on the LENS.

(e) correcting an inaccuracy or updating the name of a species.	
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Section 303FN Approved wildlife trade operation	DEWHA assessment of the RIBTF
(2) The Minister may, by instrument published in the <i>Gazette</i> , declare that a specified wildlife trade operation is an <i>approved wildlife trade operation</i> for the purposes of this section.	
<p>(3) The Minister must not declare an operation as an approved wildlife trade operation unless the Minister is satisfied that:</p> <p>(a) the operation is consistent with the objects of Part 13A of the Act; and</p> <p>(b) the operation will not be detrimental to:</p> <p>i. the survival of a taxon to which the operation relates; or</p> <p>ii. the conservation status of a taxon to which the operation relates; and</p> <p>(ba) the operation will not be likely to threaten any relevant ecosystem including (but not limited to) any habitat or biodiversity;</p>	<p>The RIBTF is consistent with objects of Part 13A (listed after this table) as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the fishery will not harvest any CITES listed species; there are management arrangements in place to ensure that the resource is being managed in an ecologically sustainable way (see Table 1); the operation of the RIBTF is unlikely to be unsustainable and threaten biodiversity within the next three years; and the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000</i> (EPBC Regulations) do not specify fish as a class of animal in relation to the welfare of live specimens. <p>DEWHA considers that the RIBTF will not be detrimental to the survival or conservation status of a taxon to which it relates within the next three years, given the management measures currently in place, which include: limited entry, gear restrictions, permanent area closures as well as the mandatory use of BRDs and TEDs in areas other than rivers or creeks.</p> <p>DEWHA considers that the RIBTF will not threaten any relevant ecosystem within the next three years, given the management measures currently in place, which include: limited entry, gear restrictions and</p>

<p>and</p> <p>(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> <p>(d) such other conditions (if any) as are specified in the regulations have been, or are likely to be, satisfied.</p>	<p>permanent area closures.</p> <p>The EPBC Regulations do not specify fish as a class of animal in relation to the welfare of live specimens.</p> <p>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>(b) the effectiveness of the management arrangements for the operation (including monitoring procedures).</p>	<p>DEWHA considers that the RIBTF will not have a significant impact on any relevant ecosystem within the next three years, given the management measures currently in place, which include: limited entry, gear restrictions, permanent area closures and a FOP.</p> <p>The management arrangements that will be employed for the RIBTF are likely to be effective. The effectiveness of the management regime for the RIBTF is currently monitored through review events as part of the management plan with a condition as part of the WTO to have a PMS for the ECTF in place by 1 July 2009 which incorporates performance measures, triggers and reference points that relate specifically to the RIBTF.</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>The RIBTF will be managed under the Trawl Plan in force under the <i>Queensland Fisheries Act 1994</i> and the <i>Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008</i>.</p> <p>The <i>Queensland Fisheries Act 1994</i> applies throughout Queensland waters.</p>

<p>(c) whether, in the opinion of the Minister, the legislation is effective.</p>	<p>The management arrangements that will be employed for the RIBTF are likely to be effective. The effectiveness of the management regime for the RIBTF is currently monitored through review events as part of the management plan with a condition as part of the WTO to have a PMS for the ECTF in place by 1 July 2009 which incorporates performance measures, triggers and reference points that relate specifically to the RIBTF.</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>(d) the operation is a commercial fishery.</p>	<p>The RIBTF is a commercial fishery.</p>

Section 303FR Public consultation	DEWHA assessment of the RIBTF
<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>DEWHA considers that consultation requirements of the EPBC Act for declaring a WTO have been met. A public notice, which set out the proposal to declare the RIBTF a WTO and included the ECTF Annual Status Reports 2006 and 2007 and the RIBTF Annual Status Report 2008, was released for public comment which closed on 16 January 2009 with no submissions received.</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>A public notice, which set out the proposal to declare the RIBTF a WTO and included the ECTF Annual Status Reports 2006 and 2007 and the RIBTF Annual Status Report 2008 was released for public comment on 10 December 2008 and closed on 16 January 2009, a total of 25 business days.</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.	No public comments about the proposal were received.
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Section 303FT Additional provisions relating to declarations	DEWHA assessment of the RIBTF
(1) This section applies to a declaration made under section 303FN, 303FO or 303FP.	A declaration for the RIBTF will be made under section 303FN.
<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> <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 declaration is to specify the period, circumstances or condition.</p>	<p>The standard conditions applied to commercial fishery WTOs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operation in accordance with the management regime; • notifying DEWHA of changes to the management regime; and • annual reporting in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Government <i>Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition</i>. <p>The WTO instrument for the RIBTF specifies the standard and any additional conditions applied.</p>
(8) A condition may relate to reporting or monitoring.	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.	
(11) A copy of an instrument under section 303FN, or this section is to be made available for inspection on the Internet.	The instrument for the RIBTF made under sections 303FN and the conditions under section 303FT will be gazetted and made available on the DEWHA website.

Part 16

Section 391 Minister must consider precautionary principle in making decisions	DEWHA assessment of the RIBTF
(1) The Minister must take account of the precautionary principle in making a decision under section 303DC and/or section 303FN, to the extent he or she can do so consistently with the other provisions of this Act.	The precautionary principle has been considered when making a decision to include specimens on the LENS.
(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.	

Objects of Part 13A

- (a) to ensure that Australia complies with its obligations under 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.

Final recommendations to DPI&F for the RIBTF

The material submitted by DPI&F demonstrates that the management arrangements for the RIBTF meet most of the requirements of the Australian Government *Guidelines for the ecologically sustainable management of fisheries 2nd edition* (the Guidelines). DEWHA recognises that the limited entry, gear restrictions, permanent area closures as well as the mandatory use of BRDs and TEDs in areas other than rivers or creeks render it somewhat robust to fishing. As such, DEWHA considers that overall the management regime aims to ensure that fishing is conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing and for fishing operations to be managed to minimise their impact on the structure, productivity, function and biological diversity of the ecosystem.

While the fishery is relatively well managed, DEWHA has identified a number of risks and uncertainties that must be managed to ensure that impacts are minimised:

- Finalisation of the PMS for the ECTF including measures that relate to the RIBTF;
- management of bycatch and interactions with protected species²;
- validation of logbook data;
- improving species specific data collection;
- implementing the priorities identified in the *East Coast Trawl Fishery Five Year Research Plan*; and
- collaborative management of shared stocks.

DEWHA is satisfied that the fishery will not be detrimental to the survival or conservation status of the taxon to which it relates in the short term. Similarly, it is not likely to threaten any relevant ecosystem in the short term. To contain and minimise the risks in the longer term the conditions and recommendations listed below have been made. The key challenges for this fishery will be ensuring RIBTF specific reference points and triggers are included in the PMS for the ECTF and implementing a system capable to monitor and reduce bycatch and interactions with protected species. DEWHA considers that, until it can be demonstrated that these issues have been adequately dealt with, a three year WTO declaration is appropriate.

DEWHA considers that the operation of the fishery does not, or is not likely to, adversely affect the survival in nature of a listed threatened species or population of that species, or the conservation status of a listed migratory species, cetacean or listed marine species or a population of any of those species. DEWHA also considers that under the management plan operators are required to take all reasonable steps to avoid the killing or injuring of protected species, and the level of interactions under current fishing operations is low.

For these reasons, the management plan was accredited under Part 13 of the EPBC Act in April 2008. Since there have been minimal changes to the management arrangements since the initial assessment of the fishery, DEWHA considers that the existing Part 13 accreditation remains valid.

Unless a specific time frame is provided in the recommendation each recommendation must be addressed within the life of the declaration (three years). Note that a standard condition of a WTO is an annual reporting requirement, the details of which are provided below.

² 'Protected species' means all species listed under Part 13 of the EPBC Act, including whales and other cetaceans and threatened, marine and migratory species.

Table 4: RIBTF Assessment– Summary of Issues, Conditions and Recommendations February 2009

	ISSUE	DEWHA Condition
1	<p><u>General Management</u></p> <p>Export decisions relate to the arrangements in force at the time of the decision. In order to ensure that these decisions remain valid and export approval continues uninterrupted, DEWHA needs to be advised of any changes that are made to the management arrangements 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, protected species or the ecosystem.</p>	<p>Condition 1: Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the <i>Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999</i> in force under the <i>Queensland Fisheries Act 1994</i> and the <i>Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008</i>.</p> <p>Condition 2: DPI&F to inform DEWHA of any intended amendments to the management arrangements that may affect the assessment of the RIBTF against the criteria on which <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> decisions are based.</p>
2	<p><u>Annual Reporting</u></p> <p>It is important that reports be produced and presented to DEWHA annually in order for the performance of the fishery and progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations in this report and other managerial commitments to be monitored and assessed throughout the life of the declaration.</p> <p>Annual reports should 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 protected species; impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem in which it operates; and information outlining progress in implementing conditions and recommendations resulting from the previous accreditation of the fishery (for a complete description of annual reporting requirements, see Appendix B of</p>	<p>Condition 3: DPI&F to produce and present reports to DEWHA annually as per Appendix B to the <i>Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition</i>.</p>

	the Guidelines available from the DEWHA website at http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/publications/guidelines.html).	
3	<p><u>Finalisation and implementation of the PMS</u></p> <p>In the 2006 assessment of the RIBTF, DEWHA recommended that DPI&F develop performance measures, including limit reference points, for those inshore species predominantly harvested in the RIBTF. In response, DPI&F indicated that development of the PMS for the ECTF including the RIBTF is in progress and nearing completion.</p> <p>In the draft PMS for the ECTF, DPI&F states that the ability to monitor the performance of a fishery's management arrangements is integral to ensure the long term viability of the fishery.</p> <p>DPI&F must ensure that the PMS for the ECTF includes separate performance measures, triggers and reference points that relate specifically to the RIBTF and the ECOTF, so that the management of both of these fisheries can be monitored appropriately.</p> <p>The PMS should include measures that are capable of monitoring changes in bycatch composition and quantity including protected species.</p> <p>Management measures and response times should be clearly defined within the PMS to ensure a timely response should a trigger be reached.</p> <p>Once implemented, the performance of the fishery against the requirements of the PMS should be reported on in the Annual Status Report for the RIBTF.</p>	<p>Condition 4: By 1 July 2009 DPI&F to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) finalise and implement the PMS for the ECTF in consultation with the Trawl Management Advisory Committee; and (b) ensure that the PMS incorporates performance measures, triggers and reference points that relate specifically to the RIBTF.

	ISSUE	DEWHA Recommendation
4	<p><u>Bycatch monitoring and interactions with protected species</u></p> <p>In the 2006 assessment of the RIBTF, DPI&F agreed to pursue a reduction in the quantity of bycatch caught in the fishery. DEWHA commends DPI&F on making BRDs compulsory in the RIBTF and the introducing TEDs to some areas of the RIBTF in 2000. DEWHA considers that in some areas of the RIBTF where the use of TEDs is not mandatory there may still be the potential for interactions with turtles and other protected species.</p> <p>Given the high number of protected species that inhabit the areas fished such as turtles, dolphins, sawfish, sea snakes, syngnathids and dugongs, DEWHA is concerned that TEDs are not compulsory throughout the entire area of the RIBTF and suggests that if gear types or areas of operation preclude the use of TEDs that other measures need to be incorporated to minimise interactions with protected species.</p> <p>DPI&F states that the short shot times and smaller gear types used in the RIBTF reduce the potential for capture and mortality of protected species while acknowledging that interactions are still possible. DEWHA notes that there are no legislated restrictions on shot duration and that there is still the potential to interact with protected species including turtles, dolphins and dugongs with no robust scientific evidence to suggest otherwise.</p> <p>Bycatch and protected species interactions in the RIBTF are currently monitored through the FOP. DEWHA commends DPI&F for the implementation of this program noting that observer coverage in this fishery was 15 days in 2007, which is less than 0.5%, due to other commercial fisheries being considered a priority for observer days.</p> <p>DPI&F states that the purpose of the FOP is to estimate the quantity and composition of bycatch as well as monitoring interactions with protected</p>	<p>Recommendation 1: DPI&F to implement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a system adequate to monitor interactions with protected species and other bycatch; and (b) management measures if appropriate to reduce the capture and mortality of protected species and other bycatch in all areas of the RIBTF.

	<p>species and their life status. The management regime for the RIBTF relies heavily on monitoring of bycatch and protected species interactions demonstrating the importance of ensuring that observer coverage is at a statistically robust level.</p> <p>DEWHA considers that while the introduction of TEDs to some areas of the RIBTF has been a positive step in the management of the fishery, ongoing improvements in bycatch monitoring and management of protected species interactions in the RIBTF should be pursued to ensure that bycatch is minimised and interactions with protected species are minimised.</p>	
5	<p><u>Validating logbook data</u></p> <p>In the 2006 assessment of the RIBTF, DPI&F agreed to implement a system capable of validating logbook data on an ongoing basis. DPI&F has acknowledged that regular validation will ensure that issues of reporting accuracy and data quality are identified and managed.</p> <p>In the 2008 Annual Status Report for the RIBTF, DPI&F stated that one of the primary objectives of the FOP is to validate the accuracy of catch and effort data detailed within the logbooks and as part of this program 15 observer days were conducted in 2007.</p> <p>DEWHA is concerned about the level of coverage in the RIBTF and the ability of this coverage to adequately validate log book data in the fishery. While DEWHA acknowledges the logistical difficulties of maintaining coverage across all Queensland fisheries there is a need to ensure that validation systems are able to meet the requirements of the PMS as well as other management tools including the bycatch monitoring strategy.</p> <p>DEWHA recommends that DPI&F investigates the minimum level of observer coverage required in the fishery and should the level of coverage fall below this, DPI&F should either increase the level of observer coverage or</p>	<p>Recommendation 2: DPI&F to investigate the minimum level of observer coverage required to validate logbook data in the RIBTF. If coverage falls below this level DPI&F should increase the level of coverage or investigate alternative methodologies able to validate logbook data.</p>

	investigate alternative methodologies able to validate logbook data.	
6	<p><u>Species specific data collection</u></p> <p>DPI&F indicates that greasyback prawns are one of the major target species within the RIBTF. DEWHA notes that this species is currently being recorded in logbooks under the category “bay prawns” which also includes school prawns and juvenile ECOTF target species. In 2008 the catch of bay prawns represented the most significant component of commercial catch in the RIBTF at more than 200 tonnes. Despite this the species specific catch composition of bay prawns taken in the fishery is currently unclear.</p> <p>DEWHA notes that the current logbook for the RIBTF allows for the recording of greasyback prawns, and it is unclear why this does not occur. DEWHA commends DPI&F for previous amendments to logbooks and encourages DPI&F to work with industry to improve species specific reporting in the RIBTF.</p> <p>In the 2006 assessment, DPI&F agreed to implement a system to collect data on the composition of bay prawn catches to improve stock assessments in the RIBTF. In addition DEWHA recommended in the RIBTF 2006 assessment, that catch estimates of juvenile ECOTF species taken in the RIBTF should be included in the stock assessments for these species. Improving the species specific reporting in the RIBTF will allow DPI&F to meet both of these recommendations and improve the management of the RIBTF and the ECOTF. Although some progress against these recommendations has been made through the FOP, DEWHA considers that improved species specific logbook reporting in the RIBTF will enhance the data collected through the program.</p> <p>DEWHA considers that an adequate understanding of the species composition of catch is critical to the sustainable management of commercial fisheries.</p>	<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>DPI&F to work with industry to determine species composition of “bay prawn” catch in the RIBTF.</p>

	DEWHA therefore recommends that DPI&F investigates the reasons for greasyback prawns being reported as bay prawns and implements effective measures or programs to improve species specific reporting.	
7	<p><u>Implementing the priorities identified in the Strategic Research Plan</u></p> <p>DEWHA commends DPI&F on the development of the <i>East Coast Trawl Fishery Five Year Research Plan</i> that identifies research needs for 2006-2010 inclusive. The plan identifies multiple research needs for the ECTF with some considered as a high priority by DEWHA in ensuring ecologically sustainable management of the RIBTF.</p> <p>The strategic research plan states that the outputs of targeted research are integral to the development and monitoring of the efficacy of management arrangements for the ECTF, including the RIBTF. The strategic research plan adopts a hierarchical approach that assigns priority based on the importance of individual species to the fishery or the potential vulnerability of species to overfishing.</p> <p>DEWHA notes that there are several research priorities identified in the plan that relate specifically to the RIBTF, for example identifying critical habitat for the sustainability of threatened species. Other priorities detailed in the research plan that will assist the management of the RIBTF include identifying bycatch species or species groups that may be used as indicator species for trawl fisheries.</p> <p>DEWHA recommends that DPI&F implements the research priorities identified in the <i>East Coast Trawl Fishery Five Year Research Plan</i> in particular those that relate to the RIBTF. While DEWHA acknowledges that funding and resource constraints will ultimately define which projects are implemented over the life of the declaration DPI&F are encouraged to</p>	<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>DPI&F to implement the research priorities identified in the <i>East Coast Trawl Fishery Five Year Research Plan</i>, strategic and emergent issues as they relate to the RIBTF</p>

	actively seek funding for those projects that are identified as the highest priorities in the research Plan. DEWHA also notes that DPI&F has committed to updating the plan as appropriate as new priorities arise and gaps in information requirements are filled.	
8	<p><u>Collaborative management of shared stocks</u></p> <p>Target species within the RIBTF include banana prawns, greasyback prawns and school prawns. Both school prawns and greasyback prawns are endemic to the east coast of Australia and are found in coastal regions from Victoria to central Queensland. Banana prawns are found in the Indo-Pacific region and occur in all Queensland inshore waters.</p> <p>Although the interrelationship of stocks in the RIBTF and other jurisdictions is uncertain DEWHA consider that fisheries management and research priorities would benefit from a co-operative approach with agencies in other jurisdictions responsible for species harvested within the RIBTF.</p>	<p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>DPI&F to cooperate with other relevant jurisdictions to pursue complementary management and research priorities, which may impact on species harvested in the RIBTF.</p>

Acronyms

BRDs	Bycatch Reduction Devices
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
DEH	Department of Environment and Heritage
DEWHA	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
DPI&F	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
ECOTF	East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery
ECTF	East Coast Trawl Fishery
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EPBC Regulations	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2000
FOP	Fisheries Observer Program
GBRMP	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
GBRWHA	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
LENS	List of Exempt Native Specimen
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PMS	Performance Measurement System
RIBTF	River and Inshore (Beam) Trawl Fishery
T	Tonne
TEDs	Turtle Excluder Devices
the Guidelines	<i>Guidelines for the ecologically sustainable management of fisheries 2nd edition</i>
Trawl Plan	<i>Queensland Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999</i>
WTO	Wildlife Trade Operation