




Ms Maria Mohr
Managing Director
Fisheries Queensland
GPO Box 46
BRISBANE QLD 4001


Dear Ms Mohr

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in relation to the reassessment of the Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

In November 2011, Fisheries Queensland provided an application to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities seeking continued export approval for this fishery.

The application has been assessed for the purposes of the protected species provisions of Part 13 and the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act. In considering this application, I have taken into account measures that have been developed by Fisheries Queensland in response to conditions and recommendations made in the 2009 assessment of the fishery.

I am pleased to advise that assessment of the Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery is now complete. The new assessment report will be available on the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities' website at:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/qld/river-beam-trawl/index.html>.

I consider that the management arrangements for the Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery meet most of the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*. Given the management arrangements currently in place, which include limited entry, vessel and gear restrictions, permanent closures, in possession limits for bycatch species, a reviewable performance management system, and mandatory use of bycatch reduction devices, I am satisfied that the operation of the fishery remains consistent with the objects of the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act. I am also satisfied that the operation of the fishery over the period of the declaration as an approved wildlife trade operation is unlikely to be detrimental to the survival or conservation status of any taxon to which the fishery operation relates, or threaten any relevant ecosystem.

Accordingly, I have decided to declare the Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery an approved wildlife trade operation for three years, until 10 April 2015. The declaration will be subject to the conditions at **Attachment A**.

Officers from Fisheries Queensland and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities have discussed key areas requiring ongoing attention. While there are some environmental risks associated with this fishery, I believe that Fisheries Queensland is committed to addressing these issues and has already taken proactive measures.

Fisheries Queensland and the department's officers have agreed to additional recommendations (**Attachment B**) to be implemented before the next Australian Government assessment of the fishery.

The management regime for the River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery was first accredited under Part 13 of the EPBC Act in February 2006. The management regime was re-accredited:

- in April 2008 following the replacement of the Queensland *Fisheries Regulation 1995* with the Queensland *Fisheries Regulation 2008*, and
- in December 2010 following the replacement of the Queensland *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* with the Queensland *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 2010*.

I am satisfied that it continues to be unlikely that fishing operations conducted in accordance with the current management regime for the fishery will adversely affect the survival or recovery in nature of listed threatened species, or adversely affect the conservation status of listed migratory species, cetaceans or listed marine species. I also consider that under the current management regime, operators are required to take all reasonable steps to avoid the killing or injuring of species listed under Part 13 of the EPBC Act. I have therefore re-accredited the management regime for the Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery under Part 13 of the EPBC Act.

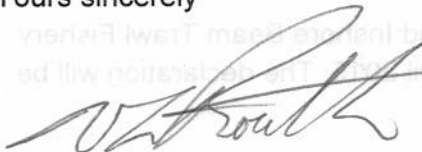
Accreditation of the management regime under Part 13 of the EPBC Act will ensure that individual fishers operating in accordance with the current management arrangements are not required to seek permits if they are at risk of killing or injuring listed species in Commonwealth waters.

Please note that my decisions under the EPBC Act relate to the management arrangements for the Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery in force at the time of the assessment decision. To ensure that the decisions remain valid, the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities needs to be advised of any intended changes 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 decisions. This includes legislated amendments and operational changes that may affect the sustainability of the target species or negatively impact on byproduct, bycatch, protected species or the ecosystem.

I would like to thank you for the constructive way in which your officials have approached this assessment.

As the River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery operates within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, I have copied this letter to Dr Russell Reichelt, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, for his information.

Yours sincerely



Nigel Routh
Delegate of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
Marine Division

16/4 April 2012

**Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the
Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery, April 2012**

1. Operation of the Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the Queensland *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 2010* in force under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland *Fisheries Regulations 2008*.
2. Fisheries Queensland will advise the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities of any intended change to the Queensland River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery's management arrangements that could affect the assessment against the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are based.
3. Fisheries Queensland to produce and present reports to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities annually as per Appendix B to the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.

Recommendations to Fisheries Queensland on the ecologically sustainable management of the River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery.

1. Fisheries Queensland to:
 - finalise and publish the outcomes of the southern Queensland trawl fisheries ecological risk assessment, and
 - ensure that any unacceptable risks to bycatch identified through the risk assessment are mitigated.

2. Taking into account all available relevant information, Fisheries Queensland to ensure that the performance indicators, performance measures and management responses for the River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery in the *Performance Measurement System for the East Coast Trawl Fishery* are:
 - underpinned by robust estimates of effort, retained catch and discarded catch
 - risk based, and
 - capable of identifying when a management response is needed to maintain the ecological sustainability of the fishery, with particular reference to target and bycatch species.