



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Water Resources

Assessment of the
Coral Sea Fishery

NOVEMBER 2007

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This document is an assessment carried out by the Department of the Environment and Water Resources of a commercial fishery against the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries*. It forms part of the advice provided to the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources on the fishery in relation to decisions under Parts 10, 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 and Water Resources or the Australian Government.

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Table 1: Summary of the Coral Sea Fishery

<p>Publicly available information relevant to the fishery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i> (the FM Act) • <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i> • <i>Coral Sea Fishery – Annual Management Arrangements Booklet</i> • Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) – <i>Fishery Status Reports 2006</i> • Department of the Environment and Heritage – <i>Assessment of the Coral Sea Fishery, October 2004.</i>
<p>Area</p>	<p>The Coral Sea Fishery (CSF) lies east of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP) and extends to the edge of the Australian Fishing Zone; it extends north from Sandy Cape, Fraser Island, to Cape York but excludes the area of the Coringa-Herald and Lihou Reef National Nature Reserves, an area spanning approximately 17,000 square kilometres.</p> <p>A Marine Bioregional Plan is currently in preparation for the East Marine Region, which includes more than 2.4 million square kilometres of ocean from the northern reaches of the Coral Sea, south into the Tasman Sea. The Region also includes waters around Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island, but not the area around the Great Barrier Reef. The timeframe for delivery of the Regional Profile for the East Marine Region (the first step in the development of a Marine Bioregional Plan) is March 2008, and a Draft Marine Bioregional Plan with a candidate network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is due to be delivered in March 2009.</p> <p>The Regional Profile will describe the Region's key habitats, species, natural processes, heritage values and human uses. The Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW) is working with the major scientific institutions in the Region and with those that hold key data to bring together and evaluate this information. This information will be published in the Regional Profile in a way that everyone can access and understand. The Profile will also contain economic and social information about the Region, particularly as it relates to the marine environment. The Profile will not contain specific proposals for conservation measures nor for MPAs. It will, however, include details about the process and criteria for identifying MPAs. It will also identify the major features, habitat types or ecosystems that will be considered for representation in the MPA network. The MPA network will be developed over the next two stages (the Draft and Final Marine Bioregional Plan).</p> <p>There will be consultation with major stakeholder groups at key points in the planning process, as well as formal public consultation on the Draft Plan as required under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act).</p> <p>Further information on the development of the Marine Bioregional Plan is available on the DEW website at http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/east/index.html</p>
<p>Fishery status</p>	<p>The 2006 BRS Fishery Status Report for the CSF states that the stock status of black teatfish, white teatfish, surf redfish, prickly redfish, sandfish and other species of sea cucumber is uncertain. It also reports</p>

	<p>that the stock status of the Aquarium, Line and Trawl, and Lobster and Trochus Sectors is uncertain.</p> <p>In 2002, an assessment examining logbook data and catch rates from 2000 and 2001 for a number of target species in the CSF Sea Cucumber Sector showed a decline in the number of the higher valued black teatfish, prickly redfish and white teatfish. Following the assessment results and recommendations, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) reduced the annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for black and white teatfish to 1 tonne (t) and 4 t respectively in 2002. In addition, a rotational harvesting strategy was introduced in July 2005.</p> <p>AFMA is developing a Harvest Strategy for the CSF for implementation in 2008. This Harvest Strategy may introduce additional trigger limits, 'move on' provisions and spatial management measures. These are planned to provide the opportunity for the fishery to expand in a controlled fashion.</p> <p>There have been no other stock assessments undertaken in the CSF since 2002. Development of an indicator of stock status for the Sea Cucumber Sector (as recommended by DEW) is currently being considered with the Scientific Advisory Group – HarvestSAG. Analyses of catch rates together with estimates of sea cucumber habitat from recent reef mapping initiatives may be useful for estimating sea cucumber stock size and relative stock status in the CSF. This approach is currently being developed for the adjoining sea cucumber fishery in the GBRMP.</p>
<p>Target Species</p>	<p>The CSF targets a wide range of species. Analyses of AFMA logbook data revealed at least 183 different species taken by the CSF between 1998 and 2007.</p> <p>All permits in the CSF prohibit the taking or carrying of the following tuna and tuna like species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fish of the family Scombridae except fish of the genera <i>Scomberomorus</i>, <i>Scomber</i>, <i>Acanthocybium</i>, <i>Grammatorcynus</i> and <i>Rastrelliger</i> (commonly known as mackerels); and • fish of the families Istiophoridae and Xiphiidae (commonly known as billfish). • fish of the family Bramidae (commonly known as pomfrets or ray's bream). <p><u>Line and Trap Sector</u></p> <p>This sector targets tropical snappers (Lethrinidae or Lutjanidae) and emperors (Lutjanidae), coral trout (<i>Plectropomus leopardus</i>) and jobfish (Lutjanidae, subfamily Etelinae). Individual operators also target other species depending on the specific location and method being used.</p> <p><u>Trawl and Trap Sector</u></p> <p>There has been little effort in this sector. Effort has typically been exploratory in nature with operators trialling different nets, locations and water depths. Consequently there is high variability in catch levels</p>

	<p>and species composition between fishing trips.</p> <p><u>Fish Trapping</u></p> <p>Fish traps are used by the Line and Trap and Trawl and Trap Sectors, targeting trout cod, trevally, red emperor, rosy jobfish/king snapper, goldband snappers, redthroat emperor, Japanese sea bream, sea bream snapper, coral trout, samsonfish, amberjack, golden-eyed jobfish, long nose emperor, grass emperor, spangled emperor and red-eared emperor.</p> <p><u>Sea Cucumber Sector</u></p> <p>This sector targets a number of species including amberfish (<i>Theleota anax</i>), blackfish (probably <i>Actinopynga miliaris</i>), black teatfish (<i>Holothuria whitmaei</i>), greenfish (<i>Stichopus chloronotus</i>), lollyfish (<i>Holothuria atra</i>), prickly redfish (<i>Theleota ananas</i>), sandfish (<i>Holothuria scabra</i>), surf redfish (<i>Actinopyga mauritiana</i>), white teatfish (<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>), deepwater redfish (<i>Actinopyga echinites</i>), elephant's trunk fish (<i>Holothuria fuscopunctata</i>) and curry fish (<i>Stichopus hermanni</i>).</p> <p><u>Aquarium Sector</u></p> <p>Operators target ornamental reef fish species from the Class Chondrichthyes (cartilaginous fishes) and Osteichthyes (bony fishes) except for tuna and tuna-like species. There are over 100 different species that are harvested for the Aquarium Sector, but the majority of the harvest consists of damselfish, butterflyfish, angelfish, wrasse, anemone fish, surgeonfish, blennies and gobies. Species targeted vary over time as a response to changing market demands.</p> <p>Live rock (limestone covered with living coralline algae and other encrusting species) is also collected by hand or use of hand-held, non-mechanical implements.</p> <p><u>Lobster and Trochus Sector</u></p> <p>There has been little effort or catch in this sector.</p> <p>The main trochus species in the CSF is probably not <i>Trochus niloticus</i>, but may be a related species, <i>Tectus pyramis</i>, which is smaller and has a lower value than <i>T. niloticus</i>.</p> <p>The Lobster Sector targets <i>Panulirus ornatus</i> and <i>P. versicolor</i> and to a lesser degree <i>P. pennisiulatus</i>.</p>
<p>Byproduct Species</p>	<p>The CSF is an opportunistic fishery targeting a wide range of species. The Line, Trap, and Trawl Sectors target a wide range of species and there is no clear distinction between target and byproduct species in these sectors.</p> <p>There is no byproduct in the Sea Cucumber, Aquarium, or Lobster and Trochus Sectors due to the hand collection method used.</p>
<p>Gear</p>	<p><u>Line and Trap Sector (9 permits)</u></p> <p>Permits allow the use of demersal longline, setline, dropline and trotline methods. Permit conditions aim to minimise interactions with protected</p>

	<p>species and include the use of Tori lines, hook and depth limits and Observer coverage.</p> <p><u>Trawl and Trap Sector (2 permits)</u></p> <p>Demersal and midwater otter board trawl gear is used in this sector to target bony fish and crustaceans.</p> <p><u>Demersal finfish traps (trap provisions included on all Line and Trap, and Trawl and Trap permits)</u></p> <p>Fish traps are devices which fish enter voluntarily but from which they are prevented in some way from escaping. Fish are enticed into the trap either by bait or because the trap appears to provide some sort of refuge.</p> <p><u>Sea Cucumber (Beche-de-mer) Sector (2 permits)</u></p> <p>Collection of beche-de-mer may only be done by hand with, or without the use of SCUBA diving equipment.</p> <p><u>Aquarium Sector (2 permits)</u></p> <p>Aquarium Sector permits allow operators to use either their hands, barbless hook and line, cast nets and seine nets and/or scoop nets for herding and catching fish. SCUBA diving equipment may also be used. Gear restrictions are in place for this sector and the use of chemicals for taking fish is prohibited. Live rock may be collected by hand or by using hand held non-mechanical implements.</p> <p><u>Lobster and Trochus Sector (3 permits)</u></p> <p>Lobster and Trochus Sector permits allow hand collection with or without the use of SCUBA diving equipment.</p>
Season	There are no seasonal closures in the CSF.
Commercial harvest	Catch data is collected for the CSF via logbooks. These are verified by a combination of catch disposal records and Observer coverage for most sectors. Catch data for the CSF has been supplied to DEW for the purposes of this assessment. The small number of operators in the CSF prevents the public release of this data under AFMA's confidentiality policy.
Value of commercial harvest	The small number of operators in the CSF prevents the public release of this data under AFMA's confidentiality policy.
Take by other sectors	<p><u>Commonwealth fisheries</u></p> <p>The Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, Eastern Skipjack Tuna Fishery and the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery all overlap the CSF area. These fisheries operate in pelagic waters targeting tuna and tuna-like species. All CSF concessions are prohibited from targeting or being in possession of tuna or tuna-like species. The Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery and Southern Squid Jig Fishery are adjacent to the southern bounds of the CSF; and the Torres Strait fisheries bound areas of waters to the north of the CSF.</p>

	<p><u>State fisheries</u></p> <p>A number of commercial fisheries operate in Queensland waters adjacent to the western bounds of the CSF.</p> <p><u>Recreational/ Charter fisheries</u></p> <p>Recreational anglers fish in the same waters as occupied by the CSF. As the CSF lies some distance from the coast and outside the Great Barrier Reef, most recreational fishing is undertaken by charter fishing operators.</p> <p>Recreational catch is relatively small and appears to be well managed by Queensland. AFMA is discussing with Queensland fisheries managers the possibility of taking recreational catch into account when looking at the TAC for species caught in the CSF.</p> <p><u>Indigenous fishing</u></p> <p>Due to the CSF's distance from the coastline, the level of indigenous fishing is thought to be minimal or non-existent.</p> <p><u>Illegal fishing</u></p> <p>All AFMA licensed vessels in the CSF must operate Integrated Computer Vessel Monitoring System (ICVMS) to allow AFMA to monitor their activity. There is no evidence of illegal harvesting by CSF or other fishing vessels.</p>
<p>Commercial licences issued</p>	<p>Fishing permits are granted under section 32 of the FM Act. CSF permits are granted for the duration of the financial year (1 July – 30 June). There are a total of 18 fishing permits issued across the five sectors of the CSF (9 Line and Trap, 2 Trawl and Trap, 3 Lobster and Trochus, 2 Aquarium and 2 Sea Cucumber). Each permit includes conditions specific to the sector to which it relates.</p>
<p>Management arrangements</p>	<p>The FM Act provides the overarching legal framework for the management of the CSF.</p> <p>The CSF has been managed in accordance with the <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2004/05</i> and is now to be managed in accordance with the <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i>. This Statement of Management Arrangements provides the overarching management policy for the CSF.</p> <p>AFMA prepares an annual management arrangements booklet. This booklet provides a detailed outline of the management arrangements and permit conditions in place for the fishery and highlights any changes that have occurred in the CSF since the previous fishing season. The provisions of the FM Act and the Statement of Management Arrangements are taken into account in considerations about any changes to management arrangements and conditions. The annual management arrangements booklet is made available on the AFMA website.</p> <p>Each permit includes conditions specific to the sector to which it relates. Permit conditions may include limits on the number of persons able to</p>

	<p>fish under the permit at any time, gear restrictions, species size limits, trigger limits, TACs and spatial controls. Permits provide the legal mechanism for establishing and enforcing the management arrangements specific to this fishery and to each fishing sector. Permits are also subject to certain statutory conditions set out in section 32(5) of the FM Act in addition to the conditions specified in the permit.</p> <p><u>Changes to management arrangements</u></p> <p>The following changes have been made to management arrangements and permit conditions for the CSF since the last Strategic Assessment of the fishery in 2004.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of rotational harvesting arrangements in CSF Sea Cucumber Sector permit conditions. A reef may only be fished one year in three with a maximum number of 144 fishing days undertaken at identified reefs over each 3 year period. These arrangements spread fishing effort over a wider area to minimise the potential for localised stock depletion; • inclusion of the take of live rock as an ongoing condition in CSF Aquarium Sector permits, subject to a catch limit; • compulsory carrying and operation of ICVMS on nominated fishing vessels for all sectors; • inclusion of demersal finfish trapping in CSF Line and Trap and Trawl and Trap Sector permits as an ongoing condition; • removal from the conditions for all CSF permits of the requirement for permit holders to undertake a minimum number of fishing days each year; • option for permit holders with trap entitlements to apply to AFMA to reduce the Observer coverage from every fourth trip to every eighth trip after 1,000 trap lifts; and • option for permit holders trialling automatic or random baiting on a Line and Trap permit to apply to AFMA to have Observer coverage reduced to 1 in 8 trips, with a minimum coverage of at least 10% of hooks set annually once a minimum of 100,000 hook sets has been observed by an AFMA Observer. <p>AFMA is currently developing a Harvest Strategy for the CSF, which is expected to include additional trigger points, decision rules and processes for the setting of TACs. Catch limits will trigger management actions in the Line, Trap and Trawl Sectors and ensure these resources are managed sustainably, consistent with the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy.</p>
Export	<p>Aquarium fish have been exported to the USA, Japan, Germany and China (Hong Kong).</p> <p>Finfish taken by the Trawl Sector have also been exported to Spain and Japan and prawns (also by trawl) to Spain.</p>
Bycatch	<p>The CSF is an opportunistic fishery targeting a wide range of species. Bycatch in the CSF is recorded using logbooks and through Observer coverage. Less commercially valuable species are discarded. Data on</p>

	<p>discarded species is limited for most sectors in the CSF, however good quality data is available relating to the demersal finfish trapping method.</p> <p>The Lobster and Trochus, Aquarium, and Sea Cucumber Sectors employ methods which are highly selective and able to avoid bycatch species.</p> <p>The Line and Trap, and Trawl and Trap Sectors target a wide range of species and there is no clear distinction between target and bycatch species in these sectors. Trawl and Trap Sector operators have been required to use nets with a specified minimum mesh diameter to limit bycatch and utilise a Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) when trawling for crustaceans.</p> <p>In the Demersal Finfish Trap Sector, Observers participated in 14 trips and observed 5160 trap sets (27%) between 1 July 2004 and 1 January 2007. The discard rate covering the full trap trial period was 15.3% of the number of fish caught by number. Eighty-five percent of this discarded catch was red bass (<i>Lutjanus bohar</i>) which is released due to risk of ciguatera toxin. Much of the red bass is released in a live and vigorous condition.</p> <p>AFMA is currently developing a CSF bycatch minimisation program as part of the CSF Response to the Ministerial Direction issued in December 2005.</p>
<p>Interaction with Protected Species¹</p>	<p><u>Frequency and nature of interactions</u></p> <p>Catch records for 2005/06 indicated that a small number of Syngnathids had been caught by hand collection methods. The logbooks used were the same as that for an adjoining Queensland fishery where Syngnathids are legally harvested in state waters. On investigation it was determined that records from the Queensland fishery had been confused with entries for the CSF. AFMA wrote to the relevant permit holders on 29 January 2007 advising them that Syngnathids are protected under the EPBC Act and cannot be taken in the CSF without authorisation from DEW.</p> <p>AFMA report in their 2007 submission that very little fishing is undertaken in the CSF and much of this activity utilises methods which are highly specific, such as hand collection. Trawl operations have been infrequent in the fishery and there are only 2 trawl permits. A small number of operators have undertaken regular line and trap fishing trips. Observer coverage applies to trawl, trap and auto longline operations. No interactions with protected species have been reported as part of these operations.</p> <p><u>Management action taken to reduce interactions, and results</u></p> <p>Conditions attached to permits specify measures that must be undertaken by operators to avoid interactions with protected species. These include gear restrictions such as minimum net-mesh size on trawl permits, the use of Tori lines and other provisions aimed at avoiding interactions with sea birds on line permits, and requirements to report</p>

¹ For the purposes of this report 'Protected species' means all species listed under Part 13 of the EPBC Act, including whales and other cetaceans and threatened, marine and migratory species.

	<p>any interactions to AFMA, supported by AFMA Observers.</p> <p>Other than the Syngnathid records, no interactions with protected species in the CSF have been recorded from logbook data or Observer reports.</p>
<p>Ecosystem Impacts</p>	<p><u>Results of the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA)</u></p> <p>For the purposes of the ERA fishing activities in the CSF were divided by method into 8 sub-fisheries, with 8 separate ERAs completed to Level 1 in 2006, involving a qualitative assessment of risks. Subsequent assessments will evaluate the identified risks and develop measures to address these risks, where necessary. A Level 2 ERA is expected to be completed by 2008.</p> <p>Level 1 ERA Results</p> <p>Aquarium sub-fishery</p> <p>Assessment was carried out using a species list which included Great Barrier Reef aquarium collection species. The species list included species beyond the present CSF catches, in particular, coral and invertebrate species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translocation of species as a result of fishing activities was identified as a hazard within each of the 4 components assessed (target, Threatened, Endangered and Protected (TEP) species, habitat and community); • anchoring/mooring was identified as a habitat hazard; • other anthropogenic activities were identified as a habitat hazard; and • other fisheries in the region identified as a community hazard. <p>Auto-longline sub-fishery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing capture was identified as a hazard to target, byproduct, habitat and communities components; • fishing activity without capture was identified as a habitat hazard, due to the nature of the gear set and the lack of regeneration information for tropical water habitats; • gear loss without capture was identified as a hazard to species components, with Fishing Activity Reports noting the regular occurrence of gear loss; • translocation of species was identified as a moderate hazard to target, byproduct and TEP components, and a major risk hazard to habitat and community components; • provisioning was identified as a hazard to the TEP component; and • gear loss impact, through the addition of non-biological material, was identified as a hazard to species components. <p>Demersal longline sub-fishery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing capture was identified as a moderate risk to all components; • fishing activity, both with and without capture, was identified as a habitat hazard, due to the nature of the gear set coupled with the lack of age, growth and regeneration information for tropical deep water

habitats;

- translocation of species was identified as a moderate hazard to target, byproduct, TEP and communities components, and a major risk to the habitat component; and
- disturbing physical processes through the activities of fishing itself was assessed as a moderate risk to habitats.

Other line sub-fishery

- Fishing capture was identified as a hazard to all components. This is particularly important given the recent rapid increase in effort in this sector, and the concentration of effort in a limited set of fishing grounds. Coupled with the significant increase in effort for this sector in recent years is a marked decline in catch per unit effort (CPUE) and an apparent shift in the species composition of the catch. These are strong indications that current effort levels may not be sustainable;
- fishing activity without capture was identified as a habitat hazard, due to the nature of the gear set and the lack of regeneration information for tropical water habitats;
- translocation of species was identified as a moderate hazard to target, byproduct, TEP and communities components, and a major risk hazard to the habitat component; and
- discarding was identified as a hazard to byproduct and TEP components.

The need for species validation (particularly for *Lutjanus malabaracus*) has also been highlighted as a future recommendation to ensure accuracy and value to logbook data.

Demersal trawl sub-fishery

- Fishing capture was identified as a hazard to all components. There are indications that current effort levels may not be ecologically sustainable;
- fishing activity, both with and without capture, was identified as a habitat hazard, due to the nature of trawl gear usage coupled with the lack of age, growth and regeneration information for tropical deep-water habitats;
- translocation of species was identified as a high risk to target and byproduct components, and a moderate risk to the community component; and
- disturbing the physical processes through the activities of fishing itself was assessed as a significant risk to habitats.

Demersal finfish trap sub-fishery

- Fishing capture was identified as a hazard to target, byproduct, habitat and community components;
- Fishing activity without capture was identified as a habitat hazard, due to the nature of the gear set and the lack of regeneration information for tropical water habitats;
- translocation of species was identified as a moderate hazard to target, byproduct, and communities components, and a major risk to

	<p>the habitat component;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discarding was identified as a hazard to target and byproduct components; and provisioning was identified as a hazard to target and byproduct components. <p>Lobster and trochus sub-fishery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translocation of species as a result of hull or anchor fouling (moderate but uncertain impact on target and TEP species, habitats and communities). <p>Sea cucumber sub-fishery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about exploitation levels of several target species; and concerns about translocation of species from inshore areas via hull and anchor fouling to offshore areas, impacting on species, habitats and communities. <p>Nature of impacts on the ecosystem</p> <p>Impacts identified by the various ERAs performed for CSF included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> translocation of species; anchoring/mooring and other anthropogenic activities as a habitat hazard; other fisheries in the region as a community hazard; fishing activity with and without capture disturbing physical processes and impacting on habitats and target and byproduct species; gear loss; provisioning (providing food resources) for TEP and other species; discarding as a hazard to target and byproduct species; and concerns regarding exploitation levels of certain species. <p>Management action taken to reduce impacts, and results</p> <p>The ERA process is a three stage process. The first stage (Level 1) is a qualitative assessment which aims to identify all possible risks. The second stage (Level 2) aims to quantify the level of risk. Stage 3 (Level 3) develops models to test management options and mitigate identified risks.</p> <p>The ERA process recognised numerous measures which AFMA are implementing which already mitigate risks identified in the first stage of the process. These measures include a Memorandum of Understanding for fishing exclusion on 5 specified reefs and an initiative to establish permanent moorings in high use areas.</p>
<p>Impacts on CITES species</p>	<p>The assessment also considered the possible impacts on species harvested in the CSF which are listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). As a party to the Convention, Australia must apply all CITES provisions of the EPBC Act to <i>Cheilinus undulates</i> (Maori wrasse) imports and exports as appropriate.</p> <p>Under these provisions, export of CITES specimens may only occur</p>

	<p>where a permit, supported by a non-detriment finding, has been issued by the CITES Management Authority of the country of export. As Part 13A of the EPBC Act incorporates the requirements of CITES, there are no changes to the criteria for export approval, aside from administrative changes to the permits issued. As a result of the listing, specimens of <i>Cheilinus undulates</i> taken from the wild or bred in captivity may only be exported under a CITES permit.</p>
<p>Impacts on World Heritage property</p>	<p>The assessment also considered the possible impacts on the World Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA), which is in close proximity to parts of the western boundary of the CSF. Under the EPBC Act, a person may not take an action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the world heritage values of a declared World Heritage property.</p> <p>DEW considers that the current impact from fishing in the Coral Sea will not significantly impact the listed values of the GBRWHA. Any significant change to existing practices, which is likely to significantly impact on the World Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef, may require approval by the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water Resources.</p> <p>On this basis DEW considers that an action taken by an individual fisher, acting in accordance with the <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i>, would not be expected to have a significant impact on a matter protected under the EPBC Act.</p>

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

Recommendation	Progress	Recommended Action
Conditions		
1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the CSF Statement of Management Arrangements 2004/05.	<p>Met and Ongoing The fishery has been managed in accordance with the statement of management arrangements.</p>	This condition has been met and will continue to apply to the CSF (Condition 1, Table 4).
2. AFMA will inform the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) of any proposed amendment to the management regime for the CSF to enable DEH to evaluate any impacts on the ecological sustainability of the fishery.	<p>Met and Ongoing DEW advised of proposed amendments to the management regime.</p>	<p>AFMA have informed DEW of any changes to the management arrangements for the CSF and the condition will continue to apply to the CSF (Condition 2, Table 4).</p> <p>Changes to the CSF since the last DEW assessment in 2004 are reported in Table 1.</p>
<p>3. Reports to be produced and presented to DEH annually, and to include:</p> <p>a) Information sufficient to allow assessment of the progress of AFMA in implementing the recommendations that relate to the Sea Cucumber Sector of the CSF made in the Assessment of the CSF 2004 (Recommendations 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8);</p>	<p>Met and Ongoing Status of sea cucumber reported in 2004/05 and 2005/06 Annual Reports.</p> <p>Objectives, performance measures and triggers have not been developed but are being further considered in the development of the harvest strategy.</p> <p>There has been no research undertaken in the Sea Cucumber</p>	AFMA has produced and presented annual reports on the CSF to DEW. This condition will continue to apply to the CSF (Condition 3, Table 4).

<p>b) information regarding the status of the Sea Cucumber Sector;</p> <p>c) a statement of the performance of the Sea Cucumber Sector against stated objectives, performance measures and triggers once developed; and</p> <p>d) Research undertaken or completed relevant to the Sea Cucumber Sector.</p>	<p>Sector of the CSF.</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p>		
<p>1. AFMA to inform DEH of any proposed amendment to the management regime for the Coral Sea Fishery to enable DEH to evaluate any impacts on the ecological sustainability of the fishery.</p>	<p>Met and Ongoing DEW has been advised of CSF management changes and has had an observer on the Stakeholder Committee.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been met and will continue to apply to the CSF (Condition 1, Table 4).</p>
<p>2. AFMA to monitor and enforce compliance with spatial and temporal management measures for vessels operating in the fishery, particularly those in the Aquarium Sector where there is no move on provision or ICVMS requirement in place.</p>	<p>Met Each trip is being monitored. AFMA is not aware of any breaches. ICVMS will be required for all sectors from 1 July 2007.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been met.</p>

<p>3. AFMA to ensure that catch information for the Aquarium Sector of the fishery is collected on an ongoing basis to the lowest possible taxonomic level. Where possible, species level data is to be used to inform the ecological risk assessment of the CSF.</p>	<p>Met and Ongoing Each trip is being monitored when required. AFMA is discussing the level of data provided with operators following each trip and there has been some Observer coverage to verify logbook data.</p>	<p>Although this recommendation is still relevant for the CSF, due to the 16 month Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) declaration, this recommendation will be reviewed in the next assessment of the CSF in March 2009.</p>
<p>4. AFMA to continue to cooperate with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F) to pursue complementary management and research of shared stocks for all target and by-product species.</p>	<p>Met and Ongoing Recently developed collaborative measures with the scientific committees associated with the adjoining Queensland fisheries. AFMA has attended Queensland fishery meetings during 2007.</p>	<p>DEW has recommended that AFMA continue to cooperate with QDPI&F to pursue complementary management and research of shared stocks for all target and by-product species (Recommendation 1, Table 4).</p>
<p>5. AFMA to develop operational objectives and catch triggers for all target species in each of the CSF sectors by the end of 2006. Operational objectives and catch triggers for key by-product species or species groups to also be developed for the Line, Trawl and Trap (trial) Sectors by the end of 2006.</p>	<p>In Progress AFMA is committed to implementing a Harvest Strategy framework. Catch triggers are expected to be implemented under the harvest strategy in 2008. Operational objectives and catch triggers are also being considered as part of the ERA process. A sub-group of stakeholders provided advice at Level 1 ERA workshops held in December 2005 and April 2006. The ERA for the CSF is scheduled to be completed by 2008.</p>	<p>DEW has put a condition to the WTO declaration that AFMA develop and finalise the Harvest Strategy for the CSF by 31 July 2008 (Condition 4, Table 4).</p>

<p>6. AFMA to implement management measures to avoid localized or serial depletion of vulnerable species of sea cucumber by the end of 2006.</p>	<p>Met Operators have developed a spatial management approach for the Sea Cucumber Sector. A rotational zoning plan has been implemented through license conditions. The issue of localised or serial depletion will be further considered as part of the harvest strategy development.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been met and will be further considered as part of the Harvest Strategy development (Condition 4, Table 4).</p>
<p>7. Within 3 years, AFMA to develop an indicator of stock status for the Sea Cucumber Sector and establish and implement an ongoing process to determine target species catch limits for the Sea Cucumber Sector based on estimates of total stock size.</p>	<p>In progress Being addressed as part of the Harvest Strategy development. Also to be discussed with the Harvest Scientific Advisory Group (SAG). Management arrangements have established low level TACs for more vulnerable species. Mechanisms for monitoring catch ratios and for estimating populations based on areas of suitable habitat are being assessed for use in this and the adjoining state-managed fishery.</p>	<p>This recommendation will be further considered as part of the Harvest Strategy development (Condition 4, Table 4).</p>
<p>8. AFMA to immediately commence monitoring of all catches including target, by-product and bycatch species or species groups in the Line, Trawl</p>	<p>Met and Ongoing Monitoring on a trip by trip basis. trawl, trap and auto-longlining sectors include compulsory Observer coverage for a</p>	<p>DEW has recommended that AFMA develop performance measures and performance indicators that take account of fishery impacts on bycatch species, protected species and the ecosystem for all sectors of the CSF by 31 December 2008 (Recommendation 2, Table 4).</p>

<p>and Trap (trial) Sectors. AFMA to consider any trends in this catch information as part of the Ecological Risk Assessment process and develop management responses as appropriate.</p>	<p>proportion of the trips.</p>	
<p>9. AFMA to develop objectives that take explicit account of fishery impacts on bycatch species, protected species and the ecosystem for the Line, Trawl and Trap (trial) Sectors by the end of 2006. Objectives that take explicit account of fishery impacts on the ecosystem to also be developed for the Trochus and Lobster, Aquarium and Sea Cucumber Sectors of the CSF by the end of 2006.</p>	<p>In progress AFMA's "Response to Ministerial Direction – CSF" includes objectives to minimise bycatch and manage the broader environmental impacts of fishing, including minimising interactions with TEP species. The CSF plans to develop a bycatch reduction workplan in 2007 in consultation with stakeholders and the relevant Queensland SAGs under AFMA's bycatch minimisation program. The broader environmental impacts of fishing, including minimising interactions with TEP species, are expected to be addressed as part of the ERA process. Stakeholders have provided advice at an ERA workshop. The ERA for the CSF is scheduled to be completed by 2008. Fishery impacts on the ecosystem</p>	<p>The ERA for the CSF has been completed to Level 1. The Level 2 ERA for the CSF is expected to be completed by 2008. DEW has put a condition to the WTO declaration for AFMA to finalise the ERA for the CSF. AFMA to then identify and implement appropriate management responses to address and mitigate risks and impacts identified in the ERA.</p>

	<p>for the hand collection sectors are being address in the ERA and Harvest Strategy.</p>	
<p>10. Within two years of completion of the ERA, AFMA to identify and implement appropriate management strategies to address/mitigate impacts identified through the Ecological Risk Assessment of the CSF.</p>	<p>In progress The ERA has been completed to level 1. The level 2 ERA for the CSF is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2008.</p>	<p>DEW has put a condition to the WTO declaration for AFMA to finalise the ERA for the CSF. AFMA to then identify and implement appropriate management responses to address and mitigate risks and impacts identified in the ERA.</p>

Table 3: The Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW) assessment of the Coral Sea Fishery (CSF) 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 DEW website.

Part 13

<p>Division 1 Listed threatened species Section 208A Minister may accredit plans or regimes</p>	<p>DEW assessment of the CSF</p>
<p>(1) The Minister may, by instrument in writing, accredit for the purposes of this Division:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(d) a regime determined in writing by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority under the <i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i> for managing a fishery for which a plan of management (within the meaning of section 17 of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>) is not in force;</p> <p>if satisfied that:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(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 killed or injured as a result of the fishing; and</p>	<p>The CSF will be managed under <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i>, in force under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>.</p> <p>The Management regime for the CSF was accredited on 12 January 2006. However, the management arrangements for the CSF have significantly changed since this accreditation was granted. Consequently, a new Part 13 declaration is needed.</p> <p>The management regime in force under the <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i>, made under the <i>Commonwealth Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>, requires persons engaged in fishing under the management arrangements to take all reasonable steps to ensure that members of listed threatened species, listed migratory species, cetaceans and listed marine species are not killed or injured as a result of the fishing. Section 33 instruments need to be remade when there is an amendment to the accredited management regime, given they relate to the management</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>arrangements in force at the date of signing the instrument. Therefore a new section 33 instrument is needed.</p> <p>Conditions are attached to the CSF permits, which specify measures that must be undertaken by operators to avoid interactions with protected species. These include gear restrictions such as minimum net-mesh size on trawl permits, the use of Tori lines and other provisions aimed at avoiding interactions with sea birds on line permits, as well as Observer coverage requirements, which apply to trawl, trap and auto longline operations. Given the conditions and legislation in force, DEW considers that all reasonable steps are being taken to prevent the killing or injuring of threatened species and the capture of any threatened species would be incidental to and not the purpose of the operation of the CSF.</p> <p>DEW considers the current operation of the CSF is not likely to adversely affect the survival or recovery in nature of any threatened species. Currently, no interactions with protected species have been reported as part of the CSF operations.</p>
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<p>Division 2 Migratory species Section 222A Minister may accredit plans or regimes</p>	<p>DEW assessment of the CSF</p>
<p>(1) The Minister may, by instrument in writing, accredit for the purposes of this Division:</p> <p>(d) a regime determined in writing by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority under the <i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i> for managing a fishery for which a plan of management (within the meaning of section 17 of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>) is not in force;</p>	<p>The CSF will be managed under <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i>, in force under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>.</p>

<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; and</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>The management regime for the CSF was accredited on 12 January 2006. However, the management arrangements for the CSF have significantly changed since this accreditation was granted. Consequently, a new Part 13 declaration is needed.</p> <p>The management regime in force under the <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i>, made under the <i>Commonwealth Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>, requires persons engaged in fishing under the management arrangements to take all reasonable steps to ensure that members of listed threatened species, listed migratory species, cetaceans and listed marine species are not killed or injured as a result of the fishing. Conditions are attached to the CSF permits, which specify measures that must be undertaken by operators to avoid interactions with protected species. These include gear restrictions such as minimum net-mesh size on trawl permits, the use of Tori lines and other provisions aimed at avoiding interactions with sea birds on line permits, as well as Observer coverage requirements, which apply to trawl, trap and auto longline operations. Operators in the CSF are required to report any interactions to AFMA, supported by AFMA Observers.</p> <p>Section 33 instruments need to be remade when there is an amendment to the accredited management regime, given they relate to the management arrangements in force at the date of signing the instrument. Therefore a new section 33 instrument is needed.</p> <p>DEW considers the current operation of the CSF is not likely to adversely affect the survival or recovery in nature of any listed migratory species. Currently, no interactions with protected species have been reported as part of the CSF operations.</p>
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Division 3 Whales and other cetaceans Section 245 Minister may accredit plans or regimes	DEW assessment of the CSF
<p>(1) The Minister may, by instrument in writing, accredit for the purposes of this Division:</p> <p>(d) a regime determined in writing by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority under the <i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i> for managing a fishery for which a plan of management (within the meaning of section 17 of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>) is not in force;</p> <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>(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>The CSF will be managed under <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i>, in force under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>.</p> <p>The Management regime for the CSF was accredited on 12 January 2006. However, the management arrangements for the CSF have significantly changed since this accreditation was granted. Consequently, a new Part 13 declaration is needed.</p> <p>The management regime in force under the <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i>, made under the <i>Commonwealth Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>, requires persons engaged in fishing under the management arrangements to take all reasonable steps to ensure that members of listed threatened species, listed migratory species, cetaceans and listed marine species are not killed or injured as a result of the fishing. Section 33 instruments need to be remade when there is an amendment to the accredited management regime, given they relate to the management arrangements in force at the date of signing the instrument. Therefore a new section 33 instrument is needed.</p> <p>DEW considers the current operation of the CSF is not likely to adversely affect the conservation status of a species of cetacean or a population of that species. Currently, no interactions with protected species have been reported as part of the CSF operations.</p>

Division 4 Listed marine species Section 265 Minister may accredit plans or regimes	DEW assessment of the CSF
<p>(1) The Minister may, by instrument in writing, accredit for the purposes of this Division:</p> <p>(d) a regime determined in writing by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority under the <i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i> for managing a fishery for which a plan of management (within the meaning of section 17 of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>) is not in force;</p> <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>(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.</p>	<p>The CSF will be managed under <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i>, in force under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>.</p> <p>The management regime for the CSF was accredited on 12 January 2006. However, the management arrangements for the CSF have significantly changed since this accreditation was granted. Consequently, a new Part 13 declaration is needed.</p> <p>The management regime in force under the <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i>, made under the <i>Commonwealth Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>, requires persons engaged in fishing under the management arrangements to take all reasonable steps to ensure that members of listed threatened species, listed migratory species, cetaceans and listed marine species are not killed or injured as a result of the fishing. Section 33 instruments need to be remade when there is an amendment to the accredited management regime, given they relate to the management arrangements in force at the date of signing the instrument. Therefore a new section 33 instrument will be needed.</p> <p>DEW considers the current operation of the CSF is not likely to adversely affect the conservation status of a listed marine species or a population of that species. Currently, no interactions with protected species have been reported as part of the CSF operations.</p>

Section 303AA Conditions relating to accreditation of plans, regimes and policies	DEW assessment of CSF
(1) This section applies to an accreditation of a plan, regime or policy under section 208A, 222A, 245 or 265.	DEW recommends that the CSF be accredited under sections 208A, 222A, 245 and 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>	No condition has been imposed on the CSF to satisfy section 303AA 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	DEW assessment of the CSF
<p>(1) The Minister may, by instrument in published in the Gazette, amend the list referred to in section 303DB (list of exempt native specimens) by:</p> <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 (e) correcting an inaccuracy or updating the name of a species. 	
(1A) In deciding whether to amend the list referred to in section 303DB (list of exempt native specimens) to include a specimen derived from a commercial fishery, the Minister must rely	The CSF was assessed under Part 10 of the EPBC Act in October 2004. In conducting this assessment, DEW considered that actions taken in the fishery would not have an unacceptable or unsustainable

primarily on the outcomes of any assessment in relation to the fishery carried out for the purposes of Division 1 or 2 of Part 10.

impact on the environment in a Commonwealth marine area over a period of 3 years for the Sea Cucumber Sector and 5 years for Trawl, Line, Lobster and Trochus, Aquarium and Trap (trial) Sectors while AFMA implemented recommendations to improve the management of the fishery. Consequently, the draft *Coral Sea Fishery Statement of Management Arrangements 2004/05* was accredited under section 33 of the EPBC Act.

The CSF has been managed in accordance with the *Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2004/05* and is now to be managed in accordance with the *Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007*. This Statement of Management Arrangements provides the overarching management policy for the CSF. The following changes have been made to management arrangements and permit conditions for the CSF since the last Strategic Assessment report was submitted on 5 August 2003:

- inclusion of rotational harvesting arrangements in CSF Sea Cucumber permit conditions. A reef may only be fished one year in three with a maximum number of 144 fishing days undertaken at identified reefs over each 3 year period. These arrangements spread fishing effort over a wider area to minimise the potential for localised stock depletion;
- inclusion of the take of live rock as an ongoing condition in CSF Aquarium Sector permits, subject to a catch limit;
- compulsory carrying and operation of ICVMS on nominated fishing vessels for all sectors;
- inclusion of demersal finfish trapping in CSF Line and Trap Sector and Trawl and Trap Sector permits as an ongoing condition;
- removal from the conditions for all CSF permits of the requirement for permit holders to undertake a minimum number of fishing days each year;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • option for permit holders with trap entitlements to apply to AFMA to reduce the Observer coverage from every fourth trip to every eighth trip after 1,000 trap lifts; and • option for permit holders trialling automatic or random baiting on a Line and Trap permit to apply to AFMA to have Observer coverage reduced to 1 in 8 trips, with a minimum coverage of at least 10% of hooks set annually once a minimum of 100,000 hook sets has been observed by an AFMA Observer. <p>AFMA is currently preparing a Harvest Strategy for implementation in the CSF.</p>
<p>(1C) Subsection (1A) does not limit the matters that may be taken into account in deciding whether to amend the list referred to in section 303DB (list of exempt native specimens) to include a specimen derived from a commercial fishery.</p>	<p>It is not possible to list exhaustively the factors that you may take into account in amending the List of Exempt Native Specimens (LENS). The objects of Part 13A, which are set out below this table, provide general guidance in determining factors that might be taken into account. A matter that is relevant to determining whether an amendment to the list is consistent with those objects is likely to be a relevant factor.</p> <p>DEW considers that the amendment of the list of exempt native specimens to include product taken in the CSF WTO would be consistent with the provisions of Part 13A as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 CSF is unlikely to be unsustainable and threaten biodiversity within the next 16 months; and • the EPBC Regulations 2000 do not specify fish as a class of animal in relation to the welfare of live specimens.
<p>(3) Before amending the list referred to in section 303DB (list of exempt native specimens), the Minister: (a) must consult such other Minister or Ministers as the</p>	<p>DEW considers that the consultation requirements have been met. On</p>

<p>(b) Minister considers appropriate; and must consult such other Minister or Ministers of each State and self-governing Territory as the Minister considers appropriate; and</p> <p>(c) may consult such other persons and organisations as the Minister considers appropriate.</p>	<p>10 August 2004, the Minister wrote to Fisheries Ministers seeking their views on inclusion of WTOs on the Exempt List (see sub 04/1543). Responses in support of the proposal were received from all State, Territory and Commonwealth Fisheries Ministers. The public comment period on the AFMA submission sought comment on the annual reports and submission for the CSF and provided sufficient opportunity for consultation with other persons and organisations.</p> <p>A letter to Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation advises him of the intention to declare the fishery an approved WTO under the EPBC Act.</p>
<p>(5) A copy of an instrument made under section 303DC is to be made available for inspection on the Internet.</p>	<p>The instrument for the CSF made under sections 303DC will be gazetted and made available on the DEW website.</p>
<p>Section 303FN Approved wildlife trade operation</p>	<p>DEW assessment of the CSF</p>
<p>(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>	
<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>The CSF is consistent with objects of Part 13A (listed after this table) as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 CSF is unlikely to be unsustainable and threaten biodiversity within the next 16 months; and • the EPBC Regulations 2000 do not specify fish as a class of animal in relation to the welfare of live specimens. <p>DEW considers that the CSF will not be detrimental to the survival or conservation status of a taxon to which it relates within the next 16</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; 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>months, given the management measures currently in place, which include limits on the number of persons able to fish under the permit at any time, gear restrictions, species size limits, trigger limits, TACs and spatial controls.</p> <p>DEW considers that the CSF will not threaten any relevant ecosystem within the next 16 months, given the management measures currently in place, which include limits on the number of persons able to fish under the permit at any time, gear restrictions, species size limits, trigger limits, TACs and spatial controls.</p> <p>The EPBC Regulations 2000 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 2000.</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>DEW considers that the CSF will not have a significant impact on any relevant ecosystem within the next 16 months, given the management measures currently in place, which include limits on the number of persons able to fish under the permit at any time, gear restrictions, species size limits, trigger limits, TACs and spatial controls.</p> <p>The management arrangements that will be employed for the CSF are likely to be effective. AFMA is currently developing a Harvest Strategy for the CSF, which is expected to include additional trigger points, decision rules and processes for the setting of TACs. These catch limits will trigger management actions for key species in the Line, Trap and Trawl Sectors and ensure these resources are managed sustainably, consistent with the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy</p>

	<p>Policy. Management arrangements in the CSF will be improved through the finalisation of the ERA for the CSF and the identification and implementation of appropriate management responses to address and mitigate risks and impacts identified in the ERA.</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>The CSF will be managed under <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i>, in force under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>.</p> <p>The Commonwealth <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i> applies throughout Commonwealth waters.</p> <p>The management arrangements that will be employed for the CSF are likely to be effective. AFMA is currently developing a Harvest Strategy for the CSF, which is expected to include additional trigger points, decision rules and processes for the setting of TACs. These catch limits will trigger management actions for key species in the Line, Trap and Trawl Sectors and ensure these resources are managed sustainably, consistent with the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy.</p> <p>Management arrangements in the CSF will be improved through the finalisation of the ERA for the CSF and the identification and implementation of appropriate management responses to address and mitigate risks and impacts identified in the ERA.</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 CSF is a commercial fishery.</p>
<p>(10A) In deciding whether to declare that a commercial fishery is an approved wildlife trade operation for the purposes of this section, the Minister must rely primarily on the outcomes of any assessment</p>	<p>The CSF was assessed under Part 10 of the EPBC Act in October 2004. In conducting this assessment, DEW considered that actions taken in the fishery would not have an unacceptable or</p>

in relation to the fishery carried out for the purposes of Division 1 or 2 of Part 10.

unsustainable impact on the environment in a Commonwealth marine area over a period of 3 years while AFMA implemented recommendations to improve the management of the fishery. Consequently, the draft *Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2004/05* was accredited under section 33 of the EPBC Act.

The CSF has been managed in accordance with the *Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2004/05* and is now to be managed in accordance with the *Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007*. This Statement of Management Arrangements provides the overarching management policy for the CSF.

The following changes have been made to management arrangements and permit conditions for the CSF since the last Strategic Assessment report was submitted on 5 August 2003:

- inclusion of rotational harvesting arrangements in CSF sea cucumber permit conditions. A reef may only be fished one year in three with a maximum number of 144 fishing days undertaken at identified reefs over each 3 year period. These arrangements spread fishing effort over a wider area to minimise the potential for localised stock depletion;
- inclusion of the take of live rock as an ongoing condition in CSF Aquarium Sector permits, subject to a catch limit;
- compulsory carrying and operation of ICVMS on nominated fishing vessels for all sectors;
- inclusion of demersal finfish trapping in CSF Line and Trap Sector and Trawl and Trap Sector permits as an ongoing condition;
- removal from the conditions for all CSF permits of the requirement for permit holders to undertake a minimum number of fishing days each year;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • option for permit holders with trap entitlements to apply to AFMA to reduce the Observer coverage from every fourth trip to every eighth trip after 1,000 trap lifts; and • option for permit holders trialling automatic or random baiting on a Line and Trap permit to apply to AFMA to have Observer coverage reduced to 1 in 8 trips, with a minimum coverage of at least 10% of hooks set annually once a minimum of 100,000 hook sets has been observed by an AFMA Observer. <p>AFMA is currently developing a harvest strategy for the CSF, which is expected to include additional trigger points, decision rules and processes for the setting of TACs. These catch limits will trigger management actions for key species in the Line, Trap and Trawl Sectors and ensure these resources are managed sustainably, consistent with the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy.</p> <p>Due to the changes to the management arrangements for the CSF since the last DEW assessment in 2004, a new Part 13 declaration is needed. Section 33 instruments need to be remade whether there is an amendment to the accredited management regime, given they relate to the management arrangements in force at the date of signing the instrument. Therefore a new section 33 instrument is also needed.</p>
(10B) Subsection (10A) does not limit the matters that may be taken into account in deciding whether to declare that a fishery is an approved wildlife trade operation for the purposes of this section.	
Section 303FR Public consultation	DEW assessment of the CSF
(1) Before making a declaration under section 303FN, the Minister must cause to be published on the Internet a notice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) setting out the proposal to make the declaration; and (b) setting out sufficient information to enable persons and organisations to consider adequately the merits of the proposal; and 	DEW 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 CSF a WTO and included three documents – the <i>Strategic and Export Reassessment Report – Coral Sea Fishery, August 2007</i> , the <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i> ; and the supplementary <i>2007/08 Coral Sea Fishery</i>

(c) inviting persons and organisations to give the Minister, within the period specified in the notice, written comments about the proposal.	<i>Annual Management Arrangements Booklet</i> , were released for public comment which closed on 28 September 2007 with no submissions received.
(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.	A public notice, which set out the proposal to declare the scientific surveys a WTO and included the <i>Strategic and Export Reassessment Report – Coral Sea Fishery, August 2007</i> , the <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i> ; and the supplementary <i>2007/08 Coral Sea Fishery Annual Management Arrangements Booklet</i> were released for public comment on 31 August 2007 and closed on 28 September 2007, a total of 21 business days.
(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.

Section 303FT Additional provisions relating to declarations	DEW assessment of the CSF
(1) This section applies to a declaration made under section 303FN, 303FO or 303FP.	A declaration for the CSF will be made under section 303FN.
(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>(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>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; and • notifying DEW of changes to the management regime; and • annual reporting. <p>It is recommended the standard conditions are applied to the CSF WTO declaration.</p> <p>The WTO instrument for the CSF specifies the 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, 303FO or 303FP or this section is to be made available for inspection on the Internet.	The instrument for the CSF made under sections 303FN and 303FT will be gazetted and made available on the DEW website.
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Part 16

Section 391 Minister must consider precautionary principle in making decisions	DEW assessment of the CSF
(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 must be 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 AFMA for the CSF

The material submitted by AFMA for assessment of the CSF suggests the fishery generally operates in accordance with the Australian Government's *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition*.

There are a total of 18 fishing permits issued across the five sectors of the CSF (9 Line and Trap, 2 Trawl and Trap, 3 Lobster and Trochus, 2 Aquarium and 2 Sea Cucumber). Each permit includes conditions specific to the sector to which it relates.

The FM Act provides the overarching legal framework for the management of the CSF. The CSF has been managed in accordance with the *Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2004/05* and is now to be managed in accordance with the *Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007*. This Statement of Management Arrangements provides the overarching management policy for the CSF.

Each permit includes conditions specific to the sector to which it relates. Permit conditions may include limits on the number of persons able to fish under the permit at any time, gear restrictions, species size limits, trigger limits, TACs and spatial controls.

Despite the management arrangements in place in the CSF, the limited number of operators and its geographical isolation, DEW has identified a number of risks and uncertainties that must be managed to ensure impacts are minimised:

- The lack of a finalised Harvest Strategy setting in place monitoring programs, trigger points, decision rules and processes for the setting of TACs, to ensure that target and by-product species are harvested sustainably in line with the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy;
- the need for the Level 2 ERA to be finalised to enable the implementation of management strategies to address and mitigate impacts identified;
- the need to continue to cooperate with QDPI&F to pursue complementary management and research of shared stocks for all target and by-product species;
- while bycatch in the Aquarium, Sea Cucumber and Lobster and Trochus Sectors is not considered an issue due to the selective hand collection fishing methods used, the information and management regarding bycatch in the Line, Trap and Trawl Sectors is limited. There is a need for AFMA to minimise bycatch and discards in the Line, Trap and Trawl Sectors of the CSF; and
- the need for AFMA to manage compliance risks in the fishery, including: illegal fishing by unlicensed operators and fishing by licensed operators contrary to specified permit conditions. Illegal fishing by licensed operators could potentially include fishing in excess of allocated quota, non-compliance with size and gear restrictions and contravention of rotational harvest plans and spatial closures.

There are many species targeted in the CSF, and for most species there is very little known. There is a need for data collection and stock assessment information in the CSF and DEW recognise the need for a strategic research plan. The Coral Sea region is predominantly a sparse collection of seamount-type atoll reefs, supporting relatively isolated and depauperate faunas. There is therefore, a real risk of selective depletion of target species (and possibly by-product species). Recruitment dynamics to these isolated reefs are unknown, and recovery from depletions might be far slower than they would be on the Great Barrier Reef. However, the CSF is remote and research and assessments will be costly to undertake. Therefore, at present DEW believe the focus for the CSF should be on the finalisation and implementation of the Harvest Strategy

and ERA. The lack of a strategic research plan will be addressed in more detail in the next assessment of the CSF.

AFMA report that there is much latent effort in the line, trawl and finfish trap trial sectors. A small number of boats are used and previously, the licences were rotated in order to meet minimum fishing day requirements (the 20 day minimum fishing days for permit holders has now been removed). There are uncertainties with stock status for all sectors and there is a need for stock assessment data program linked to a risk management approach, which will hopefully be addressed as part of the Harvest Strategy development.

The management regime is considered unlikely to have an unacceptable or unsustainable impact on the environment in the short term. DEW is satisfied that the CSF will not be detrimental to the survival or conservation status of the taxa to which they relate in the short term. Similarly, they are not likely to threaten any relevant ecosystem in the short term. To minimise the risks in the longer term, recommendations listed in Table 4 have been made.

DEW considers that, due to: the lack of a finalised Harvest Strategy for the CSF target and by-product species or interim TACs for the Trawl, Trap, Aquarium and Line Sectors; the need for the Level 2 ERA to be finalised to enable the implementation of management strategies to address and mitigate impacts identified, the potential for the Sea Cucumber Sector to be overfished and the high levels of bycatch and discards in the Line, Trawl and Trap Sectors, a 16 month WTO declaration is appropriate for the CSF to enable AFMA to finalise and implement the CSF's Harvest Strategy and management responses to the ERA.

Conditions and recommendations are provided in Table 4 with a brief explanation of the related issue/intent. Unless a specific time frame is provided in the recommendation, each recommendation must be addressed within the life of the declaration (16 months).

DEW 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. DEW 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 interaction under current fishing operations is low.

The management regime for the CSF was accredited on 12 January 2006. However, the management arrangements for the CSF have significantly changed since this accreditation was granted. The CSF is now to be managed under the *Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007*. DEW believe that the new Statement of Management Arrangements for the CSF continue to provide for the CSF to be managed in an ecologically sustainable way. DEW therefore believes it appropriate to accredit the new management regime for the fishery under Part 13 of the EPBC Act.

Table 4: Coral Sea Fishery Assessment– Summary of Issues and Recommendations November 2007

	Issue	Conditions and Recommendations
1.	<p><u>General Management</u> Export decisions relate to the arrangements in force at the time of the decision. In order to ensure that these decisions remain valid, DEW 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 amendments that may affect sustainability of the target species or negatively impact on by-product, bycatch, protected species or the ecosystem.</p>	<p>Condition 1: Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the CSF management regime made under <i>Statement of Management Arrangements, Coral Sea Fishery 2007</i>, in force under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>.</p> <p>Condition 2: The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) to inform the Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW) of any intended amendments to the management arrangements that may affect the criteria on which <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) decisions are based.</p>
2.	<p><u>Annual Reporting</u> It is important that reports be produced and presented to DEW annually in order for the performance of the fishery and progress in implementing the recommendations 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 <i>Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition</i> 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 protected species, impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem in which it operates and progress in implementing DEW recommendations. Electronic copies of the</p>	<p>Condition 3: AFMA to produce and present reports to DEW annually as per Appendix B to the <i>Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition</i>.</p>

	<p>Guidelines are available from the DEW website at http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/publications/guidelines.html</p>	
3.	<p><u>Development of fishery specific objectives, indicators and targets</u></p> <p>Recommendations 5 and 9 from the 2004 DEW assessment of the CSF required AFMA to develop operational objectives for all target species in each of the CSF sectors by the end of 2006. Operational objectives and catch triggers for key by-product species or species groups to also be developed for the Line, Trawl and Trap Sectors by the end of 2006. AFMA is committed to implementing a Harvest Strategy Framework. Catch triggers are expected to be implemented under the Harvest Strategy in 2008.</p> <p>Operational objectives and catch trigger limits are also being considered as part of the ERA process. A sub-group of stakeholders provided advice at level one ERA workshops held in December 2005 and April 2006. The ERA for the CSF is scheduled to be completed by the end 2007.</p> <p>There are many species targeted in the CSF, and for most species there is very little known and there is a need for stock assessment data. Currently, the only sectors that have TACs are the Sea Cucumber Sector and the Lobster and Trochus Sector. The current TAC for the Sea Cucumber Sector is quite high and current levels of take are well below the current TAC. Therefore, a review of the TAC for the Sea Cucumber Sector is needed to determine whether the TAC is at an appropriate level to ensure the take of sea cucumber in the CSF is sustainable.</p> <p>The ERA identified the recent rapid increase in effort and the concentration of effort in a limited set of fishing grounds as a risk in the Line Sector. Coupled with the significant increase in effort for the “other line” sector in recent years is a marked decline in catch per unit effort, and an apparent shift in the species composition of the catch. These are strong indications that current effort levels may not be sustainable.</p>	<p>Condition 4: AFMA to develop and finalise the Harvest Strategy for the CSF by 31 July 2008.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p><u>ERA risk managed</u> Recommendation 10 from the 2004 DEW assessment of the CSF required AFMA to identify and implement appropriate management strategies to address and mitigate impacts identified through the ERA.</p> <p>The ERA has been completed to level 1. The level 2 ERA for the CSF is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007.</p> <p>DEW believe the biggest risks to the CSF are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the region is predominantly a sparse collection of seamount-type atoll reefs, supporting relatively isolated and depauperate faunas; • the combination of potential selective depletion of target species (and possibly by-product species) and the lack of knowledge regarding recruitment dynamics to these isolated reefs. It is unknown whether recovery from depletions is far slower than on the Great Barrier Reef; • the remoteness of the CSF and the cost associated with attempts to assess the status of the various sectors. Therefore, detecting depletion in a meaningful time frame is difficult. 	<p>Condition 5: By 31 December 2008 AFMA to finalise the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for the CSF. AFMA to then identify and implement appropriate management responses, to address and mitigate risks and impacts identified in the ERA.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Shared stocks</u> Recommendation 4 from the 2004 DEW assessment of the CSF required AFMA to continue to cooperate with QDPI&F to pursue complementary management and research of shared stocks for all target and by-product species.</p> <p>AFMA report that they recently developed collaborative measures with the scientific committees associated with the adjoining Queensland fisheries.</p> <p>Overlapping stocks with Queensland and other Commonwealth fisheries – shared stocks with sectors of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery– blue eye trevalla,</p>	<p>Recommendation 1: AFMA to continue to cooperate with QDPI&F to pursue complementary management and research of shared stocks for all target and by-product species.</p>

	<p>gemfish and alfonsino. Shared stocks with Torres Strait sea cucumber, trochus, prawns and lobster need to be considered by AFMA.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Bycatch and discards in the CSF</u> Information and management regarding bycatch in the Line, Trap and Trawl Sectors is limited, while bycatch in the remaining sectors is not considered an issue due to the selective hand collection fishing methods used.</p> <p>Recommendation 9 from the 2004 assessment of the CSF required the development of objectives of fishery impacts on bycatch species, protected species and the ecosystem. AFMA report that AFMA’s “Response to Ministerial Direction – CSF” includes objectives to minimise bycatch and manage the broader environmental impacts of fishing, including minimising interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species.</p> <p>The CSF plans to develop a bycatch reduction workplan in 2007 in consultation with Stakeholders and the relevant Qld Scientific Advisory Groups under AFMA’s bycatch minimisation program.</p> <p>The broader environmental impacts of fishing, including minimising interactions with threatened and protected species, is expected to be addressed as part of the ERA process, as well as bycatch issues. Stakeholders have provided advice at an ERA workshop. The ERA for the CSF is expected to be completed by the end of 2007. Fishery impacts on the ecosystem for the hand collection sectors are being addressed in the ERA and Harvest Strategy.</p>	<p>Recommendation 2: AFMA to develop performance measures and performance indicators that take account of fishery impacts on bycatch species, protected species and the ecosystem for all sectors of the CSF by 31 December 2008.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Compliance Issues</u> Compliance risks in the fishery identified by AFMA include: illegal fishing by unlicensed operators and fishing by licensed operators contrary to specified permit</p>	<p>Recommendation 3: AFMA to continue monitoring compliance with CSF permit conditions, management arrangements and</p>

conditions. Illegal fishing by licensed operators could potentially include fishing in excess of allocated quota, non-compliance with size and gear restrictions and contravention of rotational harvest plans and spatial closures.

There are potential compliance risks posed by dual jurisdiction aquarium trips regarding live rock (potential quota leakage), protected species and aquarium fish. All product from CSF is transported through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, which poses some multi-jurisdictional compliance risks.

Measures taken to monitor compliance with CSF permit conditions and management arrangements may include:

- patrols by Coastwatch (air and sea) and investigations to ensure vessels operating in the area have the appropriate permits and are complying with the conditions of these permits;
- all sectors of the CSF are required to have an operational ICVMS installed on their fishing vessels, this data is used by AFMA to monitor activity in the fishery and verify other reported data. (Recommendation 2 from the 2004 DEW assessment of the CSF required AFMA to monitor and enforce compliance with spatial and temporal management measures for vessels operating in the fishery, particularly those in the Aquarium Sector where there is no move on provision or ICVMS requirement in place);
- all relevant information about fish taken in the CSF as well as information on bycatch, discards and interactions with protected species must be accurately and fully recorded and submitted in appropriate logbooks. Catch Disposal Records are also required for the Line, Trap, Trawl and Sea Cucumber Sectors;
- catch verification is also supported by prior to landing reports in the Sea Cucumber Sector; prior to departure reports in the Sea Cucumber Sector and also the Aquarium Sector if live rock has been collected; single jurisdiction trips in all sectors; and Observer coverage requirements for auto longlining, demersal finfish trapping and

bycatch and protected species policies and plans. Within 3 months of becoming aware that a breach of the management arrangements has occurred, AFMA to develop a clear timetable for the implementation of appropriate management responses.

trawling; and

- AFMA Fisheries Officers conduct both vessel and fish receiver premise inspections in accordance with section 84 of the FM Act.

Another compliance issue that DEW has highlighted is compliance with the Seabird Threat Abatement Plan (TAP). The Seabird TAP identifies the CSF as one of the 5 fisheries as potential risks to seabirds. To date, no protected species interactions have been reported in the CSF, however there is a need to ensure compliance with the Seabird TAP and as well as all other protected species interaction mitigation measures.

Acronyms

AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
BRD	Bycatch Reduction Device
BRS	Bureau of Rural Sciences
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
CPUE	Catch per Unit Effort
CSF	Coral Sea Fishery
DEH	Department of the Environment and Heritage
DEW	Department of the Environment and Water Resources
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EPBC Regulations	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000</i>
ERA	Ecological Risk Assessment
FM Act	<i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>
GBRMP	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
GBRWHA	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
ICVMS	Integrated Computer Vessel Monitoring System
LENS	List of Exempt Native Specimens
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
QDPI&F	Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
SAG	Scientific Advisory Group
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TAP	Threat Abatement Plan
TEP	Threatened, Endangered and Protected species
WTO	Wildlife Trade Operation