

# Coral Fishery 2011

Progress against SEWPaC conditions and recommendations



© State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, 2012.

The Queensland Government supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of its information. The copyright in this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY) licence.



Under this licence you are free, without having to seek permission from DEEDI, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms.

You must keep intact the copyright notice and attribute the State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation as the source of the publication.

For more information on this licence visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/deed.en>

## Progress in implementing the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) Conditions and Recommendations for the Queensland Coral Fishery.

The Queensland Coral Fishery (QCF) was first assessed by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) in June 2006 under Parts 13 and 13A of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act). It was declared an approved Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) under Part 13A of the EPBC Act.

In April 2009, the QCF was reassessed for the purposes of the protected species provisions of Part 13 and the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act. Four conditions and two recommendations are attached to the WTO approval under Part 13A of the EPBC Act. Details of the progress Fisheries Queensland has made in relation to these conditions and recommendations (as of March 2012) are outlined in this document. The fishery is due to be reassessed in July 2012.

---

### Condition 1

Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the Queensland Coral Fishery (QCF) management arrangements in force under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.

#### Progress: Ongoing

In 2010–11, the operation of the Queensland Coral Fishery was carried out in accordance with the Queensland Coral Fishery management regime in force under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.

### Condition 2

Fisheries Queensland to inform SEWPaC of any intended amendments to the management arrangements that may affect the assessment of the QCF against the criteria on which Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) decisions are based.

#### Progress: Ongoing

The management arrangements for the QCF have not changed in the reporting period 2010–11.

### Condition 3

Fisheries Queensland to produce and present reports to SEWPaC annually as per Appendix B to the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries 2nd Edition*.

#### Progress: Ongoing

Fisheries Queensland publishes Annual Status Reports for this fishery. The reports can be found at [http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/28\\_19497.htm](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/28_19497.htm) As outlined in the recommendations, these reports include information regarding: a description of the fishery; management arrangements in place; research and monitoring outcomes; recent catch data for all sectors of the fishery; status of target stock; interactions with protected species; impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem in which it operates; and information outlining progress in implementing recommendations resulting from the previous accreditation of the fishery.

#### Condition 4

Fisheries Queensland to consult with SEWPaC prior to implementing any changes to the management arrangements for a species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora or EPBC Act listed species.

**Progress:** Ongoing

There have been no changes to management arrangements in the reporting period 2010–11 for a species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora or EPBC Act listed species.

#### Recommendation 1:

Fisheries Queensland to:

- a) continue to investigate finer spatial scale analysis of data if PMS indicators are triggered
- b) investigate methods to improve estimates of recreational take and
- c) factor estimates of recreational take, as well as permitted take under research and other relevant permits, into fishery assessments and management controls to ensure overall catch levels are sustainable.

**Progress:** Ongoing

Fisheries Queensland provides the following in response to Recommendation 1:

- a) Fisheries Queensland conduct finer spatial scale analysis of data where PMS indicators were triggered. In each instance, these investigations have concluded that no further spatial scale analysis has been required.
- b) Fisheries Queensland continues to investigate methods to improve estimates of recreational take. At present there are no data available on the level of recreational harvest of coral species. Fisheries Queensland commenced the next state-wide recreational fishing survey in 2010, using an improved methodology to provide an updated and improved estimate of recreational fishing participation and catch estimates. Previous estimates have been derived using telephone surveys and the fishing diary program, whereas the new approach, a diary-prompter survey, combines the best of both methods. Although the survey is not designed with a separate reporting category for coral, the survey methodology does allow for the reporting of a wider range of species including coral. The results of the survey are due for release in 2012 and will be considered in the review of the Ecological Risk Assessment of the Coral Fishery.
- c) The overall take from both recreational and research sectors are considered to be minimal and present no additional risk to sustainability. Fisheries Queensland issued seven General Fisheries Permits allowing the limited harvest of coral species for research purposes in 2010–11. The permit holders are required to submit annual reports summarising the collection that has occurred within the permit period. These indicate that there was minimal collecting during the reporting period. The harvest is very limited in terms of quantity and is typically concentrated in the vicinity of the research stations.

**Recommendation 2:**

Fisheries Queensland to formalise a data sharing agreement with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

**Progress: Ongoing**

Fisheries Queensland has yet to formalise a data sharing agreement with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, however coordinated long-term monitoring and research and the collection and sharing of marine-based biological, physical, social and economic data has been recognised by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments as a fundamental guiding principle in implementing the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement (2009). In keeping with this principle, there continues to be ongoing close collaboration and sharing of data and information between Fisheries Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the industry peak representative body Pro-Vision Reef as required. For example, this occurred when the Coral Stress Response Plan was triggered in the Keppel region as a result of significant coral bleaching from January to February 2011.

