

Sustainable Fisheries Strategy

2017–2027

Discussion paper

Management review of the coral reef fin fish fishery

Why is a management review needed?

The Queensland Government released the *Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017 – 2027* (the strategy) in June 2017, paving the way for Queensland to have a world-class fisheries management system. The key actions of the strategy and this discussion paper that directly related to the coral reef fin fish fishery (CRFFF) are to:

- implement harvest strategies for all sectors and key species by 2020
- review fishing rules, regulations and access arrangements as part of developing harvest strategies to minimise regulation and ensure rules are clear and practical.

A sustainable CRFFF is important to maintaining a healthy and resilient Great Barrier Reef.

A harvest strategy is a framework that specifies pre-determined management actions for a defined species necessary to achieve agreed ecological, economic and/or social objectives (e.g. how much quota or bag limits should go up or down depending on the biomass of the fish stock).

For more information on Queensland's approach to harvest strategies, see daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/sustainable-fisheries-strategy/harvest-strategy

The management framework in place for the coral reef fin fish fishery is conducive to a harvest strategy approach. Many of the key elements for an effective harvest strategy are in place. For instance, coral trout and red throat emperor are managed at the stock level and there is a total allowable commercial catch managed through individual transferable quotas (ITQ), which can be adjusted up and down in response to stock status. There are recreational possession limits, size limits, seasonal closures and a charter boat licensing system as well.

The purpose of this discussion paper is to review the regulations in place and identify whether there are opportunities to simplify and reduce unnecessary regulations, as well as to flag fishery concerns ahead of the development of the harvest strategy.

As an example, some commercial fishery management arrangements are likely to have exacerbated economic challenges for commercial fishers in recent times. Some input controls still provide effective control such as size limits, whilst others are likely to inhibit industry by over regulating access to the fishery despite quota being the primary management control of commercial catch. Streamlining and reviewing input controls such as maximum vessel size limits could improve profitability and economic efficiency. There are also a number of legacy management regulations, which are no longer relevant or effective and may be inconsistent with the fishery objectives going forward. Having rules for all sectors that are clear,

practical and appropriate will provide greater certainty for commercial fishery and improve the satisfaction of recreational fishers, all of which are key targets under the strategy.

It is important to note that further management measures will be necessary to ensure individual species have appropriate arrangements in place in harvest strategies, which will be released for consultation in the future. There are a number of species important to recreational fishers and that are included in the commercial quota group “other species” (OS) that have biological characteristics that make them vulnerable to fishing pressure. These include being relatively long-lived (i.e. low natural mortality), aggregating to spawn, and having sequential sex changes.

The development of the harvest strategy will be progressed concurrently to the regulatory framework, and changes to the input controls and management arrangements will become operational as appropriate.

About the Coral reef fin fish fishery

The CRFFF operates predominantly in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP) and use a line-only method of fishing. Commercial operators target high-value coral trout for live-export. Coral trout, as well as red throat emperor and a wide range of coral reef species, are also landed as whole chilled product or processed at sea and do not form part of the live-trade market. With an estimated gross value of production of around \$31 million per year, the CRFFF is Queensland’s second most valuable fishery.

Commercial fishing operations generally consist of a number of smaller tender boats (or dories) operating from a larger primary fishing vessel. However, there is a degree of variability within CRFFF, encompassing smaller single vessel operations undertaking day trips through to larger vessels with multiple dories operating over a two-week period.

An RQ fishing symbol (on a commercial harvest fishery licence) allows the licence to hold quota. Unlike the line (L) symbols, it does not have a prescribed fishing area. The RQ symbol places a limit on the number of licences that can access the fishery and that can hold quota. There are approximately 346 RQ symbols.

While the majority of the catch is commercial, the CRFFF also includes a prominent recreational and charter fishing sector. The fishery includes a number of species of significant interest amongst these sectors, coral trout, emperor and tropical snapper species (among others). The popularity of recreational fishing is also reflected in data for the charter fishery. This data shows that 129 charter fishing operators reported catch from the CRFFF during the 2016 period. Over half of this catch (142 tonnes) consisted of fish from the other species (OS) category, followed by red throat emperor (79 tonnes) and coral trout (64 tonnes).

Around 90% of the total catch for coral trout and red throat emperor is taken by the commercial sector, with around 10% of the harvest from recreational and charter fishing. For crimson snapper and saddletail snapper the recreational catch proportion is estimated to be slightly higher at 30% and 20% respectively.

Minimum and maximum size limits apply to all regulated species in the recreational, charter and commercial sectors. Bag limits apply to the recreational and charter sectors with the latter allowed additional limits when on extended charters over a set length of time.

The quota year for commercial fishers runs from 1 July to 30 June each year and the fishery closes for two five-day spawning closures around the new moon in October and November. Since 2014, quota decision rules have set the annual commercial coral trout quota. However, red throat emperor and ‘other species’ quota levels have remained unchanged since their issue in 2004.

Draft fishery objectives – where we want the fishery to be

Fishery objectives are designed to set out the direction and aspirations for the fishery. Effective harvest strategies rely on ecological, social and economic objectives that have been set in consultation with stakeholders to determine what the harvest strategy is trying to achieve. While each fishery is different, the strategy and the *Fisheries Act 1994* (the Act) specify certain policy objectives and targets that must be achieved. Ecological objectives will have priority over socio-economic objectives.

As part of the development of the harvest strategy for this fishery, Fisheries Queensland and the working group are partnering with Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) as part of a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) project to develop a comprehensive triple bottom line (ecological, social and economic) optimal harvest strategy for all stakeholders. As part of the project, the working group has had input into draft fishery and operational objectives. For this fishery, a more formal ranking process will be undertaken as part of the project methodology to finalise the triple bottom line objectives with all fishery stakeholders.

To facilitate this, a comprehensive survey will be developed with the CSIRO project team for all fishery stakeholders to provide input on the objectives. The CSIRO project team will collate the feedback to guide the development of the operational components of a harvest strategy for the fishery.

Management options

The purpose of this discussion paper is to identify whether all the existing management arrangements are appropriate and necessary. **Attachment 4** summarises the current input and management arrangements for the fishery. A range of issues are outlined below along with potential options for management changes for feedback.

Issue 1: Commercial primary vessels are limited to 20 metres

The current maximum commercial vessel size of 20 metres was established in the 1990s and was a primary effort input management mechanism in place at the time. Now that total allowable quota is the primary commercial fishery management tool, restrictions on commercial primary vessel length has limited relevance.

Fisheries Queensland has maximum size limit of 25 metres in the stout whiting and tropical rock lobster fisheries, and these are also quota managed fisheries. Given that vessels over 24 metres require a Master Class 5 qualification to operate under marine safety laws, this may be a logical limit. Permitting larger vessels will provide crew a more comfortable and safer work environment, which may support the retention of quality crew and the ability to carry tenders instead of towing them, and facilitate investment in improved vessels. However, perception of increased ecological and fishery risk posed by larger boats accessing the fishery could concern some stakeholders.

Issue	Options	Matters to consider
Commercial primary vessels are limited to 20 metres.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase the maximum size2. Remove the limit3. Maintain existing limit at 20 metres.	<p>Do you support having a maximum primary vessel limit?</p> <p>Is the existing limit (20 metres) appropriate?</p> <p>If no what size is appropriate? Why?</p>

Issue 2: Commercial tender vessels are limited to a size of seven metres

This is another regulation that may be redundant in an effectively managed commercial quota fishery such as the CRFFF. A larger commercial tender limit may provide opportunities to improve efficiency and allow operators to fish more safely at night and/or target red throat emperor and 'other species'. This may increase 'other species' marketing opportunities, and mean more are available for the domestic and export market. It is important to note that the implementation of vessel tracking will provide better knowledge of commercial fishers' activities that may assist in identifying and managing possible localised depletion issues.

Issue	Options	Matters to consider
Commercial tender vessels are limited to seven metres.	4. Maintain existing rules; 5. Increase maximum size to 10m; 6. Increase maximum size to 10m but require two RQ symbols to be attached to the licence.	Do you support a maximum size for tender vessels? Is the existing size (seven metres) limit appropriate? If no what size is appropriate? Why? If you think the size limit should increase do you think operators should be required to have an additional RQ symbol attached to their licence?

Issue 3: Commercial RQ and L symbols are limited

Despite the introduction of quota management in the CRFFF, the commercial RQ and L (line fishery) symbols have remained limited. When the ITQ system was introduced in the spanner crab fishery, quota became the primary regulatory mechanism and any fisher who purchased a spanner crab quota was entitled to an automatic C2 symbol. There is a need to reduce the complexity of existing CRFFF management arrangements including the removal of duplication and unnecessary barriers to entry of commercial fishers into a quota managed fishery. Conversely, it is recognised that there may be a loss of fishers' past investment in such symbols if these restrictions are removed.

With the introduction of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017 - 2027, there is a preference to managing other fisheries by quota wherever possible. How the quota is attached to a licence will need to be consistent, so consideration needs to be given more broadly to these licensing arrangements.

There are a high number of latent L symbols not in use currently, with most people relying on the RQ symbol to access the quota.

Symbol	Number	With an RQ
L1	225	110
L2	190	165
L3	933	187
RQ	346	

Issue	Options	Matters to consider
RQ and L symbols are limited.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove limits for both L and RQ and let quota determine entry. 2. Remove L symbol limits, but maintain limits on number of RQ symbols. 3. Retain L symbol for access to the fishery and gear, but not require RQ symbol to hold quota as long as someone holds a primary licence. 4. Maintain existing arrangements 	<p>Do the existing arrangements need to be streamlined?</p> <p>Should quota determine who can fish in the fishery?</p>

Issue 4: Commercial tender vessel numbers are limited

There are currently 527 L2 tenders and 530 RQ tenders in the CRFFF. The number of dories was another important restriction in the CRFFF prior to the introduction of the quota and there is an historical aspect to their allocation and use.

Introduction of flexibility in the number of dories permitted in a commercial CRFFF operation would allow operators to increase the efficiency of their businesses. Some recognition of past investment may be appropriate by allowing trading of dories between fishers, whilst maintaining the cap in numbers permitted for use across the fishery. Commercial primary vessel survey requirements will limit the number that can be used regardless. However, perception of increased risk of localised depletion posed by relaxation of numbers of tender vessels per fishing operation is a concern to some stakeholders.

Issue	Options	Matters to consider
Commercial tender vessel numbers are limited	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove commercial tender vessel limits for licence holders. 2. Use vessel surveys to inform limits. 3. RQ symbol could determine tender numbers to be used in the fishery. RQ tenders can then be traded and consolidated onto one licence (depends on decision about the need for RQ/L symbols) 	<p>Should tender numbers be capped for the whole fishery?</p> <p>If a cap remains should there be a limit to the number of tenders attached to an individual licence?</p> <p>What is an appropriate number of tenders to be attached to an individual licence?</p>

Issue 5: Commercial tender distance limitation from primary vessel

Tenders are required to operate within five nautical miles of the primary vessel or a greater distance, as long as the tender is operating on the same reef. The original intent centred around compliance so that Queensland Boating Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) could reasonably inspect the whole commercial operation (both primary and tenders). With the introduction of vessel tracking this requirement may be unnecessary.

Issue	Options	Matters to consider
Commercial tender distance limitation from primary vessel.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove tender distance limit. 2. Maintain existing limits. 	<p>Should tenders be regulated by distance from the primary vessel?</p> <p>If yes what is the appropriate distance and why?</p>

Issue 6: Commercial filleting restrictions

Commercial filleting restrictions as they currently are in legislation were introduced to maintain the integrity of the commercial quota system for the CRFFF.

After a number of extreme weather events (Cyclone Hamish and Cyclone Yasi), Fisheries Queensland allowed any operator to obtain a filleting permit. This was done to help operators respond to these events by value adding to their product and this allowance remains in place today. The current filleting permits, require minimum fillet lengths for coral trout 28 centimetres and 16 centimetres for red throat emperor which corresponds to the size of legal fish, as well as separate packaging and labelling requirements. There are currently no minimum fillet size limit for any OS species but there are different conversion factors at the family level.

QBFP have raised concerns with the existing permits that allow filleting on board vessels. These include the ability to enforce minimum size limits of fillets for certain species, the likelihood of species substitution including from protected species (e.g. barramundi cod and Maori wrasse), the ability to identify different target species, incorrect labelling, not using the correct species conversion factors and quota reporting avoidance.

There is a fundamental need to ensure integrity with the CRFFF commercial quota system going forward. Should commercial filleting at sea be permitted, further measures may need to be considered to ensure an ability to identify species from fillets may be necessary, such as skin and/or scales being retained. Other considerations may be:

- a requirement to provide fish frames for scientific assessment
- smaller, more easily identified / counted / separable fillets in frozen blocks
- or a higher quota conversion factor for those fish filleted at sea.

Issue	Options	Matters to consider
Commercial filleting at sea.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Cease issuing filleting permits. 4. Continue to allow filleting with existing labelling and packaging requirements but increase the number of species with minimum fillet size = to minimum size limit. (This would include key OS species). 5. Require skin/scales left on to aid in identification. 6. Move requirements into the legislation, or keep as a permit. 7. Include a requirement for fish frames to be provided for science. 8. Introduce a higher quota usage penalty as a result of filleting. 	<p>Do you currently fillet at sea?</p> <p>If not, is it something you would consider in the future?</p> <p>Should commercial filleting be available to all fishers?</p> <p>Should filleting continue as part of the management arrangements in the CRFFF?</p> <p>Are the existing filleting arrangements adequate?</p> <p>How can we provide flexibility while maintaining the integrity of the quota system?</p> <p>How does the commercial sector guarantee no utilisation or substitution of protected fish species within frozen target species fillets?</p>

Issue 7: Fishery spawning closures

The current CRFFF spawning closures regime was designed around an extensive body of scientific evidence regarding coral trout spawning behaviour on the Great Barrier Reef (GBR). These have been reduced over time from more and longer closures, to the two, five day periods over the new moon period that are in place now. While the closures were primarily designed to protect spawning coral trout, there is some level of protection afforded to other coral reef fin fish species.

Whilst these short duration spawning closures impact on the commercial profitability and recreational amenity, they are generally accepted by all sectors.

Long range charter operators that meet set criteria are currently exempt from the closure via a permit.

Issue	Options	Matters to consider
Fishery spawning closures.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">9. increase the length of fishery spawning closures10. remove or relax fishery spawning closure11. maintain two five day closures for all fishers12. provide an exemption in certain circumstances for long range charter operators (as per current arrangements).	<p>Do you think the CRFFF spawning closures should be increased, removed, relaxed, or maintained?</p> <p>Why?</p>

Issue 8: Review of size limits (all sectors) and adjustment of recreational possession limits in line with a harvest strategy

Generally, the existing size limits afford most species an opportunity to breed at least once before reaching size limit. It is reasonable to review size limits in light of new research (e.g. updated species biology research indicates some fish are able to be fished before a reasonable portion of the population is able to reproduce). It is also important to note that size limits are most effective where most undersized / oversized fish that are released, survive. Where fish species have a high discard mortality, it may not be practical to have a size limit in place. Size limits are usually the same for all sectors (commercial and recreational).

Bag limits will also be reviewed to ensure they are simple. Wholesale changes or reductions to bag limits are not proposed, but consideration may be given to simplifying bag limits and justifying current limits. There is already a combined possession limit for all coral reef fish. Consideration could be given to extending this to other fisheries (eg inshore species) (see the east coast inshore fishery discussion paper).

Decision rules that are applied in the harvest strategy would enable changes to possession limits for individual species to be adjusted if there are concerns about biomass or stock status.

Issue	Options	Matters to consider
Recreational possession and size limits.	13. simplify and review limits – consider options for possession limits i.e. combined possession limits for commonly caught species 14. consider a total possession limit or general possession limit for species that do not have a possession limit 15. review size at maturity information and assess suitability of current limits to allow fish to breed at least once 16. compare and contrast adjacent jurisdictional limits on shared stocks 17. consider changes to possession limits over time as part of harvest strategies if there are concerns about biomass.	Do you support this option? What species are you concerned about the size and / or possession limit? If an overall recreational possession limit was brought in, what should it be? If exceptions were made to an overall possession limit, what species would these apply to and what limits would you set?

Issue 9: Commercial “other species (OS)” quota category

The commercial OS quota category covers numerous species. It does not represent a management unit consistent with the objectives of the strategy and there is a need to ensure key species or those at risk from fishing pressure are effectively managed through harvest strategies. Many species in the OS quota category are long-lived (with low natural mortality), grow to a large size, aggregate to spawn, and have sequential sex change. These biological characteristics make them more vulnerable to fishing pressure.

Key species that may require specific management arrangements through the harvest strategy include red Emperor, saddletail and crimson snapper, and spangled emperor.

There is concern amongst some fishery stakeholders that relaxation of some commercial fishery input controls (e.g. possible removal of size of commercial primary fishing and tender vessels) would lead to increased targeting of these species. In the absence of stock assessments or defined stock status, possible resultant increased fishing pressure on these species is of concern.

Issue	Options	Matters to consider
Commercial ‘other species’ (OS) quota category	18. retain the existing OS category, as a catchall for all other species. 19. consider whether further species should be separated from the OS category and / or species specific TACs be applied (eg red emperor, saddletail and crimson snapper etc). 20. develop specific reference points, trigger points or other decision rules in harvest strategies to minimise risk to key OS species.	Do you consider more species specific TAC’s are necessary? If so, which species? What options for management are available when reference or trigger points are reached for OS species?

Issue 10: Smaller scale spatial management

Currently the CRFFF is managed at the whole of Great Barrier Reef-wide scale. Management at this scale does not allow or support regional or smaller scale fishery management interventions that may be required should fishing effort or harvest need to be constrained in just one or more regions that the fishery operates.

It is expected with the introduction of the vessel tracking, improved data will be available to better inform scientists and managers.

Regional or smaller scale fishery management interventions may be required in circumstances where a stock may have been unacceptably affected by fishing, but also by extreme weather events including cyclones, deteriorating reef condition or health, coral bleaching and mortality, crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks and other environmental impacts (e.g. development, shipping accidents). Such regional and smaller scale management of the fishery may be required for the commercial fishery in the future as vessels move from areas where harvest rates may not be economically viable or for the recreational fishery where localised depletion is required to be addressed.

Case study: Cyclone Hamish

In March 2009, Cyclone Hamish, a category 4/5 cyclone, damaged significant areas of reef off the central Queensland coast. The coral trout component of the reef line fishery struggled to deal with the effect of the cyclone for more than two years. This cyclone led to significant concerns regarding the short to medium-term viability and profitability of the coral trout sector.

Vessels in the affected area experienced lower catch rates immediately after the cyclone and many vessels had to relocate to other areas to stay in business. The areas where boats moved to felt the effects of greater fishing pressure from the combined effort of local vessels and those that relocated. Coral trout catch per unit effort had decreased across all areas in the coral reef fin fish fishery in 2009—by as much as 30% or more in some areas.

Government assistance is provided for some events, but it is limited. For example, a diesel fuel rebate scheme has been in place for 10 years, and the fishing industry qualifies for disaster relief related to direct damage to land-based infrastructure once National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) have been activated. Impacts caused by damage to fishing grounds are not included in this funding.

Questions were asked why the fishing industry did not qualify for federal assistance for damage to fishing grounds. The reasoning was because a fisher could move to another area in the short term. As seen after Cyclone Hamish the movement of vessels north resulted in increased pressure on other parts of the fishery. Incorporating a finer spatial management regime would allow for better responses from government and industry in instances of natural disaster.

Issue	Options	Matters to consider
Smaller scale spatial management of coral trout, red throat emperor and key OS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21. TACs or catch limits implemented at a finer spatial scale (such as a 'zone'). 22. Reference or trigger points apply to each species at a finer spatial scale that reflects biomass or stock abundance objectives. 23. Harvest strategies outline management action to apply once trigger/reference points reached at the given spatial scale. 24. Harvest strategies incorporate external triggers relating to reef health or extreme weather events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is finer scale spatial management required? How would you cap fishing on a finer spatial scale? Should the harvest strategy respond when extreme weather events impact fishing and if so, how?

Next steps

While there have been initial discussions on review of the management arrangements for this fishery, no decisions have been made. This discussion paper is the basis for the initial round of engagement on the review of the current management framework for the coral reef fishery. No allocation process is required as part of this management review.

The feedback from this discussion paper will be provided to the working group to provide advice on a preferred management review options and development of a harvest strategy. Some changes, if progressed, will require amendments to the Fisheries Regulation 2008 (the Regulation) and will be progressed with the priority fishery reforms for trawl, east coast inshore and crab fisheries in 2019.

There will be plenty of opportunity for you to provide further input over the next 12 months, including:

In mid-2018: Discussion paper on proposed changes to modernise the Act, provide for more responsive decision making and address issues like black marketing

In early 2019: Consultation on draft harvest strategies which will set out the pre-determined management actions for a defined species necessary to achieve the agreed ecological, economic and/or social objectives. This will include an implementation plan on how harvest strategies can be operationalised.

In early 2019: Consultation on proposed changes to the Regulation to implement the proposed management changes that have been developed in consultation with stakeholders and reflect the new approach using harvest strategies.

How to provide feedback

This discussion paper is designed to provide all stakeholders with the opportunity to have a say about the future management of the east coast inshore fishery.

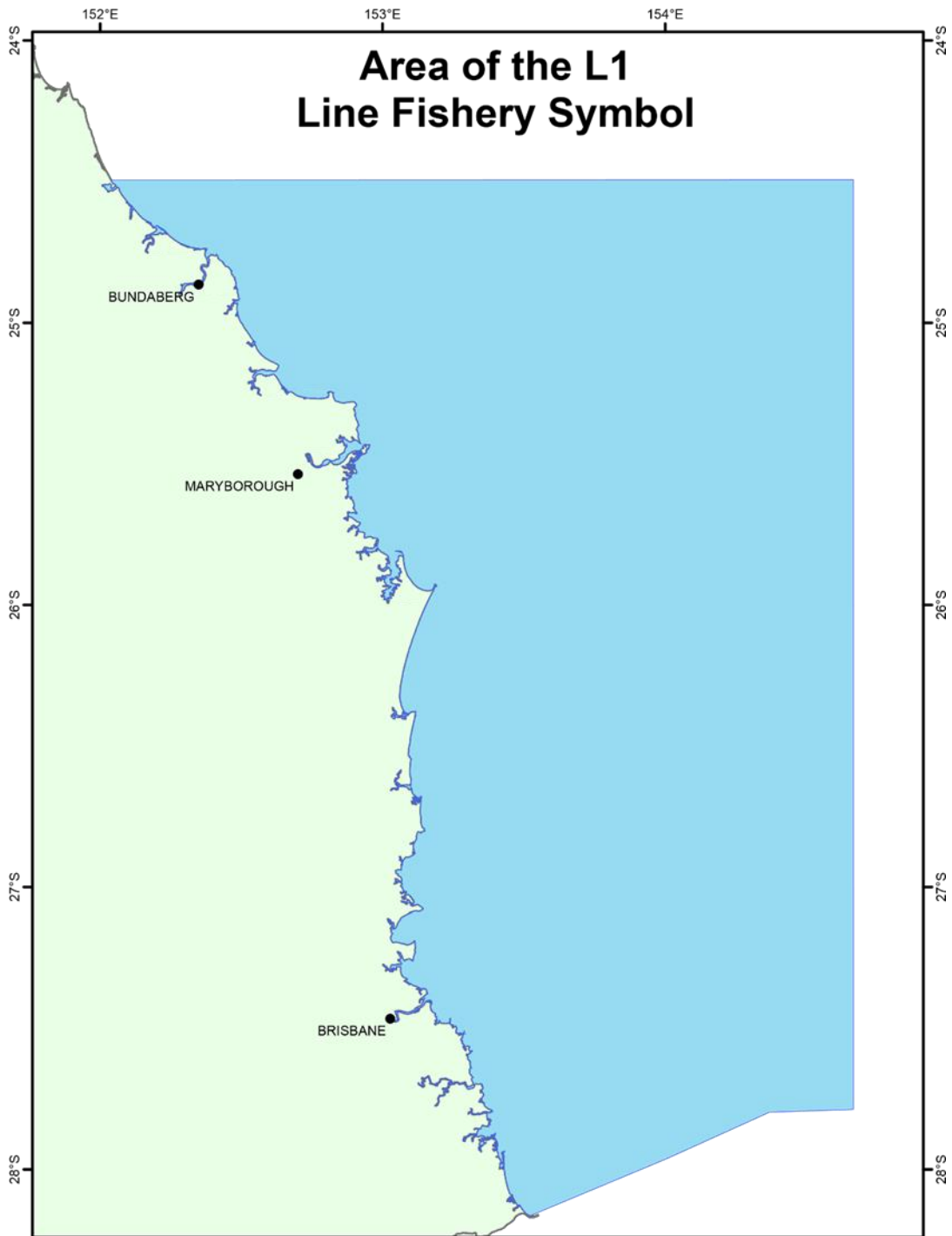
You can provide feedback by completing the online survey at daf.qld.gov.au/sustainablefisheriesstrategy.

Submission of feedback closes **Sunday 20 May 2018**.

Stakeholders can also give feedback when Fisheries Queensland staff visit regional centres in April and May 2018.

For more information, visit daf.qld.gov.au/fisheries or call 13 25 23.

Attachment 1 – area of the L1 fishery



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Department of Agriculture
and Fisheries

Co-ord Sys: GCS GDA 1994
Datum: GDA 1994
Units: Degree

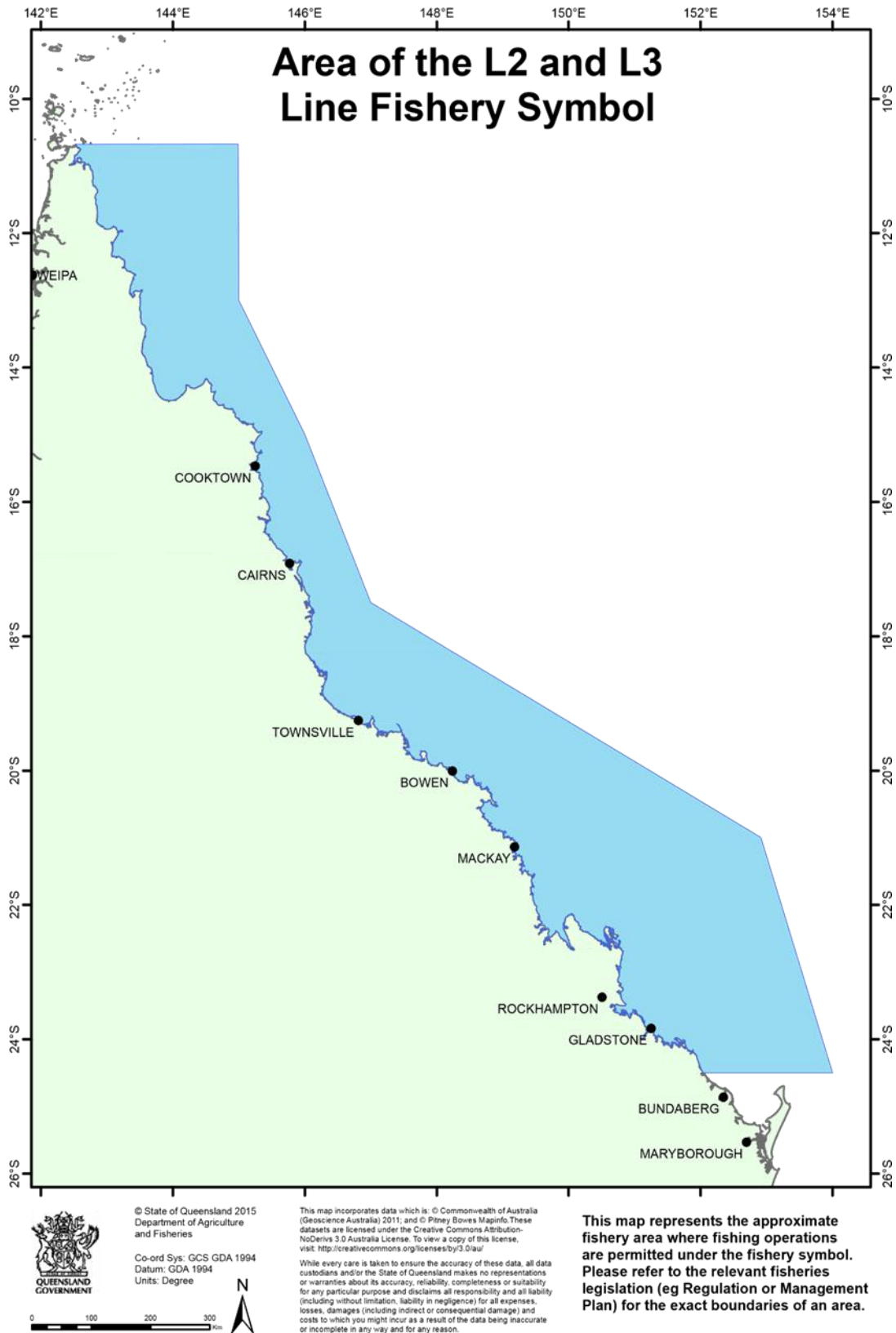


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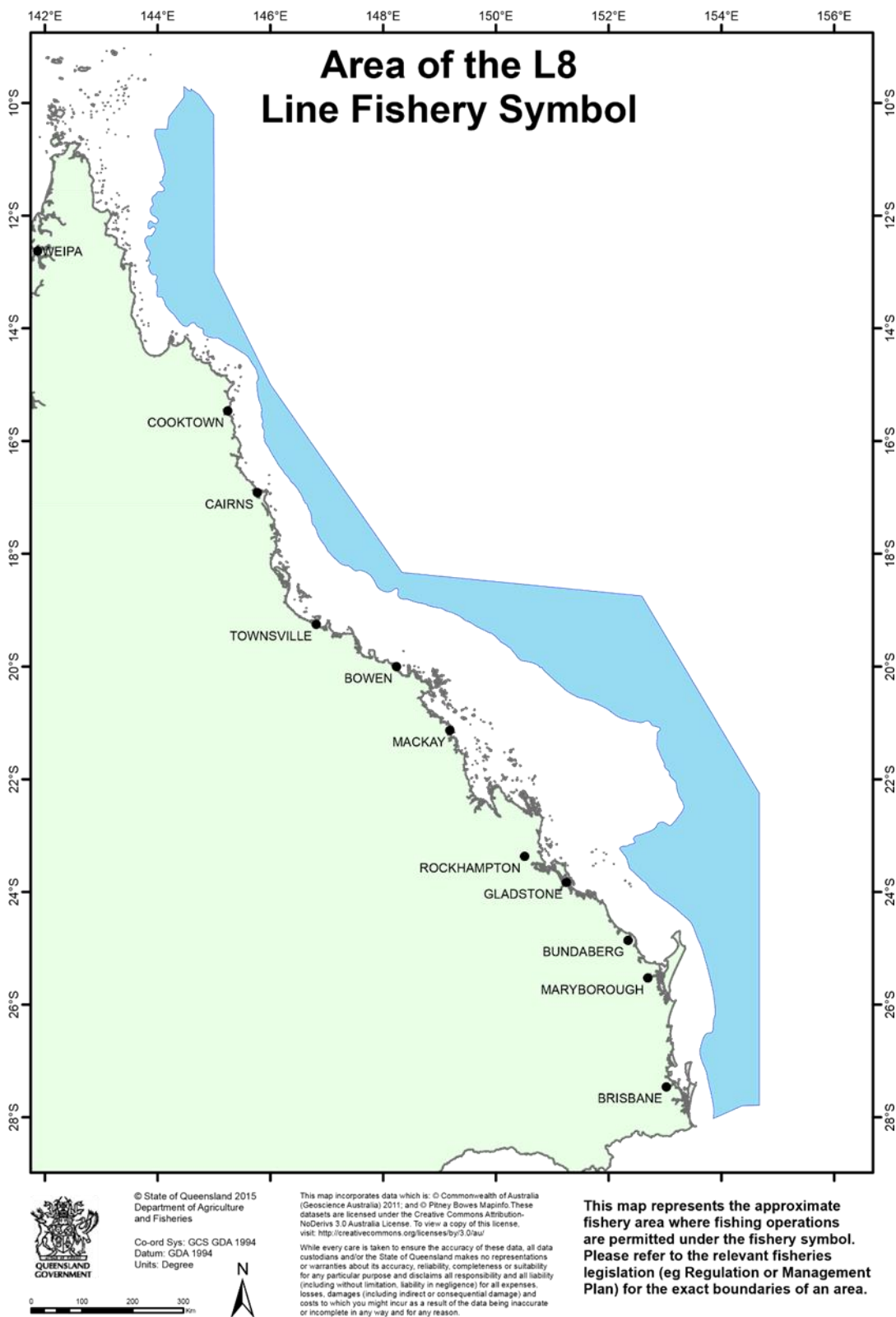
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This map represents the approximate fishery area where fishing operations are permitted under the fishery symbol. Please refer to the relevant fisheries legislation (eg Regulation or Management Plan) for the exact boundaries of an area.

Attachment 2 – area of the L2/3 fishery



Attachment 3 – area of the L8 fishery



Attachment 4 – current input controls in the coral reef fin fish fishery

Measure	Description	GFP															
Limited entry	<p>Participation in the fishery are limited to those individuals who hold a commercial fishing boat licence endorsed with an (L) line symbol and an (RQ) fishery symbol. There are a number of L symbols (L1, L2 and L3) used in conjunction with an RQ symbol.</p> <p>The L symbol determines where you can fish, what gear, number of tenders.</p> <p>The RQ symbol determines what you can catch (coral reef fin fish) as part of their commercial fishing operation.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Symbol</th> <th>Number</th> <th>With an RQ</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>L1</td> <td>225</td> <td>110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L2</td> <td>190</td> <td>165</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L3</td> <td>933</td> <td>187</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RQ</td> <td>346</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Number of line symbols and RQ symbols issued in Queensland (note some licenses have multiple L symbols attached to a licence)</p>	Symbol	Number	With an RQ	L1	225	110	L2	190	165	L3	933	187	RQ	346		No
Symbol	Number	With an RQ															
L1	225	110															
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RQ	346																
Vessel restriction	<p>Primary</p> <p>Maximum vessel size restriction of 20 metres.</p> <p>Tenders</p> <p>Maximum vessel size seven metres.</p> <p>Maximum distances from primary 5nm.</p> <p>Maximum tenders under the fishery symbol 'L2' = 4 & 'L3' = 1.</p> <p>Longstanding management arrangements before the above tender restrictions came into place allowed more tenders than the current restriction of 4.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>1 Larger than 20 metre vessel</p> <p>2 tenders over 7metres</p> <p>Can apply for additional tender if #RQ tenders is higher</p>															
Gear controls	<p>Commercial, charter and recreational:</p> <p>Fishers may use up to three lines with no more than six hooks (total), using either a rod and reel or a handline.</p> <p>Recreational fishing only:</p> <p>Spear fishing without the use of underwater breathing apparatus.</p>	No															
Seasonal closures	<p>There are two, five day spawning closures in October and November for all sectors.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Charter operators</p>															

	Fisheries Queensland issues general fisheries permits to charter operators, to exempt them from the closure that meet a specific criteria (12, 72+ hour trips in 12 months).	
Size and possession limits	<p>Coral trout: 38 centimetres minimum size</p> <p>Blue spot coral trout: 50 to 80 centimetre size</p> <p>Red throat emperor: 38 centimetres minimum size</p> <p>Crimson snapper: 40 centimetres minimum size</p> <p>Saddletail snapper: 40 centimetres minimum size</p>	No
Filleting Permits	<p>This permit authorises the holder and any commercial fisher acting under the direction of the holder to fillet and remove the skin from coral reef fin fish at sea, that have been taken in accordance with the Fisheries Regulation 2008.</p> <p>Filleting permits relaxed after cyclone Hamish 2009 to help industry respond to the effects of the cyclone.</p> <p>There are minimum size limits and labelling and packaging requirements.</p> <p>There are currently 87 filleting permits.</p>	Filleting permit