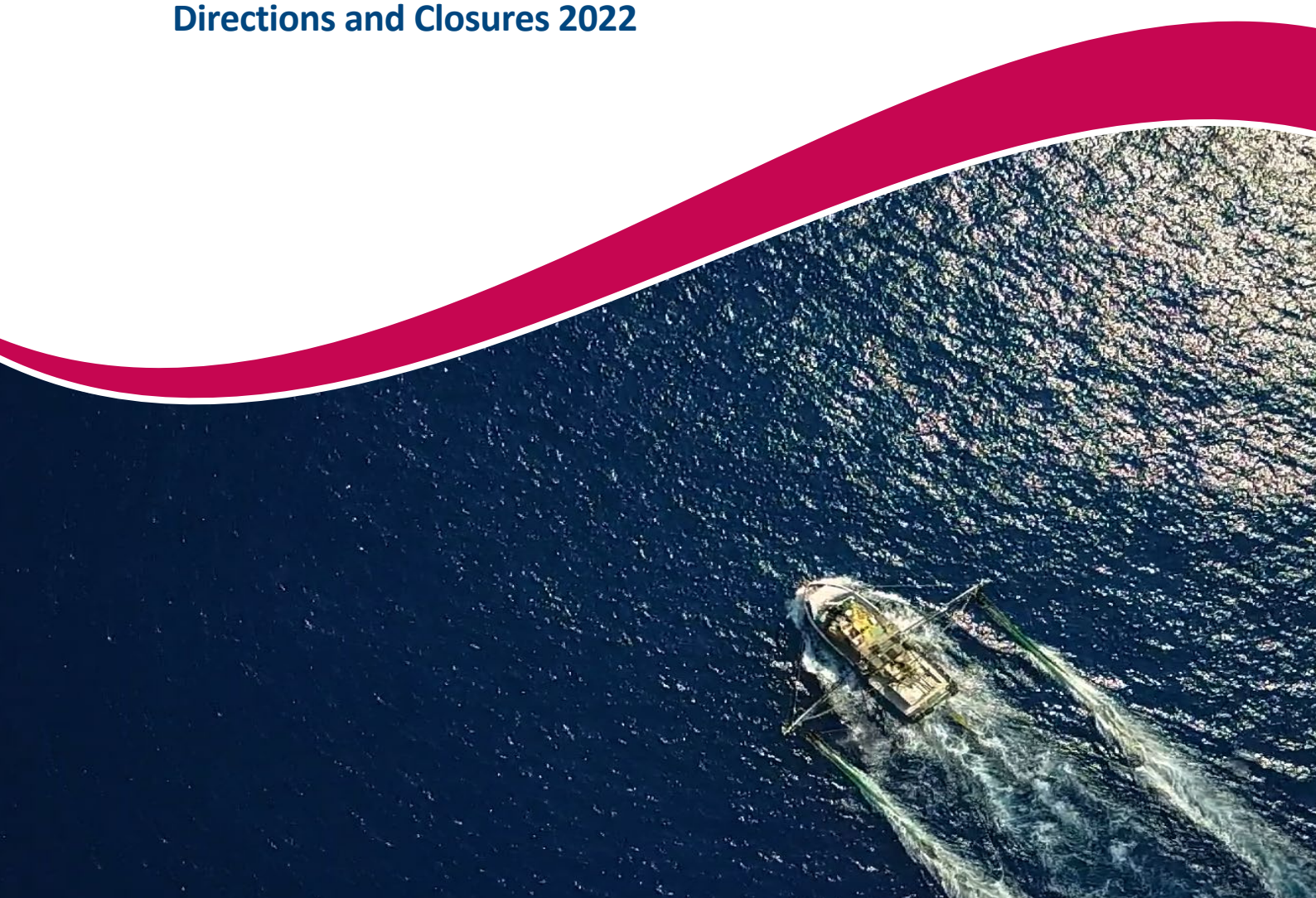
Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Northern Prawn Fishery

Directions and Closures 2022



AFMA Northern Fisheries

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Area of the Northern Prawn Fishery

Mercator Projection

Latitude of true scale: 12° S
Longitude of Central meridian: 135° E

Datum: AGD 66

LEGEND

- Northern Prawn Fishery
- Land and coastline
- Limit of Coastal Waters (3nm)
- Treaty / Median line

NOTES:

1. The area of the Fishery is sourced from the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995 (17 October 2003 - amendments up to "Northern Prawn Fishery Management Amendment Plan 2003 (No NPF 04).").
2. Within this fishery, arrangements exist between the Commonwealth and WA, NT and QLD, whereby the Coastal Waters of these States are deemed part of the AFZ.
3. The maritime zone boundaries shown on this map are sourced from AMBIS 2001 (v1.1) (October2001).

Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Produced by the National Mapping Division of Geoscience Australia, for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, April 2005.

MP 03/2457.34.11

1 Important information for operators in the Northern Prawn Fishery

1.1 Important reminders for the 2022 season

There have been no changes to Directions since 2021. However, operators are reminded of the following:

1.1.1 Requirements for use of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs)

All operators are required to only use a Schedule 3 BRD (see pages 31-34) in all nets during the tiger prawn season (second season). While Schedule 3 BRDs can be used at any time of the year, Schedule 1 BRDs can only be used outside the tiger prawn season when fishing for banana prawns.

The NPF Gear Direction has been updated and the Fisheye, Radial Escape Section and Square Mesh Codend BRDs have been removed and **are no longer approved for use in the NPF**.

Industry Code of Conduct for the banana prawn season (1 April to 15 June): NPF operators targeting tiger prawns during the banana prawn season are to use an approved BRD that has been shown to reduce bycatch by at least 30% (Schedule 3 BRD). **This requirement is for all nets in operation** (excluding the try net).

Table 1. Approved BRD list

Schedule 1 BRDs*	Schedule 3 BRDs*
Square Mesh Panel	Kon's Covered Fisheyes
Yarrow Fisheye	FishEX 70
Popeye Fishbox (<120 meshes)	Tom's Fisheye
	Popeye Fishbox (at 70 meshes)

*For more information and device dimensions and positions see *Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Gear Requirements) Direction 2021*.

1.1.2 Joseph Bonaparte Gulf Closure

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) recently developed several harvest control rule options for better management of the Redleg Banana Prawn stock of the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf (JBG). After significant consultation with industry, researchers and AFMA, the NPF Resource Assessment Group (NPRAG) recommended adopting a Harvest Control Rule (HCR) which closes the first season to fishing in the JBG every year (**Figure 1**). This will be reviewed in 2026 to determine its effectiveness on improving the JBG stock. NPRAG is currently reviewing and updating the Harvest Strategy for redleg banana prawns to incorporate the new HCR with the current decision rules.

The new HCR was implemented in 2021. **Fishing is not permitted in the JBG in the first season (1 April to 15 June)** (see *Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Seasonal Closures) Direction 2021*).

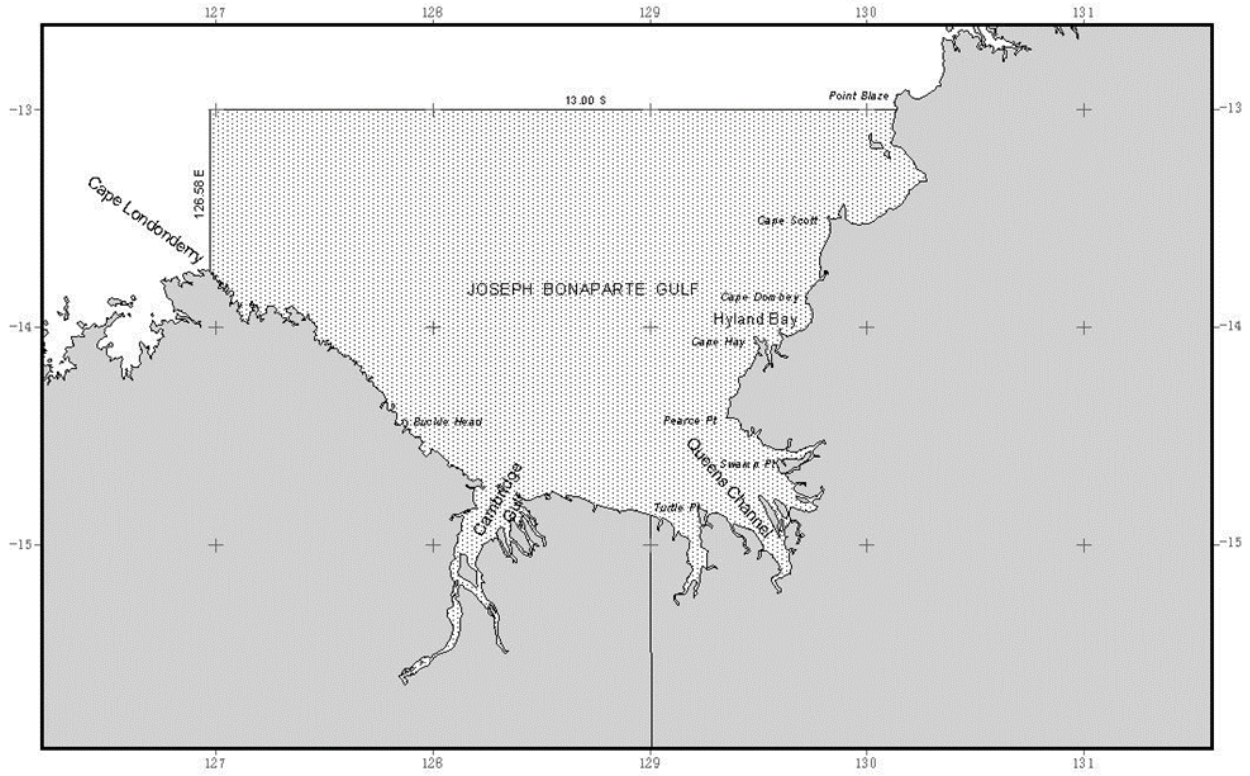


Figure 1: Joseph Bonaparte Gulf Seasonal Closure. Effective from 2200 UTC 31 March until 0200 UTC 15 June each year

1.1.3 Electronic logbooks (e-logs)

All operators are required to use **EPRAWN** (ADC_PR) when undertaking commercial fishing and **ETRAWL** (ADC_TW) when undertaking live broodstock collection. Depending on the e-log system you are using, EPRAWN may be referred to as "Bottom Shrimp Trawl (**Prawn** Trawl)" and ETRAWL may be referred to as "Bottom Shrimp Trawl (Trawl)".

ETRAWL is to be used at any time an operator is collecting broodstock, regardless of whether fishing under a SFR concession or under a broodstock permit concession. Live broodstock collection is **not** to be reported using **EPRAWN**. In the event that a vessel's **ETRAWL** system is not functional, all data is to be recorded in the Excel spreadsheet provided by NPFI. Operators catching Black Tiger Prawns as part of normal commercial fishing operations must use **EPRAWN** to report commercial catches. Refer also to Section 3.5 (pages 42-44).

To ensure all fishing data has been entered and received properly, please contact your e-log service provider (see page 43 for contact details) when returning to port at the end of the season so any errors, such as not ending trips, can be rectified prior to all crew leaving the vessel.

If you are having trouble completing your e-log please contact your e-logs software provider.

1.1.4 Scampi

Scampi is taken from a deepwater area on the edge of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) north of Melville Island and is targeted during NPF prawn trawling closure periods.

Under the current NPF Harvest Strategy, if in any 12-month period (beginning 2230 hours UTC on 30 November each year) the total catch is > 30 t OR the number of vessels involved is ≥ 8 vessels, then the next 12-month period there is a 30 t limit on the catch.

The arrangements for scampi have not changed and the trigger in 2021 was not reached. As such, the 30 t limit for scampi that can be caught in the 2022 period (beginning 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2022) does not apply.

1.1.5 Gear trials in Queensland waters

Revised Arrangements: NPF operators wishing to undertake gear trials in Queensland waters must contact NPF Industry Pty Ltd (NPFI) for permission to undertake gear trials.

NPFI has been issued a permit by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF) to allow gear trials by **NPF** vessels to occur in Qld waters. NPFI is responsible for providing authorisation to **NPF operators** to use that permit.

Once written (email) authorisation has been provided by NPFI, the company undertaking the sea trials must notify **Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP)** of the vessel name, symbol and when the sea trials are proposed to occur (date, ETD & ETA) in advance.

A copy of both the Qld permit and the NPFI authorisation must be kept on the vessel when carrying out sea trials.

All conditions of the Qld permit must be complied with by the permit user.

Contact annie.jarrett@bigpond.com.

1.2 Season dates

First (banana prawn) season (excluding JBG)

The first season (excluding JBG) operates from **1st April to 15th June** (subject to Decision Rules – see Section 2) as per the times in **table 2**.

Table 2. First season (excluding JBG)

First Season	Universal Time Constant (UTC)	Western Standard Time (WA)	Central Standard Time (CST) (NT)	Eastern Standard Time (EST) (QLD)
Season start	2200 31 March	0600 1 April	0730 1 April	0800 1 April
Season end* Schedule 12 East of 138°E	0200 15 June	1000 15 June	1130 15 June	1200 15 June
Season end* Schedule 13 West of 138°E	0230 15 June	1030 15 June	1200 15 June	1230 15 June

Second season (including JBG)

The second season (which includes JBG) operates from **1st August to 1st December** (subject to Decision Rules – see Section 2) as per the times in **table 3**:

Table 3. Second (tiger prawn) **season (including JBG)**

First Season	Universal Time Constant (UTC)	Western Standard Time (WA)	Central Standard Time (CST) (NT)	Eastern Standard Time (EST) (QLD)
Season start Schedule 12 East of 138°E	0830 1 August	1630 1 August	1800 1 August	1830 1 August
Season start Schedule 13 West of 138°E	0900 1 August	1700 1 August	1830 1 August	1900 1 August
Season end* Schedule 12 East of 138°E	2200 30 November	0600 1 December	0730 1 December	0800 1 December
Season End* Schedule 13 West of 138°E	2230 30 November	0630 1 December	0800 1 December	0830 1 December

Tiger Prawn Season Daylight Trawl Ban

The tiger prawn season **daylight trawl ban** is in place from **2 August to 1 December** as per the times in **Table 4**.

Table 4. Tiger prawn season daylight trawl ban, 2 August to 1 December

Closure	Universal Time Constant (UTC)	Local time equivalent
Goulburn Islands Northern Territory waters Schedule 19	Closed between 2230 and 0830	Closed between 0800 and 1800 CST
Gulf of Carpentaria Queensland waters Schedule 20	Closed between 2200 and 0800	Closed between 0800 and 1800 EST
Gulf of Carpentaria Northern Territory waters Schedule 20	Closed between 2230 and 0830	Closed between 0800 and 1800 CST

1.3 Ready Reckoner for Conversion of UTC to AEST, ACST & AWST

Table 5. Time zone ready reckoner

UTC	WA - AWST	NT - ACST	Qld - AEST
0000	8 am	9.30 am	10 am
0100	9 am	10.30 am	11 am
0200	10 am	11.30 am	noon
0300	11 am	12.30 pm	1 pm
0400	noon	1.30 pm	2 pm
0500	1 pm	2.30 pm	3 pm
0600	2 pm	3.30 pm	4 pm
0700	3 pm	4.30 pm	5 pm
0800	4 pm	5.30 pm	6 pm
0900	5 pm	6.30 pm	7 pm
1000	6 pm	7.30 pm	8 pm
1100	7 pm	8.30 pm	9 pm
1200	8 pm	9.30 pm	10 pm
1300	9 pm	10.30 pm	11 pm
1400	10 pm	11.30 pm	midnight
1500*	11 pm	12.30 am	1 am
1600*	midnight	1.30 am	2 am
1700*	1 am	2.30 am	3 am
1800*	2 am	3.30 am	4 am
1900*	3 am	4.30 am	5 am
2000*	4 am	5.30 am	6 am
2100*	5 am	6.30 am	7 am
2200*	6 am	7.30 am	8 am
2300*	7 am	8.30 am	9 am

** Note: these times are for the previous day (i.e. 1500 UTC on 1 January is the same as 0100 Australian Eastern Standard Time on 2 January).*

1.4 Banana prawn catch trigger

There is a maximum economic yield (MEY) based banana prawn catch trigger for the banana prawn fishing season.

This trigger is variable and will be calculated in-season, based on information on prawn prices, catches and costs provided by NPFI. There are restrictions placed on the trigger to restrict a large change in allowable effort from the current trigger.

- Minimum MEY trigger value: 425 kg/boat/day
- Maximum MEY trigger value: 575 kg/boat/day

Industry members will be informed of the trigger value by the end of the 5th fishing week.

The banana prawn season will extend from 1 April to 15 June each year unless the MEY catch trigger is reached. The reporting periods for the new decision rules remain unchanged and are outlined in Section 2.

If the decision rule is triggered during the reporting periods the fishery will be totally closed west of 138 degrees and will be closed to daylight trawling east of 138 degrees between 8 am and 6 pm to allow access to the tiger prawn fishery.

The first season will close on **15 June** to all fishing – subject to Decision Rules (see Section 2).

1.5 How to differentiate between a banana prawn or tiger prawn boat

Arrangements, introduced in 2012, allow continued fishing for tiger prawns if banana prawn catch trigger limits are not met, including through a daylight trawl ban. The tiger prawn trigger limits (**6 tonnes/week**) will remain in place for the first four weeks of the season.

After **1 May**, to differentiate between operators' banana prawn fishing and those tiger prawn fishing, boats will be considered in the following way:

- A boat will be considered to be a **banana prawn boat** if **75% or more** of the catch is banana prawns. Catches from all banana prawn boats **will** be included in the banana prawn decision rules calculations;
- A boat will be considered to be a **tiger prawn boat** if **75% or more** of the catch is tiger prawns (including endeavour and king prawns). Catches from tiger prawn boats **will not** be included in the decision rule calculations for banana prawns;
- Catches from boats with **less** than **75%** banana or tiger prawns will be considered to be a **50/50 boat**. Banana prawn catches from those boats will be deemed to represent a half day of banana prawn fishing (i.e. the catch from 2 half days will equal one full day of banana prawn fishing) and will be included in the decision rule calculations for banana prawns (see pages 16-17).

1.6 Banana prawn season daylight trawl ban

If the MEY banana prawn trigger limit (kg/boat/day) is not met at any time during the reporting periods (weeks 4 and 5; weeks 6 and 7; weeks 8 and 9), the fishery will be totally closed west of 138 degrees and will be closed to daylight trawling east of 138 degrees between 8 am and 6 pm to allow access to the tiger prawn fishery.

The first season will close on 15 June to all fishing – subject to Decision Rules (see Section 2).

1.7 Tiger prawn season daylight trawl ban

A daylight trawl ban is in operation for the duration of the tiger prawn season between **0800 and 1800 (local time)** for Northern Territory and Queensland areas specified in Schedules 19 and 20 of *Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Seasonal Closures) Direction 2021*.

The ban is in force during the period commencing at **0800 on 2 August** and finishing at **1800 on 30th November (local time)**, subject to the tiger prawn season closing date (see Section 2).

1.8 What do I need to go fishing in the Northern Prawn Fishery?

All NPF operators require a class B statutory fishing right (SFR) and a number of gear SFRs to fish. A class B SFR is required to be nominated to a boat to enable it to operate within the NPF. This SFR lists a number of conditions which an operator must abide by when operating in the NPF, such as: landing and processing obligations; carriage of AFMA observers; and, the use of a vessel monitoring system (VMS).

Gear SFRs entitle the holder to use a net with a certain headrope and footrope length. Gear SFRs have a different value depending on the configuration of nets an operator uses. Operators can use a configuration of two, three or four nets, with the use of the twin-tongue method also permitted. A gear SFR for operators using twin gear is currently worth 9 cm of headrope length. A gear SFR for operators using triple, quad or twin tongue gear, has a value of 8.1 cm per SFR.

Operators must abide by directions which set rules on byproduct limits, prohibited species and permanent and seasonal closure areas (Refer to page 70 for copies of the directions).

1.9 Statutory Fishing Right conditions

SFR holders and operators are reminded they are required to adhere to all conditions on their SFR. This specifically includes the requirement that:

- an AFMA approved VMS is fitted and operational at all times; and
- all nets comply with the specific conditions of the SFR, including the use of AFMA approved bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) and turtle exclusion devices (TEDs).
- bycatch must not be mistreated. Mistreatment means taking or failing to take, any reasonable action or actions, which result or is likely to result in the death of, injury to or causing physiological stress to any bycatch.

1.10 Closures and navigating closures

The *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019* (the Nav Reg) provides for fishers to transit closures provided certain navigation conditions are met (as determined by VMS) (see pages 39-40). If a vessel navigates through a closure and does not meet the prescribed navigation rules, it will be considered a strict liability offence, i.e. AFMA does not need to prove an offence (25 penalty units).

In exceptional circumstances – such as vessel breakdown, distress, medical emergency, cyclone or weather warning – AFMA may give approval for a boat to be navigated in a closed zone without requiring that the boat meet the navigation rules. Please call the AFMA Darwin Duty Officer on 0428 196 114 to apply for an exemption in this circumstance.

1.11 Transiting prior to the opening of the first season

Designated Steaming Tracks in and out of ports and assembly areas will be navigable up to 8 hours prior to the commencement of the first season. All vessels must be inside a port or assembly area or outside the VMS start line by midnight on 31 March Eastern Standard Time (1400 UTC 31 March). Gear can be un-racked 8 hours prior to the season start in assembly areas and half an hour prior to the season start outside the VMS line. Coordinates for the steaming tracks, assembly areas and VMS start line are described in the NPF General Conditions 2022 (the SFR Conditions). For maps of the designated tracks and the assembly areas please see pages 20-24.

1.12 Co-management: E-logs, Data Management and CMO Enquiries

As part of the co-management arrangements in the NPF, e-logs, data management and Crew Member Observer Program (CMO) enquiries are to be directed to NPFI. For any enquiries relating to these matters, including data requests or concerns with e-logs, please contact:

Josh Cahill

Phone: 0424 096 355 or

E-mail: josh@npfindustry.com.au.

2 Seasonal management arrangements

2.1 Decision rule for early closure of the first season

The first season (banana prawn season) extends from 1 April to 15 June each year unless the following decision rules are triggered:

2.1.1 First possible season closure (6 week season)

IF

(a) the average daily catch rate of banana prawns for **weeks 4 and 5** of the season is less than the MEY trigger level;

OR

(b) If the pro-rata total tiger prawn catch for the whole 4 weeks is more than 24 tonnes (6 t/week*4);

THEN

(c) The area west of 138 degrees will be closed; and

(d) The area east of 138 degrees will be closed to daylight fishing between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm EST.

To facilitate the assessment of whether an early closure to the season is appropriate based on the decision rule, a "representative sample" of the catch rates for the season across the fleet is required.

The decision rule can only be applied if all catch data (kg/day, or total catch and total days) for the whole fleet (or >95% of NORMAC members and advisors) is supplied for the period of the 4th and 5th weeks of season by 3 days after the end of the 5th week. If the data is not provided, targeted fishing for banana prawns in the first season will be stopped at the end of the 6th week.

2.1.2 Second possible season closure (8 week season)

IF

(a) the average daily catch rate of banana prawns for **weeks 6 and 7** of the season is less than the MEY trigger level;

THEN

(b) The area west of 138 degrees will be closed; and

(c) The area east of 138 degrees will be closed to daylight fishing between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm AEST.

To facilitate the assessment of whether an early closure to banana fishing in the first season is appropriate based on the decision rule; a "representative sample" of the catch rates of **banana prawn boats** and **50/50 boats** for the season across the fleet is required.

The decision rule can only be applied if all catch data (kg/day, or total catch and total days for banana, 50/50 and tiger boats) for the whole fleet (or >95% of NORMAC members and advisors) is supplied for the period of the 6th and 7th weeks of season by 3 days after the end of the 7th week. If the data is not provided, targeted fishing for banana prawns in the first season will be stopped at the end of the 8th week.

2.1.3 Third possible season closure (10 week season)

IF

(a) the average daily catch rate of banana prawns for **weeks 8 and 9** of the first season is less than the MEY trigger level;

THEN

(b) The area west of 138 degrees will be closed; and

(c) The area east of 138 degrees will be closed to daylight fishing between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm AEST.

To facilitate the assessment of whether an early closure to the season is appropriate based on the decision rule, a "representative sample" of the catch rates for the season of **banana prawn boats** and **50/50 boats** is required.

The decision rule can only be applied if all catch data (kg/day, or total catch and total days for banana, 50/50 and tiger boats) for the whole fleet (or >95% of NORMAC members and advisors) is supplied for the period of the 8th and 9th weeks of season by 3 days after the end of the 9th week. If the data is not provided, targeted fishing for banana prawns in the first season will be stopped at the end of the 10th week.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

This information can take the form of:

EITHER

(a) Providing a copy of the logbooks from each boat fishing and for the relevant two week reporting period (i.e 4 and 5, 6 and 7 or 8 and 9) which shows the catch of banana, tiger, endeavour and king prawns per day fished;

OR

(b) Providing company records indicating the total catch of banana, tiger, endeavour and king prawns for the relevant two-week reporting period (i.e. 4 and 5, or 6 and 7, or 8 and 9) and the number of days fished per boat during those two weeks.

Please provide catch details to Annie Jarrett by Email: annie.jarrett@bigpond.com

2.2 Decision rule for early closure of the second season

The second season (tiger prawn season) will extend from 1 August until 30 November each year unless the following decision rule is triggered:

a) if the average prawn catch per boat (fishing in the NPF) per night is **less** than **350 kg** for the **12th and 13th week** of the season; then

b) the fishery will close at the end of the 16th fishing week (2230 UTC 20 November).

To facilitate the assessment of whether an early closure should be applied, a representative sample of the catch rates for the season across the fleet is required.

This decision rule is applied only if all catch data (kg/day, or total catch and total days) for the whole fleet (or >95% of NORMAC members and advisors) is supplied for the period of the 12th and 13th (17-30 October) week of the season by 3 days after the end of week 13 (2 November).

NPFI will be responsible for applying the decision rule and advising AFMA of the outcomes.

2.3 Controlled start to the first season

The vessel monitoring system (VMS) controlled start is in place for the first season. All boats must remain seaward of a line which extends approximately 30 nautical miles from the shore in the Gulf of Carpentaria and approximately 25 nautical miles from shore around the balance of the fishery. Waters inside this line will be closed to navigation (see map on page 20 and the description in your SFR conditions).

Boats will be able to wait for the start of the season either in the Weipa, Karumba, Darwin or Gove assembly areas or, seaward of the start of season line (refer to maps on pages 20-24). Access to the assembly areas will only be by using a designated track through the closed area (see map on page 20 and the description in your SFR conditions).

The designated tracks will close at **1400 UTC on 31 March**. If you have decided to start from an assembly area your boat will need to be in the assembly area by this time. If your boat is not in an assembly area by this time you will need to wait for the start of the season outside the VMS start line.

2.4 Transiting and Gear Racking

Vessels can un-rack their gear (with codends still on board) half an hour before the start of the first season. This decision has been made in response to safety concerns associated with crews rushing to get their gear in the water at the commencement of the first season start.

Once the season has commenced operators can transit closures without requiring fishing gear to be racked but gear must be out of the water, and operators must abide by the Nav Reg.

If I'm outside the start of season line does my gear have to be racked?

Yes, however boats are able to un-rack their gear half an hour prior to the season start. This is in response to an industry request to facilitate safer handling of the gear.

If I'm inside an assembly area can I put my gear out?

Yes. After **1400 UTC on 31 March**, boats can have their boards on the booms with all nets in the water but they must be drawn up to the boat.

Will I be able to search for banana prawns?

No. There is a total ban on fishing, searching, or attempting to search for fish in the area of the fishery before **1400 UTC 31 March**, therefore no searching is allowed in this area.

How do I access the assembly areas?

Access to assembly areas will be by using a designated track only. However, the designated tracks cease to exist at **1400 UTC on 31 March**. If you want to start the season from an assembly area you will need to have your boat in place by this time. Coordinates for the steaming tracks, assembly areas and VMS start line are described in the SFR Conditions. For a map of the designated tracks see page 20.

What happens if I want to start from an assembly area but I am running late?

If you are running late, you will be required to stay outside the start of season line until **2200 UTC on 31 March**. There is no provision to issue "late" permits and exemptions to this closure will only be provided in case of emergency.

What reasons can I apply for an exemption from AFMA?

Applications for exemption will be considered for approval by AFMA in exceptional circumstances. This is where navigation is required because of vessel breakdown, distress, medical emergency, cyclone or weather warning.

To apply for an exemption you **MUST** call the Darwin Duty Officer - and you must also send a written request by fax or email to:

Fax: (08) 8942 2897
Email: darwindutyofficer@afma.gov.au
Phone: 0428 196 114

Who do I contact if I need further information?

For further information on the VMS controlled start to the season, please contact AFMA Compliance on 0428 196 114 or email darwindutyofficer@afma.gov.au.

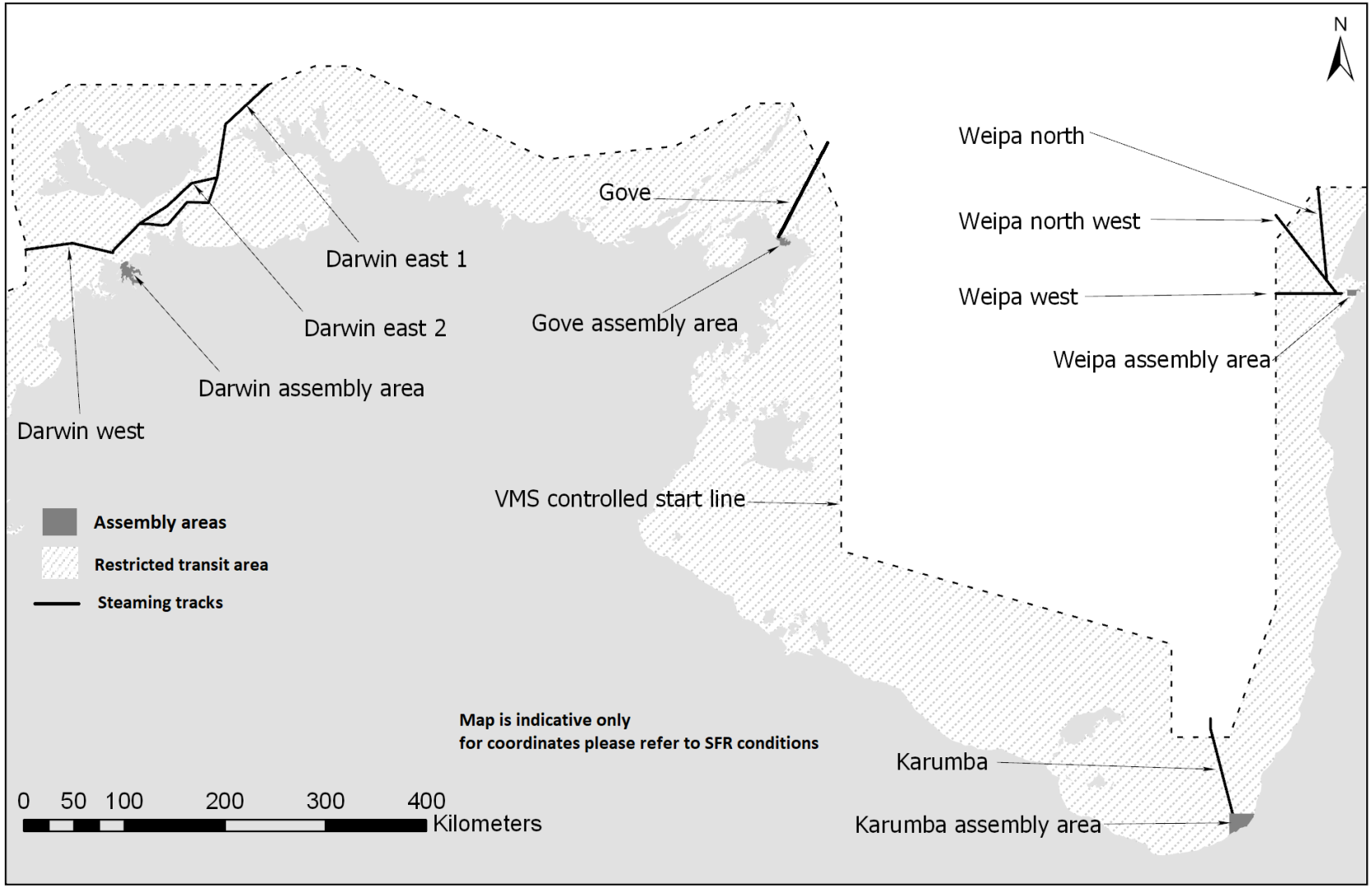


Figure 2: Prohibitions on navigation, VMS controlled start. Effective 2200 UTC 27 March to 2200 UTC March each year

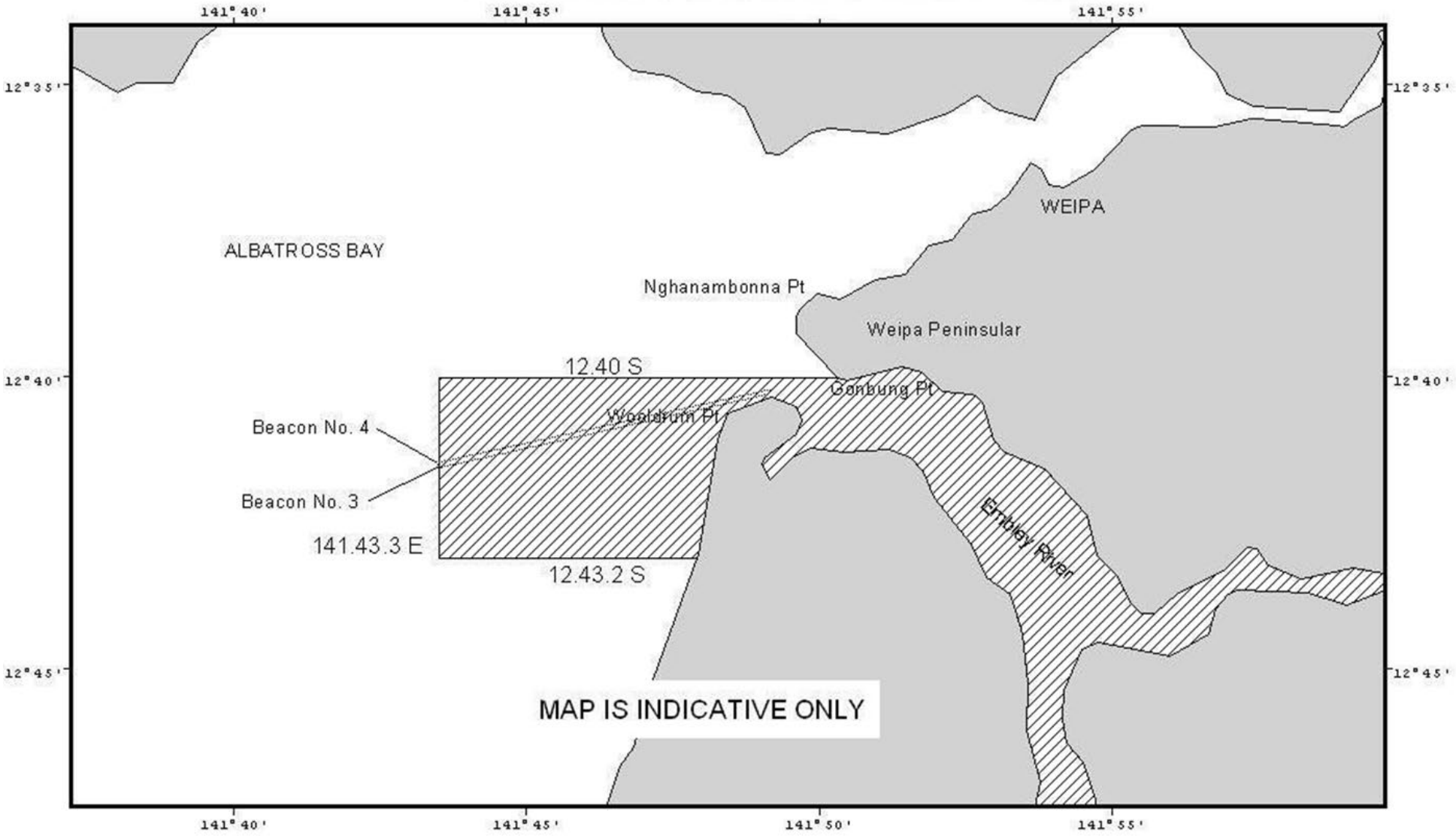


Figure 3: Weipa assembly area (cross-hatched zone). Effective 1400 UTC 31 March to 2200 UTC 31 March each year

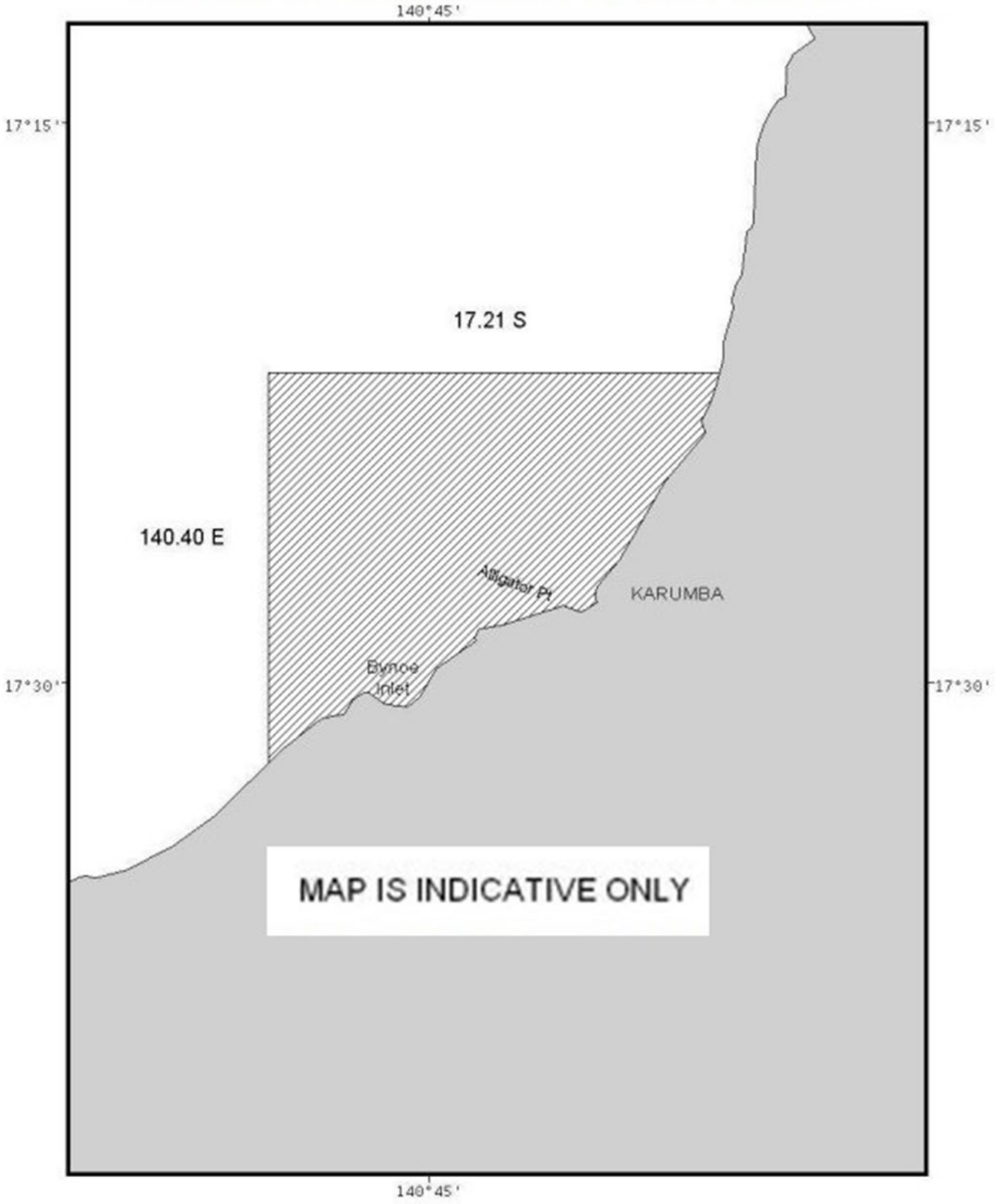


Figure 4: Karumba assembly area (cross-hatched zone). Effective 1400 UTC 31 March to 2200 UTC 31 March each year

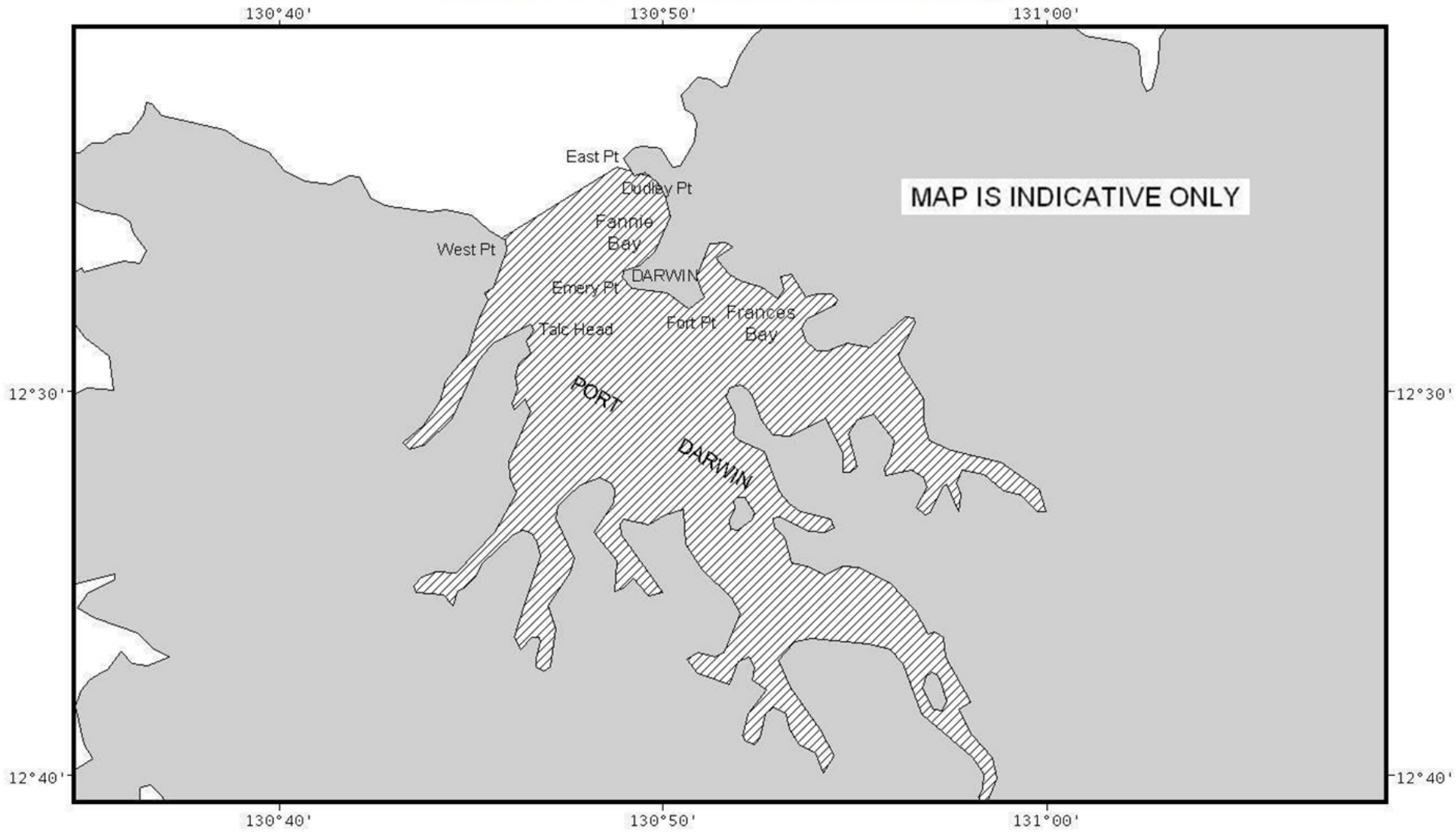


Figure 5: Darwin assembly area (cross-hatched zone). Effective 1400 UTC 31 March to 2200 UTC 31 March each year

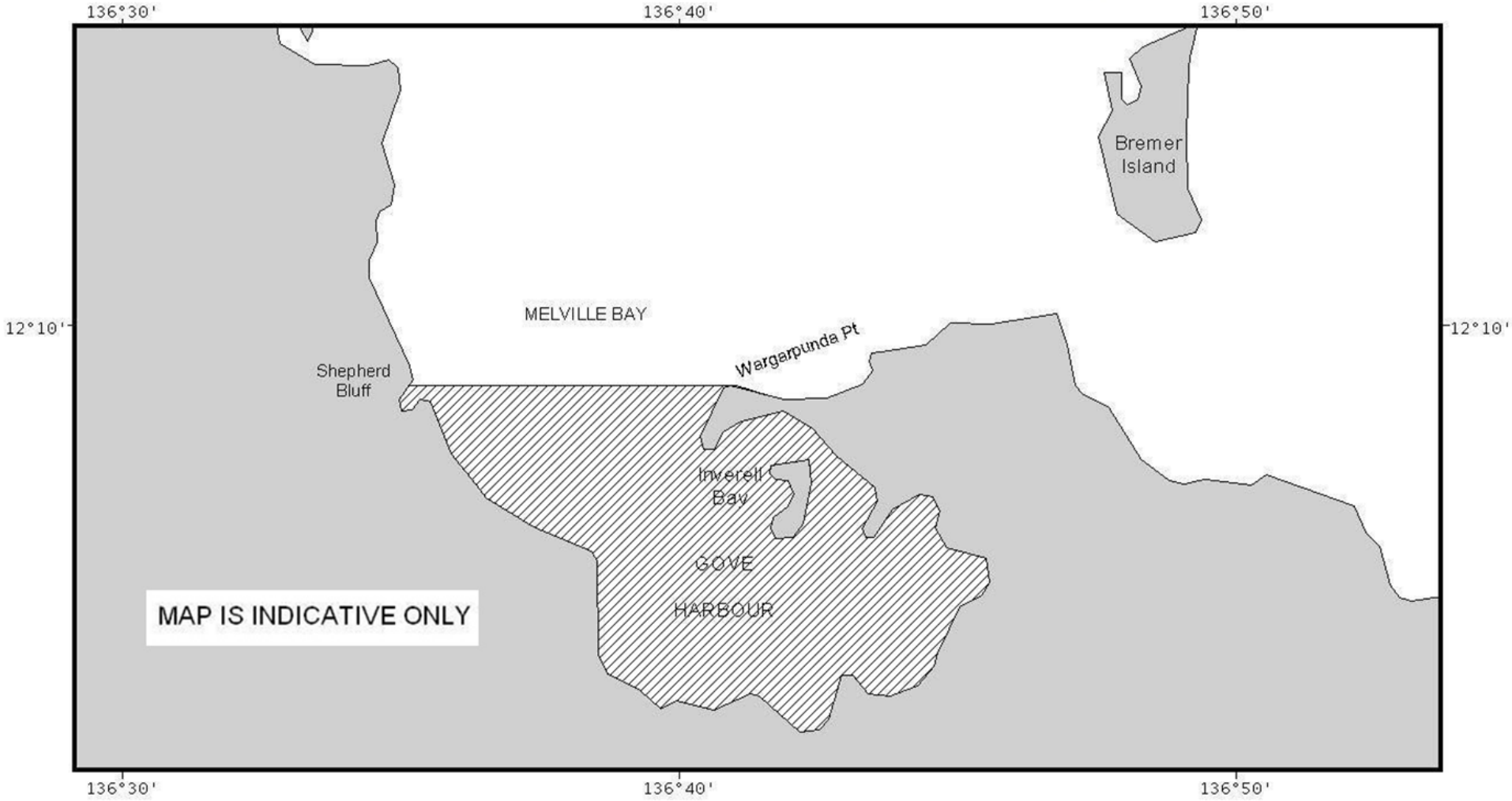


Figure 6: Gove assembly area (cross-hatched zone). Effective 1400 UTC 31 March to 2200 UTC 31 March each year

3 General management arrangements

3.1 Gear Requirements

3.1.1 Net requirements

The following net configurations can be used at any one time:

- quad (4) trawl nets;
- twin tongue trawl nets;
- standard twin trawl nets; or
- triple (3) trawl nets.

One try-net may also be used.

The requirements for each net configurations are that:

- **quad trawl net configuration** has a headrope length no greater than 25% of the amount allowed to be used by your holding of gear SFRs**,** (allowing for the 10% reduction on the value of the gear SFRs for this configuration); and
- **twin or tongue trawl net configuration** has a headrope length no greater than half of the amount allowed to be used by your holding of gear SFRs (allowing for the 10% reduction on the value of the gear SFRs for a tongue trawl net configuration); and
- **triple trawl net configuration** has a headrope length no greater than a third of the amount allowed to be used by your holding of gear SFRs (allowing for the 10% reduction on the value of the gear SFRs for a triple trawl net configuration).

There are no restrictions on the number of nets that can be carried in the fishery as long as AFMA is notified of the carriage.

3.1.2 Gear statutory fishing right values[1]

Table 6. SFR headrope and footrope values

Gear type	SFR headrope value	SFR footrope value
Twin trawl	9.0 cm	10.3 cm
Quad trawl or twin tongue trawl	8.1 cm	9.3 cm
Triple gear	8.1 cm	9.3 cm

3.1.3 Turtle Excluder Devices and Bycatch Reduction Devices

Turtle excluder devices (TEDs) and bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) are the most effective means of reducing bycatch. Effectively used TEDs eliminate nearly all catch of adult turtles and other large animals. BRDs presently available can reduce bycatch significantly.

It is compulsory that all nets rigged for fishing in the NPF are fitted with both BRDs and TEDs, or modified TEDs (as specified), for the entire fishing year. A description of the approved specifications for both BRDs and TEDs is included below and in *Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Gear Requirements) Direction 2021*.

For information regarding changes to TEDs and/or BRDs contact the AFMA NPF manager on (02) 6225 5555 or Josh Cahill at NPFI on 0424 096 355.

Turtle Excluder Devices

Floats must be attached to the top one-half of all TEDs with bottom escape openings. The floats may be attached either outside or inside the net, but not to a flap.

The following floats must be attached to the grid:

i. **3 small hard plastic floats that are at least 150 mm, but less than 200 mm, in diameter; or**
ii. **2 medium hard plastic floats that are at least 200 mm, but less than 250 mm, in diameter; or**
iii. **1 large hard plastic float that is at least 250 mm in diameter.**

[1] *Northern Prawn Fishery Management (Fishing Capacity) Determination 2021*

TEDS in the NPF

TEDs are required at all times when fishing in the NPF (unless fishing in waters deeper than 200 metres):

- Grid must be greater than 81 cm x 81 cm
- Bar spacing must be less than 120 mm (Measured from inside edges of the bar) (Figure 1)
- Grid must be set between 30 & 55 degrees. (You can use a truss angle measure from any hardware store to check your TED is legal) (Figure 2)
- Floats must be attached to the top half of all bottom opening TEDs (inside or outside the net, but cannot be attached to a flap). Float specifications are set out in the Gear Direction.

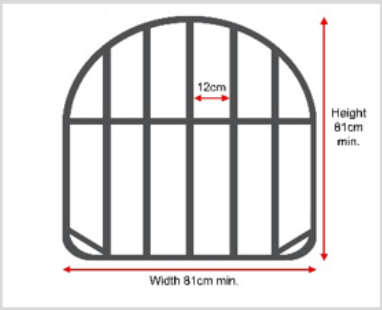


Figure 1: Minimum external TED grid dimensions and maximum bar spacing dimensions

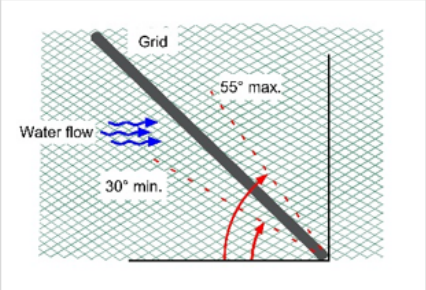


Figure 2: Required TED angle

DOUBLE FLAP DESIGN

Flaps must be two panels of mesh more than 147 cm wide when stretched, with less than 38 cm of overlap when stretched (Figure 3). Panels can be tapered two bar, one point so the flap overlap increases as they get close to the bottom of the TED frame.

Panels may only be sewn together along leading edge of the cut and down the entire length of the outside edge of each panel.

The trailing edge of each panel must not extend more than 61 cm past the posterior edge of the TED frame (Figure 3).

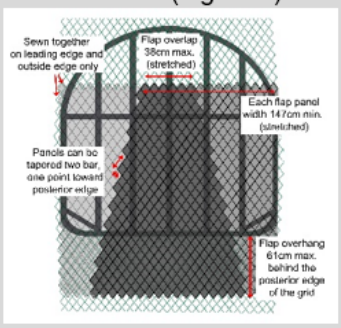


Figure 3: Required flap dimensions for double flap design

Double Flap Rectangular Opening

Cut immediately forward of the TED ('horizontal cut') must be more than 61 cm with minimum forward cuts of more than 51 cm.

Leading edge of the escape opening cut must be no less than 142 cm stretched (Figure 4).

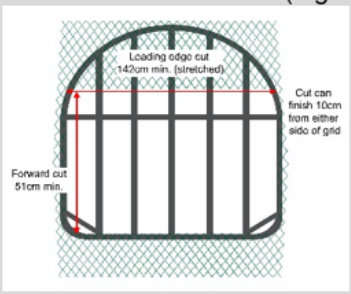


Figure 4: Required escape opening dimensions for rectangle opening

Double Flap Triangular Opening

Cut immediately forward of the TED ('horizontal cut') must be more than 102 cm with minimum forward cuts of 101 cm (Figure 5).

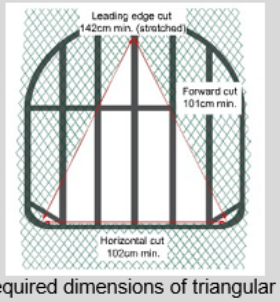


Figure 5: Required dimensions of triangular opening

TEDS in the NPF

SINGLE FLAP DESIGNS

Flap must be a minimum of 338 cm x 132 cm. The 132 cm edge of the flap is attached to the forward edge of the escape opening cut (Figure 6).

Flap may extend no more than 61 cm behind the posterior edge of the TED frame.

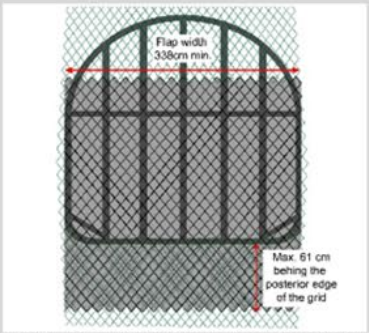


Figure 6: Required flap dimensions for single flap designs

Single Flap Rectangular Opening

Cut immediately forward of TED must be a minimum of 61 cm.

Two forward cuts of escape opening must be more than 66 cm long.

Leading edge of escape opening must be more than 181 cm stretched (Figure 7).

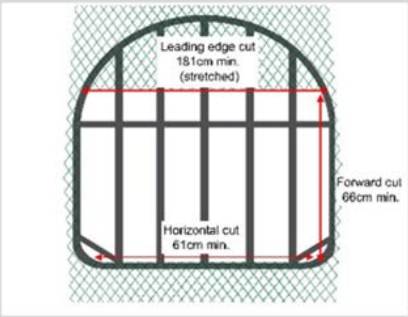


Figure 7: Required dimensions for rectangular opening

Single Flap Triangular Opening

Cut immediately forward of the TED must be more than 102 cm with minimum forward cuts of 136 cm (Figure 8).

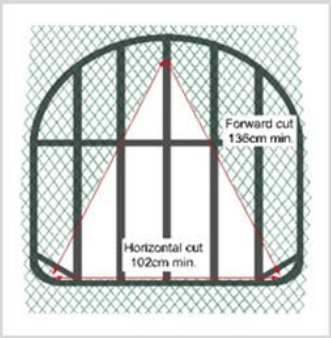


Figure 8: Required dimension for triangular opening

Novel Design

If you would like to trial a TED design that is not compliant with current regulations, you can do so under a scientific permit. Contact NPFI Projects Manager on 0424 096 355 or josh@npfindustry.com.au for information on how to obtain one.

Contact Information

If you require clarification on legal requirements for TEDs, refer to Gear Direction 174 in your operations manual, or contact the AFMA Duty Officer 0428 196 114

NPF Industry Pty Ltd

Modified TED

"Modified Turtle Excluder Device" means a device that:

a) is a Turtle Excluder Device with the escape opening in the top of the codend; and

b) a bar spacing no more than 60 mm; and

c) in addition the Modified Turtle Excluder Device may have:

i. an escape flap over the escape opening (but no part of the escape flap may be closer than 150 mm to any part of the grid, when the Turtle Excluder Device is fitted to a codend hung vertically); and

ii. a guiding funnel or flap inside the codend ahead of the grid (but no part of the guiding funnel or flap may be closer than 150 mm to any part of the grid, when the TED is fitted to a codend hung vertically).

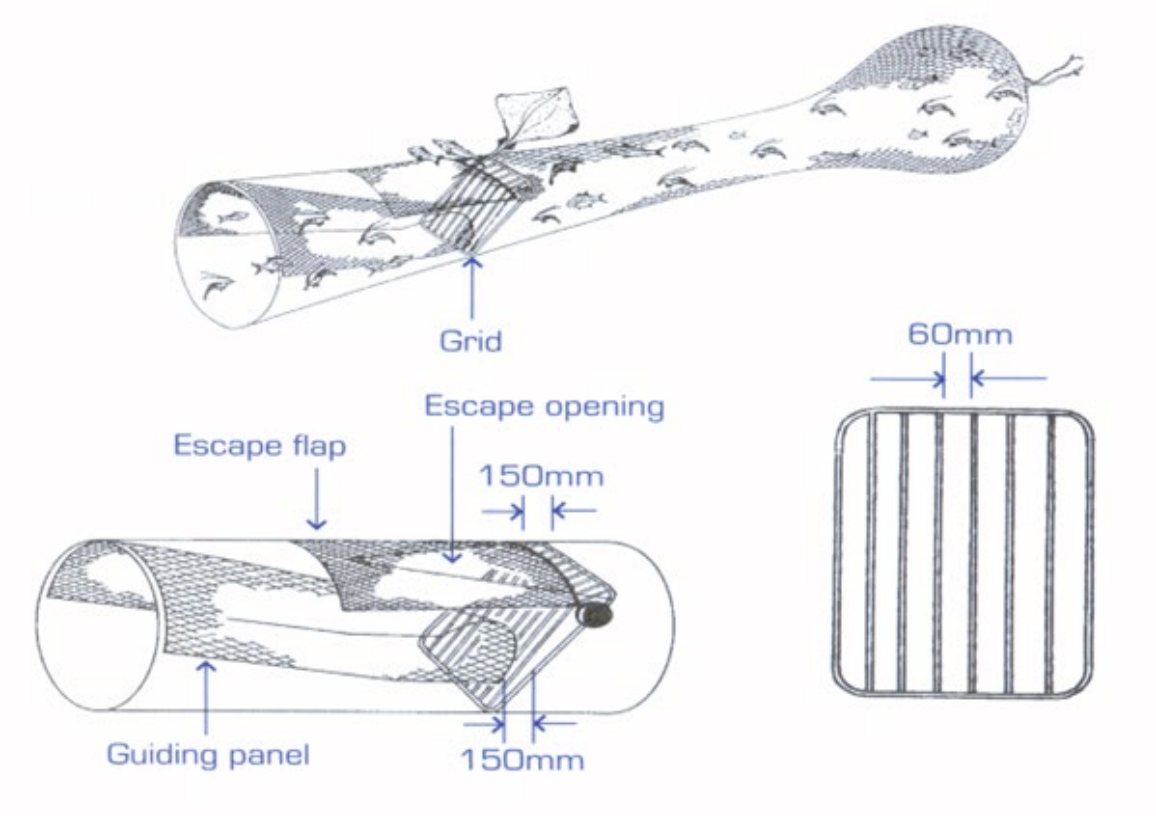


Figure 7: Modified TED - dimensions and placement

Bycatch Reduction Devices

Refer to the following information and diagrams provided by NPFI on BRDs approved for use in the NPF to ensure that you are complying with gear requirements.

Fishers are encouraged to improve the effectiveness of BRDs. If you want to test a BRD that does not meet the current prescribed specifications you can apply to AFMA for a Scientific Permit.

This provision for testing BRDs is limited to testing new designs and will not be granted to accommodate the general use of devices that don't meet the specifications. If you would like to obtain a scientific permit please contact the AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621 or the AFMA NPF manager on (02) 6225 5555.

Table 7. Approved BRD list

Schedule 1 BRDs*	Schedule 3 BRDs*
Square Mesh Panel	Kon's Covered Fisheyes
Yarrow Fisheye	FishEX 70
Popeye Fishbox (<120 meshes)	Tom's Fisheye
	Popeye Fishbox (at 70 meshes)

*For more information and device dimensions and positions see *Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Gear Requirements) Direction 2021*.

Schedule 3 BRDs that can be used any time of the year

Tom's Fisheye

"Tom's Fisheye" means an escape opening device installed in a net rigged for fishing to the following specification:

a) one device with the aft edge of the device located at 60 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and
b) a vertical escape opening held open by a rigid frame that supports a rigid enclosed cone; and
c) an escape opening measuring no less than 360 mm wide by 200 mm high and must face the codend; and
d) a rigid cone measuring no less than 340 mm wide by 185 mm high by 290 mm in length fixed to the rigid frame; and
e) with an escape gap between the rigid frame and rigid cone of 94 mm; and
f) with an escape gap clear of any obstructions (including mesh ties).

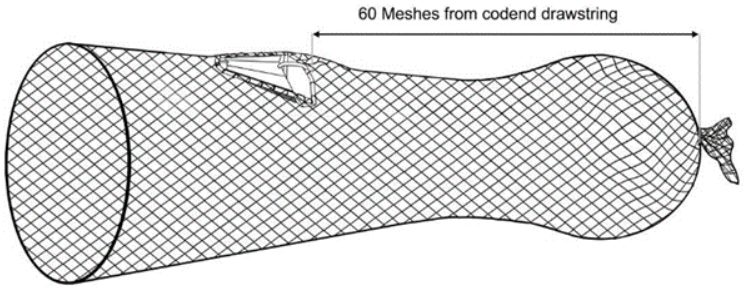
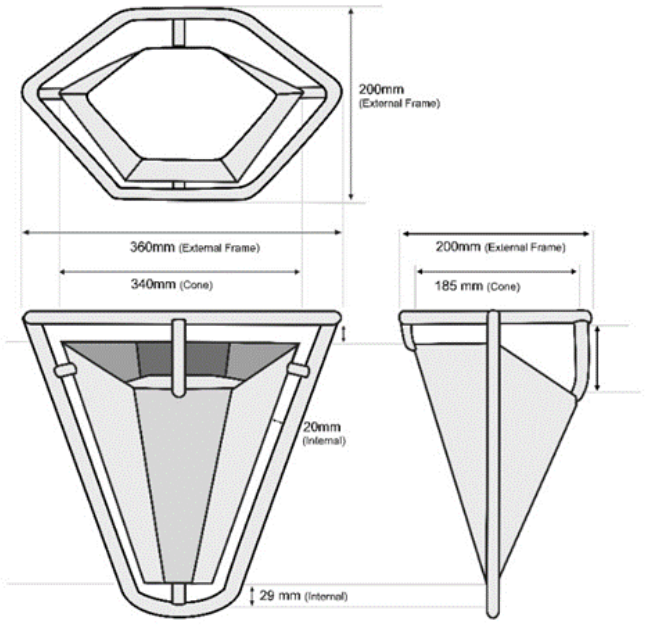


Figure 8: Tom's Fisheye placement in the codend



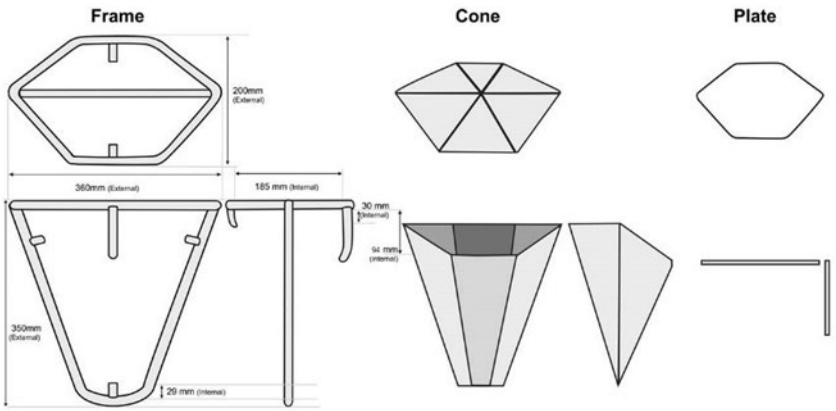


Figure 9:Tom's Fisheye dimensions

Kon's Covered Fisheyes

"Kon's Covered Fisheyes" is two escape opening devices installed in a net rigged for fishing to the following specification:

a) one escape opening device with the aft edge of the device located at 78 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and
b) one escape opening device with the aft edge of the device located at 55 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and
c) for which each escape opening device has the following characteristics prior to being installed in a net rigged for fishing:
   i a vertical escape opening held open by a rigid frame that encloses a rigid cone; and
   ii an escape opening measuring no less than 430 mm wide by 205 mm high and must face the codend; and
   iii a rigid cone measuring no less than 295 mm wide by 145 mm high by 275 mm in length fixed to the rigid frame; and
   iv with an escape gap between the rigid frame and the rigid cone of 55 mm.

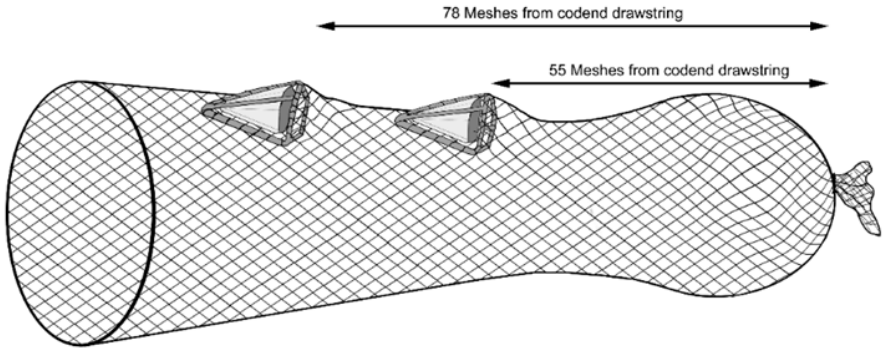


Figure 10: Kon's Covered Fisheye placement in the codend

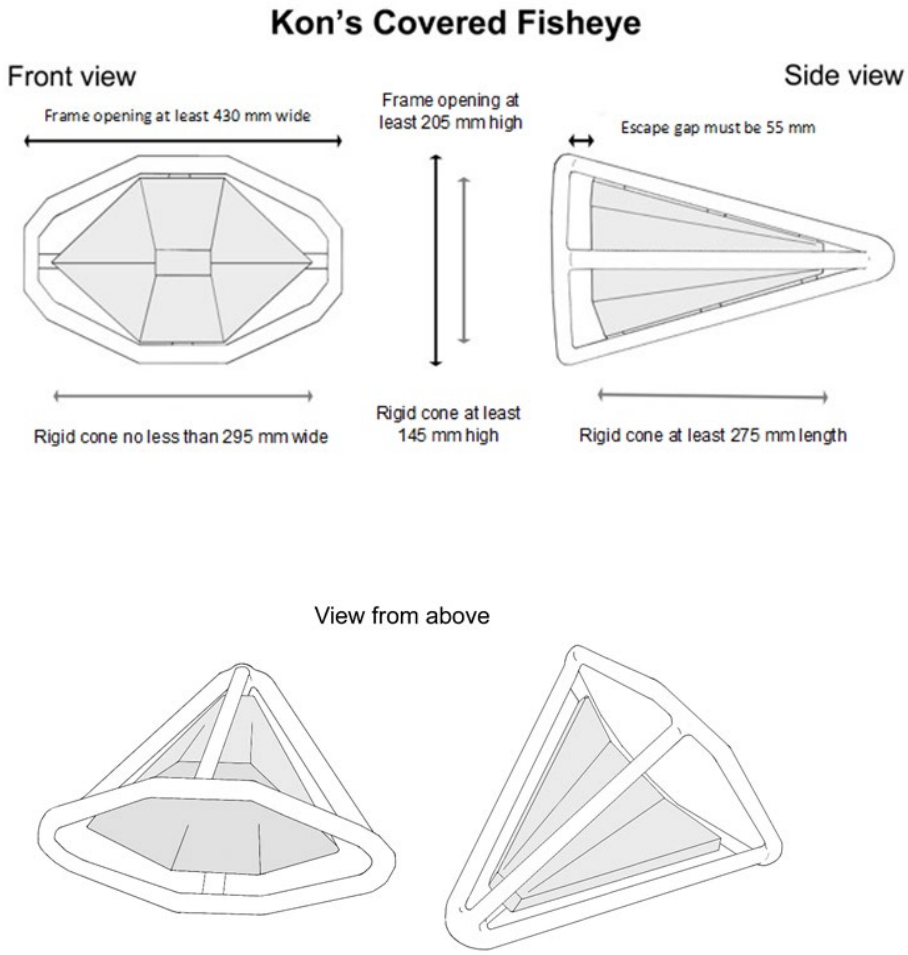


Figure 11: Kon's Covered Fisheye dimensions

FishEX 70

"FishEX 70" is an escape opening device installed in a net rigged for fishing to the following specification:

a) one device with the aft edge of the device located at 65 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and

b) with an escape gap clear of any obstructions (including mesh ties); and

c) for which the escape opening device has the characteristics detailed in Figures 12 and 13 prior to being installed in a net rigged for fishing.

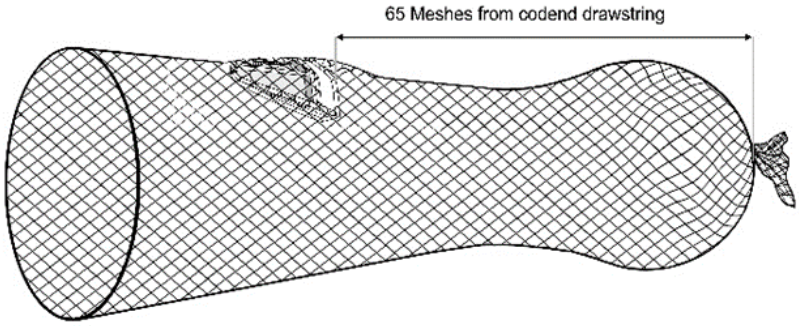


Figure 12: FishEX70 placement in the codend

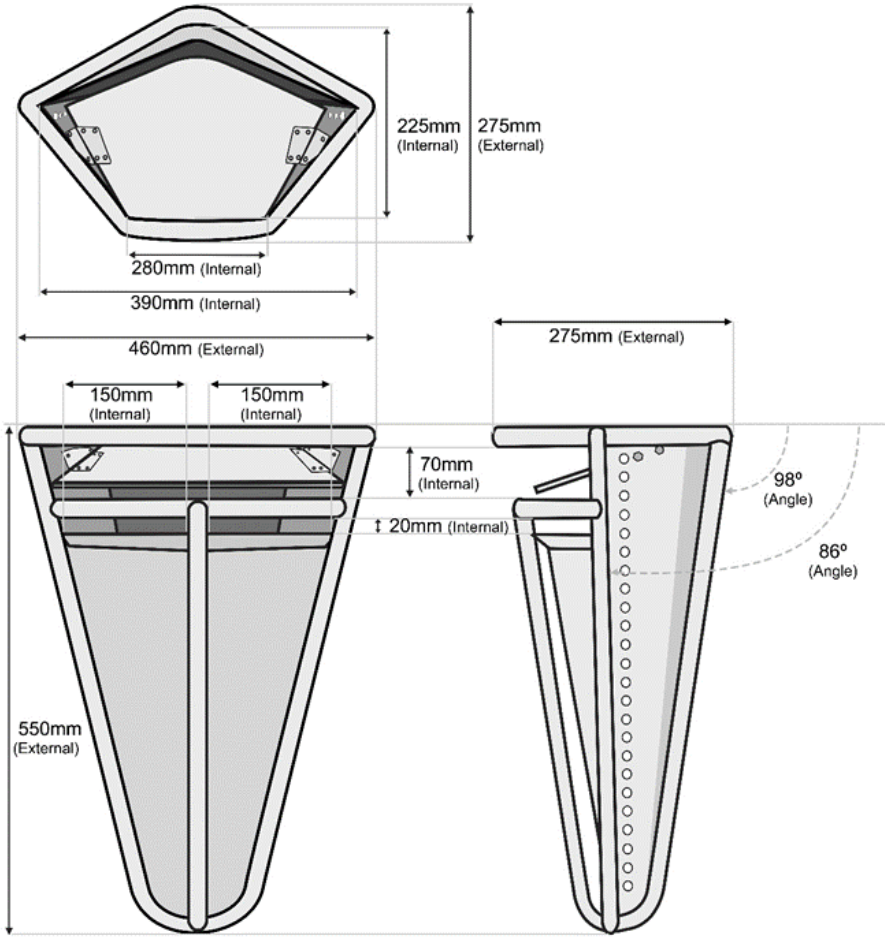


Figure 13: FishEX70 dimensions

Popeye Fishbox

The Popeye Fishbox is an escape opening device installed in a net rigged for fishing to the following specification:

a) one device with the aft edge of the device located no further forward than **70** meshes, from the codend drawstrings; and
b) a vertical escape opening held open by a rigid frame; and
c) an escape opening measuring no less than 375 mm wide x 375 mm high; and
d) a rigid foil positioned at the forward edge of the BRD no less than 200 mm in depth; and
e) no pieces of netting or other material covering any escape openings, nor any opening closed by any other means, during fishing operations.

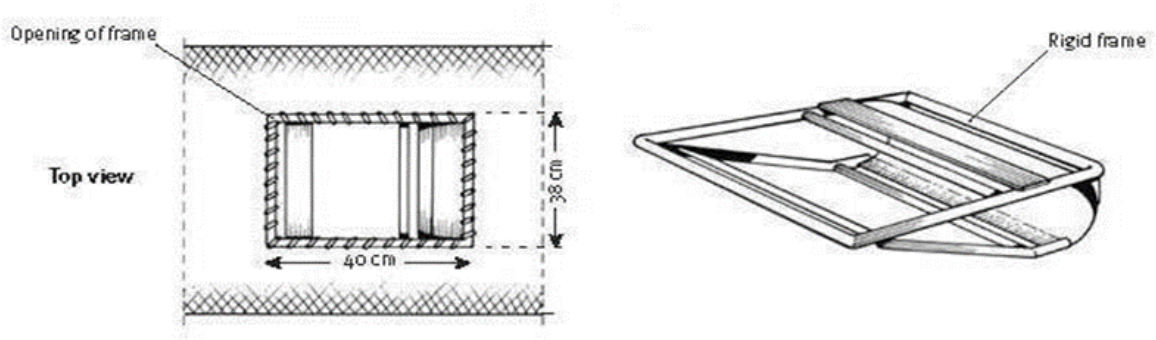


Figure 14: Popeye Fishbox dimensions

Optional guiding funnel

The Popeye Fishbox can also contain a guiding funnel to prevent prawn escapement (see below). The guiding funnel is kept open by the use of a small float.

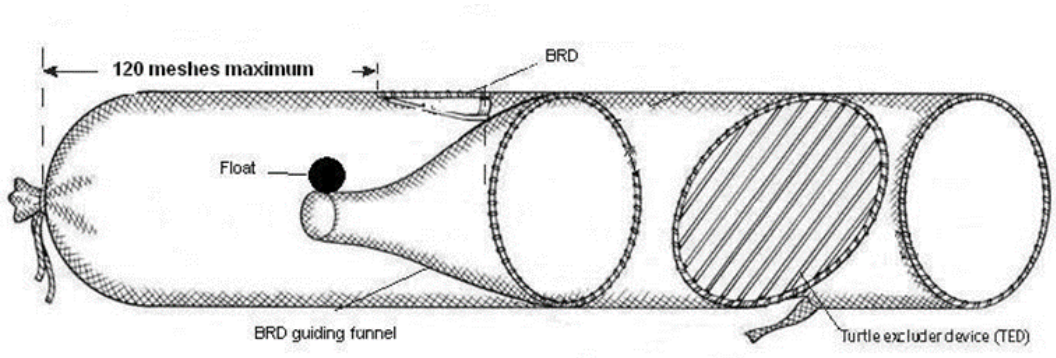


Figure 15: Popeye Fishbox - options guiding funnel

The Popeye Fishbox can be made complete with codend by Popeyes Netmaking in Cairns. For any queries regarding the installation and use of the Popeye Fishbox please contact:

Robert “Popeye” Bennett Popeye’s Netmaking:
Ph: 07 4055 2347
Fax: 07 4055 2329

Schedule 1 BRDs that can only be used outside the tiger prawn season (August to November each year)

Popeye Fishbox

The Popeye Fishbox can be used as per the information in the above Popeye Fishbox section (page 34), but located at **120** meshes from the codend drawstrings.

Yarrow Fisheye

"Yarrow Fisheye" means an escape opening device installed in a net rigged for fishing to the following specification:

a) one device with the aft edge of the device located no further forward than 120 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and
b) a vertical escape opening held open by a rigid frame; and
c) an escape opening measuring no less than 350 mm wide by 150 mm with the width of the escape opening divided in half by a solid bar; and
d) an additional rigid bar running from the apex of the frame to the top of the escape opening; and
e) no pieces of netting or other material covering any escape openings, nor any opening closed by any other means, during fishing operations.

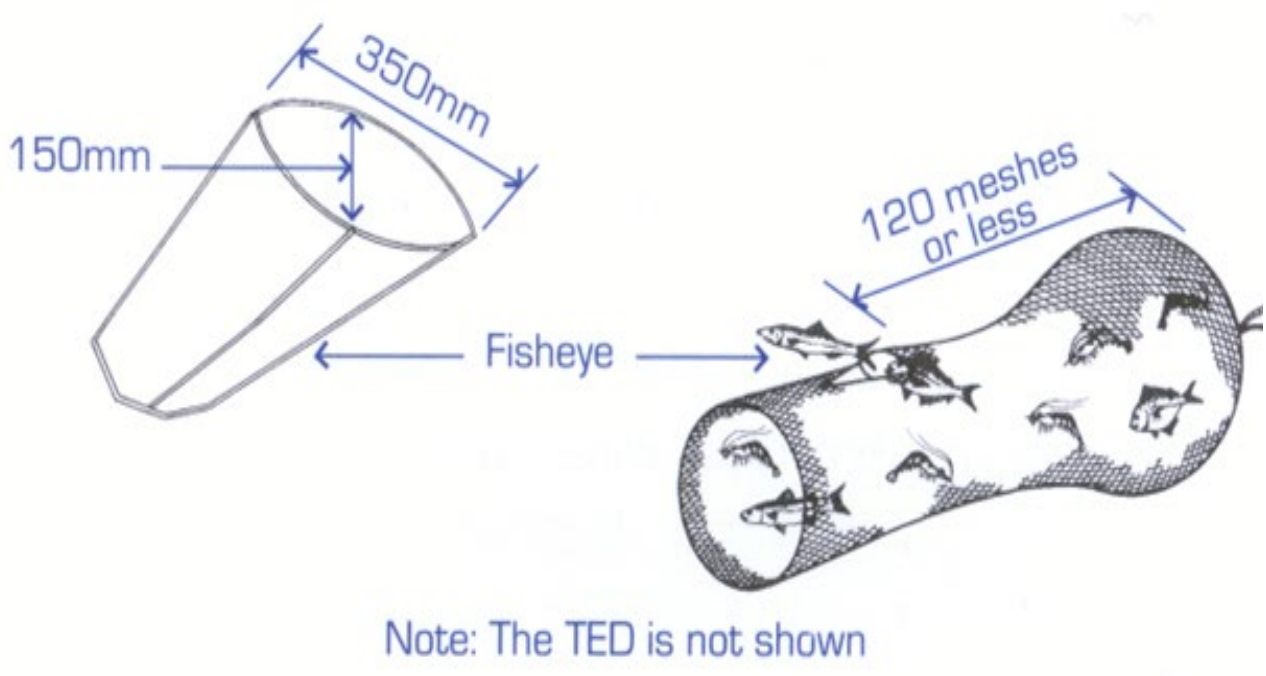


Figure 16: Yarrow Fisheye dimensions and placement

Square Mesh Panel

"Square Mesh panel" means an escape opening device installed in a net rigged for fishing that is a continuous panel of netting that has the following characteristics:

a) a nominal mesh size no less than 101 mm; and
b) an overall dimension no less than 400 mm wide and 600 mm long; and
c) the aft edge of the panel is located no further forward than 120 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and
d) no pieces of netting or other material covering any escape openings of the square mesh, nor any opening closed by any other means, during fishing operations.

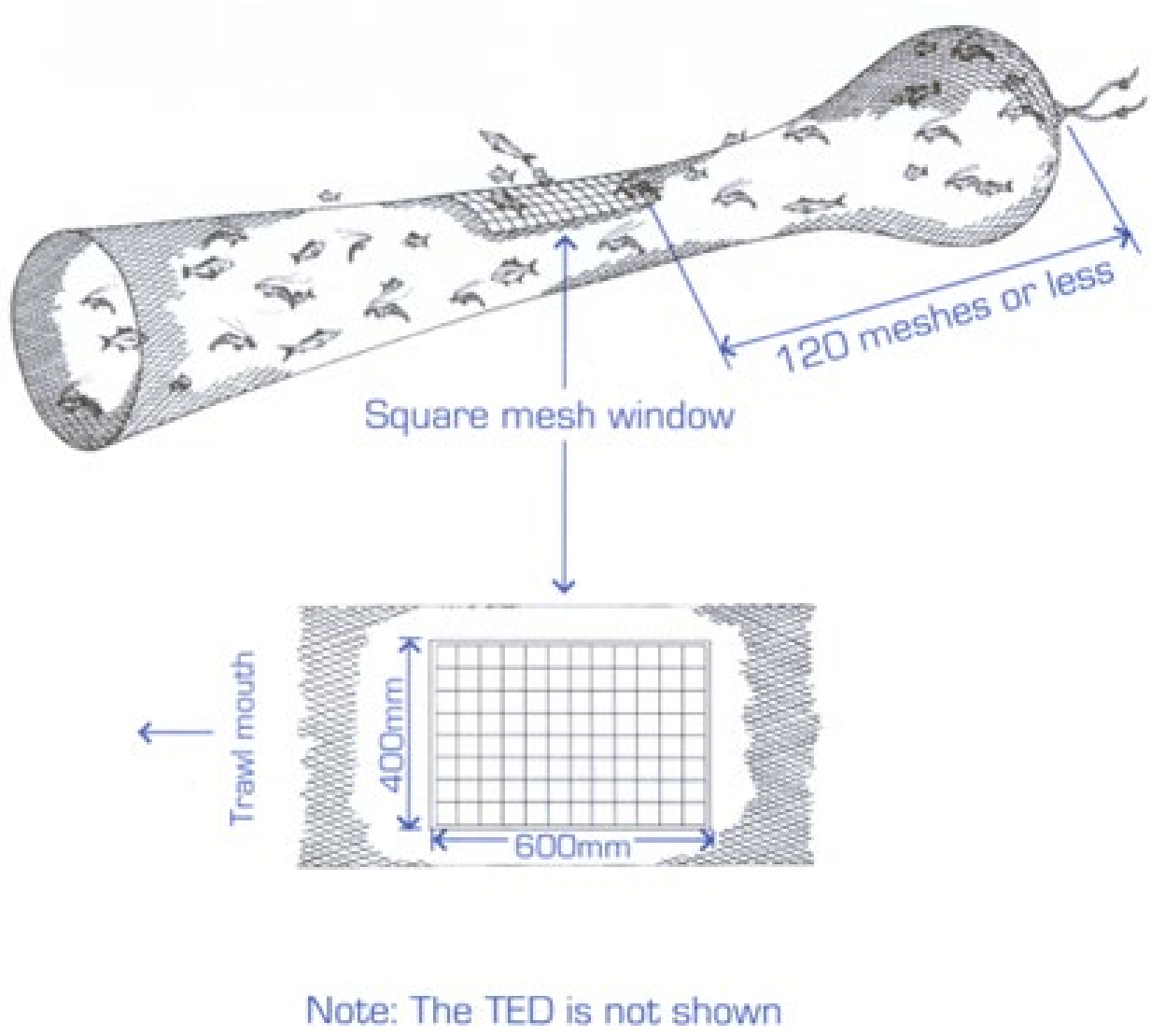


Figure 17: Square mesh panel - dimensions and placement

3.2 Monitoring

3.2.1 Vessel monitoring systems

It is the concession holder's responsibility to ensure that any vessel nominated to their concession is fitted with a vessel monitoring system (VMS) in a category specified on the list of approved VMS units on the AFMA website (www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/vessel-monitoring/).

The VMS unit must remain switched on at all times, including when the boat is in port. The concession holder must ensure the VMS is reporting correctly before going out to sea for the first time and that no interference occurs with the correct operation of the VMS unit. On becoming aware of a problem with the VMS functioning, the concession holder must advise AFMA as soon as practicable via:

Phone: 02 6225 5555 (follow the prompts); or
Mobile: 0419 205 329; or
Email: ausvms@afma.gov.au

If the VMS is not operating or is malfunctioning the boat must remain in port until the VMS is inspected, repaired if necessary and AFMA has received confirmation from an authorised technician that the VMS unit is functioning normally.

AFMA's Monitoring and Surveillance Unit is responsible for the monitoring of the VMS. If you have any queries please contact:

Phone: 02 6225 5555 (follow the prompts)

Email: ausvms@afma.gov.au

After hours contact – AFMA Duty Officer: 0419 205 329.

Manual vessel reporting

If a nominated vessel's VMS unit stops reporting, the concession holder will be required to manually report the vessel's position at a frequency specified by AFMA**.**

The manual position reports should include:

- the vessel's name;
- the vessel's distinguishing symbol;
- the vessel's present latitude and longitude (in degrees and minutes); and
- the date and time.

Manual position reports are to be made by:

Phone: 02 6225 5369 (follow instructions on the Voicemail); or

Email: ausvms@afma.gov.au

Directions to return to port

Depending on the circumstances, and in accordance with enforcement decision principles as outlined in the Domestic Compliance and Enforcement Policy, if a nominated boat's VMS unit stops reporting AFMA may determine that it is appropriate to issue a Direction under section 69 of the *Maritime Powers Act 2013*. This Direction will require the boat to immediately return to, and remain in port until such time as AFMA is satisfied the problems with the VMS unit have been rectified. The Domestic Compliance and Enforcement Policy is available on the Domestic Compliance Program page (www.afma.gov.au/monitoring-enforcement/combating-illegal-fishing-2/) on the AFMA website.

Temporary switch off (TSO) arrangements

A TSO is a formal arrangement that allows a unit to be legitimately switched off. If a nominated vessel is undergoing maintenance, berthed for an extended period or in other exceptional circumstances that render VMS operation impractical, the concession holder can apply for a TSO by filling out an 'Application for VMS Temporary Switch Off' form (www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/vessel-monitoring/). Using the webform function is preferred, but if you cannot access this then please manually fill out the form and send to AFMA via email: ausvms@afma.gov.au

The VMS unit must not be switched off unless and until such time as a TSO approval has been granted. Further information can be found on the Vessel Monitoring Systems page on the AFMA website (www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/vessel-monitoring/).

3.2.2 Observer programs

Crew Member Observer (CMO) program

The CMO program was developed as a vital component of a cost effective method for monitoring bycatch in the NPF by involving voluntary crew members in the collection of scientific data. NPFI, with support from CSIRO, coordinates the CMO program which supplements data from AFMA Scientific Observers for the NPF bycatch monitoring program.

The CMO program enables additional bycatch data to be obtained in a cost effective manner, relating to interactions with threatened, endangered and protected (TEP) species including sawfish, sea snakes, turtles, and syngnathids, and other species identified as being potentially 'At-Risk' through the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) process. Annual workshops are held for CMOs to undertake training and receive support from NPFI, CSIRO scientists and AFMA staff. CMO workshops are designed to provide a valuable learning experience for participants, and are typically held in July prior to the start of the tiger prawn season.

The NPFI is responsible for management of the CMO program, including recruiting, training and supporting CMOs, as well as data entry, preliminary analysis, and reporting.

Assessment has shown the data quality collected by CMOs is of a high standard and is used in combination with CSIRO scientific surveys and AFMA observer data to measure and assess trends in catch rates of the TEP and 'at-risk' species being monitored.

This data is crucial in assessing improvements in bycatch reduction and will greatly enhance the fishery's ability to meet legislative and management requirements.

If you or any members of your crew are interested in joining the CMO program please contact Josh Cahill on 0424 096 355 or josh@npfindustry.com.au.

AFMA Scientific Observer program

AFMA's scientific observer program currently places observers on domestic and, if required, foreign vessels fishing within the AFZ. The requirements and priorities for the observer program for each fishery are determined by the Fishery Manager in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and implemented by the AFMA Observer Section. It is important to note that scientific observers are required to report breaches of permit conditions but they are not compliance officers and do not hold any compliance powers.

AFMA scientific observers are trained in specialised sampling techniques and the primary focus for observers deployed in the NPF is to collect data on retained catch, bycatch, interactions with TEP and Listed Marine species, sharks and rays, assess new BRDs and monitor activities for adherence to SFR conditions. The data scientific observers collect will be used to better manage the fishery and help industry achieve further reductions in bycatch to meet legislative requirements.

The AFMA observer section is contactable through AFMA reception or directly on 0427 496 446.

3.3 Navigation rules for transiting closures

Regulations relating to navigating through closed areas are included in the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*. These Regulations (knowns as the 'Nav Reg') apply to all Commonwealth fisheries and provide for vessels to navigate through closed areas provided certain navigation conditions are met.

The rules are as follows:

Navigating in area that is a closed zone:

(1) The master of a boat commits an offence of strict liability if the boat is navigated in an area that is a closed zone that relates to the boat.

Penalty: 25 penalty units.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply if information given by the boat's vessel monitoring system shows, for the period that the boat was in the closed zone:

(a) that the boat was travelling at a speed of 5 knots or more as worked out under subsection (4); or

(b) that:

(i) the boat was navigated in the closed zone for a period of 30 minutes or more; and

(ii) the boat was stationary (see subsection (5)).

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply if:

(a) AFMA had given approval for the boat to be navigated in the closed zone because of an unforeseen emergency, or circumstances beyond the control of the master of the boat; and

(b) the boat was navigated in the closed zone in accordance with any instructions given by AFMA.

(4) To work out a boat's speed in knots for the purposes of this section:

(a) for each consecutive pair of points identified by the boat's vessel monitoring system, identify the shortest distance between the pair of points in a straight line; and

(b) divide the distance by the time taken by the boat to travel between the 2 points.

(5) For the purposes of this section, a boat is taken to be stationary if it is travelling at a speed of 0.5 knots or less as worked out under subsection (4).

In exceptional circumstances, such as vessel breakdown, distress, medical emergency, cyclone or weather warning, AFMA may give approval for a boat to be navigated in a closed zone without requiring that the boat meet the above navigation rules. Please call the AFMA Darwin Duty Officer on 0428 196 114 to apply for an exemption in these circumstances.

3.4 Licensing

3.4.1 Fees

Fees apply for licensing services. A list of the applicable fees is available from www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/fees-payments.

3.4.2 Licensing arrangements

AFMA provides an online system called GoFish, which allows concession holders to access their data and conduct licensing business online.

Through your GoFish account, you are able to access the following documents:

- *Extract of Register* – this is a record of the SFRs that you hold and whether or not those SFRs are nominated to a vessel.
- *Holding Summary* – this is a summary of the gear SFRs that you currently hold.
- *Transaction Statement* – this is a summary of the transactions (permanent transfers and leases) that you have completed throughout the season.

3.4.3 GoFish

Background

GoFish is AFMA's online business facility.

In GoFish you can:

- complete your Licensing transactions
- view your record of fishing concessions
- update your contact details
- view quota and catch information
- receive messages from AFMA
- monitor progress of applications
- renew permits
- set up recurring leases
- change your password.

NPF concession holders don't need to wait for AFMA licensing staff to send out new certificates, extracts or permits in the mail, but instead you are able to access copies of them within GoFish.

Register to use GoFish

You register directly through GoFish, which can be found on the AFMA website at www.afma.gov.au/services-for-fishers.

Register your agent

Once your agent has had their GoFish registration approved, you can nominate them to action on your behalf through the GoFish platform.

Alternatively, you can complete the Registered Authorised Agent Nomination form (available from www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/uploads/2016/08/RA-June-16.pdf) and return the form to AFMA.

Once registered, you, or your agent, will receive an email with a Client ID and a first-use password. You must change this password the first time you log in.

Changing your password

Your password must be at least 8 characters (letters, numbers and punctuation) and have at least one special character (e.g. @,*.) and one number.

Your GoFish password is also your e-log password.

3.5 Reporting requirements

3.5.1 Electronic Logbooks (e-logs)

What are e-logs?

Electronic logbooks (e-logs) are computer programs/software on fishing vessels that allow the entry and submission of daily fishing logs as an alternative to paperlogs. They are designed to provide a continuous record of fishing operations undertaken by Commonwealth fishing concessions holders. AFMA electronic logbooks are used to collect information about:

- when and where you are fishing
- the type of gear you are using
- the composition of your catch
- any interactions with threatened, endangered or protected species.

This information is important for determining the status of fish stocks and making management decisions, including the setting of total allowable catches. All boats fishing in the NPF for more than 50 days per year must use e-logs.

Electronic logbooks are required to be completed in the NPF

and became compulsory on 1 January 2019

Who uses e-logs?

The holder of the fishing concession is responsible for ensuring that the e-log is completed and that it is certified as complete and correct.

The e-log must be submitted by the person responsible for the fishing operations of the boat (skipper) during the fishing trip.

If the skipper is not the same person as the concession holder they must be authorised as an agent of the concession holder. To authorise a person to act as an agent please complete the Registered Authorised Agent form on the AFMA website via GoFish if the person is already an AFMA client.

Registration for electronic logbook lodgement service

To use e-logs you need to:

- Purchase e-log software
- Register for GoFish and e-logs

E-logs are submitted to AFMA using software developed by private companies. To get e-log software you need to contact one of the software providers. A list of available software providers can be found below.

Table 8. E-log software providers

Provider	CatchLog Trading Pty Ltd	OLRAC
Telephone	07 4033 1322	0400 232 576
Email	admin@catchlog.com	olrac@olsps.com
Web	www.catchlog.com	https://elog.olsps.com/

E-logs user registrations

Once you have registered and received your GoFish client ID and password, please contact AFMA on 02 6225 5542 to be added to the list of people authorised to use e-logs.

Using e-logs for the first time

Once you have purchased e-logs software and registered with AFMA you can start submitting e-logs.

New e-log users need to submit both e-log and paper logbook records to ensure that the e-log is being received correctly by AFMA. Both paper and e-logs must be submitted until AFMA notifies you that paper logs are no longer needed.

3.5.2 Completing an E-log

Your e-log should be completed in accordance with AFMA's e-log instructions.

AFMA will need a record from you to cover every day that the fishing concession is in force. You will have been considered to have submitted your daily logbook report if you have received a confirmation email from AFMA acknowledging receipt.

You cannot commence to use an electronic logbook unless you are registered with AFMA. For information on how to register please contact Licensing at AFMA on 1300 723 621 or licensing@afma.gov.au.

An electronic logbook return is considered lodged when it has been successfully processed at AFMA. If AFMA finds errors, an AFMA officer/ NPFI officer will notify the concession holder or their authorised agent.

An NP16 paper logbook is to be carried on the boat at all times and is to be used in circumstances where your electronic logbook reports cannot be completed. If you are fishing north of Melville Island for scampi, you must fill out a NWS04 logbook instead.

3.5.3 E-log issues

Where you are unable to complete an electronic logbook, the NP16 logbook must be completed for every day that the fishing concession is in force, regardless of whether or not fishing takes place on that day.

If you are having issues with e-logs you should contact your e-log provider:

CatchLog – Ph: 07 4033 1322 or email: admin@catchlog.com

OLRAC – Ph: 03 5258 4399 or email: olrac@olsps.com

For further information, or for any issues with your electronic logbook, please contact Josh Cahill on 0424 096 355 or josh@npfindustry.com.au.

Failure to ensure the completion of the electronic logbook or submission of electronic logbook reports in accordance with the instructions will lead to compliance action.

3.5.4 Submitting logsheets

Original copies of your logsheets must be returned to AFMA in date order. Vessels must submit their completed up to date logsheets to AFMA each time they return to port or rendezvous with a mothership that holds an AFMA carrier boat permit. All remaining logsheets must be submitted to AFMA within two weeks of the season end. All duplicate copies of logsheets must be retained.

Logsheets must be returned to AFMA in either the reply paid envelope provided or posted to:

The Logbook Co-ordinator
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
BOX 7051
Canberra Business Centre
ACT 2610

How do I get a new logbook?

Replacement logbooks can be ordered through the online form on the forms page (www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/logbooks-and-catch-disposal) or by contacting AFMA licensing on:

Phone: 02 6225 5542, or

Email: DataEntry@afma.gov.au.

3.6 Bycatch, byproduct and size limits

The Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy and Commonwealth fisheries Harvest Strategy Policies were updated in 2018. The revisions ensure that management of all species impacted by fishing are included and byproduct species are now managed in accordance with the Harvest Strategy Policy.

Bycatch is defined in the *Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy* as a species that is incidentally either:

- taken in a fishery and returned to the sea
- killed or injured as a result of interacting with fishing equipment in the fishery, but not taken.

Typically, bycatch can be considered as either general bycatch or bycatch relating to EPBC Act–listed species.

General bycatch describes all bycatch species in a fishery that are not listed under the EPBC Act. The large variation of species in this category calls for various assessment and management approaches.

EPBC Act–listed species are managed separately to other bycatch species due to their special status under the national *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). EPBC Act–listed species comprise those species protected under Part 13 of the EPBC Act (see Section 3.7).

Byproduct species can be defined as those that make some contribution to the value of the catch in a fishery but less than that of key commercial species. These stocks may be rarely encountered and usually retained, or frequently encountered and occasionally retained.

Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) agreements have been made between the Commonwealth and Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia. Under the OCS agreements the Commonwealth has jurisdiction for the target species of prawns, bugs, scallops, squid and scampi when taken by prawn trawl gear. The Commonwealth also has jurisdiction over any bycatch taken with the target species. Part of the OCS agreements entailed the making of Memorandums of Understanding with each state and territory, which has required AFMA to set byproduct and bycatch limits[2]. Outlined in **Tables 8 and 9**.

For byproduct limits and prohibited species refer to the *Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Limited-take and Prohibited-take Species) Direction 2021*

Table 9. Byproduct restrictions

Species	Possession Limit / restrictions
Scampi (all species)	30 tonne limit until 30 November 2022. No limit from 1 December 2022 until 30 November 2023.
Bugs (*Thenus indicus*, *Thenus orientalis*)	• 60 mm minimum size carapace; • no berried female bugs; • all bugs retained whole; • 100 t trigger limit to review survey and logbook data
Squid	• 500 tonne catch trigger limit; • Review event at 300 tonnes; • Appropriate management measures to be developed and implemented if catch trigger is reached.

[2] Limits are the amount that can be on board at any one time.

Table 10. Bycatch restrictions

Species	Possession Limit / restrictions
Shark, Rays & Skates(all species)	**NIL -** No part of these species to be retained, including: fins, teeth, skin and saw shark beaks
Saddletail snapper (*Lutjanus malabaricus*) Red snapper (*Lutjanus erythropterus*) Red emperor (*Lutjanus sebae*)	(a) if the trip ends during the period beginning on 1 March in a year and ending on 30 June the same year, a cumulative total of **550 kg** whole weight, or if processed the equivalent to whole weight using the conversion ratio below* (if all catch is processed this equals 211 kg fillet (F) weight / 500 kg gilled & gutted (GG) weight / 393 kg headed & gutted (HG) weight) (b) if the trip ends during any other period (i.e. between 1 July in a year and 28 (29) February in the following year), a cumulative total of **50 kg** whole weight, or if processed the equivalent to whole weight using the converstion ratio below* (if all catch is processed this equals 19 kg F weight / 45 kg GG weight / 35 kg HG weight). *Conversion Ratio's W = GG x 1.1 W = F x 2.6 W = HG x 1.4
Mud Crab (*Scylla* sp.)	10 per trip
Broad-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus semifasciatus*) Coral trouts, rock cods, sea breams etc. (Serranidae family) Goldband snapper (*Pristipomoides multidens*) Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) Narrow barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) Emperors, sea breams (Lethrinidae family)	No more than a combined catch of 10 individual fish per trip
Tuna or tuna like species (excluding longtail tuna –outlined above).	**NIL** catch
Rock lobster (*Panulirus ornatus*), also known as painted crayfish	6 lobsters or lobster tails per trip in total
Barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*) Black jewfish (*Protonibea diacanthus*) Blue salmon (*Eleutheronema tetradactylum*) Coral Jewelfish or yellow jew (*Nibea squamosa*) Pearl shell (*Pinctada* spp.) Queenfish (*Scomberoides lysan* & *S. commersonianus*) Spotted grunter-bream (*Pomadasys kaakan*) Threadfin salmon (*Polydactylus macrochir*) Trepang (Class Holothuroidae) Trochus (Family Trochidae)	**NIL** catch

3.6.1 Bycatch handling

The 'Handling practices guide for commonly caught bycatch species' outlines the different species which fishers may encounter, and how best to return them to the water safely. A copy of the guide is available on the AFMA website ('Environment and research' – 'Reducing bycatch' – 'Reports, publications and guides').

AFMA is committed to improving handling practices for all bycatch species caught during fishing operations. To further ensure that fishers use best practice when handling bycatch, AFMA has introduced a condition to reinforce the need for fishers to correctly handle bycatch. The condition will allow for enforcement action to be taken against any operator not acting in accordance with bycatch handling requirements.

AFMA has developed the following six bycatch handling principles to assist fishers to comply with the bycatch handling condition. These are:

- **Principle 1: Safety of the boat and its crew are paramount**

  Mishandling does not include actions taken (or not taken), which are reasonably necessary (see Principles 3 and 4) to ensure the safety of the boat and or its crew.

- **Principle 2: All reasonable steps should be taken**

  Operators are expected to take all reasonable steps to ensure that bycatch is returned to the water as quickly as practicable and in a manner which does not reduce its chance of survival.

- **Principle 3: Minor gear recovery is not 'reasonably necessary'**

  Actions taken for the sole purpose of recovering minor[3] fishing gear, are not considered 'reasonably necessary'.

- **Principle 4: Expediting removal from gear is not 'reasonably necessary'**

  It is not 'reasonably necessary' to injure bycatch when removing it from fishing gear to save time.

- **Principle 5: Harm, injury or death caused during capture is not mishandling**

  Mishandling does not include where bycatch is already dead, injured or stressed when it is brought on-board[4].

- **Principle 6: Compliance with approved bycatch management plans**

  Handling of bycatch in accordance with AFMA approved bycatch management plan(s) is not mishandling.

[3] Minor gear includes items such as hooks, which are unlikely to cause further harm to the bycatch, or marine pollution, if discharged/discarded attached to the bycatch.

[4] Unless further deliberate action or inaction results in the death or further injury to the bycatch.

3.7 Wildlife interactions

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) establishes categories of protected species in Commonwealth areas.

Protected species occurring, or potentially occurring, in the NPF include cetaceans, seabirds, sea snakes, turtles, syngnathids (sea horses and pipefish), sawfishes (green, freshwater, narrow and dwarf), crocodiles and dugongs. There are also a number of sharks and rays (including silky, great white and river sharks, and manta and pygmy devil rays) and other fish listed under the EPBC Act. A full listing of protected species is available on the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment website (www.awe.gov.au/environment/epbc/what-is-protected/approved-lists#species-and-ecological-communities).

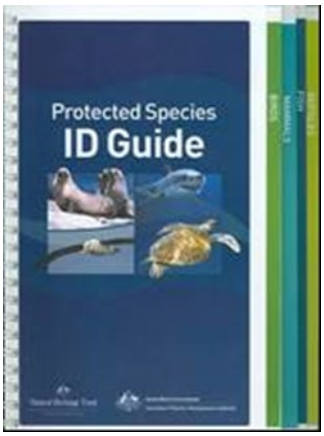
On 9 January 2019, the NPF was accredited for export approval under the EBPC Act. Therefore, any operator who interacts with a protected species as listed in Part 13 of the EPBC Act, and is acting in accordance with the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995* (NPF Plan) will not commit an offence if their operations are consistent with the NPF Plan. However, **NPF fishers are required to report all interactions with protected species.**

The export approval is dependent on three conditions made under Part 13 being met, including:

- The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to ensure there is sufficient ongoing monitoring (electronic or human) to evaluate the nature and level of impacts of fishing on EPBC Act protected species
- The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to ensure that interactions with species of sawfish and sea snakes are minimised by facilitating research and monitoring programs that contribute to:
    - understanding the unique characteristics of sawfish and sea snake interactions with the fishing gear,
    - understanding the population dynamics, including size and structure of sawfish species populations that occur within the fishing area, and
    - implementing appropriate mitigation measures that aim to increase the survival of sawfish and sea snake species
- The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to develop an education program or materials that improve the accurate identification of sawfish and sea snake species.

Failure to report an interaction with a protected species is an offence under the EPBC Act.

3.7.1 Protected species identification guide



To help operators accurately report their protected species interactions, AFMA has produced a protected species identification guide. This guide covers the range of protected species that AFMA managed fisheries do, or have the potential to, interact with during their normal fishing operations. The guide provides pictures of these species along with an indicative distribution and key biological information. All NPF boats have been provided with a copy of this identification guide – if you would like a copy, please contact the AFMA on 1300 723 621 or an electronic copy is available on the AFMA website:

www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/uploads/2014/12/protected-species-id-guide.pdf

What is an interaction with a protected species?

"Interaction" is defined in the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019* as physical contact that occurs between an organism and any object on board, or attached to, a nominated boat, other than that being used by an observer, that could cause the organism to be distressed.

3.7.2 Reporting of interactions with protected species

NPF operators must report all interactions with protected species in the e-log (or in the NP16 in circumstances where your electronic logbook reports cannot be completed).

Operators who have an interaction with a turtle, sawfish, sea snake, silky shark, manta ray, pygmy devil ray or a syngnathid (seahorse or pipefish) must record the interaction in their e-log or the *listed marine and threatened species* form located at the back of the NP16 logbook.

If there is an observer present, immediately inform them of the interaction. **You are still required to report the interaction in your e-logs.**

To assist operators in fulfilling their reporting obligations, AFMA provides a protected species interaction summary report to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on a quarterly basis; on behalf of fishers who report interactions in their logbook. These reports are published on the AFMA website (www.afma.gov.au/sustainability-environment/protected-species-management/protected-species-interaction-reports/).

Remember: Don't get caught, just report!

Further information on interactions with protected species can be obtained from the Northern Fisheries management team (see the contact details section page 6).

3.7.3 Interactions with tagged wildlife

Researchers investigating wildlife species will periodically tag animals (or use bands in the case of seabirds) to help improve the understanding of their biology and population.

Operators who capture a tagged animal should record the details in the listed marine and threatened species form. The band or tag number should be inserted in the appropriate section of the form and the following details recorded in the "comments" section:

- tag or band number and colour;
- species identification or description (photos are very useful);
- size;
- sex; and
- time, date and position of capture.

If the tagged animal is captured alive, operators should record as many details as possible about the animal then release it as carefully as possible, noting the condition in which it was released. AFMA will arrange to notify the appropriate researchers. Further information can be obtained by contacting the AFMA Policy, Environment, Economic and Research (PEER) section on 1300 723 621.

3.8 Spatial management

3.8.1 Closures

Closures play a key role in minimising the impacts of fishing operations on all target and non-target species of the fishery. For example closures are in place to coincide with spawning and recruitment phases of prawns to ensure target species are at an acceptable size for harvesting.

If you would like to propose changes or additions to the current closures please email NPFI at ceo@npfindustry.com.au by the end of the second season.

For information on current closures, please see *Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Permanent Closures) Direction 2021* and *Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Seasonal Closures) Direction 2021*.

3.8.2 Access to Indigenous owned land and closed seas

Large areas of coastal lands and islands adjacent to the NPF area in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, the Northern Territory and northern Queensland are owned and managed by Indigenous Australians. Like all other privately owned land in Australia, permission is required to enter such land. It is the responsibility of NPF skippers and crew to ensure that permission has been granted to them before they go ashore on land owned by Indigenous Australians.

NPF skippers and crew should note that there are a number of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) located in coastal regions bordering and/or overlapping the area of the NPF. An IPA is an area where traditional owners have entered into an agreement with the Australian Government to develop and implement plans of management for the conservation of biodiversity and culture in their lands, as a part of Australia's National Reserve System. In the coastal regions bordering the NPF, there are a number of IPAs with dedicated sea country or Indigenous ranger groups that manage sea country (see below).

It is important to note that IPAs are not established or managed under any Commonwealth, State or Territory law. They are a voluntary arrangement and they do not limit anyone's legal rights and interests. Existing laws, regulations and responsibilities continue to apply in any sea country IPA – including fisheries management arrangements. Further information on existing sea country IPAs is provided below, while information on IPAs in general can be obtained from the following websites:

- www.awe.gov.au/agriculture-land/land/indigenous-protected-areas
- www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/indigenous-protected-areas-ipas

Northern Territory

Approximately 86 per cent of the Northern Territory coastline, including land down to the low water mark, is owned by Indigenous Australians. This land has been granted to the Aboriginal people under the Commonwealth Government's *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. If you want to go ashore on this land, you must have prior approval to do so in the form of a permit. If you do not obtain a permit you may be apprehended and charged with trespass for which there is a penalty. To obtain a permit you must first contact the appropriate Land Council. Contact details are provided below.

Groote Eylandt

Anindilyakwa Land Council
PO Box 172, Alyangula NT 0885
Phone: 08 8987 4006
Fax: 08 8987 4099
Email: admin@alcnt.com.au
Web: https://anindilyakwa.com.au/land-and-sea/permits/

Tiwi Islands

Tiwi Land Council
PO Box 38545, Winnellie NT 0821
Phone: 08 8997 0797
Web: www.tiwilandcouncil.com/permits/index.htm

Other NT areas

Northern Land Council
45 Mitchell Street, Darwin NT 0801
Phone: 08 8920 5100
Fax: 08 8920 5255
Web: www.nlc.org.au/permits/apply-for-permit/work-transit-recreational-fishing-and-tourist-permits

Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) with dedicated sea Country are Anindilyakwa (supported by the Anindilyakwa Rangers), Dhimurru (supported by the Dhimurru Rangers) and Marthakal (supported by the Gumurr Marthakal Rangers).

While Laynhapuy (and Yirralka Rangers), Yanyuwa (and li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers), Djelk (and Bawinanga Rangers) Marri-Jabin IPA (and Thamarrurr Rangers), South East Arnhem Land IPA projects, and the Crocodile Rangers do not have formally dedicated sea country, they also manage sea country.

IPAs with dedicated sea Country

Contact details for the IPAs with dedicated sea Country are in **Table 10**.

Table 11. Contact details for IPAs with dedicated sea Country

IPA	Contact details
Dhimurru IPA	Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation 11 Arnhem Rd, Nhulunbuy NT 0880 PO Box 1551, Nhulunbuy NT 0881 Phone: 08 8939 2700 Email: permits@dhimurru.com.au
Anindilyakwa IPA	Land & Sea Manager Pole 13 Rowell Hwy, Alyangula NT 0885 PO Box 111, Alyangula NT 0885 Anindilyakwa Land Council Phone: 08 8987 6703 Email: manager@alcrangers.com.au
Marthakal IPA	CEO, Marthakal Homeland & Resource Centre Inc. Lot 78 Riiyalanura Rd, Galiwinku Community, Elcho Island, Galiwinku NT 0822 Phone: (08) 8970 5516 Fax: 08 8987 9065 Email: ceo@marthakal.org

Dhimurru IPA and Rangers

Dhimurru undertakes a suite of activities on the land and sea. Its 10 indigenous Rangers undertake inshore fisheries compliance patrols, wildlife surveys, marine debris cleanups, NAQS (Quarantine) patrols, feral animal control and weeds work to name a few.

Dhimurru welcomes NPF fishers to the Dhimurru IPA, and hopes the NPF fishing season in the IPA area is safe, fruitful and enjoyable. Dhimurru is proud to be working closely with partners and stakeholders in sea country to ensure the sustainability and longevity of the marine resources. NPF fishers are encouraged to contact Dhimurru if they see anything in the Dhimurru IPA sea country which you believe they would be interested in.

Dhimurru has advised AFMA that NPF trawlers may anchor their vessels in Melville Bay and in the area north of Lombuy (Crocodile) Creek and will be able to come ashore on the eastern end of Wallaby Beach in order to access Nhulunbuy town ship and other services. Taxis can be ordered from this location.

Every individual going ashore in areas other than Melville Bay will be required to carry a current Dhimurru permit to enter traditional Aboriginal land. Permits can be obtained from Dhimurru's office in Nhulunbuy (phone: 08 8939 2700) or via online application on their website at www.dhimurru.com.au/permits-information.html.

For further information on Dhimurru's activities, to purchase permits and access IPA maps please visit the Dhimurru website (www.dhimurru.com.au).

Further information can also be accessed on www.niaa.gov.au/dhimurru-ipa-and-rangers.

Groote Eylandt and the Anindilyakwa IPA and Rangers

The Groote Eylandt archipelago is Aboriginal freehold land that belongs to the Anindilyakwa people and an area of high conservation value. The archipelago was declared an Indigenous Protected Area in 2006 and covers 10,000 square km of land and sea country under Australia's National Reserve System. Residents and visitors MUST have a current recreation permit to visit all allocated off-lease recreation areas. These permits can be obtained from the Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Ranges. Further written permission is required from the Anindilyakwa Land Council to visit all other restricted areas of the Groote Archipelago. The following leased areas are allowed to be visited without a recreation permit:

- GEMCO Mine sites
- Groote Eylandt Airport
- Alyangula township
- Umbakumba Community
- Angurugu Community
- Milyakburra Community

Applications for recreation permits are available from the Ranger Base at Pole 13, Rowell Highway, Alyangula or by downloading from the ALC website www.anindilyakwa.com.au/land-and-sea/permits.

Enquiries regarding land access permits should be addressed to accounts@alcrangers.com.au or by contacting the Rangers on (08) 8987 6703.

Always check the land closures before visiting any off-lease areas, even if you have a recreation permit.

Further information can also be accessed on www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/anindilyakwa-ipa-and-rangers.

Marthakal IPA and Gumurr Marthakal Rangers

Based at Galiwin'ku on Elcho Island, the Gumurr Marthakal Rangers manage 323,048 hectares of coastal land, intertidal waters and island chains dedicated as the Marthakal Indigenous Protected Area in 2016.

They also manage around one million hectares of surrounding sea country.

The rangers' work includes monitoring and removing ghost nets from their patrol area, managing coffee bush and monitoring billabongs for the potential arrival of mimosa.

They are also involved in an annual monitoring programme of the threatened northern quoll, which were relocated from the mainland to protect them from poisonous cane toads.

Source: www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/marthakal-ipa-and-gumurr-marthakal-rangers

Groups that manage sea Country

Contact details for the IPA projects/Indigenous Rangers that do not have dedicated sea Country, but manage sea country are in **Table 11**.

Table 12. Contact details for Indigenous groups that manage sea Country

IPA projects/Indigenous Rangers	Contact details
Laynhapuy IPA	IPA Manager, Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation 86 Galpu Rd, Yirrkala NT 0881 PO Box 1546, Nhulunbuy NT 0881 Phone: 08 8939 1800 Fax: 08 8987 1443 Email: dave.preece@laynhapuy.com.au
Yanyuwa (Barni-Wardimantha-Awara) IPA	Ranger coordinator, Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Inc. 2087 Robinson Road, Borroloola NT 0854 PO Box 435, Borroloola NT 0854 Phone: 08 8975 6700 Email: ceo@mabunji.com.au
Djelk IPA	Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation Lot 476 Maningrida NT 0822 Phone: 08 8979 6555 Email: info@bawinanga.com
South East Arnhem Land IPA	Northern Land Council Balamurra St, Ngukurr NT 0852 PMB 85 Balamurra St, Ngukurr NT 0852 Phone: 08 8977 2500 Email: reception@nlc.org.au
Marri-Jabin IPA	Thamarrurr Development Corporation Lot 463 Perdjert St, Wadeye Community NT 0822 Phone: 08 8978 1305 Email: peter.sheldon@thamarrurr.org.au
Crocodile Islands Rangers	Ranger Coordinator, Milingimbi Island NT Lot 247 Murrundanga Rd, Milingimbi NT 0822 Phone: 0413 916 616 Email: cir.manager@mopra.org.au

Laynhapuy IPA and Yirralkla Rangers

Located in north-east Arnhem Land, the Laynhapuy area is home to Yolngu people who continue to live on their lands, maintain their culture and use traditional knowledge to manage their country. Oral histories and art include stories of contact with Macassan traders from eastern Indonesia long before Europeans set foot on the continent.

Dedicated in 2006, the 690,000 hectare Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) protects threatened species, internationally significant wetlands and coastal landforms. The Yirralka Rangers undertake natural and cultural resource management activities within the Laynhapuy IPA under the guidance of Traditional Owners.

The entire coastline of the Laynhapuy IPA, including the intertidal area, is Aboriginal Land and access permits are required from the Northern Land Council. Yirralka Rangers can be contacted on (08) 8939 1850.

Source: www.niaa.gov.au/laynhapuy-ipa-and-yirralka-rangers

Yanyuwa IPA and li-Anthawirruiarra Sea Rangers

Located in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Yanyuwa Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) was dedicated in July 2011. It includes more than 130,000 hectares of ancient land alongside the McArthur River at Borroloola and the stunning Sir Edward Pellew archipelago islands. These five islands are an important refuge for native mammals threatened on the mainland and for nesting marine turtles and seabirds.

Source: www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/yanyuwa-ipa-and-li-anthawirriuarra-sea-rangers

Djelk IPA and Bawinanga Rangers

Dedicated in 2009, the Djelk Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) covers more than 670,000 hectares of land and sea country that stretches from the central Arnhem Land plateau to the Arafura Sea. The IPA includes biologically diverse landscapes and encompasses the land of 102 clans, representing at least 12 language groups, making the area rich in cultural heritage.

Marine turtles breed on Djelk's coastline and islands, seasonal floodplains provide a home to file snakes and saltwater crocodiles and the mangroves support species including the water mouse and mangrove monitor. Djelk's sandstone plateaus are thought to contain the richest variety of reptiles in the world, with 90 species recorded.

Source: www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/djelk-ipa-and-bawinanga-rangers

South East Arnhem Land IPA

At nearly 20,000 square kilometres, the South East Arnhem Land Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) spans most of south east Arnhem Land along the far western Gulf of Carpentaria from Blue Mud Bay to the mouth of the Roper River. The IPA is managed by an Advisory Committee of senior elders from the Ngukurr and Numbulwar communities. Sea Country is particularly important, as they have always relied on the sea for their livelihoods.

Source: www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/south-east-arnhem-land-ipa

Marri-Jabin IPA and Thamarrurr Rangers

The Thamarrurr Land and Sea Rangers are based in Wadeye and patrol an area of approximately 1.8 million hectares of country, which includes 200 kilometres of coastline.

Source: www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/marri-jabin-ipa-and-thamarrurr-rangers

Crocodile Islands Rangers

The Crocodile Islands Rangers (CIR) manage the land and sea country of the Crocodile Islands, situated off the coast of north east Arnhem Land. The CIR are based in Milingimbi and hosted by the Milingimbi Outstations Progress Resource Aboriginal Corporation. The program is governed by an Executive Committee consisting of Traditional Owners from the region.

The Rangers manage approximately 40,000 hectares of land, 200 km of coastline and 6000 km^2 of sea country within Castlereagh Bay, a site recognised as being of international conservation significance due to the large aggregations of migratory shorebirds, large seabird colonies and important marine turtle nesting beaches.

Source: www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/crocodile-islands-rangers

Closed seas

There are presently only two sea closures gazetted under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Act 1978*.

In 1981, the Milingimbi Crocodile Island and Glyde River area between Longitude 134°43.40'E and 135°04.30'E, extending from low water mark two kilometres seaward was gazetted as a closed area. In 1988, the adjoining area of sea between 12°11'21.4"S 135°20.8E and 12°15'30.8"S 135°05'06.2"E encompassing Castlereagh Bay/Howard Island was closed.

Nothing in the Act prevents the bona fide transit of a vessel through seas which are otherwise open to that vessel. Section 18 of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Act 1978* states:

> "(1) Subject to the *Fisheries Act 1988*, the holder of a licence issued under the *Fish and Fisheries Act 1979* (and kept in force under section 71 of the *Fisheries Act 1988*), or the holder of a licence granted under the *Fisheries Act 1988*, who held the licence before the publication of a notice under section 12, may, together with any persons who assist or work for the holder, enter and fish the area of closed seas referred to in that notice.

(2) Before entering and fishing any closed seas under sub-section (1), a person shall notify the Land Council, for the area in which the closed seas are situated."

If you are unsure about your rights, you should contact the NT Seafood Council for advice by phone (08) 8981 5194 or fax (08) 8981 5063 or email (admin@ntsc.com.au) or the Northern Land Council on (08) 8920 5100.

Garig Gunak Barlu National Park

Entry to Garig Gunak Barlu National Park (formerly known as Gurig National Park) is by way of a permit, which is issued by the Northern Territory Parks & Wildlife Service on behalf of the Garig Gunak Barlu National Park Board. Vessels wishing to enter from the sea may do so by reporting to the Ranger Station at Black Point where, if approved, appropriate permits will be issued.

Sacred Sites

In the Northern Territory, all places, which are sacred or otherwise of significance according to Aboriginal tradition, are protected under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and the *Northern*

Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989 (the Sacred Sites Act). This means that sacred sites are protected whether or not they have been 'Declared', 'Registered' or otherwise brought to official attention.

It is therefore important that you find out in advance where sacred sites are located.

In the past the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) has received complaints from Traditional Owners about breaches of the Sacred Sites Act by NPF trawlers being anchored in 'No Access' areas.

It is important that your fishing operations do not contravene the Sacred Sites Act. Please contact the AAPA by phone (08 8999 4365), fax (08 8999 4334) or email (enquiries.aapa@nt.gov.au) or by writing to GPO Box 1890, Darwin NT 0801 if you need information regarding the location of sacred sites or clarification of your responsibilities under the Act.

Queensland

In the Gulf of Carpentaria (GoC) region relevant to the NPF:

- the Wellesley Island Land and Sea Social Economic Development PTY LTD manage the Thuwathu-Bujimulla IPA (Wellesley Islands), which has dedicated sea country, nd the Wellesley Islands Rangers.

- the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation manage the Gangalidda-Garawa Rangers (Burketown) and Kurtijar, Gkuthaarn and Kukatj Rangers (Normanton) and the Nijinda Durlga IPA which does not have dedicated sea country.

Thuwathu-Bujimulla (Wellesley Islands) IPA and Wellesley Islands Rangers

Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
87 Musgrave St, Burketown QLD 4830
PO Box 71, Burketown QLD 4830
Phone: 07 4745 5132
Email: info@clcac.com.au

The Thuwathu-Bujimulla Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), also known as the Wellesley Islands, is located off the coast of north Queensland in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Dedicated in 2013, it comprises of over 1.6 million hectares of sea country and over 120,000 hectares of land.

Source: www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/thuwathu-bujimulla-ipa-and-wellesley-islands-rangers

Nijinda Durlga IPA and Gangalidda-Garawa Rangers

Gangalidda and Garawa Services Pty Ltd
Corner Burke and Musgrave Streets, Burketown QLD 4830
PO Box 71, Burketown QLD 4830
Phone: 07 4745 5132
Email: admin@gangalidda-garawa.com.au

The Nijinda Durlga Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) was dedicated in 2014 and is located in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria between Burketown and the Northern Territory border. The IPA covers over 186,850 hectares of the traditional country of the Gangalidda people.

Source: www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/nijinda-durlga-ipa-and-gangalidda-garawa-rangers

Western Australia

In the Kimberley, while the Balanggarra IPA does not have dedicated sea country, sea country is managed that overlaps with the area of the Northern Prawn Fishery.

Balanggarra IPA project and Rangers
Kimberley Land Council
11 Gregory St, Broome WA 6725
PO Box 2145, Broome WA 6725
Phone: 08 9194 0100
Email: klc@klc.org.au

Located in the rugged, beautiful Kimberley region near the Western Australian border is the Balanggarra Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). Dedicated in 2013, it covers over 1 million hectares of land and sea country.

Source: www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/balanggarra-ipa-and-rangers

3.8.3 Fishing in Marine Parks

There are Australian Marine Parks within the area of the Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF). The marine parks of relevance to NPF fishers are within the North and North-west Marine Park Networks. Fishers who are currently fishing, or intend to fish, should be aware that some fishing methods are not allowed in marine parks. Please make sure you understand which fishing methods are allowed in each of the marine park zones prior to going fishing.

Class approvals outline the areas where commercial fishing can occur, the fishing methods that can be used, and the conditions that need to be followed while operating or transiting through Australian Marine Parks. For NPF fishers (demersal trawl), this means you may only fish, process and tranship in Special Purpose Zone (trawl) areas. **Remember that you need to keep a hard or electronic copy of the class approvals on board your vessel.**

Rules for demersal trawl gear in the North and North-west Marine Park Networks:

	Special Purpose Zone (Trawl)	Special Purpose Zone	Multiple Use Zone	Habitat Protection Zone	Recreational Use Zone	National Park Zone	Sanctuary Zone
Demersal trawl	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×

Processing or transhipping fish is not permitted in Australian Marine Parks outside the Special Purpose Zone (trawl). This is for compliance purposes so that it's clear to park surveillance officers where fish are being taken from. However, exceptions can be made for individual circumstances, where this rule creates operational constraints on normal fishing activities. Any exceptions need to be authorised by the Director of National Parks.

Transiting is allowed through all zone types (except Sanctuary zones). When transiting a zone where your fishing method is not allowed you are required to:

- keep all fishing gear stowed and secured, and
- travel at more than 5 knots

More information about these marine parks can be found at the following links or by contacting marineparks@awe.gov.au:

North Marine Park Network

- Class approval – commercial fishing: www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/class-approvals/Signed-Attach_H-North_Marine_Parks_Network_Commercial_Fishing_Class_Approval.pdf
- Coordinates and maps: www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/north/maps/
- General information: www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/north/

North-west Marine Park Network

- Class approval – commercial fishing: www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/class-approvals/Signed-Attach_G-North-west_Marine_Parks_Network_Commercial_Fishing_Class_Approval.pdf
- Coordinates and maps: www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/north-west/maps/
- General information: www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/north-west/

Reporting illegal activity

If you witness, or know about any illegal activity within an Australian Marine Park, we urge you to report this activity. All reports are completely voluntary and anonymous, however, if you choose to include your personal details, you may be contacted to provide more information about your report.

You can report in one of two ways:

1. via our reporting hotline on **1800 852 975** where you can talk to one of our Marine Park Officers, or;
2. via an email to marine.compliance@awe.gov.au

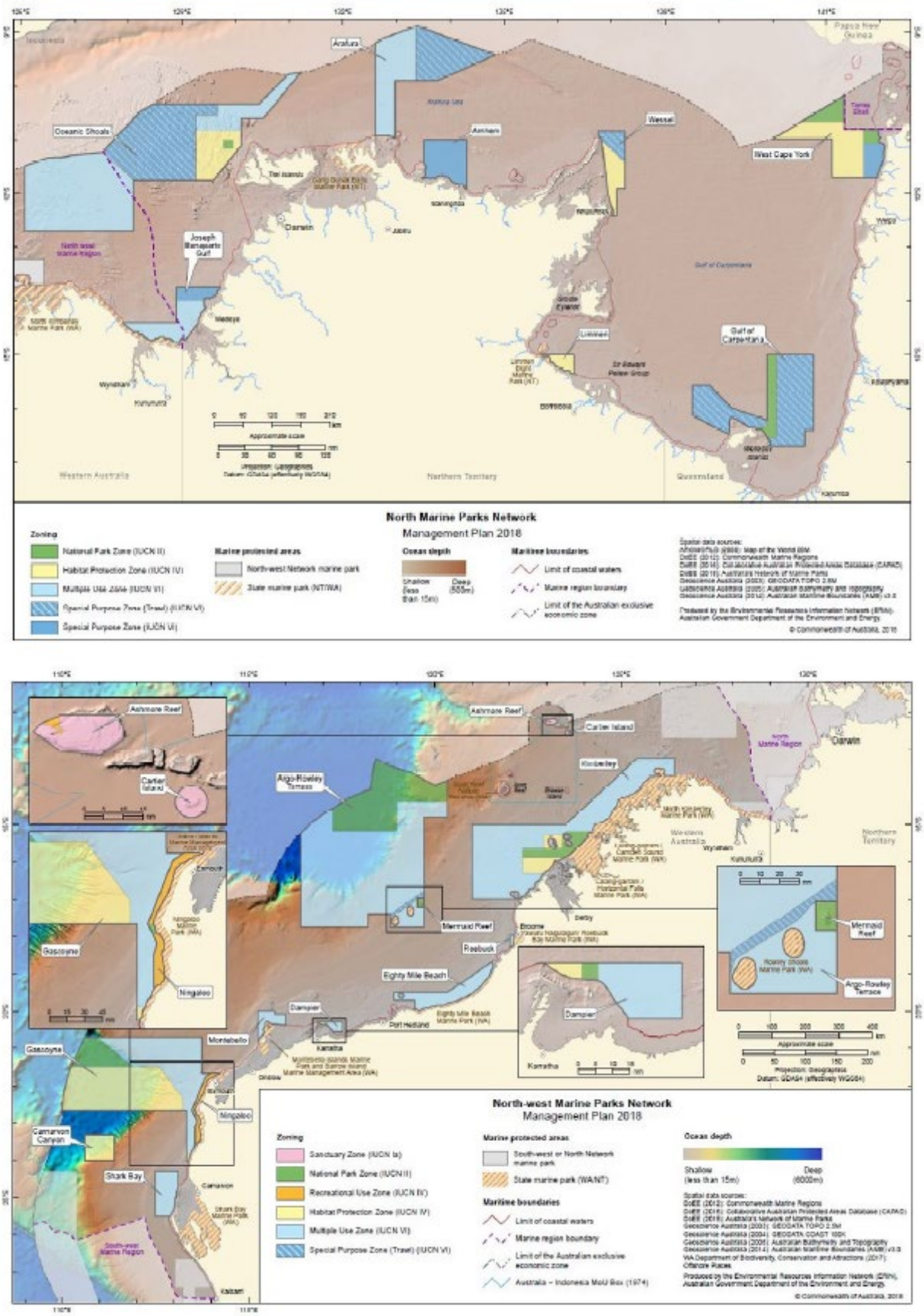


Figure 18: North and North-west marine parks networks

3.8.4 Fishing in state waters

An operator who holds NPF gear SFRs can otter trawl for prawns, bugs, scampi, squid or scallops in water adjacent to the Northern Territory and Queensland from low water mark to the outer edge of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) in the area of the NPF.

No other form of fishing is permitted unless the appropriate Commonwealth, Northern Territory or Queensland fishing concession is held.

For more information about licensing arrangements, please contact:

Northern Territory	**Queensland fisheries**
(08) 8999 2144	13 25 23
fisheries@nt.gov.au	callweb@daf.qld.gov.au

The possession or use of gillnets is illegal in Northern Territory waters unless an appropriate licence(s) is held.

4 Environmental management

4.1 Export approval

The NPF has been granted an exemption from export restrictions under the EPBC Act for a period of five years, until 6 January 2024. Reaccreditation for export approval under the EPBC Act will be sought during 2023.

The fishery management arrangements have been assessed against parts 13 (protected species provisions) and 13A (wildlife trade provisions) of the EPBC Act. The assessment took into account measures that have been developed and implemented by AFMA and the NPF industry.

4.2 Harvest strategy

The original NPF harvest strategy was developed in line with the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy (2007) and the 2005 Ministerial Direction. The objective of the Harvest Strategy Policy is the sustainable and profitable utilisation of Australia's Commonwealth fisheries in perpetuity through the implementation of harvest strategies that maintain key commercial stocks at ecologically sustainable levels and within this context, maximise the net economic returns to the Australian community.

A harvest strategy sets out the management actions necessary to achieve defined biological and economic objectives and must contain a process for monitoring and conducting assessments to the conditions of the fishery, and rules that control the intensity of fishing activity (known as control rules).

The current NPF Harvest Strategy was approved by the AFMA Commission in 2021 to include minor updates for red endeavour prawns. However, the NPF Resource Assessment Group (NPRAG) is considering changes for redleg banana prawn and byproduct components as well as reviewing the broader NPF Harvest Strategy to ensure it aligns with the requirements of the updated *Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy released in 2018*. Operators will be informed of any changes made to the NPF Harvest Strategy. For more information on harvest strategies and how they apply to the NPF please contact the NPF Manager on 02 6225 5555.

The latest NPF Harvest Strategy can be found at: https://www.afma.gov.au/sustainability-environment/harvest-strategies.

4.3 Ecological risk assessments and ecological risk management

Implementing ecological risk management in Commonwealth managed fisheries

AFMA aims to minimise the impacts of Commonwealth managed fisheries on all aspects of the marine ecosystem. AFMA's adoption of the ecological component of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) is a significant departure from traditional fisheries management where the focus has shifted from the direct management of target species to also considering the impacts on bycatch species, TEP species, habitats, and communities.

Key to AFMA's implementation of the ecological component of ESD has been to develop and implement an ecological risk management (ERM) framework. The ERM framework progresses through a number of steps and involves a hierarchy of risk assessments which are conducted to assess the impact, direct and indirect, that a fishery's activities may have on the marine ecosystem. At the completion of the most recent risk assessment process for the NPF, three species were identified to be at high risk in the fishery (**Table 12**).

Table 13. Current list of ERA priority species for the NPF

Taxonomic group	Scientific name	Common name	Role in fishery	Highest level of assessment	Risk score
Chondrichthyan	*Urogymnus asperrimus*	Porcupine ray	discard	SAFE	Precautionary High risk
Invertebrate	*Dictyosquilla tuberculata*	Mantis shrimp	byproduct	Level 2 PSA	High
	Harpiosquilla stephensoni	Mantis shrimp	byproduct	Level 2 PSA	High

The combined results of the risk assessments are now the focus for the implementation of the ERM strategy for the NPF. The ERM report outlines how AFMA will respond to high risk environmental components in the NPF to reduce the effects of fishing on priority species. In addition, all reasonable steps will be taken to minimise interactions with TEP species which have been identified through the ERA process.

Key strategies for managing the ecological effects of fishing and priority species in the NPF are documented in the NPF Bycatch Strategy 2020-24, including for sawfish and sea snakes. There are a number of initiatives aimed at managing the ecological effects of fishing in the NPF, including compulsory BRDs and TEDs, the NPF Harvest Strategy for key commercial species and scientific and crew member observer programs.

An updated NPF Ecological Risk Assessment has been undertaken and following final approval by NORMAC will be published during 2022.

Further information on the risk assessment process and methodologies applied can be found on AFMA's website, or for more information please contact AFMA's Environment Section on 1300 723 621.

4.4 Reporting and retrieving ghost nets

NPFI and the Ocean Conservancy are working in partnership to reduce ghost nets in the area of the fishery, in particular the Gulf of Carpentaria, through the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (www.ghostgear.org/).

Abandoned, lost and discarded nets, lines and traps are one of the biggest threats to marine life. The Gulf has been identified as a global hotspot for ghost nets, with over 2,400 tonnes of ghost gear drifting into the Gulf each year. This is higher than any other area in Oceania and Southeast Asia. CSIRO has estimated that 5,000 to 15,000 turtles have been caught in the nets washed up on Gulf of Carpentaria beaches in the past decade.

Where is the ghost gear coming from?

While half the nets cannot be identified by their source country, research shows only 4 per cent are from Australian sources. The rest come from countries such as Taiwan, Indonesia, Korea, Japan and Thailand, and includes mostly trawl, gillnets and long line fishing gear, some of which can be many kilometres long. Ocean Conservancy recognises that NPF operators are not contributors to this problem, they do everything they can to avoid losing gear while fishing and retrieve ghost nets when they can.

What can you do to help?

As an operator in the NPF, you are in the best position to help remove these nets and improve the marine environment of the Gulf. You can help by:

- *Removing the ghost gear:* Ideally, the ghost nets need to be removed from the ocean. If you and your crew are able to do this, Raptis is providing disposal facilities at their Karumba site where you can take the nets.
- *Reporting to NPFI:* Note the position of the net then email these details to Josh at josh@npfindustry.com.au or call 0424 096 355. If possible, also provide a photo of the net.

4.5 Pollution

Pollution from fishing vessels

Pollution of the marine environment by ships of all types, including fishing vessels, is controlled by the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (known as MARPOL). Australia has ratified this convention. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority implements the MARPOL Convention in Australian waters.

Onboard waste management

Every vessel of 100 gross tonnage and above, and every vessel certified to carry 15 or more persons, is required to carry a Garbage Management Plan. The Garbage Management Plan should contain procedures for collecting, storing, processing and disposing of garbage, including the use of appropriate garbage handling equipment such as storage containers, compactors or incinerators. More information on Garbage Management Plans can be found on the AMSA website (www.amsa.gov.au/marine-environment/marine-pollution/garbage-management).

Accidently lost fishing gear may harm the marine environment or create navigational hazards. The law states that fishing vessels must make every effort to retrieve all lost or damaged fishing gear and record the discharge of this gear in the ship's log, or in the vessel's garbage record book (if the ship is required to carry one). To retrieve fishing gear that is lost, or drifts into Marine Protected Areas where the fishing method is prohibited, contact the Marine Parks Duty Officer on 0419 293 465 before entering the Marine Protected Area to retrieve the gear.

Reporting pollution incidents

Under Australian law, pollution or potential pollution incidents may be required to be reported to the authorities. Discharges or probable discharges of oil, noxious liquid substances, in excess of permitted

levels, or of harmful substances in packaged form should be reported. Vessels of 15 metres or more in length are also required to report any damage, failure or breakdown which affects the safety of the vessel or results in impairment of the safety of navigation.

The Australian Response Centre operates 24 hours and can be contacted through AMSA Connect:

Free call (with Australia): 1800 641 792
Outside Australia: +612 6230 6811

Alternatively you can submit an online marine pollution report at:
https://amsa-forms.nogginoca.com/public/polrep.html

For further information, contact:

Australian Maritime Safety Authority
AMSAConnect@amsa.gov.au
Free call (within Australia): 1800 627 484
Outside Australia: +612 6279 5000
www.amsa.gov.au/marine-environment/marine-pollution
www.amsa.gov.au/marine-environment/marine-pollution/pollution-fishing-vessels

State commercial fishing gear

There are a number of State fisheries operating in NPF waters. In particular, the Northern Territory's Spanish Mackerel Fishery which operates using troll lines and the Shark Fishery which mainly operates using pelagic gill nets. NPF operators must be aware of other fishing vessels and ensure they do not interfere with other fishing operations, i.e. avoid steaming or trawling across longlines or gillnets that have been deployed. These nets should be clearly marked with radar reflectors and/or buoys.

5 Other information

5.1 Co-management

Structure for advising AFMA on commercial and operational matters in the NPF

The co-management contract details the agreed basis for NPFI to advise AFMA directly on a range of operational and management issues in the NPF including season start and end dates, spatial and temporal closures, gear trial areas, in-season management arrangements and NPF fishery budgets.

Other components which NPFI has delivered/is delivering as part of co-management are responsibility for undertaking NPF pre-season briefings; development and implementation of the *NPF Bycatch Strategy 2020-24*; management of catch and effort data, representation on Indigenous Protected Area management advisory committees; participation in tender processes for the NPF at-sea monitoring projects; management of broodstock collection and recommending research direction and strategies for the NPF.

NPF Industry Pty Ltd (NPFI)

NPFI is an incorporated body owned by the fishing operators of Australia's NPF. The company was formed in 2007 to represent the interests of NPF operators and to promote the on-going sustainable development of the fishery.

Its shareholders are the companies and individuals who own the prawn fishing rights to operate in the NPF. All owners of NPF Gear SFRs can become company shareholders – current membership represents approximately 95 per cent of NPF gear SFR owners.

The NPFI is the voice of the NPF. The company represents its shareholders in dealings with government and government agencies, other fishery stakeholders and the community in general. In particular, the NPFI works closely and cooperatively with AFMA, NORMAC, NPRAG, CSIRO and the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation (FRDC) on all aspects of managing the NPF, including research.

Company shareholders are actively involved in all aspects of the fishery, including management, research, marketing and promotion to manage the NPF in the most sustainable and cost-effective manner. The NPFI also plays a pivotal role in encouraging the production of the highest quality, frozen-at-sea prawn products, and in the promotion of those products in the domestic and export markets.

The Company's vision is for a profitable, professional and unified industry producing high quality wild-caught prawns from a pristine marine environment. The NPFI operates in accordance with world's best practice and sustainable fisheries management principles. Directors Ron Earle (Chairman), Arthur Raptis, David Carter, Greg Albert and Norm Peovitis are proud of the Company's achievements in the NPF.

Company Executive Officer, Ms Annie Jarrett provides a focal point for liaison between industry and government/research agencies and for the dissemination of information to company shareholders and other stakeholders. Josh Cahill is the company Projects Manager, whose key responsibilities are industry liaison, data management, bycatch and TEP species mitigation and the CMO program.

The NPFI is affiliated with the Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA) and Seafood Industry Australia (SIA), the peak industry bodies promoting the interests of fishers on national and international issues.

Further information on the company and its activities can be found on the NPFI website (www.npfindustry.com.au).

Logbook and data management functions

NPFI is seeking to improve timeliness and efficiencies in relation to data collection, cleaning and reconciling of NPF catch and effort logbook data and providing data summaries to AFMA, NORMAC, NPRAG, CSIRO and other approved stakeholders. NPFI is responsible for following-up overdue e-log returns; undertaking data integrity and verification processes; reconciling logbook data with season landing returns; and development of data summaries (including the annual data summary) to be provided to approved stakeholders.

Managing the crew member observer program

CMOs collect valuable information on TEP species including sawfish, sea snakes, turtles, pipefish and other species identified as being potentially 'at-risk' through the ERA process. The NPFI is responsible for

recruiting, training and supporting the CMOs and the program's success comes partly from having the Company's own people 'on the water'.

For further information on the CMO program, including information on how to get involved, please see Section 3.2.2.1.

Submissions to NPFI or NORMAC

The management arrangements outlined in this booklet have been implemented following consultation with the NORMAC and also under the co-management arrangements with NPFI.

Anyone wishing to raise an issue for consideration by NORMAC should contact:

AFMA Brodie Macdonald, A/g Senior Manager Northern Fisheries	02 6225 5368 brodie.macdonald@afma.gov.au
NPF Industry Pty Ltd Annie Jarrett, Company Executive Officer	0411 426 469 annie.jarrett@bigpond.com

5.2 Compliance

AFMA's compliance and enforcement program is ultimately designed to maintain the integrity of fisheries management arrangements and protect Australia's fishing resources. AFMA seeks to achieve a level of compliance consistent with its legislative objectives by maximising voluntary compliance and creating effective deterrents to non-compliance.

The main functions of the compliance program include:

- ensuring compliance with AFMA's domestic fisheries management measures;
- ensuring licensed boats comply with fishing conditions within the AFZ;
- ensuring that there are no unlicensed foreign boats operating in the AFZ;
- managing port access for foreign boats; and
- surveillance and apprehension of foreign boats fishing illegally in the AFZ.

The National Compliance and Enforcement Program is conducted via the use of a risk based approach, which enables AFMA's resources to be targeted to the areas where they are most needed and where they will prove most effective. It involves a series of steps to identify and assess non-compliance risks and then apply appropriate enforcement actions to mitigate these risks.

Risk-based compliance has a range of benefits[5]:

- **improved compliance outcomes** – AFMA can tailor or target compliance measures to effectively deal with the most significant non-compliance risks;

[5] Source: Risk-based Compliance information is available at The Better Regulation Office www.finance.nsw.gov.au/better-regulation

- **efficiency gains** – the target of compliance measures to the most significant risks ensures resources are concentrated in the areas where they are most likely to improve compliance outcomes; and
- **greater industry support for compliance programs/measures** – risk management processes are widely understood by the fishing industry and the community as a whole.

In addition to the risk treatment model, it is essential that AFMA maintains a general deterrence program. By maintaining a presence at fishing ports (and at sea) AFMA discourages those members of the fishing community who do not wish to comply with the rules and regulations. It also reassures those who are complying that non-compliant activity is likely to be detected. Further, AFMA officers can assist those wishing to comply (but not knowing how) by providing advice and/or instructions on operators responsibilities.

5.2.1 Procedures for reporting suspected illegal activities

Companies invest a lot of time and money into complying with the rules and regulations associated with the NPF. Fishers can assist in protecting their fishery from illegal fishing activities.

If you suspect illegal fishing operations are occurring or witness any suspicious activity involving fish or fishing type activity (e.g. selling off the back of vessels, cheap fish offers, questionable landing sites, etc.) you can either:

- contact AFMA's free call '*CRIMFISH*' hotline on **1800 274 634** (1800 CRIMFISH)
- contact AFMA's Darwin Duty Officer on **0428 196 114** (24 hrs a day, 7 days a week)
- contact the relevant State/Territory fisheries authority as soon as possible after you discover the event
- report any incident by lodging your information on the AFMA CRIMFISH page (www.afma.gov.au/monitoring-enforcement/report-illegal-fishing-activity).

Reports may be made anonymously and all information received will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Ideally any information supplied should be as detailed as possible to assist AFMA to investigate the incident and should include the following (but not limited to):

- the date, time and location that the activity took place;
- the names of any verifying witnesses; and
- any photographs and/or other evidence.

5.2.2 Illegal or suspicious fishing

If you sight a foreign vessel you believe may be involved in illegal fishing please make a Border Watch Online Report (homeaffairs.gov.au) or call the National Security Hotline on Freecall **1800 123 400** (attended 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week). Again, all information received will be treated as strictly confidential.

www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/departmental-forms/online-forms/border-watch

5.3 Collection of prawn broodstock

Holders of statutory fishing rights in the NPF are permitted to collect live broodstock. This fishing is covered under the management plan and must be undertaken in accordance with all relevant NPF Directions including the use of TEDs and BRDs, closed seasons and closed areas.

Specific broodstock collection permits are provided for under the *NPF Management Plan 1995*. These permits continue to be administered through a joint arrangement between AFMA and NPFI. These permits are subject to certain conditions, including restrictions on the gear used, move on provisions for sawfish, the area available for fishing and the allowable number of prawns for broodstock. Please contact Annie Jarrett on 0411 426 469 or annie.jarrett@bigpond.com.

5.4 Pearl leases and aquaculture

There are a number of approved pearl farm leases in the area of the NPF. These areas may be covered by buoyed long lines. More detailed information on lease boundaries is available from the NT Fisheries 08 8999 2144.

If you need access to any of these areas you must contact the licence holder for permission prior to entering the lease area.

NT pearl oyster culture industry – active licensed companies

Paspaley Pearling Company Pty Ltd
Telephone: +61 8 8982 5555
Email: enquiries@paspaley.com

Clipper Pearls Pty Ltd
Telephone: +61 8 9193 6156
Email: hradmin@clipperpearls.com.au

6 Determinations and Directions

Northern Prawn Fishery Management (Fishing Capacity) Determination 2021

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority makes the following determination.

Dated: 21 December 2021

Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer,
For and on behalf of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority

1 Name

This instrument is the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management (Fishing Capacity) Determination 2021*.

2 Commencement

(1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	**Column 2**	**Column 3**
Provisions	**Commencement**	**Date/Details**
1. *The whole of this instrument*	*On the day after this instrument is registered*	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

(2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

3 Authority

This instrument is made pursuant to paragraph 17(6)(aa) of the Act and under subsection 7A(1) of the Management Plan.

4 Definitions

Note 1: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in interpretation section of the Act, including the following:
(a) ***boat***; and
(b) ***fishing***

Note 2: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in interpretation section of the Management Plan, including the following:
(a) ***gear statutory fishing right;***
(b) ***headrope;***
(c) ***Northern Prawn Fishery area;*** and
(d) ***operational headrope.***

In this instrument:

Act means the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

Management Plan means the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995.*

Otter board means a board or plate used on a fishing net which, when the net is being towed, keeps the mouth of the net open.

Twin trawl net configuration means the use of two fishing nets designed or intended to be towed simultaneously by a boat and having the mouth or opening of each net being controlled by the use of otter boards.

Twin tongue trawl net configuration means the use of two fishing nets designed or intended to be towed simultaneously by a boat and having the mouth or opening of each net being controlled by otter boards and at least one bridle extending from each warp wire to the centre or 'tongue' of the headrope of each net.

Triple trawl net configuration means the use of three fishing nets designed or intended to be towed simultaneously by a boat and having the mouth or opening of each net being controlled by the use of otter boards.

Quad trawl net configuration means the use of four fishing nets designed or intended to be towed simultaneously by a boat and having the mouth or opening of each net being controlled by the use of otter boards.

5 Determination of fishing capacity

(1) The total length of operational headrope for a twin trawl net configuration that may be used under gear statutory fishing rights in the Northern Prawn Fishery area is 3193.11 metres. This equates to 9 cm per gear statutory fishing right.

(2) The total length of operational headrope for a twin tongue trawl net configuration that may be used under gear statutory fishing rights in the Northern Prawn Fishery area is 2873.41 metres. This equates to 8.1 cm per gear statutory fishing right.

(3) The total length of operational headrope for a triple trawl net configuration that may be used under gear statutory fishing rights in the Northern Prawn Fishery area is 2873.41 metres. This equates to 8.1 cm per gear statutory fishing right.

(4) The total length of operational headrope for a quad trawl net configuration that may be used under gear statutory fishing rights in the Northern Prawn Fishery area is 2873.41 metres. This equates to 8.1 cm per gear statutory fishing right.

Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Gear Requirements) Direction 2021

I, Wez Norris, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, as delegate under delegation No. 2 of 2016 made on 14th November 2016 from the Commission, make the following direction.

Dated 15 March 2021

Wez Norris

Chief Executive Officer
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

1 Name

This instrument is the *Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Gear Requirements) Direction 2021*.

2 Commencement

(1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	**Column 2**	**Column 3**
Provisions	**Commencement**	**Date/Details**
1. *The whole of this instrument*	*This instrument commences on the 14th day after it is registered.*	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

(2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 41A of the Act.

4 Definitions

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the definitions section of the Act, including the following:

(a) boat
(b) fish
(c) fishing
(d) fishing concession
(e) holder
(f) modification
(g) statutory fishing right
(h) take.

A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the interpretation section of the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995*, including the following:

(a) Northern Prawn Fishery
(b) Northern Prawn Fishery area.

In this instrument:

Act means the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*;

boat means a boat that is nominated on statutory fishing rights for the Northern Prawn Fishery, and includes carrier boats and fishing boats;

Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) means a device that allows fish and other animals to escape immediately after being taken in the net and each of the devices described in Schedules 1 and 3;

forward edge is the edge of a Bycatch Reduction Device where the funnel is attached to the codend;

Modified Turtle Excluder Device means a device described in Schedule 2;

net means a net used for trawling except a try-net;

Turtle Excluder Device (TED) means a device fitted to a net, and modification made to a net, that allows turtles to escape immediately after being taken in the net, and which has:

a) a rigid or semi-rigid inclined barrier grid comprised of bars extending from the foot to the head of the net that is attached to the circumference of the net which must guide turtles towards an escape hole immediately forward of the grid. The minimum dimensions of this grid are to be at least 81 cm by 81 cm. This structure is to be set at a minimum angle of between 30 and 55 degrees in relation to the horizontal plane of water through the net; and

b) escape opening which must be:

    i. a double flap rectangular net opening where the cut immediately forward of the TED ('horizontal cut') must allow a minimum opening of 61 cm when attached to the frame and the two forward cuts of the escape opening must not be less than 51 cm long from the points of the cut immediately forward of the TED frame. The resultant length of the leading edge of the escape opening cut must be no less than 142 cm stretched, or a double flap net triangular opening where the cut immediately forward of the TED must allow a minimum

opening of 102 cm when attached to the frame with minimum forward cuts of 101 cm. The flaps must be composed of two mesh panels. Each panel must be a minimum of 147 cm wide when stretched and may overlap each other no more than 38 cm along the leading edge when stretched. The panels can be tapered two bar, one point so the flap overlap increases as they get closer to the bottom of the TED frame. The panels may only be sewn together along the leading edge of the cut and down the entire length of the outside edge of each panel. The trailing edge of each panel must not extend more than 61 cm past the posterior edge of the TED frame. The passage from the mouth of the trawl through the escape opening must be completely clear of any obstruction or modifications, other than those specified in this Direction, or;

ii. a single flap rectangular net opening where the cut immediately forward of the TED ('horizontal cut') must be a minimum of 61 cm when attached to the frame and the two forward cuts of the escape opening must not be less than 66 cm long from the points of the cut immediately forward of the TED frame. The resultant length of the leading edge of the escape opening cut must be no less than 181 cm stretched, or a single flap triangular net opening where the cut immediately forward of the TED must be a minimum of 102 cm with minimum forward cuts of 136 cm. The flap must be a minimum of 338 cm by 132 cm piece of mesh. The 132 cm edge of the flap is attached to the forward edge of the escape opening cut. The flap may extend no more than 61 cm behind the posterior edge of the TED frame. The passage from the mouth of the trawl through the escape opening must be completely clear of any obstruction or modifications, other than those specified in this Direction; and

c) a maximum bar spacing of 120 mm; and

d) floats attached to the top one-half of all TEDs with bottom escape openings. The floats may be attached either outside or inside the net, but not to a flap. The following floats must be attached to the grid:

i. 3 small hard plastic floats that are at least 150 mm, but less than 200 mm, in diameter; or

ii. 2 medium hard plastic floats that are at least 200 mm, but less than 250 mm, in diameter; or

iii. 1 large hard plastic float that is at least 250 mm in diameter; and

e) weights, meshing or other materials which may inhibit the opening of this escape flap must not be attached.

For the purposes of this Direction, all net measurements refer to the measurement extending from the centre of opposing knots, when the mesh is pulled taut.

5 Schedules

(1)The instrument that is specified in Schedule 4 to this instrument is repealed as set out in the applicable items in that Schedule.

(2)Schedules 1 to 3 to this instrument have effect according to their terms.

6 To whom this applies

This Direction applies to a holder of a fishing concession in the Northern Prawn Fishery and to a person acting on behalf of the holder.

7 Prohibition on fishing

(1)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the Northern Prawn Fishery area until this Direction ceases or is revoked.

(2)The holder of a fishing concession in respect of the Northern Prawn Fishery is exempt from the prohibition in subsection 7(1) if subsection 7(3) and subsection 7(4) apply to the concession holder.

(3)This subsection applies to a concession holder:

a. during the period commencing at 0830 hours UTC 1 August and ending at 2230 hours UTC on 30 November each year—if a Bycatch Reduction Device described in Schedule 3 is installed in each of the concession holder's nets rigged for fishing; or

b. outside the period described in paragraph (a)—if a Bycatch Reduction Device described in Schedules 1 or 3 is installed in each of the concession holder's nets rigged for fishing.

(4)This subsection applies to a concession holder:

a. when fishing where the depth of water is less than 200 metres—if a TED or a Modified Turtle Excluder Device is installed in all the concession holder's nets rigged for fishing, and

b. if a codend cover is used in a concession holder's net—if the codend cover is attached no further than 60 meshes from the codend drawstrings.

(5)A net is rigged for fishing for the purpose of subsection 7(3) if part or all of the net is in the water, or if it is shackled, tied or otherwise connected to any trawl door or trawl board, or to any tow rope or cable, either on board the boat or attached in any manner to the boat.

Schedule 1 – Bycatch reduction devices

Each of the following are bycatch reduction devices:

1. ***Square Mesh Panel***, an escape opening device installed in a net rigged for fishing that is a continuous panel of netting that has the following characteristics:

    a) a nominal mesh size no less than 101 mm; and

    b) an overall dimension no less than 400 mm wide and 600 mm long; and

    c) the aft edge of the panel is located no further forward than 120 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and

    d) no pieces of netting or other material covering any escape openings of the square mesh, nor any opening closed by any other means, during fishing operations.

2. ***Yarrow Fisheye***, an escape opening device installed in a net rigged for fishing to the following specification:

    a) one device with the aft edge of the device located no further forward than 120 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and

    b) a vertical escape opening held open by a rigid frame; and

    c) an escape opening measuring no less than 350 mm wide by 150 mm with the width of the escape opening divided in half by a solid bar; and

    d) an additional rigid bar running from the apex of the frame to the top of the escape opening; and

    e) no pieces of netting or other material covering any escape openings, nor any opening closed by any other means, during fishing operations.

3. ***Popeye Fishbox***, an escape opening device installed in a net rigged for fishing to the following specification:

    a) one device with the aft edge of the device located no further forward than 120 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and

    b) a vertical escape opening held open by a rigid frame; and

    c) an escape opening measuring no less than 375 mm wide by 375 mm high; and

    d) a rigid foil positioned at the forward edge of the BRD no less than 200 mm in depth; and

    e) no pieces of netting or other material covering any escape openings, nor any opening closed by any other means, during fishing operations.

Schedule 2 – Modified turtle excluder device

Modified Turtle Excluder Device means a device that:

a) is a TED with the escape opening in the top of the codend; and

b) a bar spacing no more than 60 mm; and

c) in addition the Modified Turtle Excluder Device may have:

i. an escape flap over the escape opening (but no part of the escape flap may be closer than 150 mm to any part of the grid, when the TED is fitted to a codend hung vertically); and

ii. a guiding funnel or flap inside the codend ahead of the grid (but no part of the guiding funnel or flap may be closer than 150 mm to any part of the grid, when the TED is fitted to a codend hung vertically).

Schedule 3 – Bycatch reduction devices

Each of the following are bycatch reduction devices:

1. ***Kon's Covered Fisheyes***, two escape opening devices installed in a net rigged for fishing to the following specification:

   a) one escape opening device with the aft edge of the device located at 78 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and

   b) one escape opening device with the aft edge of the device located at 55 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and

   c) for which each escape opening device has the following characteristics prior to being installed in a net rigged for fishing:

      i. a vertical escape opening held open by a rigid frame that encloses a rigid cone; and

      ii. an escape opening measuring no less than 430 mm wide by 205 mm high and must face the codend; and

      iii. a rigid cone measuring no less than 295 mm wide by 145 mm high by 275 mm in length fixed to the rigid frame; and

      iv. with an escape gap between the rigid frame and the rigid cone of 55 mm.

2. ***FishEX 70***, an escape opening device installed in a net rigged for fishing to the following specification:

   a) one device with the aft edge of the device located at 65 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and

   b) with an escape gap clear of any obstructions (including mesh ties); and

   c) for which the escape opening device has the characteristics detailed in Figure 1 prior to being installed in a net rigged for fishing.

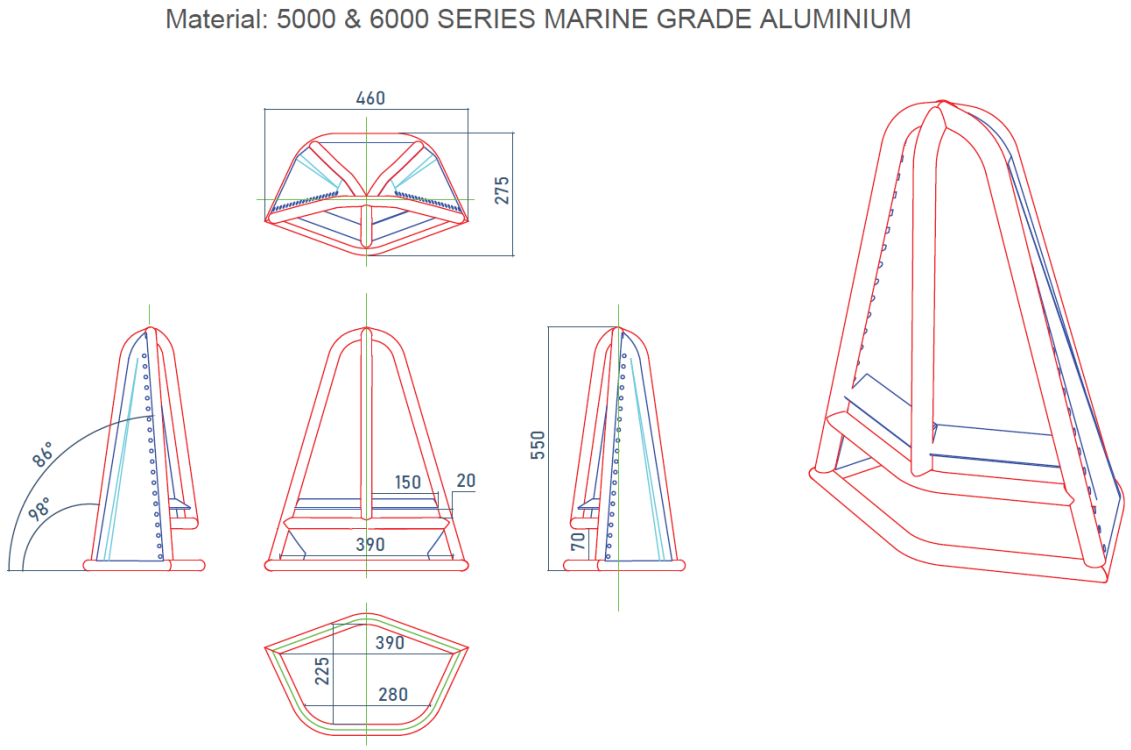


Figure 1 – FishEX 70 bycatch reduction device dimensions

3. ***Tom's Fisheye,*** an escape opening device installed in a net rigged for fishing to the following specification:

   a) one device with the aft edge of the device located at 60 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and

   b) a vertical escape opening held open by a rigid frame that supports a rigid enclosed cone; and

   c) an escape opening measuring no less than 360 mm wide by 200 mm high and must face the codend; and

   d) a rigid cone measuring no less than 340 mm wide by 185 mm high by 290 mm in length fixed to the rigid frame; and

   e) with an escape gap between the rigid frame and rigid cone of 94 mm; and

   f) with an escape gap clear of any obstructions (including mesh ties).

4. ***Popeye Fishbox,*** an escape opening device installed in a net rigged for fishing to the following specification:

   a) one device with the aft edge of the device located at 70 meshes from the codend drawstrings; and

   b) a vertical escape opening held open by a rigid frame; and

   c) an escape opening measuring no less than 375 mm wide x 375 mm high; and

d) a rigid foil positioned at the forward edge of the BRD no less than 200 mm in depth; and

e) no pieces of netting or other material covering any escape openings, nor any opening closed by any other means, during fishing operations.

Schedule 4 – Repeals

Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Gear Requirements) Direction 2020

1 The whole of the instrument

Repeal the instrument

Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Limited-take and Prohibited-take Species) Direction 2021

I, Wez Norris, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, as delegate under delegation No. 2 of 2016 made on 14th November 2016 from the Commission, make the following direction.

Dated 16 March 2021

Wez Norris

Chief Executive Officer
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

1 Name

This instrument is the *Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Limited-take and Prohibited-take Species) Direction 2021*.

2 Commencement

(1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	**Column 2**	**Column 3**
Provisions	**Commencement**	**Date/Details**
1. *The whole of this instrument*	*This instrument commences on the 14th day after it is registered.*	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

(2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 41A of the Act.

4 Definitions

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the definitions section of the Act, including the following:

(a) boat
(b) fish
(c) fishing
(d) holder
(e) master
(f) plan of management
(g) processing
(h) statutory fishing right
(i) take.

A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the interpretation section of the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995*, including the following:

(a) acting for
(b) Northern Prawn Fishery
(c) Northern Prawn Fishery area.

In this instrument:

Act means the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*;

boat means a boat that is nominated on statutory fishing rights for the Northern Prawn Fishery;

bugs means fish of the species *Thenus parindicus* and *Thenus australiensis*;

carapace width means the width of the carapace when measured at its widest point;

egg-bearing female bugs includes bugs that have been scrubbed to remove any eggs and includes bugs that have had their eggs removed using chemicals;

equipment means equipment for fishing;

fishing means the commercial fishing activities that are referred to in section 14 of the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995*;

rock lobster means a whole lobster of the species *Panulirus ornatus* and/ or a lobster tail of that species;

scampi means fish of the families Aristeidae and Nephropidae;

trip means the period between departing port and the unloading of a catch, or part of a catch, to a mothership or port or any other point where catch is unloaded;

UTC means Coordinated Universal Time, the time scale based on the second (SI), maintained by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. For the purposes of this Direction UTC is equivalent to mean solar time at the prime meridian (0 degrees longitude), formerly expressed in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT);

W means the whole weight of fish in kilograms;

GG means the gilled and gutted weight of fish in kilograms;

F means the fish fillet weight in kilograms; and

HG means the headed and gutted weight of fish in kilograms.

For the purposes of this Direction, the master of a boat is, at any time, presumed to have taken all of the fish present on the boat at that time and, in so doing, to have been acting on behalf of the holder of the statutory fishing rights in respect of which the boat is nominated.

For the purposes of this Direction, fish and/or bugs that are on board a boat are presumed to have been taken: during the current trip; or, if the boat is not on a trip, the most recent trip.

This Direction is to be read consistently with other Directions made under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

5 Schedules

(1)The instrument that is specified in Schedule 3 to this instrument is repealed as set out in the applicable items in that Schedule.

(2)Schedules 1 and 2 to this instrument have effect according to their terms.

6 To whom this applies

This Direction applies to a holder of statutory fishing rights in the Northern Prawn Fishery, and to a person acting on behalf of the holder, when fishing in the Northern Prawn Fishery area.

7 Prohibitions on taking bugs

(1)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the Northern Prawn Fishery for:

(a) bugs with a carapace width less than 60 mm; or

(b) egg-bearing female bugs.

8 Prohibition on fishing

(1)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the Northern Prawn Fishery for:

(a) the species named in Part 1 of Schedule 1 (the First Species) in excess of a combined catch of one kilogram per trip; or

(b) the species named in Part 2 of Schedule 1 (the Second Species) in excess of a combined catch of 10 individual fish per trip; or

(c) for mudcrabs in excess of a catch of 10 individuals per trip; or

(d) for rock lobsters in excess of a catch of 6 individuals per trip; or

(e) for species named in Schedule 2; or

(f) for tuna or tuna-like species; or

(g) for scampi in the period commencing on the day this instrument commences and ending at 22.30 hours UTC on 30 November 2021.

9 Exemptions to the prohibition in Section 8

(1) The prohibition in subsection 8(1)(a) does not apply:

(a) if the trip ends during the period beginning on 1 March in a year and ending on 30 June in the same year during the period of application of the Direction; and

(b) if no more than a cumulative total of 550 kilograms (whole weight) (the First Weight Limit) of the First Species are taken per trip; and

(c) if the First Weight Limit or any part thereof has been processed, the whole weight equivalent of the processed First Weight Limit or part thereof is determined using the conversion factors:

W = GG x 1.1

W = F x 2.6

W = HG x 1.4

(2) The prohibition in subsection 8(1)(a) does not apply:

(a) if the trip ends during any other period of the year outside of the period defined in subsection 9(1)(a) during the period of application of the Direction; and

(b) if no more than a cumulative total of 50 kilograms (whole weight) (the Second Weight Limit) of the First Species are taken per trip; and

(c) if the Second Weight Limit or any part thereof has been processed, the whole weight equivalent of the processed Second Weight Limit or part thereof is determined using the conversion factors:

W = GG x 1.1

W = F x 2.6

W = HG x 1.4

(3) The prohibition in subsection (8)(1)(f) above does not apply if:

(a) the only tuna and tuna-like species on board the vessel are longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*); and

(b) no more than 10 longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) are taken per trip.

(4) The prohibitions in subsection 8(1) do not apply to a person if the person is fishing in accordance with another plan of management in force under the Act, or a law of a State or Territory that is in force in relation to the Northern Prawn Fishery area.

Schedule 1 – Limited-take species

Part 1 – the First Species

Common name	Scientific name
Saddle Tailed Snapper	*Lutjanus malabaricus*
Red Snapper	*Lutjanus erythropterus*
Red Emperor	*Lutjanus sebae*

Part 2 – the Second Species

Common name	Scientific name
Broad-barred Spanish Mackerel	*Scomberomorus semifasciatus*
Coral trouts, Rock cods etc	*Serranidae family*
Gold Band Snapper	*Pristipomoides multidens*
Longtail Tuna	*Thunnus tonggol*
Narrow -barred Spanish Mackerel	*Scomberomorus commerson*
Emperors, sea breams	*Lethrinidae family*

Schedule 2 – Prohibited-take species

Common name	Scientific name
Barramundi	*Lates calcarifer*
Black jewfish	*Protonidea diacanthus*
Blue salmon	*Eleutheronema tetradactylum*
Coral	
Jewel fish (Yellow Jew)	*Nibea squammosa*
Pearl shell	*Pinctada spp*
Queenfish	*Scomberoides lysan;* *Scomberoides commersonianus*
Spotted grunter-bream	*Pomadasys kaakan*
Threadfin salmon	*Polydactylus sheridani*
Beche-de-mer	*Class Holothuroidae*
Trochus	*Class Trochidae*
Sharks, rays and skates	*Subclass Elasmobranchii*

Schedule 3 – Repeals

Northern Prawn Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 172

Northern Prawn Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 172

1 The whole of the instrument

Repeal the instrument

Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Permanent Closures) Direction 2021

I, Wez Norris, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, as delegate under delegation No. 2 of 2016 made on 14th November 2016 from the Commission, make the following direction.

Dated 15 March 2021

Wez Norris

Chief Executive Officer
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

1 Name

This instrument is the *Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Permanent Closures) Direction 2021*.

2 Commencement

(1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	**Column 2**	**Column 3**
Provisions	**Commencement**	**Date/Details**
1. *The whole of this instrument*	*This instrument commences on the 14th day after it is registered.*	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

(2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 41A of the Act.

4 Definitions

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the definitions section of the Act, including the following:

(a) boat
(b) fishing
(c) fishing concession
(d) holder
(e) plan of management
(f) statutory fishing right.

A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the interpretation section of the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995*, including the following:

(a) acting for
(b) Northern Prawn Fishery
(c) Northern Prawn Fishery area.

In this instrument:

Act means the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*;

boat means a boat that is nominated on statutory fishing rights for the Northern Prawn Fishery, and includes carrier boats and fishing boats;

equipment means equipment for fishing;

rack means a structure on a boat (including a structure on, or forming a part of, the deck of the boat) designed specifically for carrying otter boards when the boards are not in use;

the one nautical mile line means the line, every point of which is one nautical mile seaward from the shore at low-water, of the mainland or an island of Australia and ***the two nautical mile line*** and ***the three nautical mile line*** have corresponding meanings;

UTC means Coordinated Universal Time, the time scale based on the second (SI), maintained by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. For the purposes of this Direction UTC is equivalent to mean solar time at the prime meridian (0 degrees longitude), formerly expressed in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

This Direction is to be read consistently with other Directions made under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

The origin of geographical coordinates used in this Direction is the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84).

5 Schedules

(1)The instrument that is specified in Schedule 2 to this instrument is repealed as set out in the applicable items in that Schedule.

(2)Schedule 1 to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

6 To whom this applies

This Direction applies to a holder of a fishing concession in the Northern Prawn Fishery and to a person acting on behalf of the holder.

7 Prohibition on fishing

Fishing is not to be engaged in in an area described in Schedule 1 of this Direction.

8 Exemption to the prohibition in Section 7

(1)The prohibition in Section 7 does not apply to a person if the person:

(a) either carries the equipment out of the water; or

(b) if any part of the equipment is in the water, then:

(i) that part is drawn up to the boat; and

(ii) that part is visible from a nearby aircraft or boat; and

(iii) if the equipment includes cod ends - the cod ends are open; and

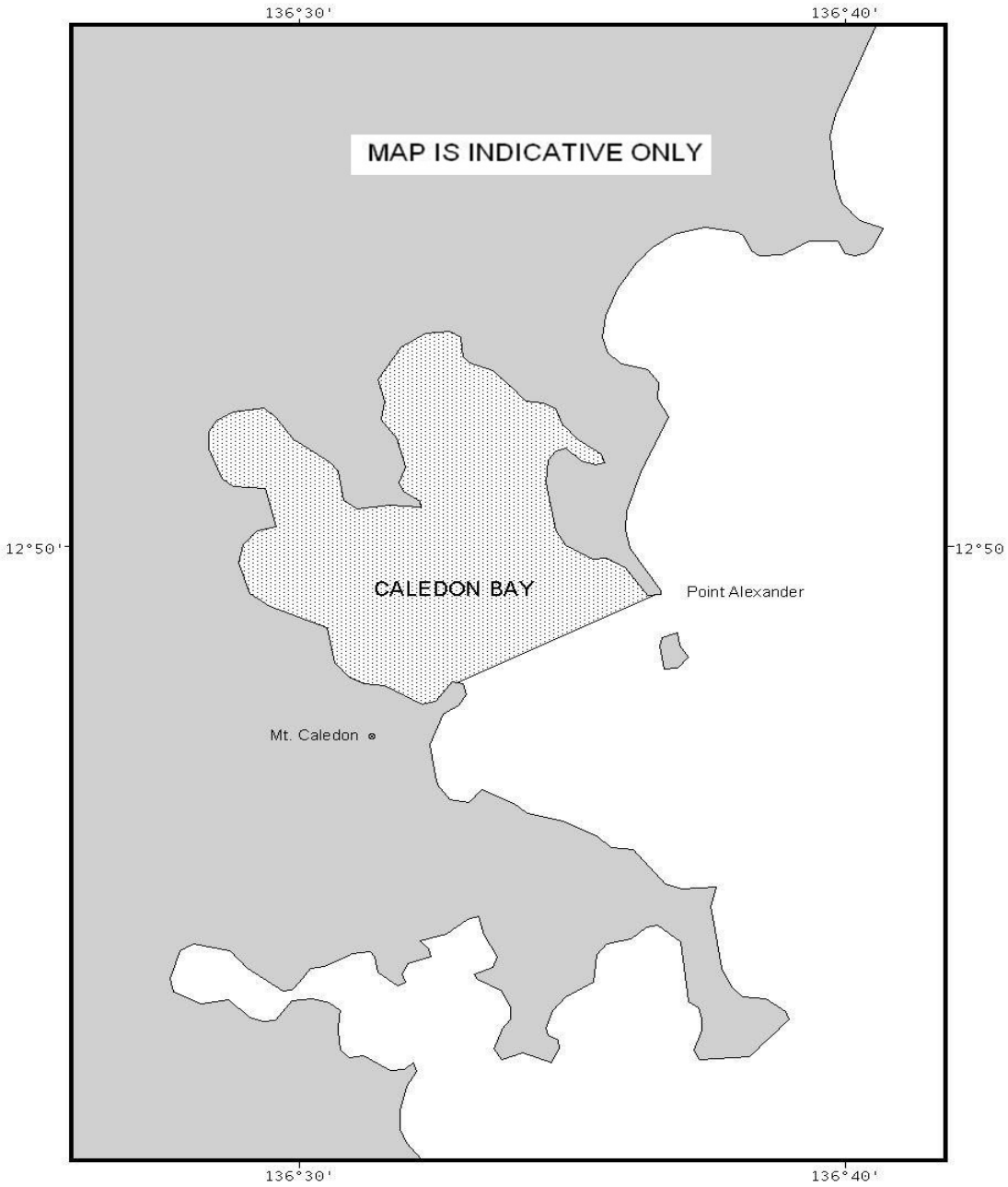
(iv) if the equipment includes lazy lines and blocks - the lazy lines are on the blocks.

(2) The prohibition in Section 7 does not apply to a person if the person is fishing in accordance with another plan of management in force under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, or a law of a State or Territory that is in force in relation to the Northern Prawn Fishery area.

Schedule 1 – Closure areas

PERMANENT CLOSURE AREA

PART 1 - CALEDON BAY



Part 1 - Caledon Bay area

The area bounded by the line:

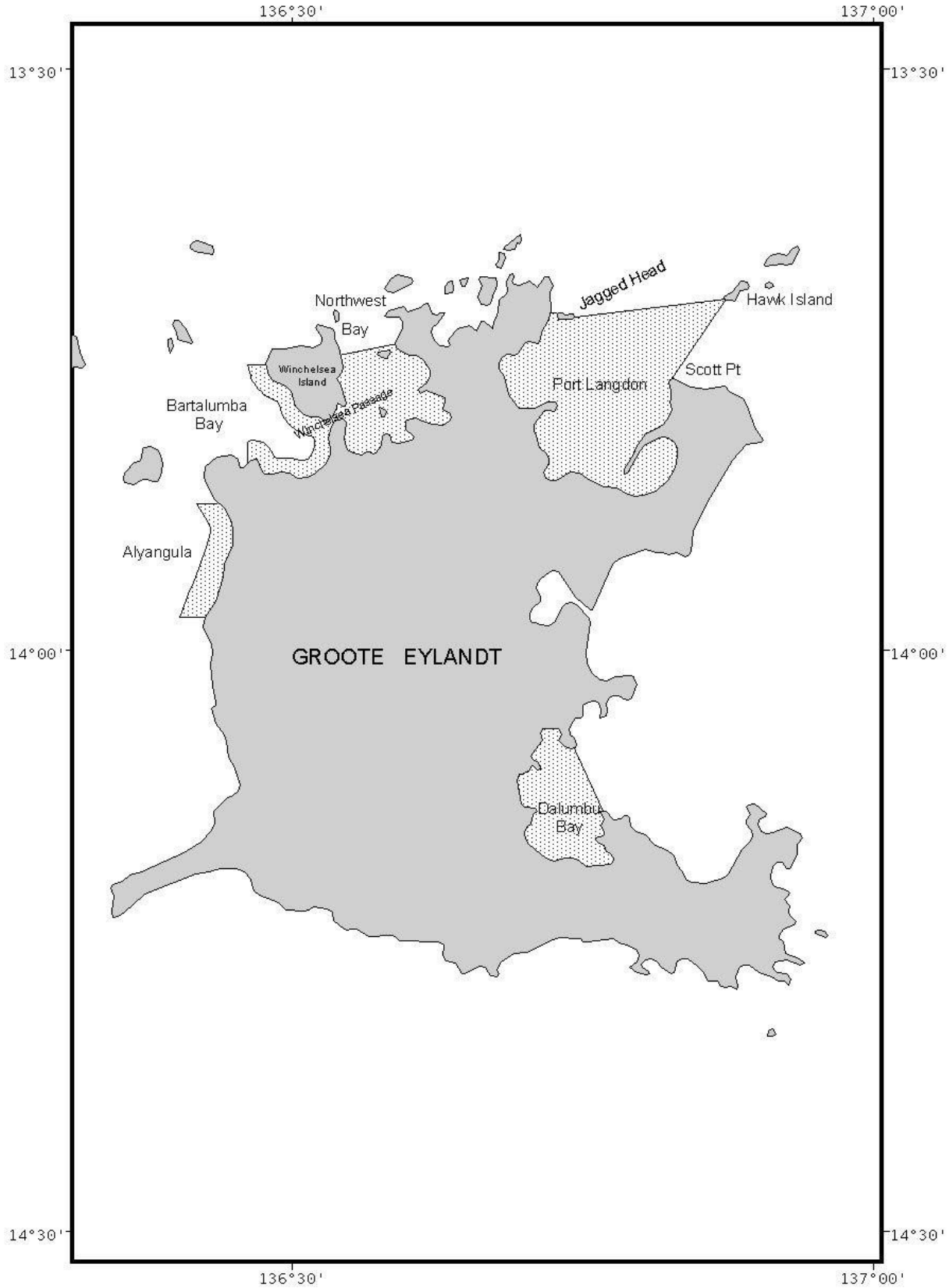
(a) commencing at the easternmost point of Point Alexander at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 12° 50.37' South, Longitude 136° 37.3' East;

(b) from there south west along the geodesic to the northernmost point of the unnamed point in the vicinity of point of Latitude 12° 52.4' South, Longitude 136° 32.98' East at mean low water;

(c) from there generally west, north and east along mean low water around Caledon Bay to the point of commencement.

PERMANENT CLOSURE AREA PARTS 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6

GROOTE EYLANDT



Part 2 - Port Langdon area

The area bounded by the line:

(a) commencing at the northernmost point of Scott Point on Groote Eylandt at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 44.68' South, Longitude 136° 50.4' East;

(b) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the westernmost point on Hawk Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 40.55' South, Longitude 136° 53.22' East;

(c) from there westerly along the geodesic to the easternmost point on Jagged Point on an unnamed island at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 41.43' South, Longitude 136° 45.27' East;

(d) from there west along the northern coastline of that unnamed island at mean low water to its northernmost point, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 41.12' South, Longitude 136° 44.28' East;

(e) from there west along the parallel of latitude which passes through that northernmost point at mean low water to its intersection with the coastline of Groote Eylandt at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 41.17' South, Longitude 136° 43.87' East;

(f) from there generally south, east and north along the coastline of Groote Eylandt at mean low water to the point of commencement.

Part 3 - North West Bay area

The area bounded by the line:

(a) commencing at the northernmost point on Alyinga Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 43.6' South, Longitude 136° 32.83' East;

(b) from there west along the parallel of latitude which passes through that point to its intersection with the eastern coastline of Winchelsea Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 43.6' South, Longitude 136° 32.05' East;

(c) from there generally southerly and south-westerly along the coastline of Winchelsea Island at mean low water to its southernmost point, in the vicinity of the southern end of Winchelsea Passage at of point of Latitude 13° 47.52' South, Longitude 136° 31.15' East;

(d) from there east along the parallel of latitude which passes through that point to its intersection with the coastline of Groote Eylandt at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 47.52' South, Longitude 136° 31.42' East;

(e) from there generally easterly and northerly along the coastline of Groote Eylandt at mean low water to its intersection with the parallel of latitude that passes through the northernmost point of Finch Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 43.3' South, Longitude 136° 35.28' East;

(f) from there west along that parallel to the northernmost point on Finch Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 43.3' South, Longitude 136° 34.85' East;

(g) from there westerly along the geodesic to the point of commencement.

Part 4 - Bartalumba Bay area

The area bounded by the line:

(a) commencing at the westernmost point on Winchelsea Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 44.25' South, Longitude 136° 27.98' East;

(b) from there west along the parallel which passes through that point to its intersection with the one nautical mile line, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 44.25' South, Longitude 136° 26.98' East;

(c) from there generally south-easterly, westerly and north-westerly along the one nautical mile line to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 136° 27.3' East in the vicinity of Latitude 13° 48.17' south;
(d) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 136° 27.3' to its intersection with the northern coastline of Groote Eylandt at mean low water, in the vicinity Ngadumiyerrka;
(e) from there generally easterly and northerly along the coastline of Groote Eylandt at mean low water to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 136° 31.75' East, in the vicinity of Winchelsea Passage;
(f) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 136° 31.75' East to its intersection with the south-eastern coastline of Winchelsea Island at mean low water;
(g) from there south westerly and then generally north-westerly along the coastline of Winchelsea Island at mean low water to the point of commencement.

Part 5 - Alyangula area

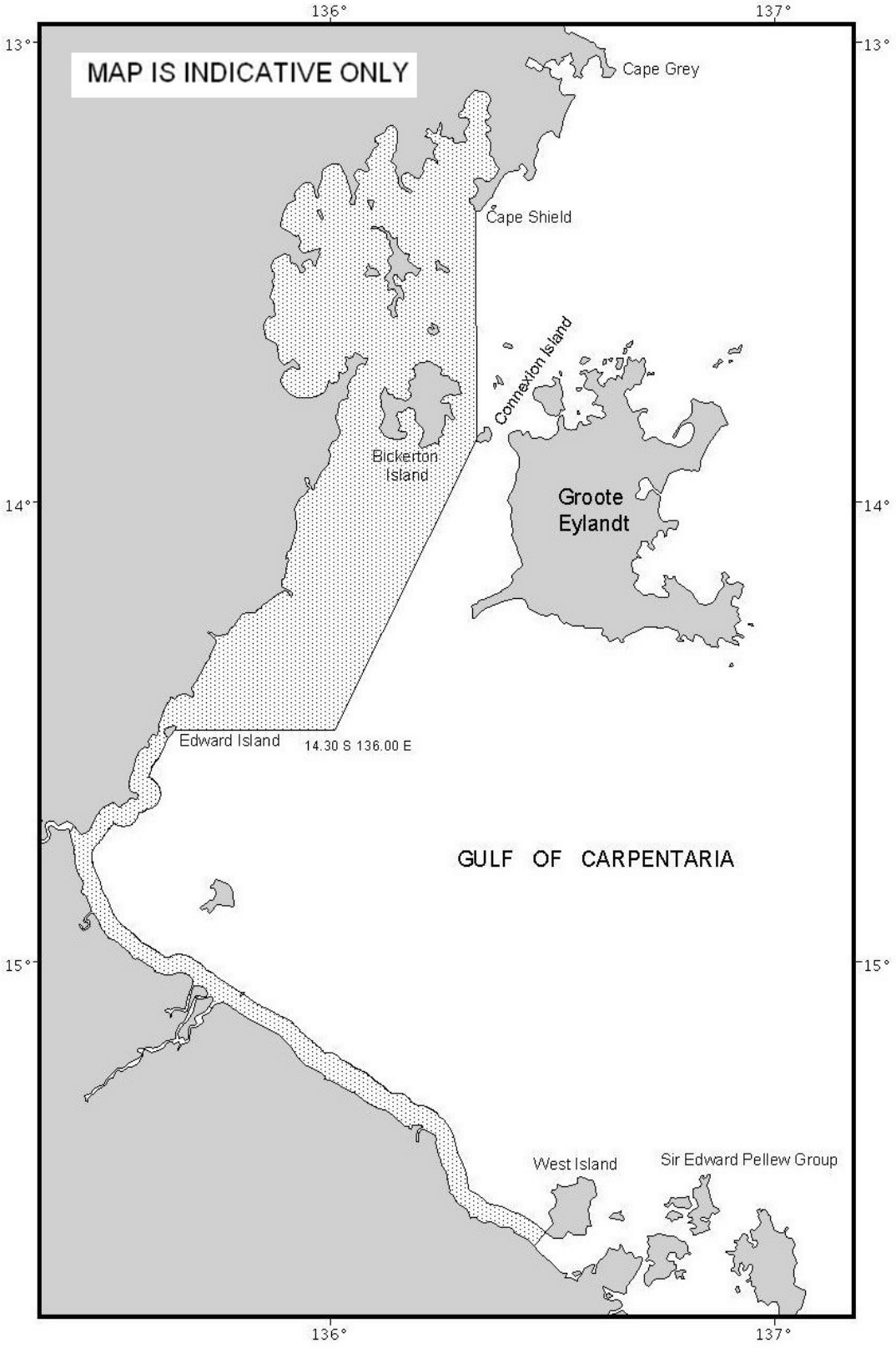
The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the point of intersection of the western coastline of Groote Eylandt at mean low water with the parallel of Latitude 13° 51.52' South, in the vicinity of the jetty at Alyangula;
(b) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 13° 51.52' South its intersection with the one nautical mile line;
(c) from there generally southerly along the one nautical mile line to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 13° 58' South;
(d) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 13° 58' South to its intersection with the western coastline of Groote Eylandt at mean low water, in the vicinity of the northern bank of the mouth of Angurugu Creek;
(e) from there generally north along the coastline of Groote Eylandt at mean low water to the point of commencement.

Part 6 - Dalumba Bay area

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the southernmost point of Lugadamanja Point on Groote Eylandt at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 14° 05.27' South, Longitude 136° 45.1' East;
(b) from there generally north westerly, south westerly, south easterly and northerly along the eastern coastline of Groote Eylandt at mean low water to the northernmost point on the unnamed headland, approximately 1.3 nm west of Adilyagba Point, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 14° 08.68' South, Longitude 136° 46.58' East;

PERMANENT CLOSURE AREA

PART 7 – CAPE SHIELD TO WEST ISLAND



Part 7 - Cape Shield to West Island

The area bounded by the line:

(a) commencing at the southernmost point on Cape Shield on the mainland of Australia at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 19.57' South, Longitude 136° 19.97' East;

(b) from there south along the geodesic to the westernmost point on Connexion Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 13° 50.32' South, Longitude 136° 20.03' East;

(c) from there south west along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 14° 30' South, Longitude 136° 00' East;

(d) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 14° 30' South to its intersection with the eastern coastline of Edward Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 14° 30' South, Longitude 135° 37.67' East;

(e) from there generally south-westerly along the coastline of Edward Island at mean low water to its southernmost point, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 14° 31.1' South, Longitude 135° 36.67' East;

(f) from there south-westerly along the geodesic to the point of intersection of the two nautical mile line around Wilipili Island with the two nautical mile line around the mainland of Australia, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 14° 33.75' South, Longitude 135° 35.35' East;

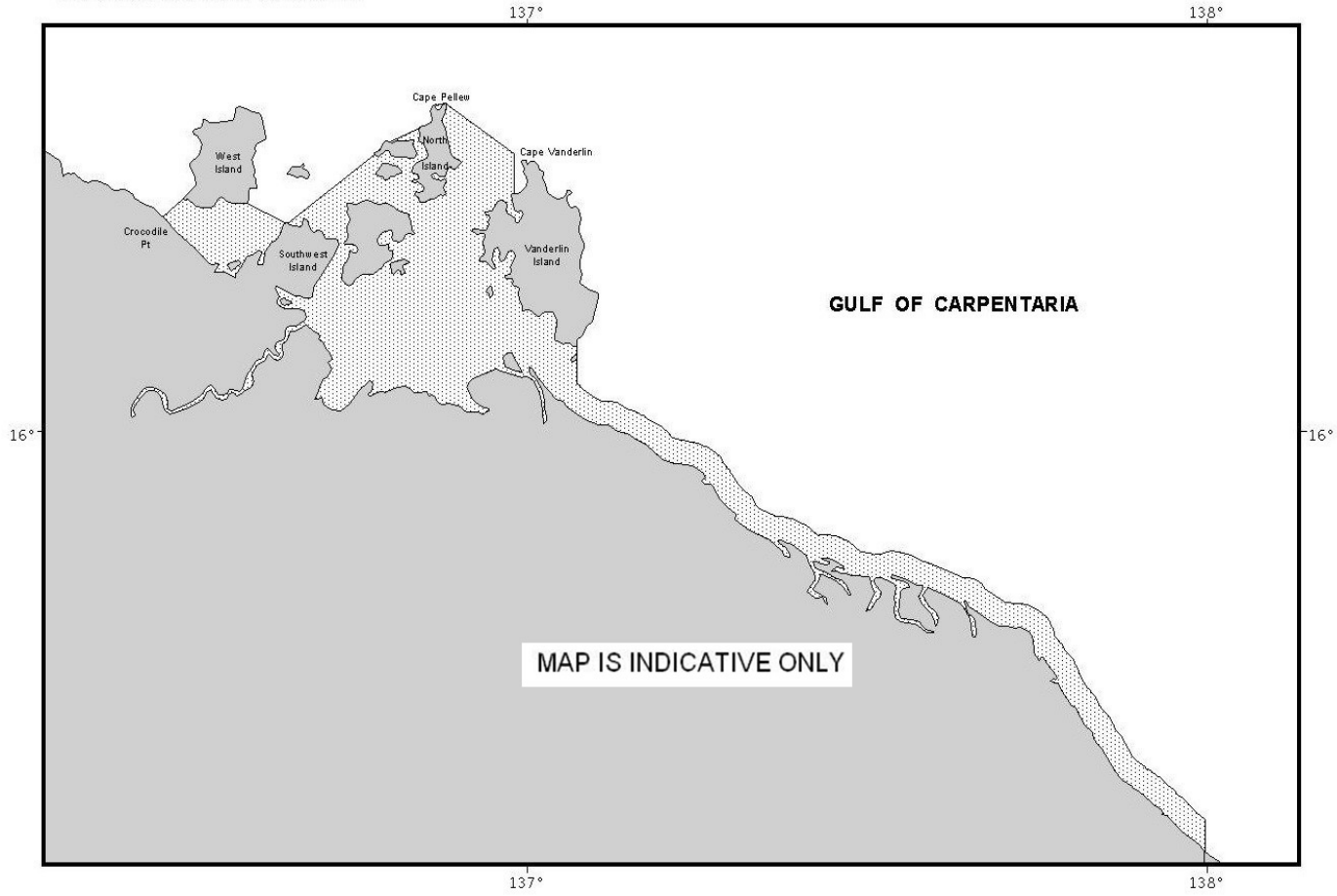
(g) from there generally south-westerly and south-easterly along the two nautical mile line to its intersection with the two nautical mile line around West Island in the Sir Edward Pellew Group, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 15° 37.4' South, Longitude 136° 27.97' East;

(h) from there south-easterly along the geodesic to the southernmost point on Crocodile Point on West Island at mean low water, the vicinity of point of Latitude 15° 38.63' South, Longitude 136° 29.67' East;

(i) from there south-westerly along the geodesic to the point of intersection of the meridian of Longitude 136° 28' East with the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 15° 39.85' South, Longitude 136° 28' East;

(j) from there generally north-westerly and north-easterly along the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.

PERMANENT CLOSURE AREA PART 8 – SIR EDWARD PELLEW GROUP



Part 8 - Sir Edward Pellew Group

The area bounded by the line:

(a) commencing at the point of intersection of the meridian of Longitude 136° 28' East with the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water;

(b) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the southernmost point on Crocodile Point on West Island in the Sir Edward Pellew Group at mean low water;

(c) from there generally easterly along the southern coastline of West Island at mean low water to its south-easternmost point, the vicinity of point of Latitude 15° 38.72' South, Longitude 136° 35.45' East;

(d) from there south-easterly along the geodesic to the northernmost point on South West Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 15° 39.83' South, Longitude 136° 40.32' East;

(e) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the westernmost point on Toby Point on Watson Island at mean low water;

(f) from there generally north-easterly along the western coastline of Watson Island at mean low water to the north-westernmost point on an unnamed headland, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 15° 33.6' South, Longitude 136° 47.68' East;

(g) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the southernmost point of Paradice Bay on North Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 15° 32.33' South, Longitude 136° 50.73' East;

(h) from there north-easterly along the coastline of North Island at mean low water to the most northern point on Cape Pellew at mean low-water;

(i) from there south-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 15° 34.7’ South, Longitude 136° 58.7' East;

(j) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 136° 58.7' East to its intersection with northern coastline of Vanderlin Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of Kedge Point;

(k) from there generally north and south-easterly along the eastern coastline of Vanderlin Island at mean low water to the southernmost point on Goat Point, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 15° 50.77' South, Longitude 137° 04.52' East;

(l) then south along the meridian which passes through that point to its intersection with the two nautical mile line, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 15° 53.75' South, Longitude 137° 04.52' East;

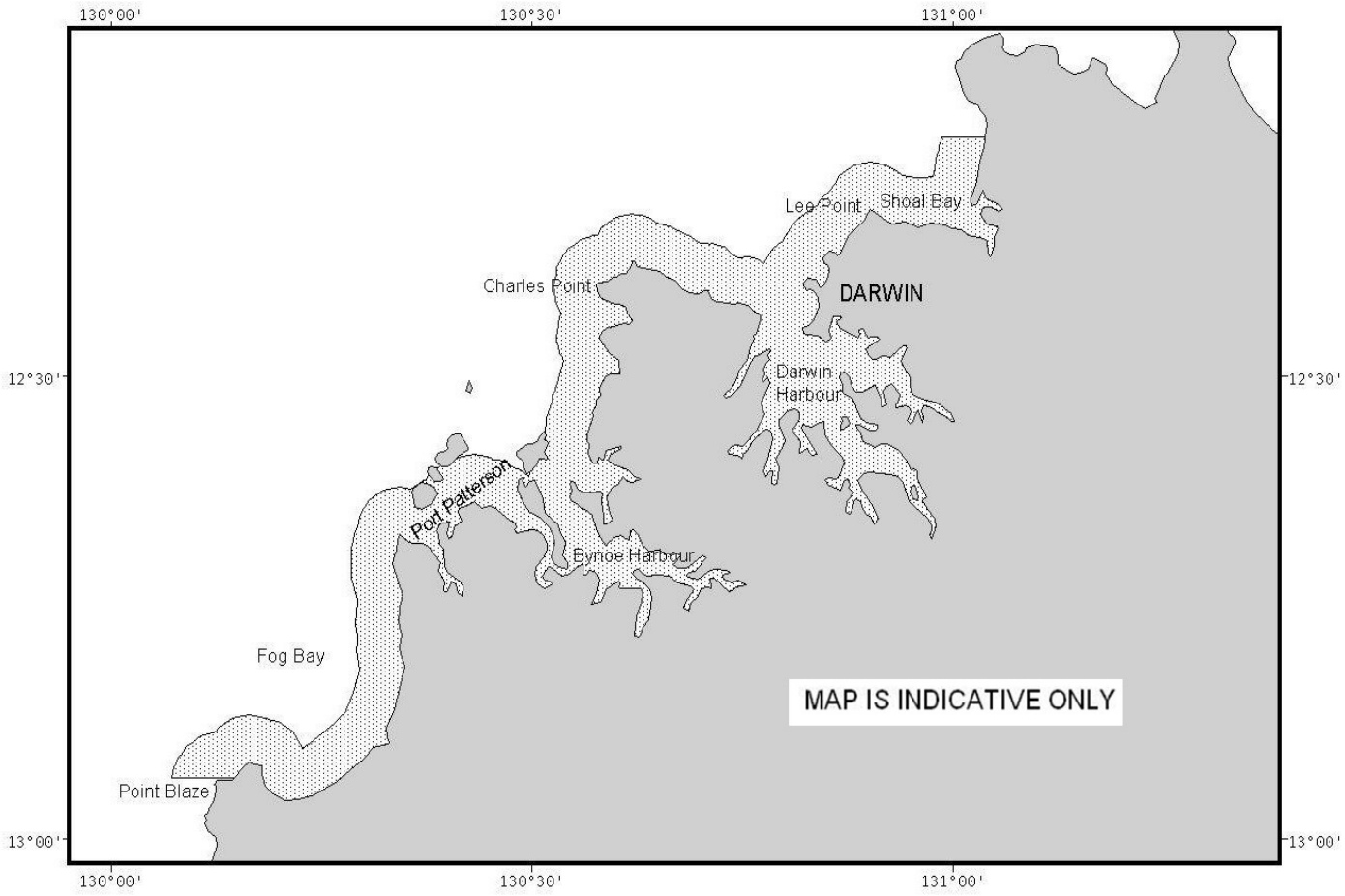
(m) from there generally south-easterly along the two nautical mile line to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 138° 00' East;

(n) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 138° 00' East to its intersection with the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water;

(o) from there generally north-westerly along the coastline of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.

PERMANENT CLOSURE AREA

PART 9 – DARWIN TO POINT BLAZE



Part 9 - Darwin to Point Blaze

The area bounded by the line:

(a) commencing at the westernmost point on Point Blaze on the mainland of Australia at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 12° 55.82' South, Longitude 130° 08.3' East;

(b) from there west along the parallel of Latitude that passes through that point to its intersection with the three nautical mile line, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 12° 55.82' South, Longitude 130° 05.3' East;

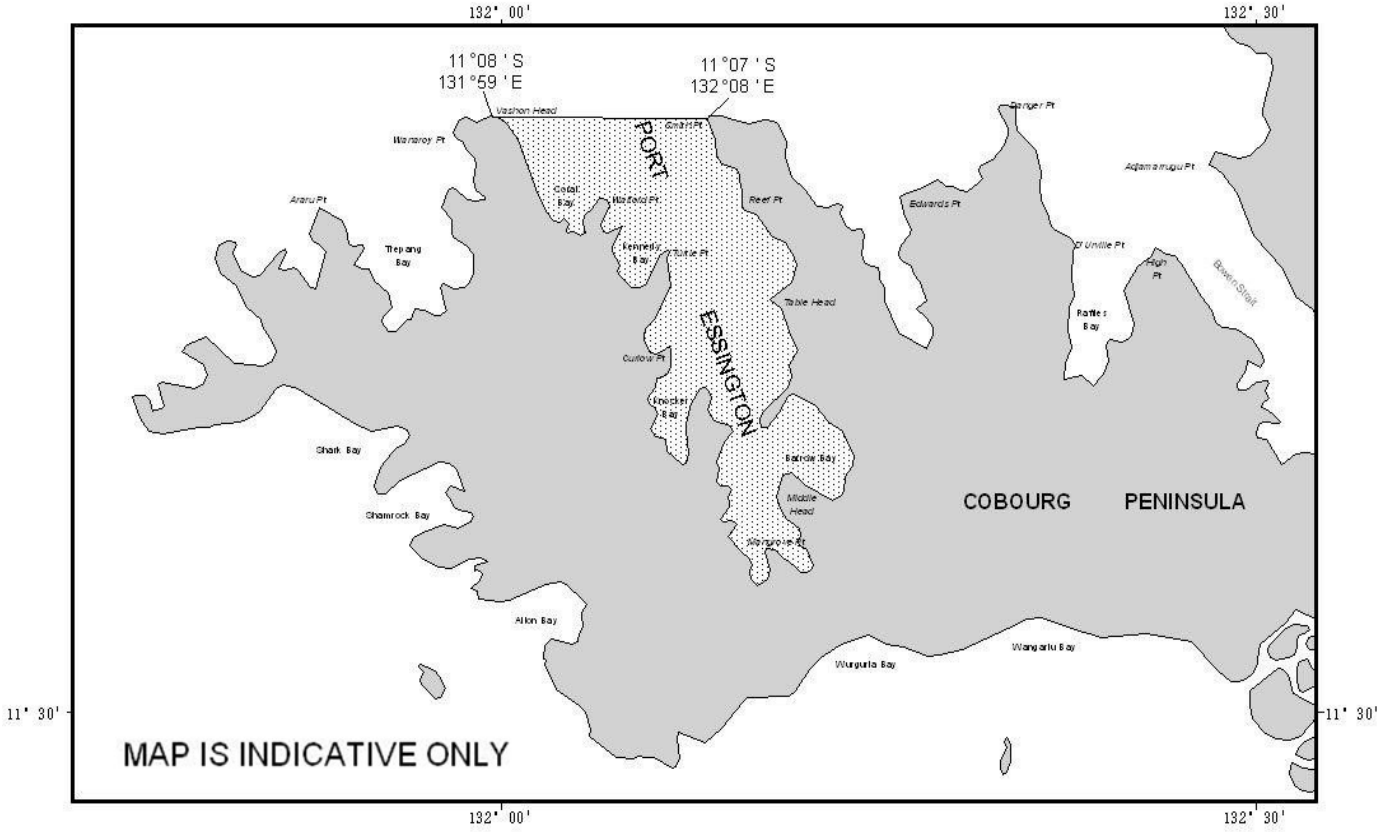
(c) from there generally north-easterly along the three nautical mile line to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 12° 15' South;

(d) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 12° 15' South to its intersection with northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water;

(e) from there generally south-westerly along the coastline of the mainland of Australian at mean low water to the point of commencement.

PERMANENT CLOSURE AREA

PART 10 – PORT ESSINGTON AREA



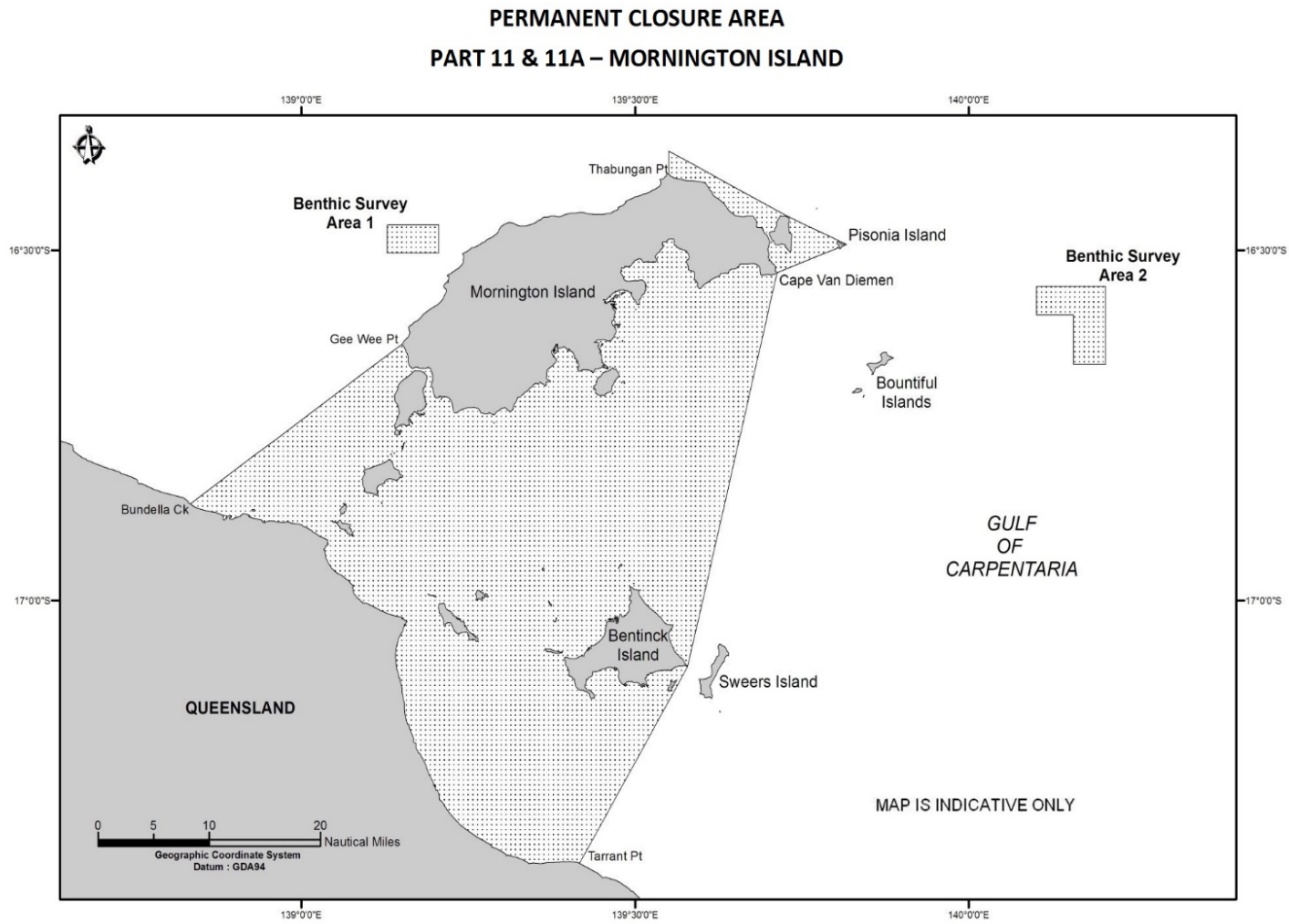
Part 10 - Port Essington area

The area bounded by the line:

(a) commencing at the most northerly point on Vashion Head at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 11° 07.5' South, Longitude 131° 59.65' East;

(b) from there generally south east and north around the coastline of Port Essington at mean low water to the northern most point of Smith Point, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 11° 07.35' South, Longitude 132° 08.2' East;

(c) from there westerly along the geodesic to the point of commencement.



Part 11 - Mornington Island area

The area bounded by the line:

(a) commencing at the intersection of the mainland of Australia at mean low water with the meridian of Longitude 139° 25' East, in the vicinity of a point on the coast about 2.5 nm north west of Tarrant Point;

(b) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 17° 05.65' South, Longitude 139° 34.72' East, in the vicinity of Raft Point on Bentinck Island;

(c) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° 31.92' South, Longitude 139° 42.75' East, in the vicinity of Cape Van Diemen on Mornington Island;

(d) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° 29.5' South, Longitude 139° 49' East, in the vicinity of Pisonia Island;

(e) from there north-westerly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° 27' South, Longitude 139° 43.5' East, in the vicinity of Mudgun Point on Lingnoonganee (Wallaby) Island;

(f) from there north-westerly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° 21.5' South, Longitude 139° 33' East;

(g) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 139° 33' East to the intersection of the coastline on Mornington Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of Nyuldora at Latitude 16° 23.47' South;

(h) from there generally south-westerly along the coastline of Mornington Island at mean low water to the westernmost point of Gee Wee point, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 16° 38.05' South, Longitude 139° 09.02' East;

(i) from there south-westerly along the geodesic to the intersection of the meridian of Longitude 138° 50' East with the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water, in the vicinity of Bundella Creek;
(j) from there generally south-easterly along the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.

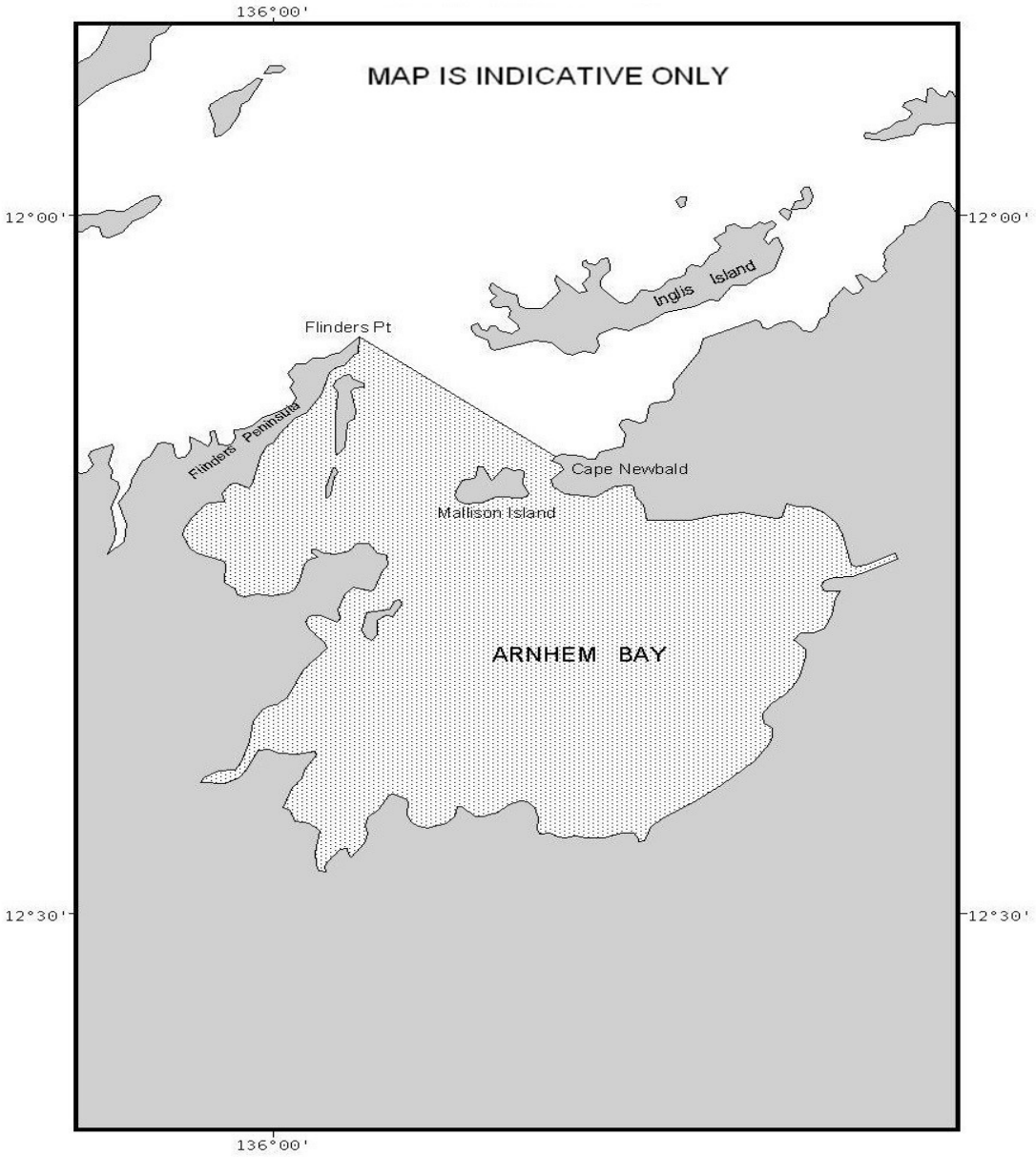
Part 11A – Mornington Island Benthic Survey Sites

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the point Latitude 16° 27.85' South, Longitude 139° 07.72' East;
(b) then east along the parallel of Latitude 16° 27.85' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 139° 12.37' East;
(c) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 139° 12.37' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 16° 30.24' South;
(d) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 16° 30.24' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 139° 07.72' East;
(e) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 139° 07.72' East to the point of commencement.

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the point Latitude 16° 33.08' South, Longitude 140° 06.11' East;
(b) from there east along that parallel of Latitude 16° 33.08' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 140° 12.32' East;
(c) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 140° 12.32' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 16° 39.77' South;
(d) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 16° 39.77' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 140° 09.42' East;
(e) from there north along that meridian of Longitude 140° 09.42' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 16° 35.55' South;
(f) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 16° 35.55' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 140° 06.11' East;
(g) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 140° 06.11' East to the point of commencement.

PERMANENT CLOSURE AREA

PART 12 – ARNHEM BAY AREA



Part 12 - Arnhem Bay area

The area bounded by the line:

(a) commencing at most western point on Cape Newbald on the mainland of Australia at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 12° 09.85' South, Longitude 136° 10.02' East;

(b) from there north-westerly along the geodesic to the northern most point on Flinders Point at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 12° 03.78' South, Longitude 136° 02.7' East;

(c) from there generally southerly, westerly, north westerly and easterly along the coastline of Arnhem Bay at mean low water to the point of commencement.

Schedule 2 – Repeals

Northern Prawn Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 169

1 The whole of the instrument

Repeal the instrument

Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Seasonal Closures) Direction 2021

made under section 41A of the

Fisheries Management Act 1991

Compilation No. 2

Compilation date: 19 November 2021

Includes amendments up to: **F2021L01557**

1 Name

This instrument is the *Fisheries Management (Northern Prawn Fishery Seasonal Closures) Direction 2021*.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 41A of the Act.

4 Definitions

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the definitions section of the Act, including the following:

(a) boat
(b) fish
(c) fishery
(d) fishing
(e) fishing concession
(f) holder
(g) statutory fishing right.

A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the interpretation section of the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995*, including the following:

(a) acting for
(b) Northern Prawn Fishery

(c) Northern Prawn Fishery area.

In this instrument:

Act means the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*;

boat means a boat that is nominated on statutory fishing rights for the Northern Prawn Fishery, and includes carrier boats and fishing boats;

gear trial means a test, or a series of short tests, of equipment on or towed by a boat and carried out under the following conditions:

(a) the test is conducted in such a way as to avoid the capture of fish, primarily by keeping the cod end of nets fully open at all times; and

(b) fish that are captured in the equipment during the test are returned to the sea as soon as practicable after it becomes apparent that the fish have been captured.

equipment means equipment for fishing;

UTC means Coordinated Universal Time, the time scale based on the second (SI), maintained by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. For the purposes of this Direction UTC is equivalent to mean solar time at the prime meridian (0 degrees longitude), formerly expressed in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

The origin of geographical coordinates used in this Direction is the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84).

5 Schedules

Schedules 1 to 21 to this instrument have effect according to their terms.

6 To whom this applies

This Direction applies to a holder of a fishing concession in the Northern Prawn Fishery and to a person acting on behalf of the holder.

7 Prohibition on fishing (prior to season closures)

(1) Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 1 during the period commencing at 0000 hours UTC on 1 January and ending at 2200 hours UTC on 31 March each year.

(2) Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 2 during the period commencing at 0000 hours UTC on 1 January and ending at 2200 hours UTC on 31 March each year.

8 Prohibition on fishing (season one closures)

(1) Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area defined in Schedules 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 during the period commencing at 2200 hours UTC 31 March and ending at 0200 hours UTC 15 June each year.

Gulf of Carpentaria

(2)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area defined in Schedule 9 during the period commencing at 2200 hours UTC 31 March and ending at 2200 hours UTC 30 April each year.

Gulf of Carpentaria - West

(3)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area defined in Schedule 10 during the period commencing at 2200 hours UTC 30 April and ending at 0200 hours UTC 15 June each year.

Night time fishing ban for Sweers Island - Mornington Island

(4)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area defined in Schedule 11 between the hours of 1100 UTC and 1900 UTC each day, during the period commencing at 2200 hours UTC 21 April and ending at 2200 hours UTC 15 June each year

9 Prohibition on fishing (mid-season closures)

(1)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area defined in Schedule 12 during the period commencing at 0200 hours UTC 15 June and ending at 0830 hours UTC 1 August each year.

(2)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area defined in Schedule 13 during the period commencing at 0230 hours UTC 15 June and ending at 0900 hours UTC 1 August each year.

10 Prohibition on fishing (season two closures)

(1)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 14 and Schedule 15 during the period commencing at 2200 hours UTC on 30 September and ending at 2200 hours UTC on 30 November each year.

(2)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 16, Schedule 17 and Schedule 18 during the period commencing at 2230 hours UTC on 30 September and ending at 2230 hours UTC on 30 November each year.

Daylight fishing ban for Northern Territory waters

(3)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 19 and Schedule 20 which is west of the meridian of Longitude 138° E, between the hours of 2230 UTC and 0830 UTC each day, during the period commencing at 0830 hours UTC on 1 August and ending at 2230 hours UTC on 30 November each year.

Daylight fishing ban for Queensland waters

(4)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 20 which is east of the meridian of Longitude 138° E, between the hours of 2200 UTC and 0800 UTC each day, during the period commencing at 0800 hours UTC on 1 August and ending at 2200 hours UTC on 30 November each year.

11 Prohibition on fishing (end of season closures)

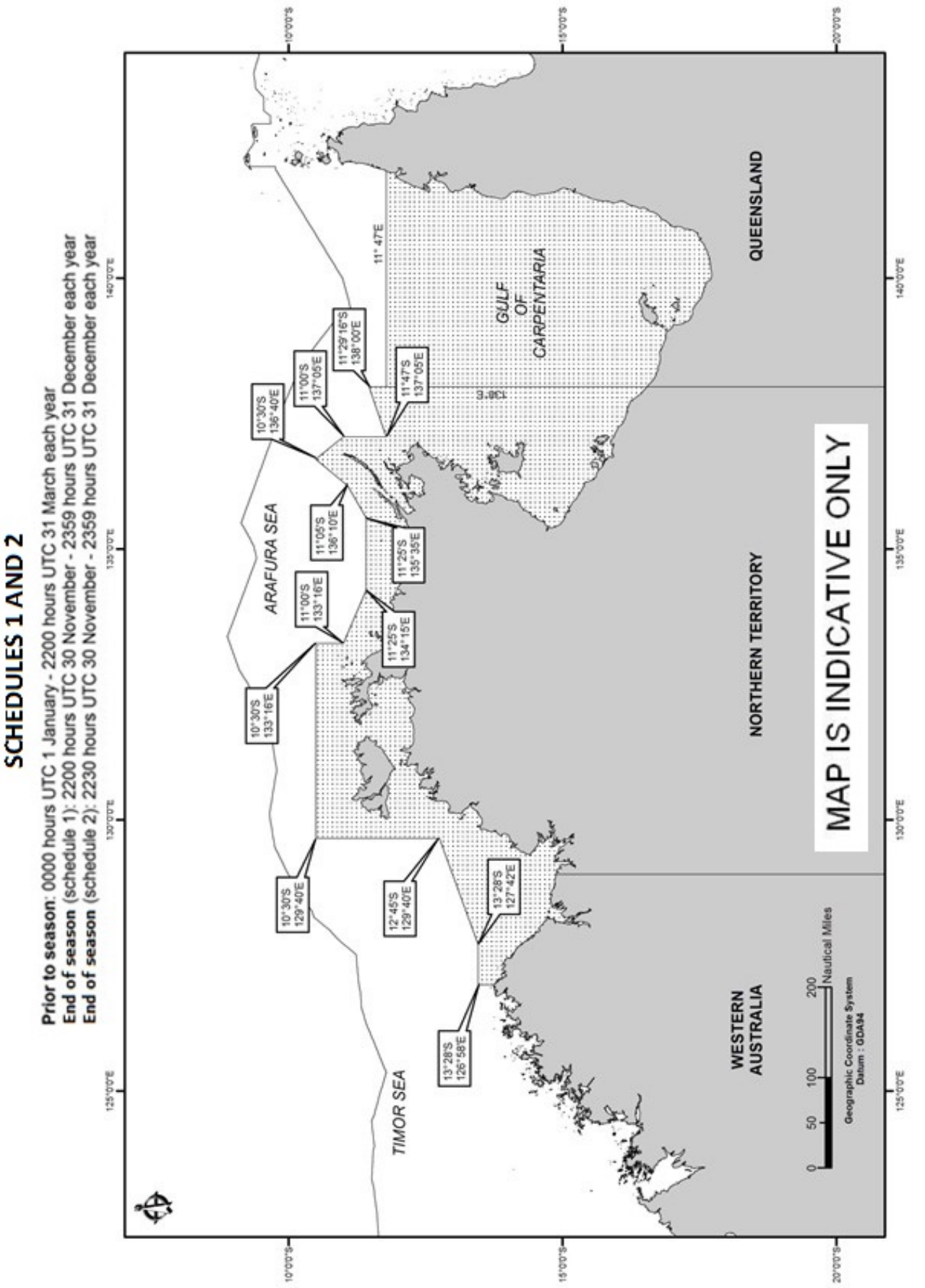
(1)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 1 during the period commencing at 2200 hours UTC on 30 November and ending at 2359 hours UTC on 31 December each year.

(2)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 2 during the period commencing at 2230 hours UTC on 30 November and ending at 2359 hours UTC on 31 December each year.

(3)Fishing is not to be engaged in in the fishery during the period commencing at 2230 hours UTC on 20 November 2021 and ending at 2200 hours UTC on 30 November 2021.

12 Exemption to the prohibitions

The prohibition in subsections 7(1) through to 10(2) and subsections 11(1) and 11(2) does not apply to a person who is conducting a gear trial in an area of the fishery defined in Schedule 21.


SCHEDULES 1 AND 2
Prior to season: 0000 hours UTC 1 January - 2200 hours UTC 31 March each year
End of season (schedule 1): 2200 hours UTC 30 November - 2359 hours UTC 31 December each year
End of season (schedule 2): 2230 hours UTC 30 November - 2359 hours UTC 31 December each year
10°30'S 136°40'E
11°00'S 137°05'E
11°29'16'S 138°00'E
11°47'S 137°05'E
11°05'S 136°10'E
11°25'S 135°35'E
11°00'S 133°16'E
11°25'S 134°15'E
10°30'S 133°16'E
10°30'S 129°40'E
12°45'S 129°40'E
13°28'S 127°42'E
13°28'S 126°58'E
ARAFURA SEA
TIMOR SEA
GULF OF CARPENTARIA
11° 47'E
QUEENSLAND
NORTHERN TERRITORY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
MAP IS INDICATIVE ONLY
0 50 100 200 Nautical Miles
Geographic Coordinate System
Datum : GDA94
10°00'S
15°00'S
20°00'S
125°00'E
130°00'E
135°00'E
140°00'E

Schedule 1 – Prior to and End of Season Closure

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the mainland of Australia at mean low water with the meridian of Longitude 138° East;

(2) from there north along meridian of Longitude 138° East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11° 47' South;

(3) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 11° 47' South to its intersection with the mainland of Australia at the mean low water;

(4) from there generally southerly and then generally westerly along the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.

Schedule 2 – Prior to and End of Season Closure

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the north-western coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water with the western boundary of the Northern Prawn Fishery;

(2) from there running north along the western boundary of the Northern Prawn Fishery to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 13° 28' South;

(3) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 13º 28' South to the meridian of Longitude 127° 42' East;

(4) from there north easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 12° 45' South, Longitude 129° 40' East;

(5) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 129° 40' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 10° 30' South;

(6) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 10° 30' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 133° 16' East;

(7) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 133° 16' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11° 00' South;

(8) from there south-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11° 25' South, Longitude 134° 15' East;

(9) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 11° 25' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 135° 35' East;

(10) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11° 05' South, Longitude 136° 10' East;

(11) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 10° 30' South, Longitude 136° 40' East;

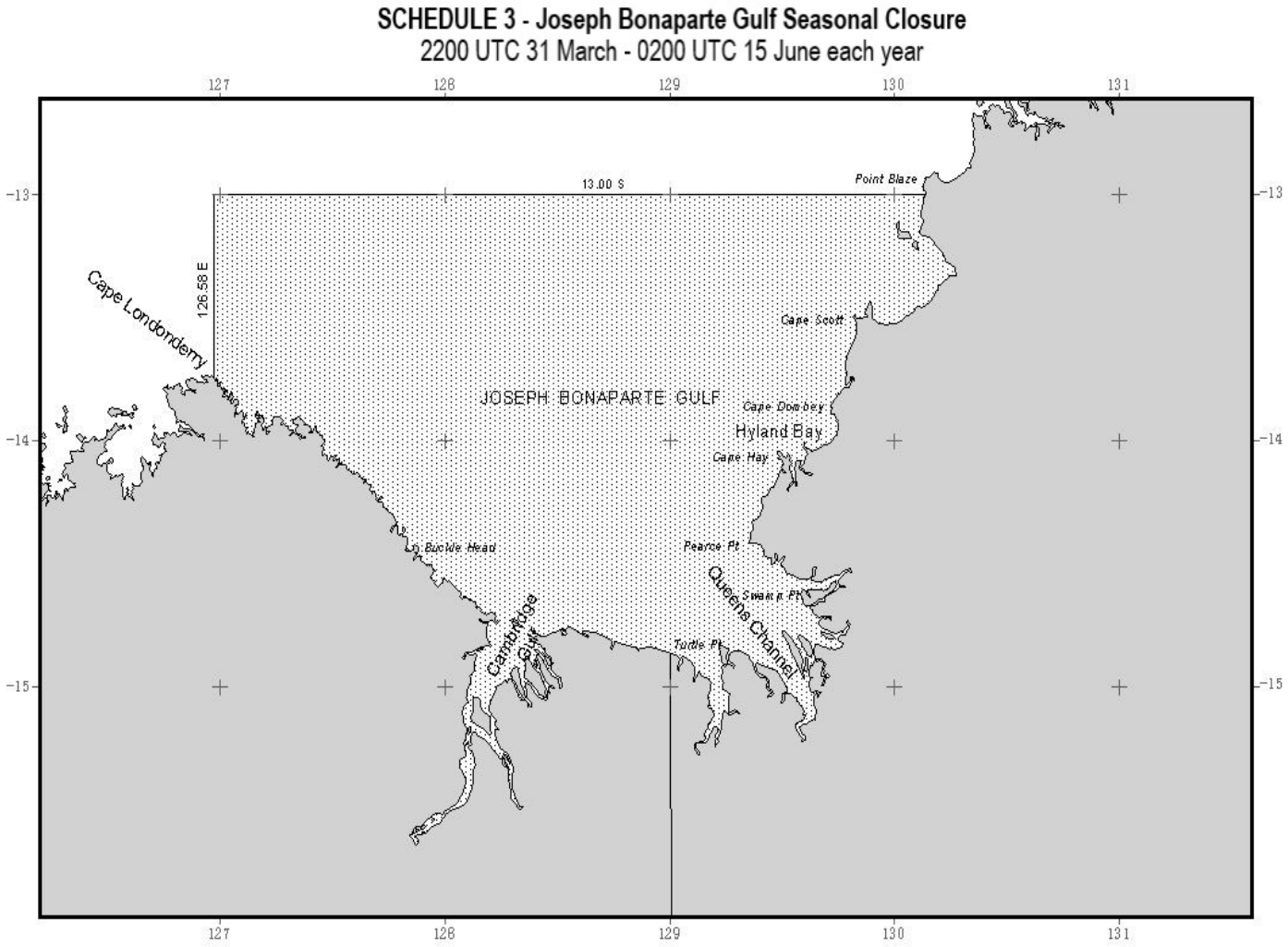
(12) from there south-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11° 00' South, Longitude 137° 05' East;

(13) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 137° 05' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11° 47' South;

(14) from there north easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11° 29.17' South, Longitude 138° East;

(15) from there south along meridian of Longitude 138° East to its intersection with the mainland of Australian at mean low water;

(16) from there generally westerly along the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.



Schedule 3 – Joseph Bonaparte Gulf

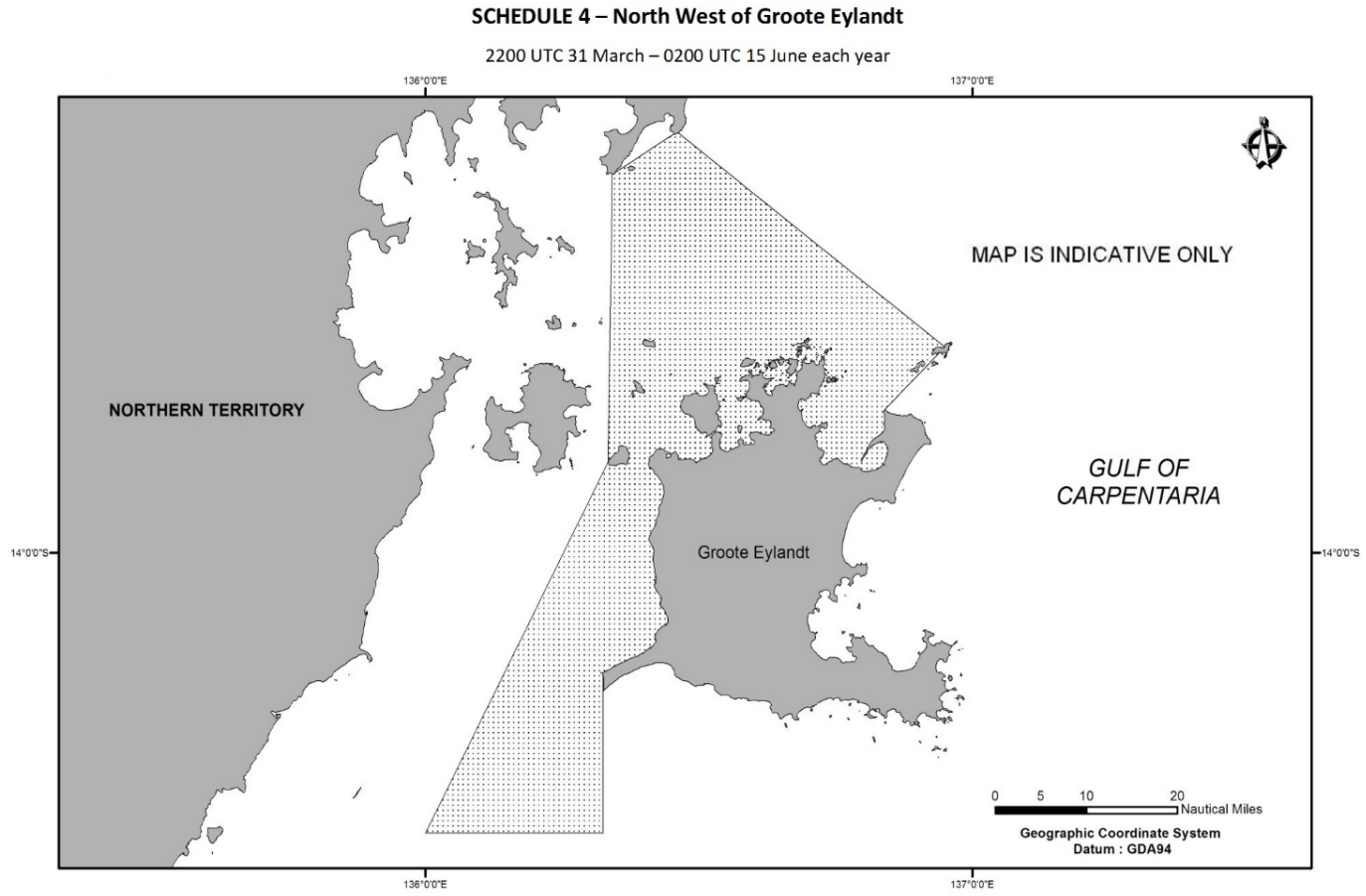
The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water with the western boundary of the Northern Prawn Fishery, in the vicinity of Cape Londonderry;

(2) from there north along the western boundary of the Northern Prawn Fishery to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 13° 00' South;

(3) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 13° 00' South to its intersection with the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water;

(4) from there generally south-westerly, southerly, westerly and north-westerly along that coastline at mean low water to the point of commencement.



Schedule 4 – North West of Groote Eylandt

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the point of Latitude 13° 38' South, Longitude 136° 57' East;

(2) from there north-westerly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 13º 15' South, Longitude 136° 27.6' East, in the vicinity of Cape Arrowsmith;

(3) from there south-westerly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 13º 19.57' South, Longitude 136º 19.97' East, in the vicinity of Cape Shield;

(4) from there south along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 13º 50.32' South, Longitude 136º 20.03' East, in the vicinity of the western most point of Connexion Island;

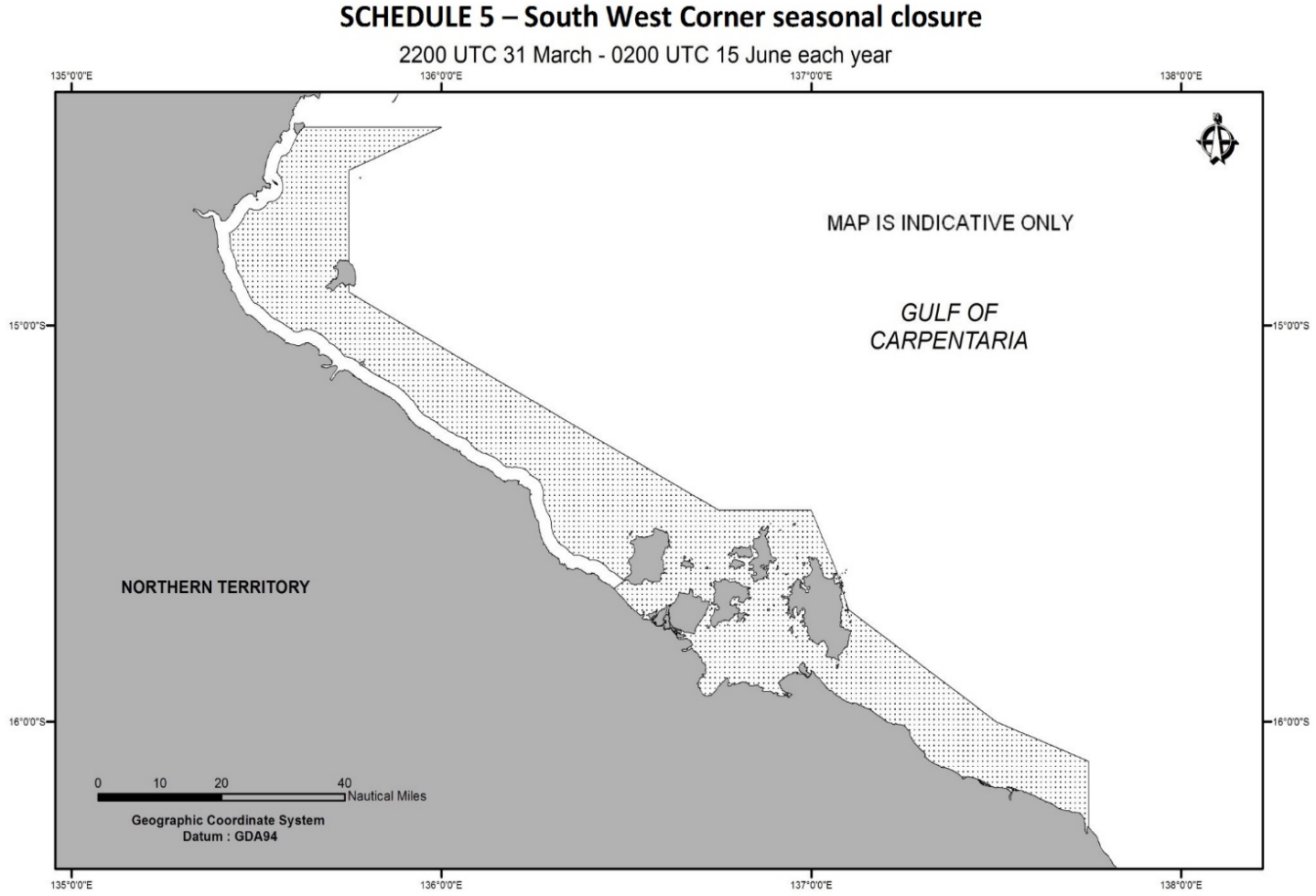
(5) from there south westerly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 14° 30' South, Longitude 136° 00' East;

(6) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 14° 30' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 136° 19.5' East;

(7) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 136° 19.5' East to its intersection with the south west coastline of Groote Eylandt at mean low water, in the vicinity of Tasman Point;

(8) from there generally north east along the north western coastline of Groote Eylandt at mean low water to the most northerly point on Scott Point, in the vicinity of the point Latitude 13° 44.68' South, Longitude 136° 50.4' East;

(9) from there northeast along the geodesic to the point of commencement.



Schedule 5 – South West Corner

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the point Latitude 14° 30' South, Longitude 136° East on the Cape Shield to West Island permanent closure;

(2) from there south westerly along the geodesic to the point Latitude 14° 36.5' South, Longitude 135° 45' East;

(3) from there south along the meridian on Longitude 135° 45' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 14° 55' South;

(4) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 15° 28' South, Longitude 136° 45' East;

(5) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 15° 28' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 137° 00' East;

(6) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point Latitude 15° 37.5' South, Longitude 137° 04.2' East;

(7) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 15° 43' South, Longitude 137° 06' East, in the vicinity of Steepcut Rock;

(8) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° 00' South, Longitude 137° 30' East;

(9) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° 06' South, Longitude 137° 45' East;

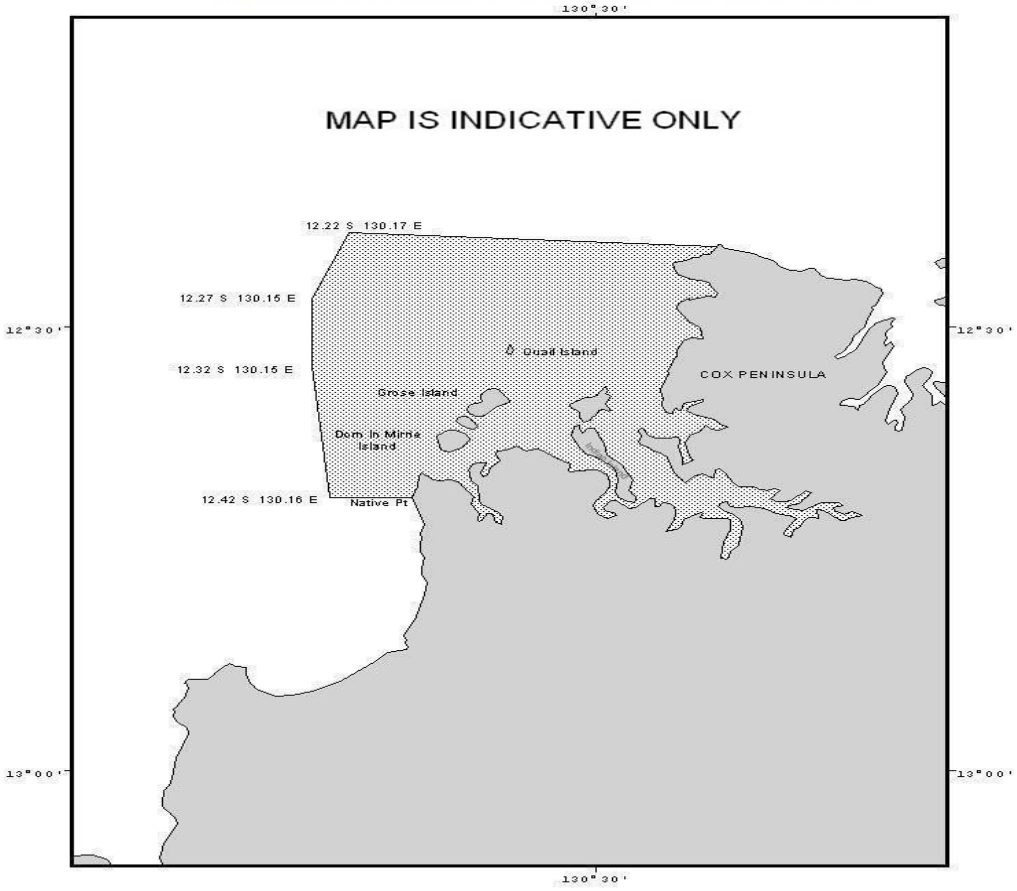
(10) from there south along the meridian Longitude 137° 45' East to its intersection with the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water;

(11) from there generally north westerly along the coastline of the mainland of Australian at mean low water to its intersection with the Cape Shield to West Island Permanent Closure boundary, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 15° 39.85' South, Longitude 136° 28' East;

(12) from there generally north east, north west, north east and east along the off shore boundary of the Cape Shield to West Island Permanent Closure to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 6 – Fog Bay/ Bynoe Harbour seasonal closure

2200 UTC 31 March - 0200 UTC 15 June each year



Schedule 6 – Fog Bay / Bynoe Harbour

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the northern most point of Charles Point at mean low water, in the vicinity of point of Latitude 12° 22.87' South , Longitude 130° 37.15' East;

(2) from there north westerly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 12° 22' South, Longitude 130° 17' East;

(3) from there south westerly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 12° 27' South, Longitude 130° 15' East;

(4) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 130° 15' East to the point of Latitude 12° 32' South, Longitude 130° 15' East;

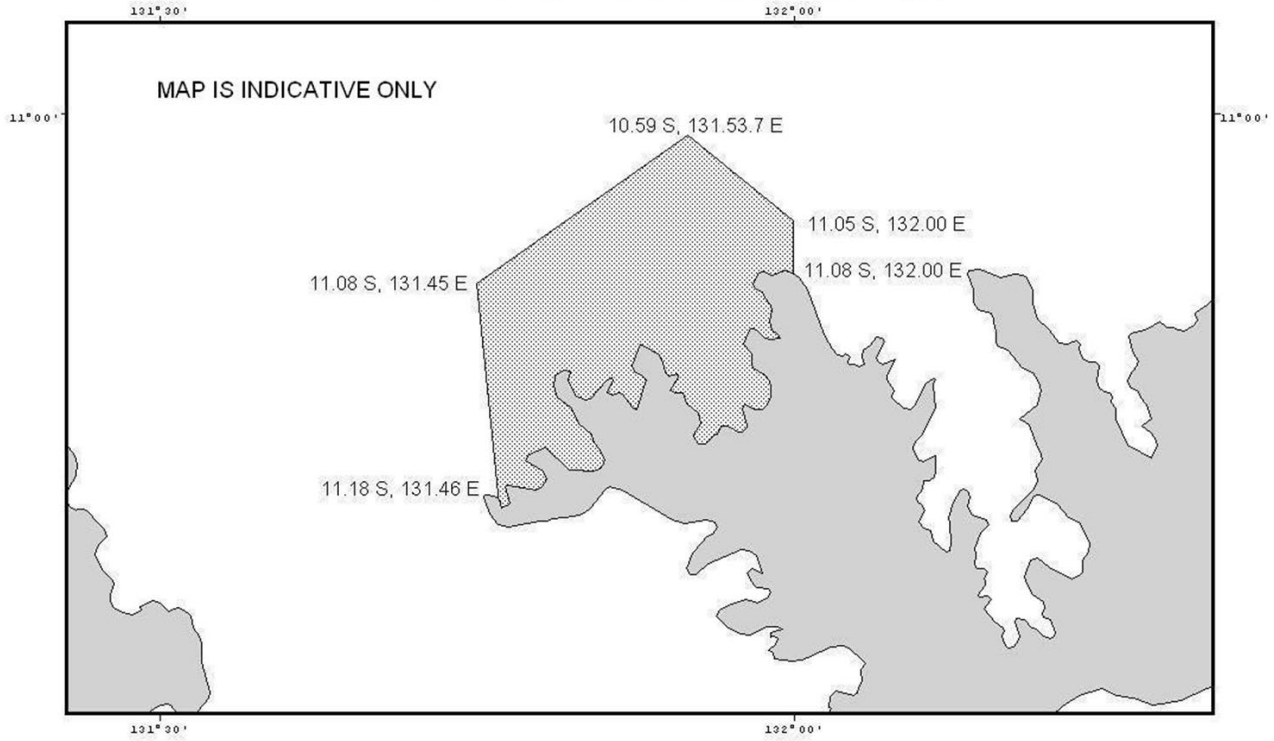
(5) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point Latitude 12° 42' South, 130° 16' East;

(6) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 12° 42' South to its intersection with the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water;

(7) from there generally north easterly along that coastline at mean low water to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 7 – Lingi Point seasonal closure

2200 UTC 31 March - 0200 UTC 15 June each year



Schedule 7 – Lingi Point

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the meridian of Longitude 132° 00' East with the coastline of the mainland of Australian at mean low water, in the vicinity of Vashion Head;

(2) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 132° 00' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11° 05' South;

(3) from there north westerly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 10° 59’ South, 131° 53.7' East;

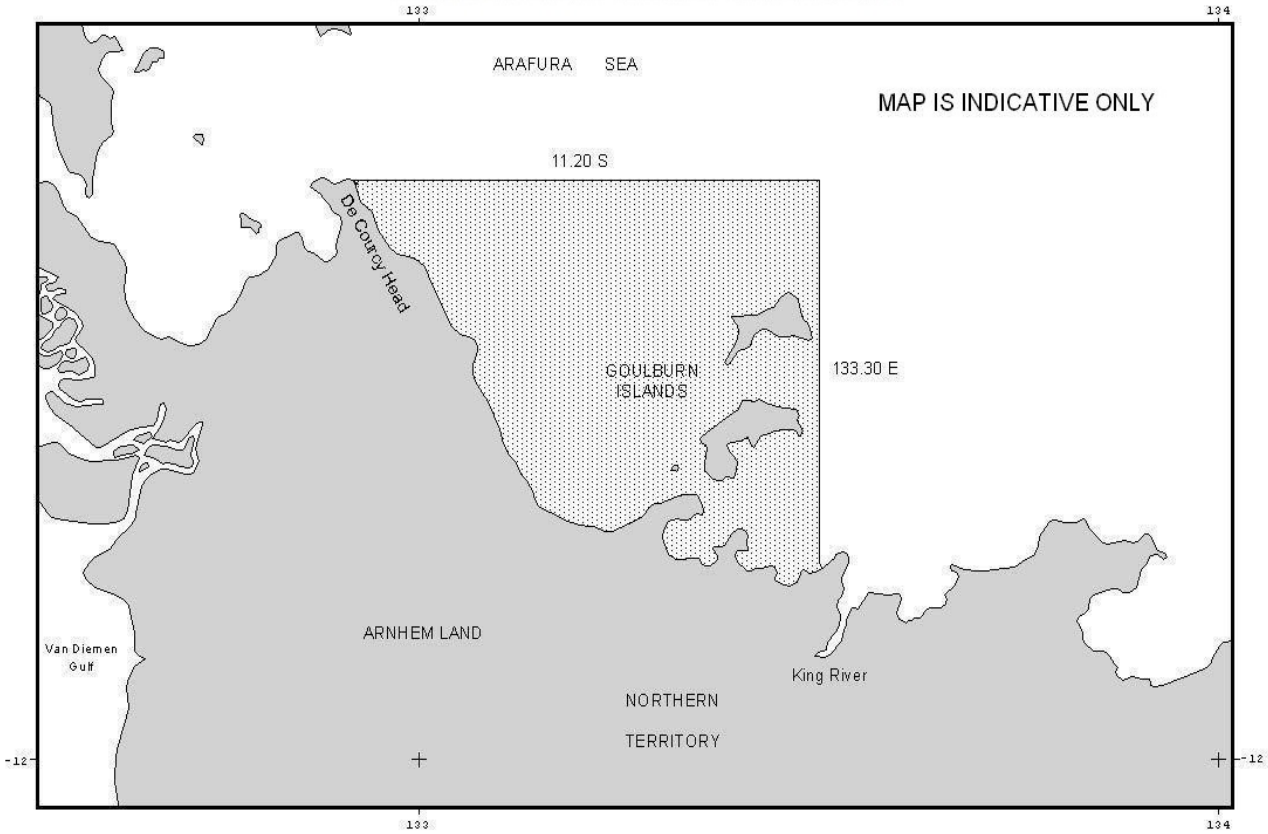
(4) from there south westerly along the geodesic to its intersection with the point of Latitude 11° 08' South, Longitude 131° 45' East;

(5) from there southerly along the geodesic to the intersection of the meridian of Longitude 131° 46' East with the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 18.13' South, Longitude 131° 46' East near Cape Don;

(6) from there generally north easterly along the coastline of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 8 – Goulburn Islands seasonal closure

2200 UTC 31 March - 0200 UTC 15 June each year



Schedule 8 – Goulburn Islands

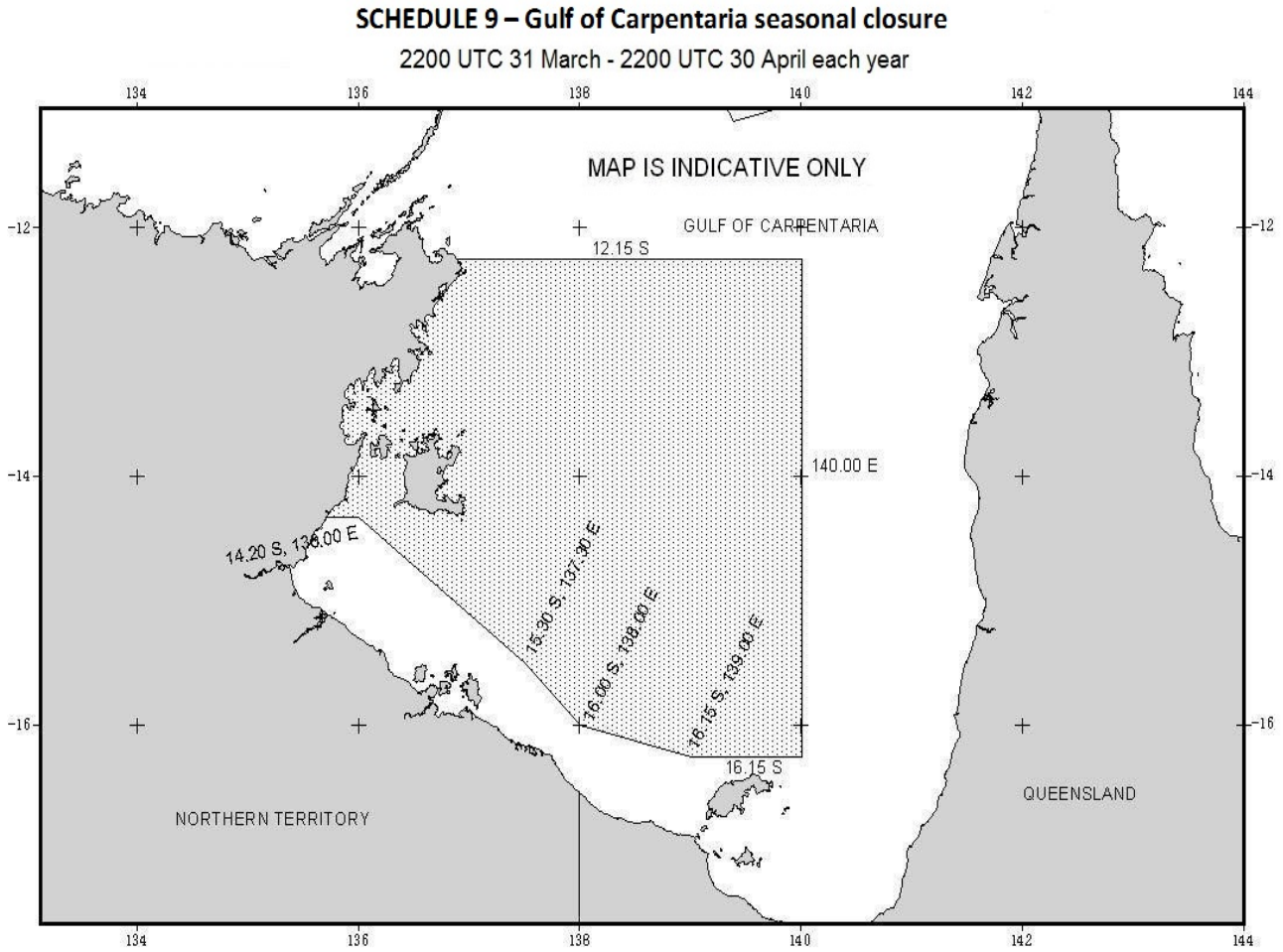
The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the meridian on Longitude 133° 30' East with the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low-water;

(2) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 133° 30' East to its intersection with parallel of Latitude 11° 20' South;

(3) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 11º 20’ South to its intersection with the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water, in the vicinity of De Courcy Head;

(4) from there generally south easterly along the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.



Schedule 9 – Gulf of Carpentaria

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the parallel of Latitude 14° 30' South with the coastline of the mainland Australia on the western side of the Gulf of Carpentaria at mean low water;

(2) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 14° 30' South to its intersection with the meridian of the Longitude 136° 12.85' East;

(3) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 15° 30' South, Longitude 137° 30' East;

(4) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° South, Longitude 138° East;

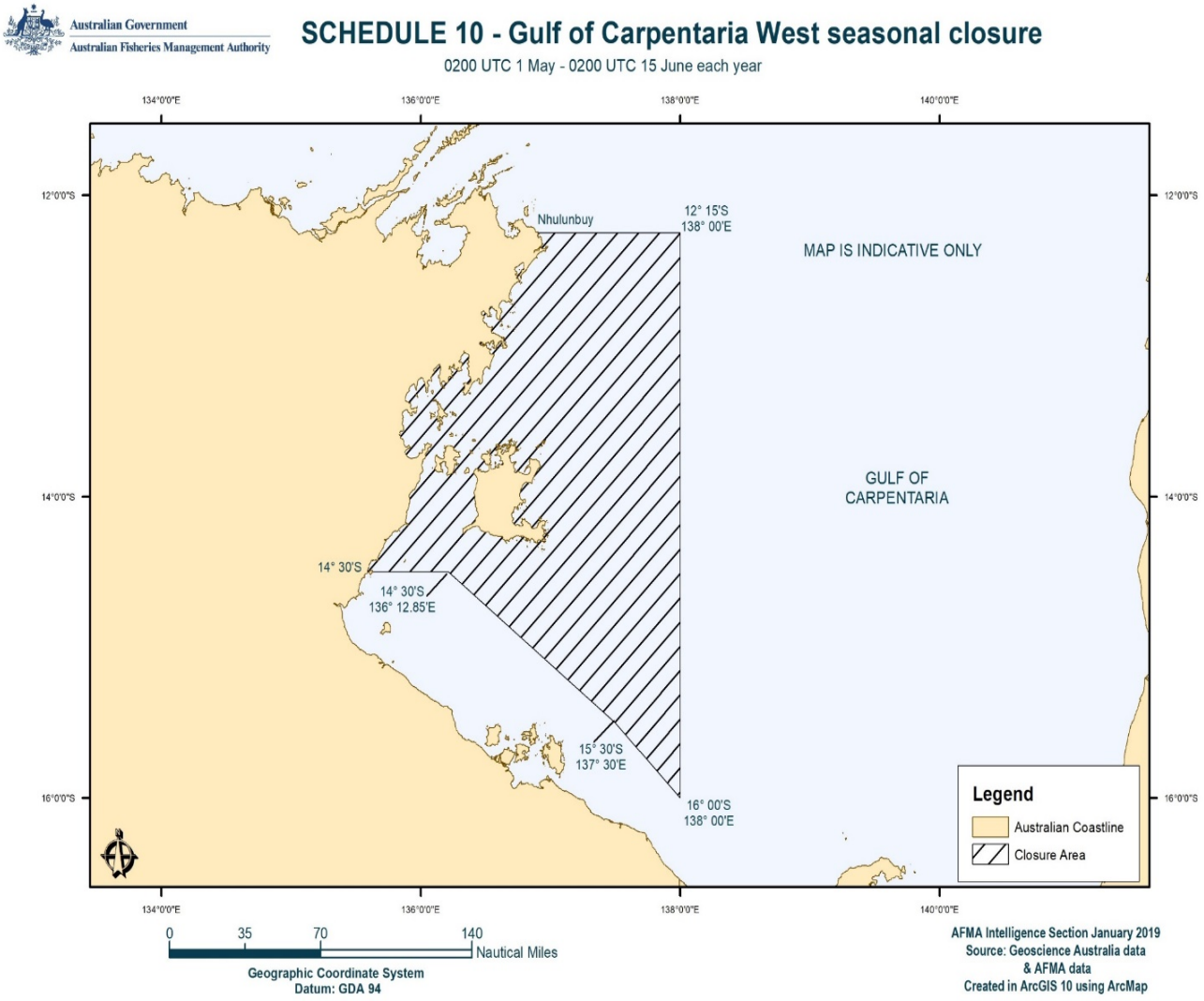
(5) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° 15' South, Longitude 139° East;

(6) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 16° 15' South to its intersection with the meridian of the Longitude 140° East;

(7) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 140° East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 12° 15' South;

(8) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 12° 15' South to its intersection of mainland Australia at mean low water, in the vicinity of Yirrkala;

(9) from there generally south westerly along the coastline of the mainland of Australian at mean low water to the point of commencement.



Schedule 10 – Gulf of Carpentaria - West

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the parallel of Latitude 14° 30' South with the coastline of the mainland Australia on the western side of the Gulf of Carpentaria at mean low water;

(2) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 14° 30' South to its intersection with the meridian of the Longitude 136° 12.85' East;

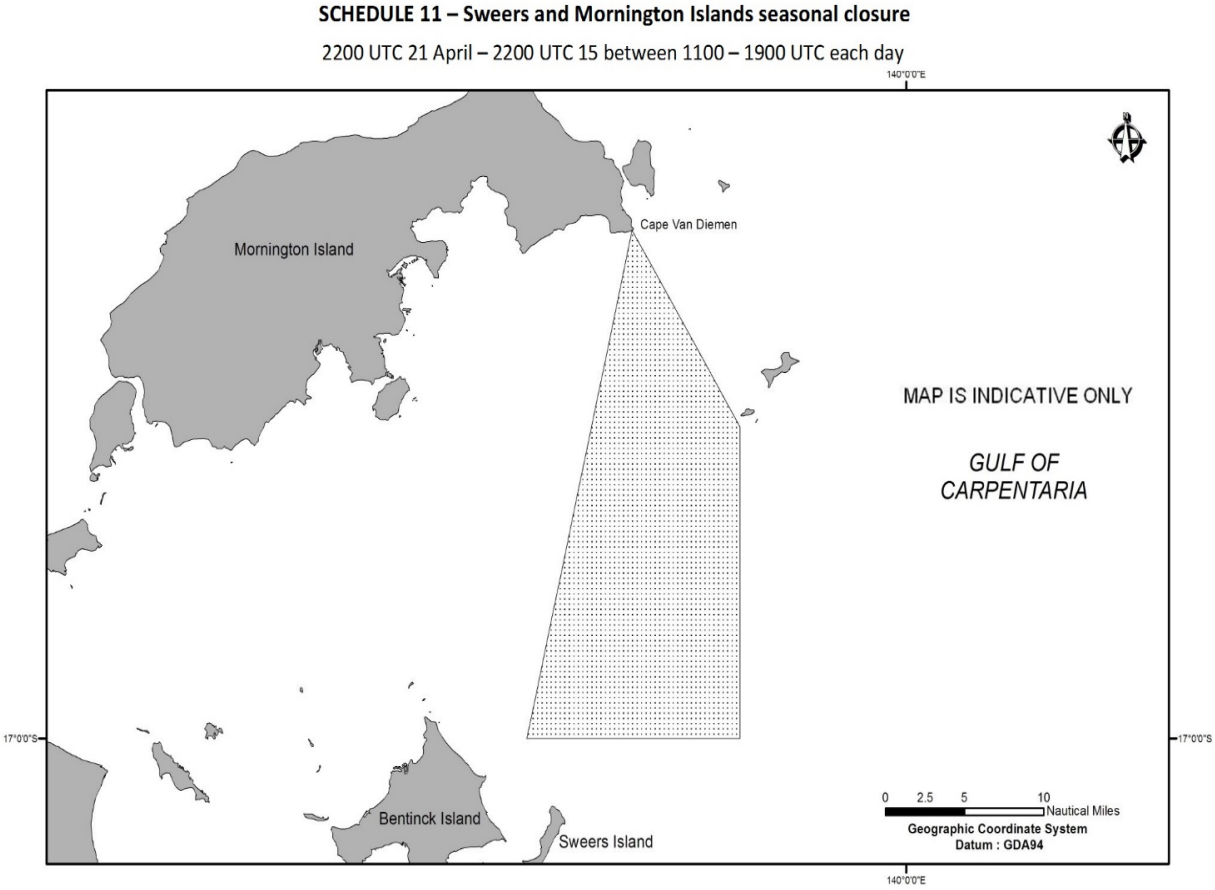
(3) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 15° 30' South, Longitude 137° 30' East;

(4) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° South, Longitude 138° East;

(5) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 138° East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 12° 15' South;

(6) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 12° 15' South to its intersection of mainland Australia at mean low water, in the vicinity of Yirrkala;

(7) from there generally south westerly along the coastline of the mainland of Australian at mean low water to the point of commencement.



Schedule 11 – Sweers Island - Mornington Island

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the point of Latitude 17° 00' South, Longitude 139° 36.07'' East;

(2) from there north easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° 31.92' South, Longitude 139° 42.75' East, in the vicinity of Cape Van Diemen on Mornington Island;

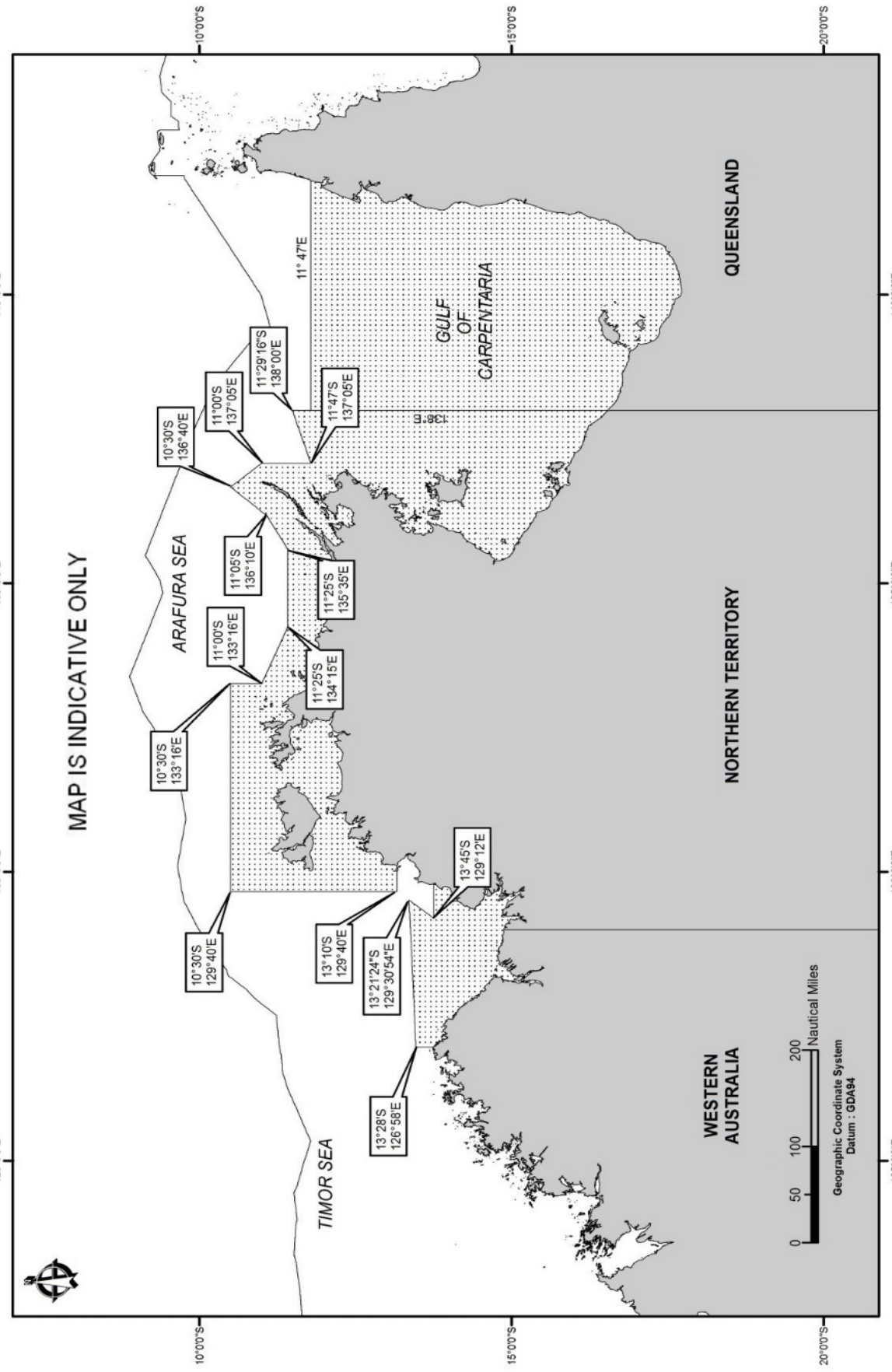
(3) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° 42.83' South, Longitude 139° 49.5' East, in the vicinity of the south western side of South Bountiful Island;

(4) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 139° 49.5' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 17° 00' South;

(5) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 17° 00' South to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 12 & 13 – Mid-season Closure

Schedule 12 (QLD): 0200 UTC 15 June - 0830 UTC 1 August each year
Schedule 13 (NT): 0230 UTC 15 June - 0900 UTC 1 August each year



Schedule 12 – Mid-season Closure

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water with the meridian of Longitude 138° East;

(2) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 138° East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11° 47' South;

(3) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 11° 47' South to its intersection with the mainland of Australia at the mean low water;

(4) from there generally southerly and then generally westerly along the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.

Schedule 13 – Mid-season Closure

Part 1

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the north-western coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water with the western boundary of the Northern Prawn Fishery;

(2) from there north along the western boundary of the Northern Prawn Fishery to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 13º 28' South;

(3) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 13º 28' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 127º 00' East;

(4) from there north easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 13° 21.4' South, Longitude 129° 30.9' East;

(5) from there south westerly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 13° 45' South, Longitude 129° 12' East;

(6) from there west along the parallel of latitude 13° 45' South to the intersection with the mainland of Australia at mean low water mark;

(7) from there generally south easterly along the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.

Part 2

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water with the parallel of Latitude 13° 10' South, in the vicinity of Channel Point;

(2) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 13° 10' South to the intersection with the meridian of Longitude 129° 40' East;

(3) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 129° 40' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 10° 30' South;

(4) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 10° 30' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 133° 16' East;

(5) from there south along meridian of Longitude 133° 16' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11° 00' South;

(6) from there south-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11° 25' South, Longitude 134° 15' East;

(7) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 11° 25' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 135° 35' East;

(8) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11° 05' South, Longitude 136° 10' East;

(9) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 10° 30' South, Longitude 136° 40' East;

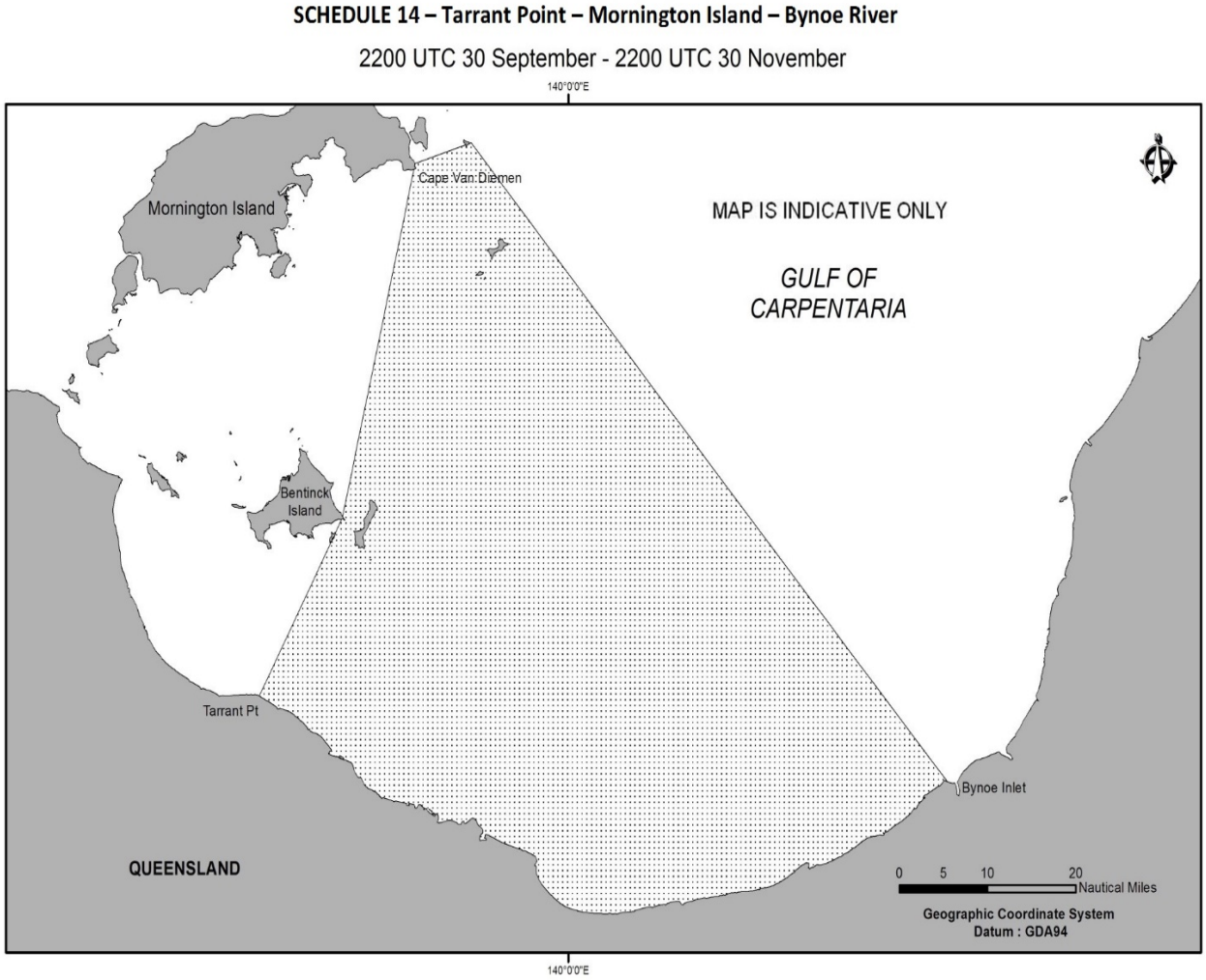
(10) from there south-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11° 00' South, Longitude 137° 05' East;

(11) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 137° 05' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11° 47' South;

(12) from there north easterly along the geodesic to the point of intersection of the parallel of Latitude 11° 29.17' South with the meridian of Longitude 138° East;

(13) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 138° East to its intersection with the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water;

(14) from there generally north westerly along the coastline of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.



Schedule 14 – Tarrant Point - Mornington Island - Bynoe River

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water, in the vicinity of Tarrant Point, with the meridian of Longitude 139° 25' East;

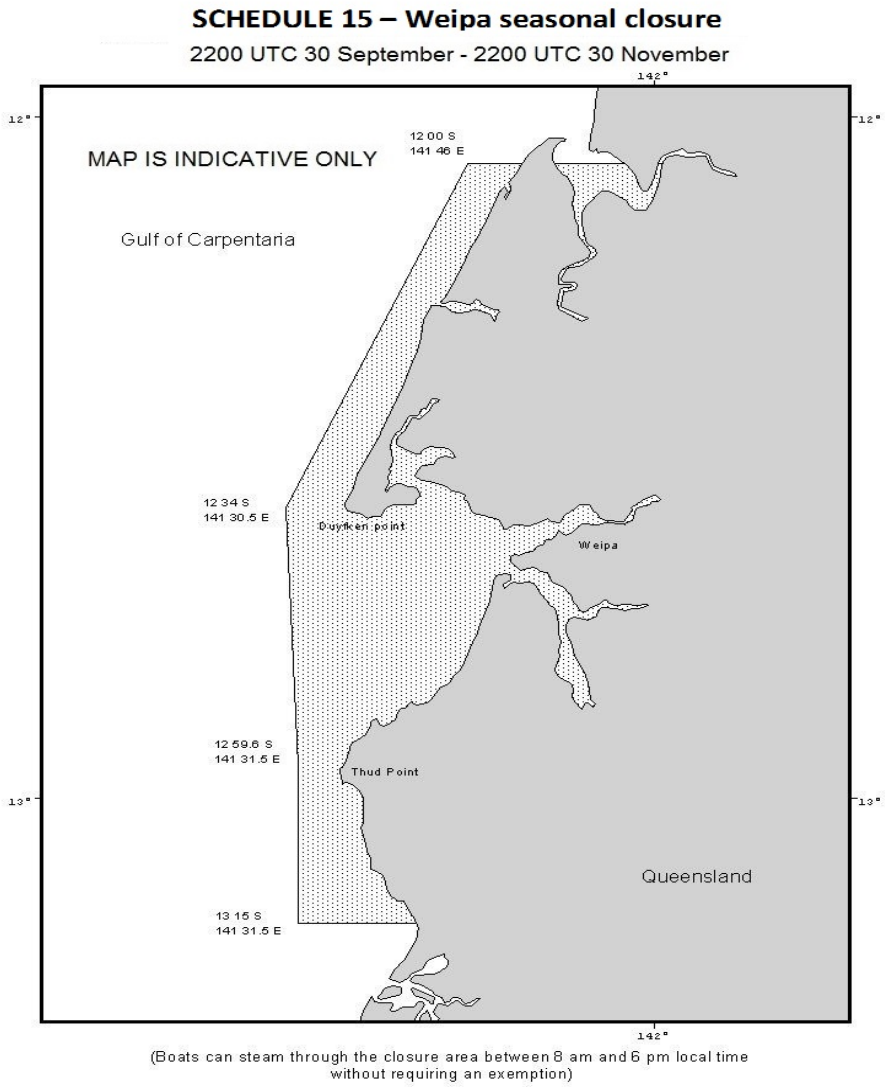
(2) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 17° 05.65' South, Longitude 139° 34.72' East, in the vicinity of Raft Point on Bentinck Island;

(3) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° 31.92' South, Longitude 139° 42.75' East, in the vicinity of Cape Van Diemen on Mornington Island;

(4) from there north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16° 29.5' South, Longitude 139° 49' East, in the vicinity of Pisonia Island;

(5) from there south-easterly along the geodesic to the intersection of the meridian of Longitude 140° 43' East with the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water, in the vicinity of Bynoe Inlet;

(6) from there generally westerly along that coastline at mean low water to the point of commencement.



Schedule 15 – Weipa

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the mainland of Australia at mean low water with parallel of Latitude 12° South;

(2) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 12° South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 141° 46' East;

(3) from there south westerly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 12° 34' South, Longitude 141° 30.5' East;

(4) from there south easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 12° 59.6' South, Longitude 141° 31.5' East;

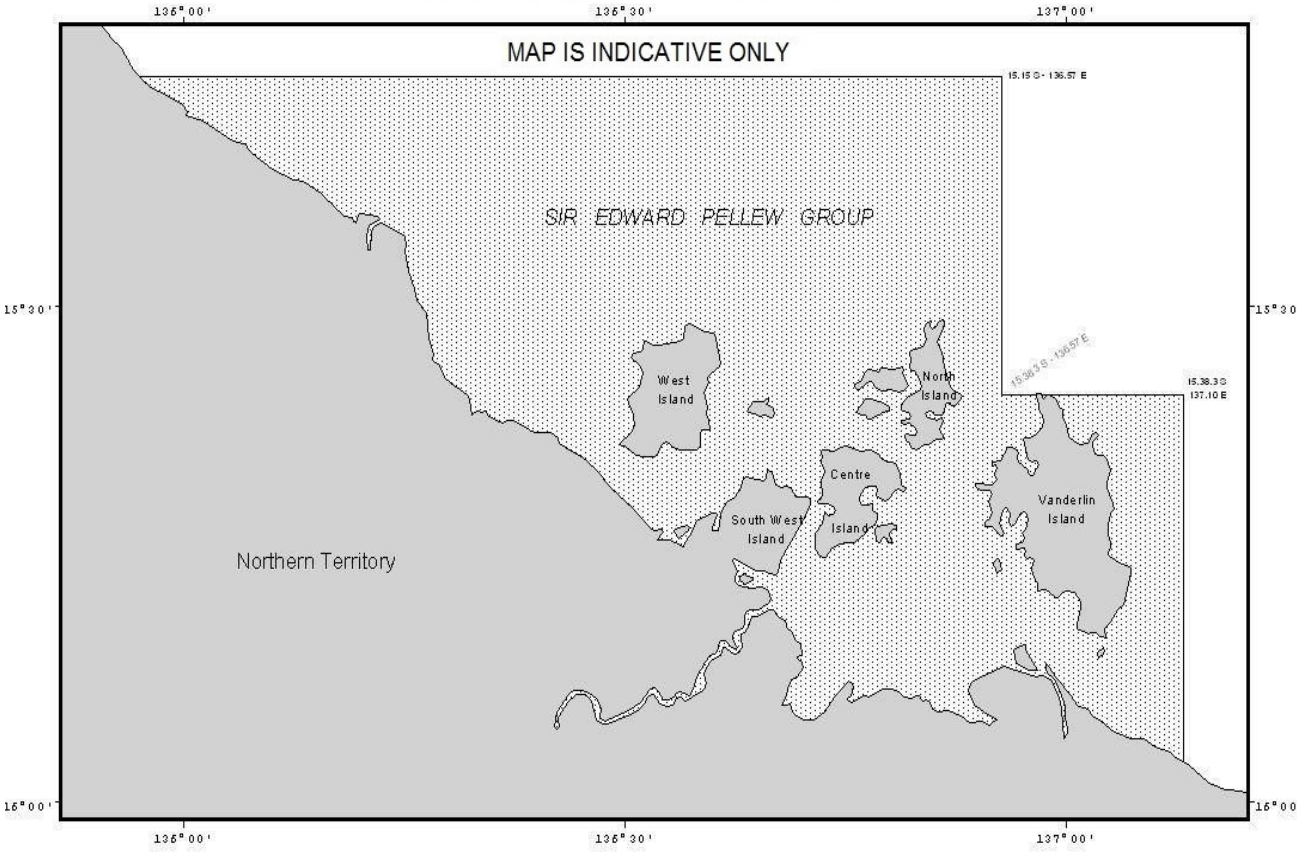
(5) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 141° 31.5' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 13° 15' South;

(6) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 13° 15' South to its intersection with the mainland of Australia at mean low water;

(7) from there generally north along that coastline at mean low water to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 16 – Sir Edward Pellew Group seasonal closure

2230 UTC 30 September - 2230 UTC 30 November



Schedule 16 – Sir Edward Pellew Group

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water with the meridian of Longitude 137° 10' East;

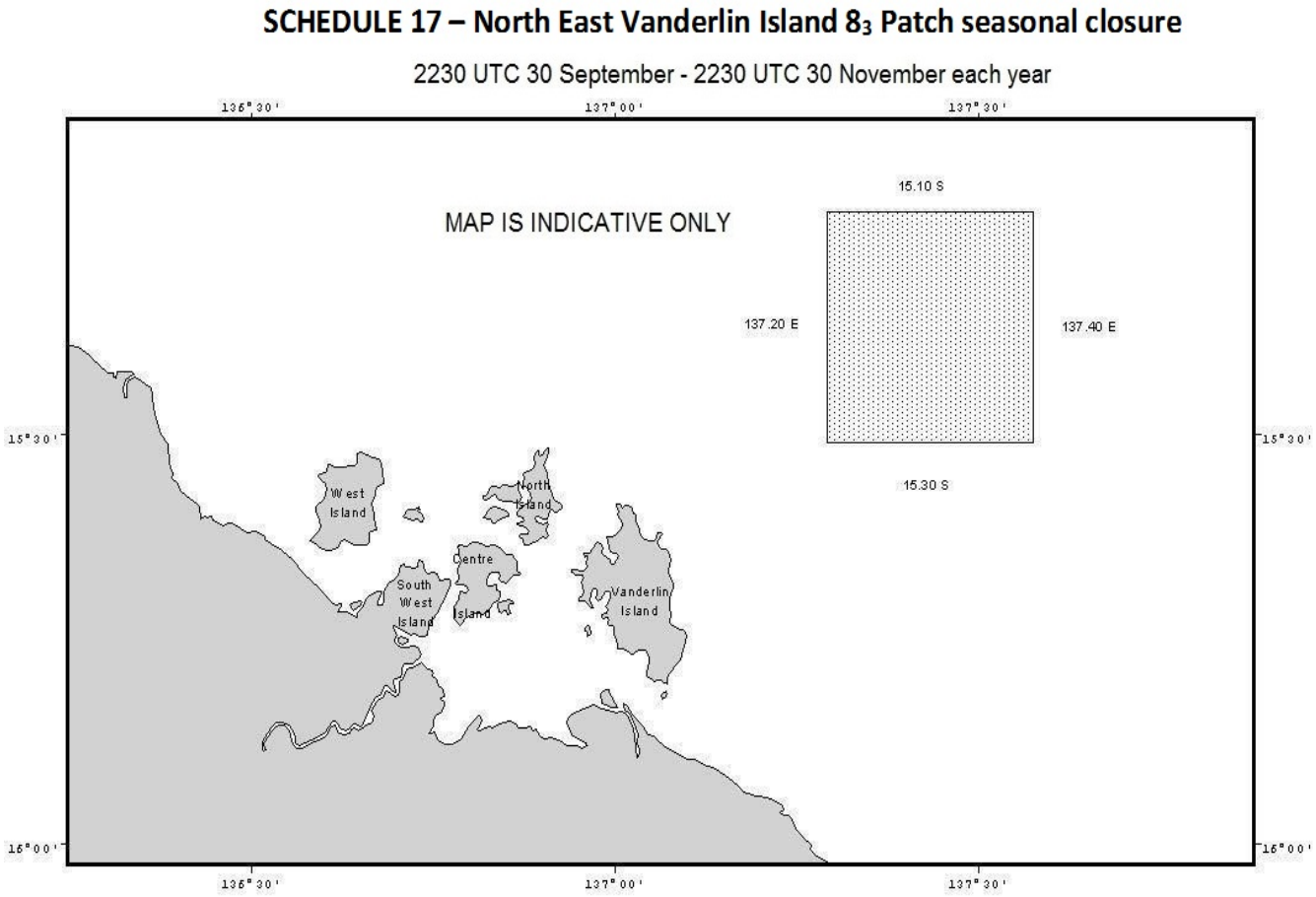
(2) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 137° 10' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 15° 38.3' South;

(3) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 15° 38.3' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 136° 57' East;

(4) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 136° 57' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 15° 15' South;

(5) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 15° 15' South to its intersection with the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water;

(6) from there generally south-easterly along that coastline at mean low water to the point of commencement.



Schedule 17 – North East Vanderlin Island 8_3 Patch

The area bounded by the line:

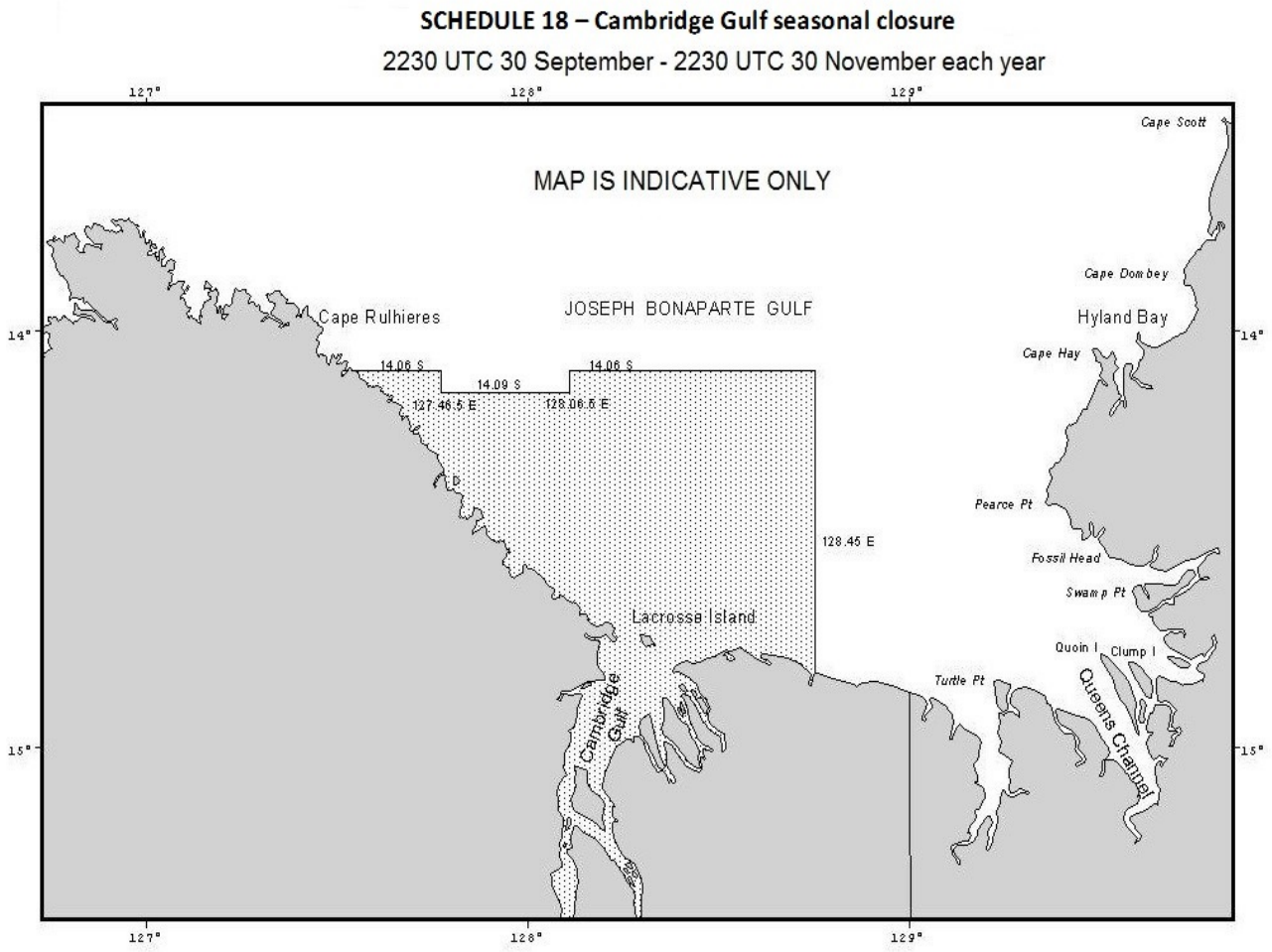
(1) commencing at the intersection of parallel of Latitude 15° 30' South and meridian of Longitude 137° 20' East;

(2) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 137° 20' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 15° 10' South;

(3) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 15° 10' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 137° 40' East;

(4) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 137° 40' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 15° 30' South;

(5) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 15° 30' South to the point of commencement.



Schedule 18 – Cambridge Gulf

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water with the meridian of Longitude 128° 45' East;

(2) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 128° 45' East to its intersection with parallel of Latitude 14° 06' East;

(3) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 14° 06' East to its intersection with meridian of Longitude 128° 06.5' East;

(4) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 128° 06.5' East to its intersection with parallel of Latitude 14° 09' South;

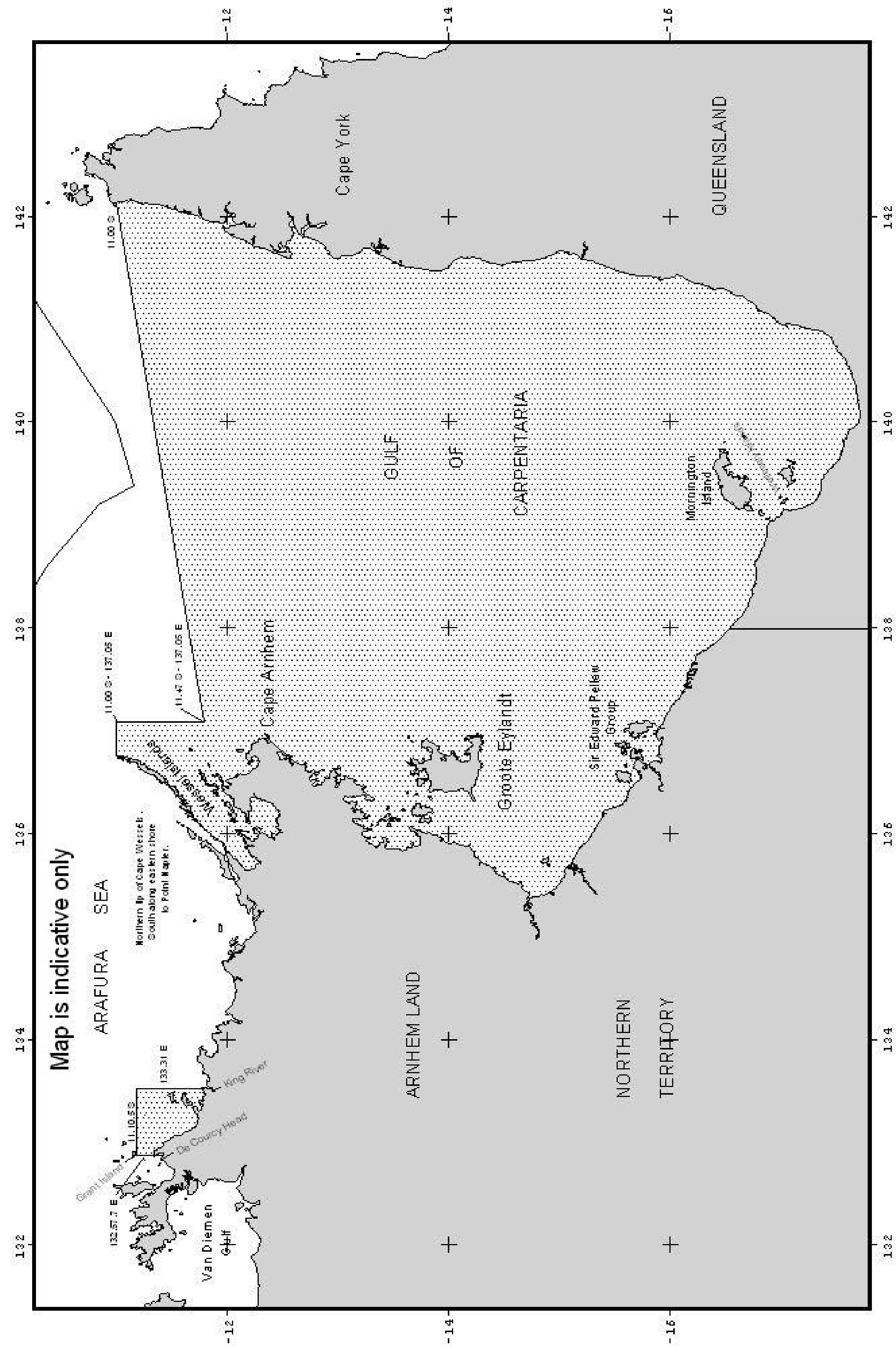
(5) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 14° 09' South to its intersection with meridian of Longitude 127° 46.5' East;

(6) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 127° 46.5' East to its intersection with parallel of Latitude 14° 06' East;

(7) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 14° 06' East to its intersection with the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water;

(8) from there generally south easterly along the coastline of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULES 19 & 20 – SECOND SEASON DAYLIGHT TRAWL BAN



Schedule 19 – Goulburn Islands

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water with the meridian of Longitude 132° 57.7' East;

(2) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 132° 57.7' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11° 10.5' South;

(3) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 11° 10.5' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 133° 31' East;

(4) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 133° 31' East to the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water;

(5) from there generally northwest along the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.

Schedule 20 – Gulf of Carpentaria

The area bounded at the line:

(1) commencing at the intersection of the northern coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water with the meridian of Longitude 135° 56.78' East;

(2) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 135° 56.78' East to its intersection with the southern coastline of Alger Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 54.3' South, Longitude 135° 56.77' East;

(3) from there north-easterly along the eastern coastline of Alger Island at mean low water to the northern most point of Alger Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 50.9' South, Longitude 135° 59' East;

(4) from there north easterly along the geodesic to the southernmost coastline of Warnawi Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 48.77' South, Longitude 136° 01.7' East;

(5) from there north easterly along the geodesic to the southernmost coastline of Jirrgari Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 43.53' South, Longitude 136° 07.85' East;

(6) from there north-easterly along the eastern coastline of Jirrgari Island at mean low water to the easternmost point of Jirrgari Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 41.92' South, Longitude 136° 09.32' East;

(7) from there north easterly along the geodesic to the most south westerly point of Raragala Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 41.6' South, Longitude 136° 09.55' East;

(8) from there north-easterly along the eastern coastline of Raragala Island at mean low water to the southern end of Gugari Rip (Hole in the Wall) at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 34.07' South, Longitude 136° 22.33' East;

(9) from there north easterly along the geodesic, across the southern end of Gugari Rip (Hope in the Wall), to the southernmost point of Guluwaru Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 34' South, Longitude 136° 22.45' East;

(10) from there north-easterly along the eastern coastline of Guluwuru Island at mean low water to the northern most point of Guluwuru Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 28' South, Longitude 136° 28.32' East;

(11) from there north easterly along the geodesic, across the southern end of Cumberland Straight, to the southernmost point of Marchinbar Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 27.68' South, Longitude 136° 29.6' East;

(12) from there north-easterly along the eastern coastline of Marchinbar Island at mean low water to the northern most point of Marchinbar Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 01.1' South, Longitude 136° 45.58' East;

(13) from there north easterly along the geodesic to the easternmost point of Rimbija Island at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 0.33' South, Longitude 136° 45.77' East;

(14) from there north-westerly along the coastline of Rimbija Island at mean low water to the northern most point of Cape Wessel at mean low water, in the vicinity of the point of Latitude 11° 00.05' South, Longitude 136° 45.42' East;

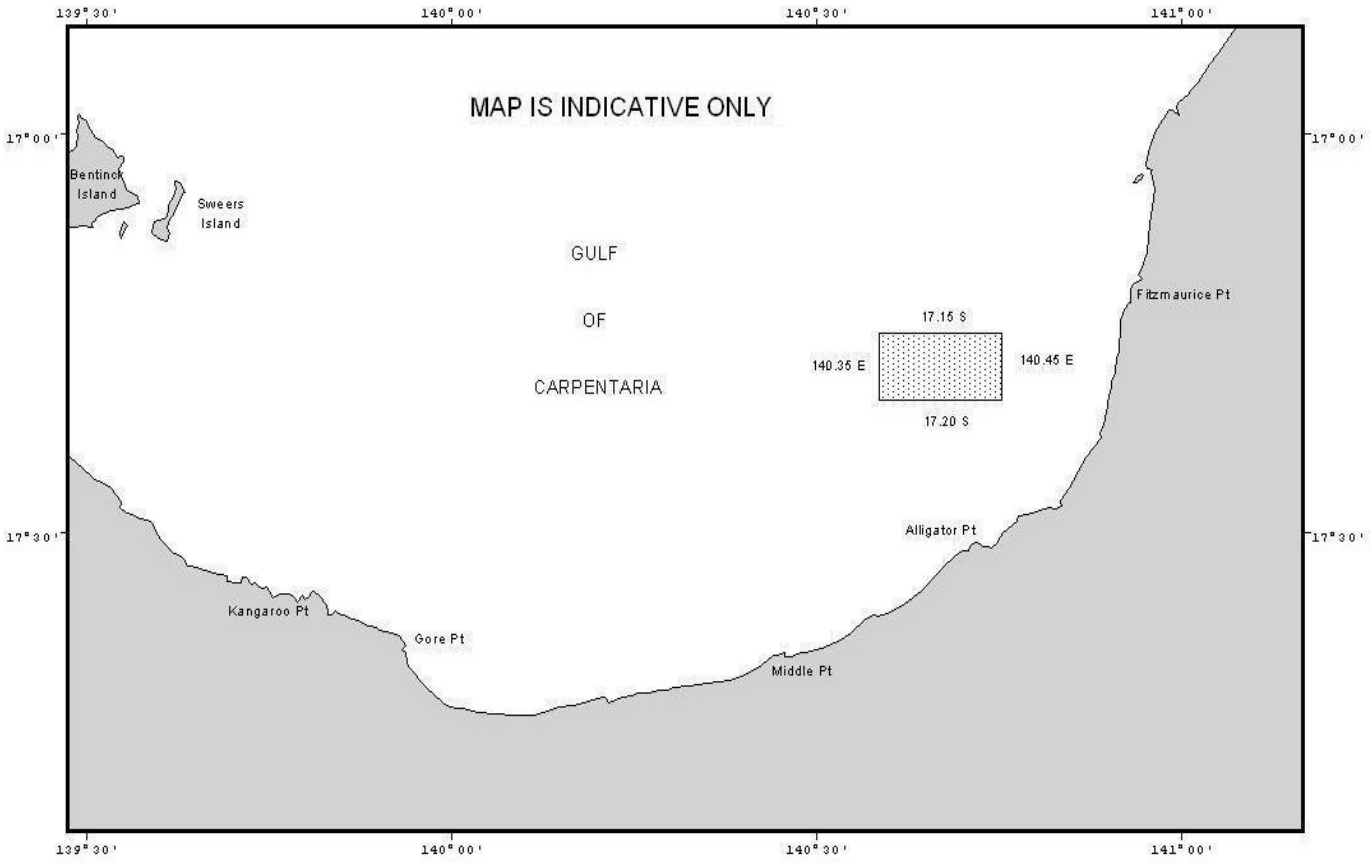
(15) from there easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11°00' South, Longitude 137° 05' East;

(16) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 137° 05' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11° 47' South;

(17) from there north easterly along the geodesic to the intersection of the parallel of Latitude 11° 00' South with the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water, in the vicinity of Crab Island, on the eastern side of the Gulf of Carpentaria;

(18) from there generally southerly and north-westerly along the coastline of the mainland of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 21 – Part A Karumba southern gear trial area



Schedule 21 – Gear trial areas

Part A - Karumba southern gear trial area

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the point of Latitude 17° 20' South, Longitude 140° 35' East;

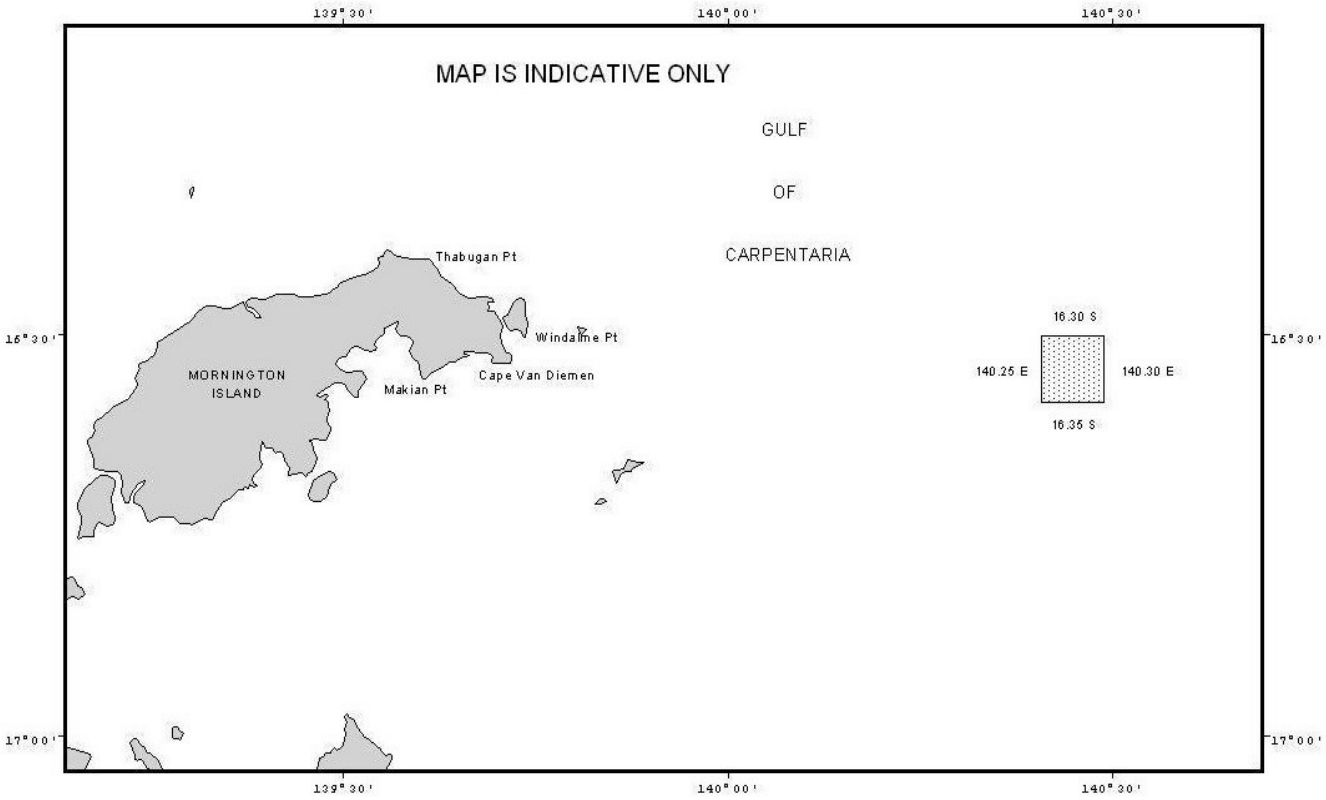
(2) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 140° 35' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 17° 15' South;

(3) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 17° 15' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 140° 45' East;

(4) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 140° 45' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 17° 20' South;

(5) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 17° 20' South to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 21 – Part B Karumba northern gear trial area



Part B - Karumba northern gear trial area

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the point of Latitude 16° 35' South, Longitude 140° 25' East;

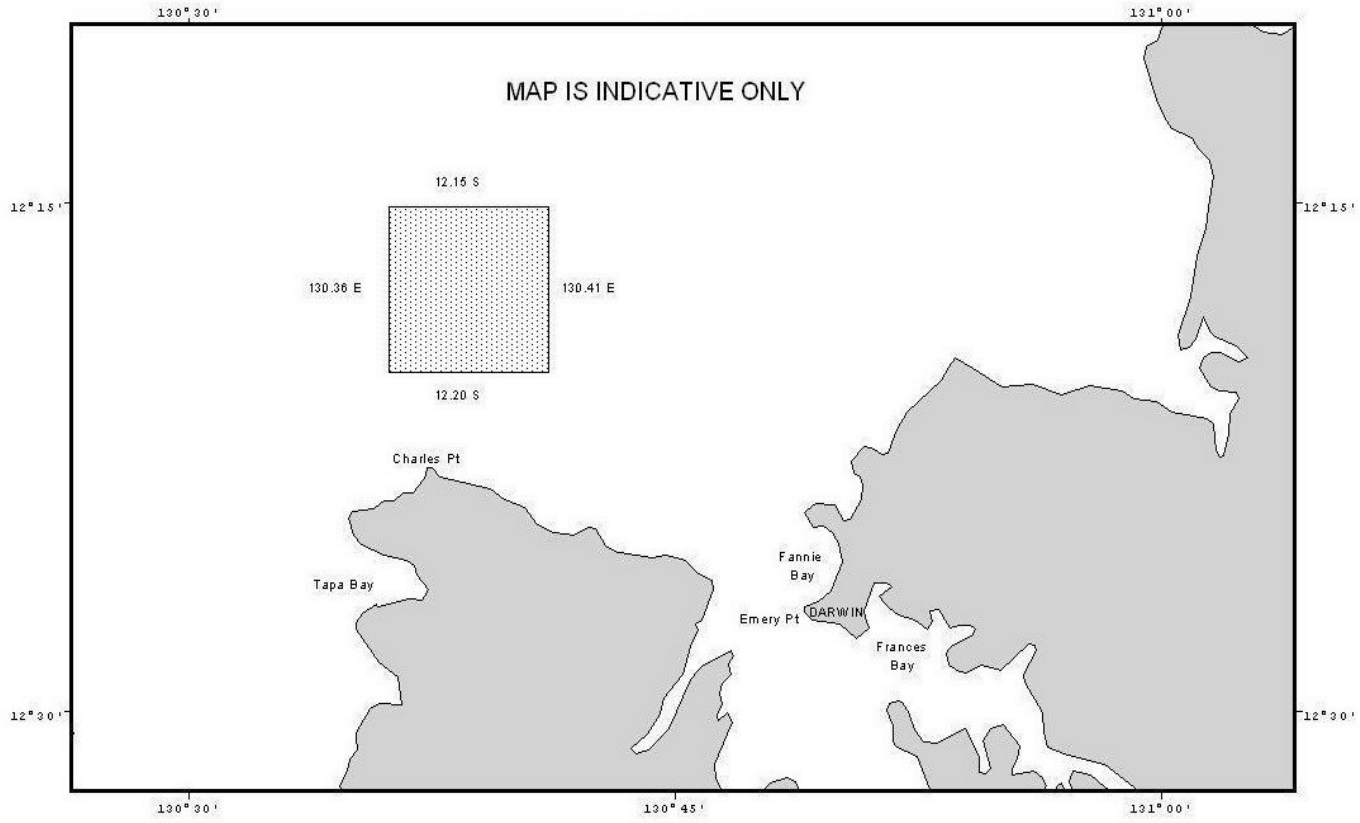
(2) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 140° 25' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 16° 30' South;

(3) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 16° 30' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 140° 30' East;

(4) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 140° 30' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 16° 35' South;

(5) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 16° 35' South to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 21 – Part C Darwin gear trial area



Part C - Darwin gear trial area

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the point of Latitude 12° 20' South and Longitude 130° 36' East;

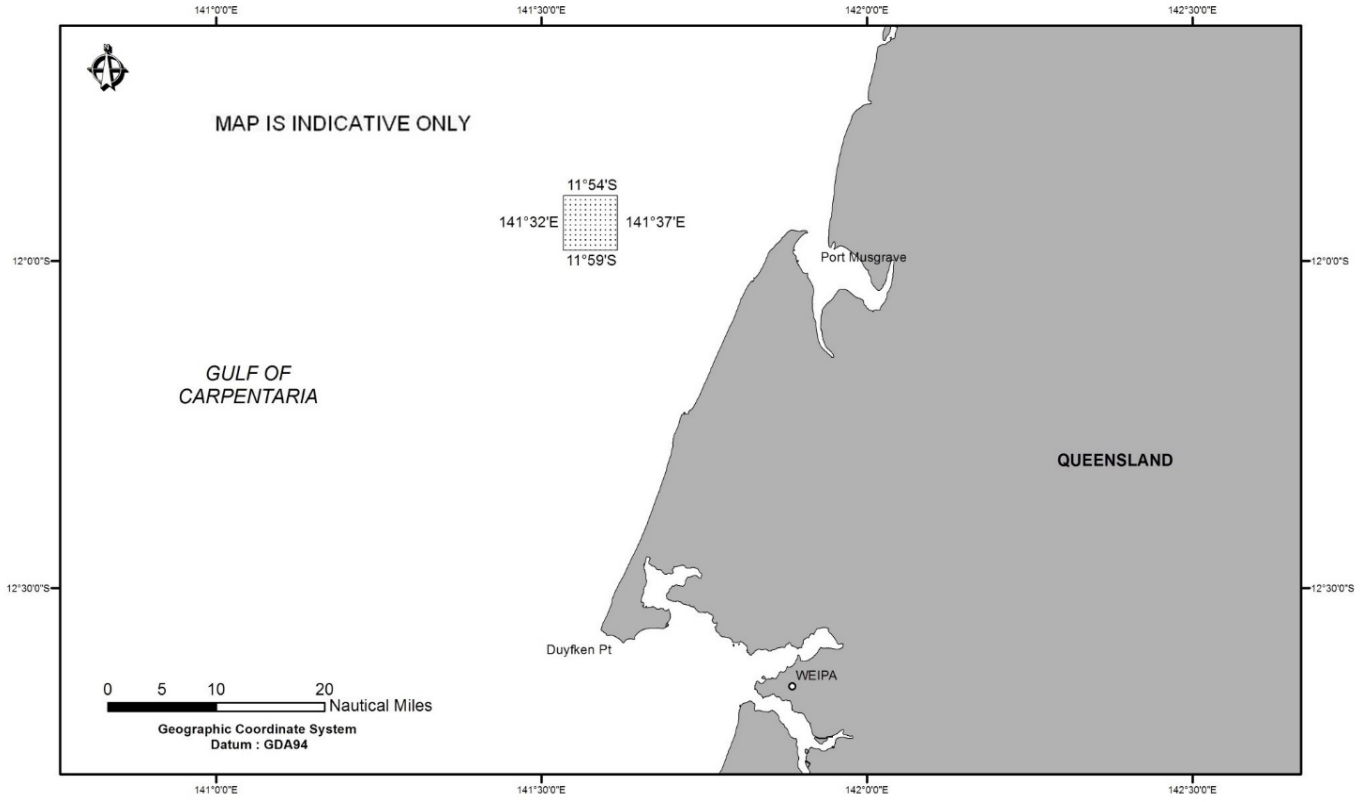
(2) from there north along the meridian of Longitude 130° 36' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 12° 15' South;

(3) from there east along the parallel of Latitude 12° 15' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 130° 41' East;

(4) from there south along the meridian of Longitude 130° 41' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 12° 20' South;

(5) from there west along the parallel of Latitude 12° 20' South to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 21 – Part D West of Cape York gear trial area



Part D - West of Cape York gear trial area

The area bounded by the line:

(1) commencing at the point of Latitude 11°59' South and Longitude 141°32' East;

(2) then running north along that meridian of Longitude 141°32' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11°54' South;

(3) then east along that parallel to its intersection with the meridian Longitude 141°37' East;

(4) then south along that meridian to the intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11°59' South, and

(5) then west along that parallel to the point of commencement.