

Area of Waters

This permit is granted for the area of waters specified in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*.

CSF Sea Cucumber Permit Conditions 2026-27

Conditions applying to this Fishing Permit

Notes: By subsection 42B(1) of the Fisheries Management Act 1991, Regulations may prescribe conditions that apply to fishing concessions. Regulations have been prescribed in the Fisheries Management Regulations 2019 providing conditions that apply to this fishing concession in particular:

- Regulation 33: Nominated boat must be used on trip.*
- Regulation 37: Holder to ensure that vessel monitoring system is fitted and operating.*
- Regulation 39: Requirement to carry observer.*
- Regulation 40: Holder to ensure provision for observer and equipment.*
- Regulation 41: Holder to ensure observer enabled to perform functions.*
- Regulation 43: Fish to be disposed of to fish receiver permit holder*.*
- Regulations 44 - 65: Catch limits*.*
- Regulation 67: Prohibited ways of processing fish.*
- Regulation 68: Removal of shark liver.*
- Regulation 70: No interaction with protected organism.*
- Regulation 71: Reporting interaction with protected organism.*
- Regulation 72: Requirements if protected organism is injured by interaction.*
- Regulation 73: Requirements if protected organism killed by interaction.*

*** Not applicable to some concessions**

In addition to the conditions specified by subsection 32(5) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (the Act), and the condition in subsection 42(2) to comply with any logbook determination, and the condition to comply with any Direction under section 41A in accordance with subsection 32(7A), the following conditions are specified for the purposes of subparagraph 32(6)(a)(i) of the Act:

Note: Under subsection 32(8) these conditions may be varied, revoked or a further condition specified by written notice from AFMA.

Gear Limitations

1. This permit authorises the use of the following gear only:
 - a. Hand collection.

Movement Limitations

2. Unless prior approval has been granted by AFMA the holder must not fish outside the Coral Sea Fishery if fishing has been undertaken in the Coral Sea Fishery.
3. Unless fishing in accordance with condition 2, the holder must ensure that:
 - a. before entering the Coral Sea Fishery to conduct fishing activity, all fish excluding those used for bait on board the boat are unloaded; and
 - b. after fishing in the Coral Sea Fishery, all fish on board the boat are unloaded before fishing is commenced in any other area of waters or fishery.

Transshipping Limitation

4. A maximum of two tender boats registered with the boat nominated to this permit may be used to carry and tranship fish taken by the boat nominated to this permit.

Carrying Limitation

5. The holder must not carry fish taken by another boat on the boat nominated to this permit.

Taking/Carrying of Shark Obligations

6. The holder must not retain deepwater dogfishes of the following species - Harrison's Dogfish (*Centrophorus harrissoni*), Endeavour Dogfish (*C. moluccensis*), Southern Dogfish (*C. zeehaani*) and Greeneye Spurdog (*Squalus chloroculus*).
 - a. Deepwater dogfishes of the species specified in this condition that are taken alive, must be returned to the water carefully and quickly.
7. The holder must not carry or possess any shark (Class Chondrichthyes) dorsal, pectoral, caudal, pelvic or anal fins on board the boat nominated to this permit that are not attached to the shark's carcass.

Catch Limitations

8. This permit allows the collection of sea cucumber subject to the following catch limits. Catch limits relate to wet, gutted and salted weights. Conversion ratios applicable to other process forms are at **Sea Cucumber Attachment A**.
 - a. 2 tonnes of white teatfish;
 - b. 500 kilograms of black teatfish;
 - c. 6 tonnes of prickly redfish; and
 - d. 2 tonnes of surf redfish.

Movement Limitations

9. During the fishing season (1 July to 30 June), once 5 tonnes wet, gutted and salted weight of any mixture of sea cucumber species has been taken across all concessions from any Reef Zone (as defined in **Sea Cucumber Attachment B**), no further fishing may be undertaken within that Reef Zone during the fishing season.
10. No more than 2 tonnes of surf redfish may be taken from any one Reef Zone in one fishing season (1 July – 30 June) across all permits. This limit is the total allocation to any one reef (as defined in **Sea Cucumber Attachment B**) and is to be fished on a competitive basis.

Rotational Zone Plan

11. The holder must comply with the Rotational Zone Plan detailed in **Sea Cucumber Attachment B**.

Minimum Size Limits

12. The holder must comply with the following minimum size limits:

- a. Sandfish – 18cm
- b. White teatfish – 40cm
- c. Black teatfish – 30cm
- d. Prickly redfish – 40cm
- e. Deepwater redfish – 20cm
- f. Surf redfish – 25cm
- g. Lollyfish – 20cm
- h. Greenfish – 20cm
- i. Elephant's trunkfish – 40cm
- j. Leopardfish – 35cm
- k. Amberfish – 50cm.

Other Obligations

13. At all times when a boat nominated to this permit is being used under this permit, the holder must have provided to AFMA a current emergency contact facility for the nominated boat.
14. An emergency contact facility must enable AFMA to contact the boat immediately and directly at any time when the boat is at sea, including in the event of an emergency.
15. AFMA must be notified immediately of any change in contact details, by fax sent to (02) 6225 5440 or by email to licensing@afma.gov.au; and the boat must not depart on a fishing trip unless AFMA has been so notified of the change in contact details.

Note: *The emergency contact facility may take the form of a satellite phone number, or skipper or crew member's mobile phone number - any number that may be used by AFMA to contact the boat while it is at sea at any time, including in the event of an emergency.*

Agent Obligations

16. **Notes:** The holder may have concurrent liability for all conduct by its servants or agents infringing the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (or the Regulations or permit conditions made by virtue of that Act) who may be engaged by the holder to conduct on the holder's behalf activity under this permit.

- a. Liability for the conduct of the holder's servants or agents arises, even if the conduct may be, or actually is, beyond the scope of the servant or agent's actual or apparent authority where it is a breach that occurs during the conduct of activity authorised by this permit.
- b. The holder may avoid concurrent liability for conduct whilst conducting activity under this permit if, but only if, the holder can establish that the infringing conduct could not possibly have been prevented by any action or precaution that the holder might have reasonably taken.
- c. The giving of an indemnity by the servant or agent to the holder for any penalties incurred by the holder, for infringing conduct by the servant or agent is not, of itself, a reasonable precaution to prevent infringing conduct.

Direction Obligations

17. The holder must comply with any Direction that fishing is not to be engaged in in the fishery, or a particular part of the fishery or during a particular period or periods made under section 41A of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

Temporary Orders Obligations

18. The holder must comply with any Temporary Order made under subsection 43(2) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and to the extent that any provision herein is inconsistent with such Temporary Order subsection 43(9) provides that the provision herein is overridden by the Temporary Order until the Temporary Order ceases to have effect.

Navigating in Closed Zones

19. **Note:** AFMA may suspend this permit in accordance with this condition, pursuant to section 38(1)(c) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, if it reasonably appears by vessel monitoring system transmission from the nominated boat, that there is a failure by that boat while in a closed zone for the purposes of regulation 85 of the Regulations, to meet the exempting provisions of regulations 86(2) or (3). Such suspension will then continue until the permit holder provides a full written explanation, to the satisfaction of the delegate responsible for issuing that suspension, of the lawful reason for the boat being in that closed zone at that time, or until the expiration of the suspension under subsections 38(2) and 38(3) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*; whichever is the earlier.

Mandatory AFMA supplied VMS

Direction to Fit

20. When directed by AFMA in writing, the permit holder (or a person acting on the holder's behalf) must:

- a. make available, within 14 days of the date of the written direction, the boat nominated to this permit for the purposes of installation of an AFMA Vessel Monitoring System unit (AFMA VMS unit) by an AFMA approved technician; and
- b. provide all reasonable assistance to the AFMA approved technician including (but not limited to):
 - i. the provision of an un-interrupted connection to the boat's main power source; and
 - ii. an appropriate position for the mounting of the AFMA VMS unit.

21. When directed by AFMA in writing, the permit holder (or a person acting on the holder's behalf) must:

- a. make available, within 14 days of the date of the direction, the boat nominated to this permit for the purposes of removal of the AFMA VMS unit by an AFMA approved technician; and
- b. provide all reasonable assistance to the AFMA approved technician.

Permit holder must not interfere with AFMA VMS Unit

22. The permit holder (or a person acting on the holder's behalf) must not interfere, or attempt to interfere, with the operation of the AFMA VMS Unit.

Definitions

AFMA VMS Unit means a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) unit wholly owned by AFMA, marked with AFMA identifications and supplied by AFMA and fitted by an AFMA approved technician.

Interfere - for the purposes of these conditions 'interfere' includes, but is not limited to:

- Physical obstruction or removal of the AFMA VMS unit, or
- Deliberately disconnecting or otherwise interfering with the power supply to the AFMA VMS unit, or
- Deliberate physical interference with the casing or any external or internal components of the AFMA VMS unit.

Notes

Must Make boat available Where the boat is not made available in accordance condition 20a or 21a, AFMA may suspend this permit pursuant to section 38(1)(c) of the Fisheries Management Act 1991.

Must maintain VMS Unit Regardless of AFMA's decision to fit an AFMA VMS unit, the holder must continue to maintain a VMS unit in accordance with regulation 37 of the Regulations.

Remains the property of AFMA At all times the AFMA VMS unit remains the sole property of AFMA. The holder is liable for any costs incurred as a result of loss or damage to the unit.

Handling and treatment of bycatch

23. The permit holder (or a person acting on the holder's behalf) must not mistreat bycatch.

Definitions:

Mistreat means taking, or failing to take, any reasonable action or actions, which results, or is likely to result, in the:

- i. death of, or
- ii. injury to, or
- iii. causing of physiological stress to any bycatch.

Bycatch means any species that physically interact with fishing vessels and/or fishing gear (including auxiliary equipment) and which are not usually kept by commercial fishers.

Bycatch species may include fish, crustaceans, sharks, molluscs, marine mammals, reptiles and birds.

Bycatch includes listed protected species under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Notes: For the purposes of this condition 'mistreat' does not include the taking, or failing to take, action where it is reasonably necessary to take, or not take, the action:

- to ensure the safety of the boat and or its crew, or
- to comply with the requirements of any AFMA approved bycatch management plan(s) (these may include Seabird Management Plans, Vessel Management Plans etc.).

Observer obligations

24. When directed by AFMA the holder must:

- a. Give the AFMA Observer Section at least 72 hours' notice of an intention to depart on a fishing trip by telephone (02 6225 5428 or 0427 496 446); and
- b. Ensure that the boat does not leave port until AFMA has notified the holder, or a person acting on behalf of the holder, whether it directs that an observer is to be carried on the boat.

CSF Sea Cucumber Permit Conditions 2026-27 – Attachment A

Conversion ratios that apply to the Coral Sea Fishery Sea Cucumber Sector

Common name and species	L -> G	L -> S	L -> D	G -> S	G -> D	S -> D	S -> G	D -> G
Amberfish (<i>Thelenota anax</i>)	0.894	0.652	0.175	0.964	0.242	0.309	1.706	11.364
Black teatfish (<i>Holothuria whitmaei</i>)	0.677	0.529	0.108	0.824	0.177	0.220	1.213	5.649
Brown sandfish (<i>Bohadschia vitiensis</i>)	0.735	0.612	0.116	0.834	0.157	0.189	1.199	6.337
Burrowing blackfish (<i>Actinopyga spinea</i>)	0.544	0.375	0.073	0.689	0.135	0.195	1.449	7.424
Curryfish (common) (<i>Stichopus herrmanni</i>)	0.651	0.652	0.036	0.964	0.114	0.309	1.706	8.772
Curryfish (vastus) (<i>Stichopus vastus</i>)	0.894	0.652	0.175	0.964	0.242	0.309	1.706	11.364
Deepwater blackfish (<i>Actinopyga palauensis</i>)	0.818	0.593	0.175	0.728	0.190	0.262	1.374	5.263
Deepwater redfish (<i>Actinopyga echinites</i>)	0.692	0.652	0.088	0.964	0.152	0.309	1.706	6.579
Elephant trunkfish (<i>Holothuria fuscopunctata</i>)	0.519	0.652	0.133	0.911	0.242	0.263	1.097	4.132
Golden sandfish (<i>Holothuria lessoni</i>)	0.645	0.526	0.098	0.815	0.152	0.186	1.226	6.588
Greenfish (<i>Stichopus chloronotus</i>)	0.894	0.652	0.175	0.964	0.242	0.309	1.382	11.364
Hairy blackfish (<i>Actinopyga miliaris</i>)	0.480	0.652	0.067	0.964	0.209	0.217	1.037	4.785
Leopardfish (<i>Bohadschia argus</i>)	0.665	0.572	0.115	0.777	0.171	0.233	1.286	5.841
Lollyfish (<i>Holothuria atra</i>)	0.436	0.236	0.063	0.586	0.150	0.256	1.706	6.289
Prickly redfish (<i>Thelenota ananas</i>)	0.667	0.481	0.055	0.736	0.088	0.118	1.358	11.364
Sandfish (<i>Holothuria scabra</i>)	0.496	0.355	0.049	0.758	0.094	0.125	1.319	10.638
Stonefish (<i>Actinopyga lecanora</i>)	0.894	0.652	0.154	0.729	0.158	0.253	1.372	6.329
Surf redfish (<i>Actinopyga mauritiana</i>)	0.684	0.652	0.084	0.873	0.187	0.286	1.145	5.347
White teatfish (<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>)	0.627	0.593	0.137	0.775	0.237	0.309	1.290	4.219
Unidentified Sea Cucumber species	0.894	0.652	0.175	0.964	0.242	0.309	1.706	11.364

Key: L = Live | G = Gutted | S = Salted | D = Dried

CSF Sea Cucumber Permit Conditions 2026-27 – Attachment B

Rotational Zone Plan

Zones

1. Reefs within the Coral Sea Fishery have been divided into 19 zones with a total of 127 fishing days. These zones must be fished in accordance with the following fishing plan:

Table 1

2026-27		2027-28		2028-29	
Days permitted	Zone	Days permitted	Zone	Days permitted	Zone
15	Holmes Reefs	15	Wreck Reefs	15	Flinders Reefs
15	Diamond Islets	5	Tregrosse Reefs	2	Malay Reef
8	*Kenn Reefs	5	Moore Reefs	2	Abington Reef
5	Frederick Reefs	5	Cato Island Reef		
2	*Bougainville Reef	5	McDermott Bank		
2	Flora Reef	2	Dart Reef		
		2	Heralds Surprise		
		2	Shark Reef		
		15	Willis Islets		
		5	Diane Bank		

Note Parts of these reefs are in the National Park Zone (where commercial fishing is prohibited) in the Coral Sea Marine Park.

2. **Days permitted** are the total days allotted to all permit holders in the sea cucumber hand collection sector of the Coral Sea Fishery and are to be fished on a competitive basis.

Zone Coordinates

3. Each of the 19 zones within the Coral Sea Fishery has a corresponding series of co-ordinates as specified in **Table 2: Zone Coordinates**.
4. Each collection zone has a northern and southern boundary as described in columns A and B respectively.
5. Each collection zone also has a western and eastern boundary as described in columns C and D respectively.

Deduction of fishing days

6. For the purpose of calculating a fishing day at each zone the following rules apply:
 - a. A *fishing day* is defined as being in a zone between the hours of 0900 and 1500;
 - b. If 3 or less hours are spent in the zone between the hours of 0900 and 1500 then a half fishing day must be recorded;
 - c. If a strong wind warning is issued the holder should write 'SWW' in their logbook only if no fishing took place. In this case, this will not be taken to be a fishing day.

Table 2. Zone Coordinates

		A			B			C			D			
Reef name	Days	Lat min			Lat max			Long min			Long max			Chart
		dd	mm	ss	dd	mm	ss	dd	mm	ss	dd	mm	ss	
Abington Reef	2	18	2	0	18	7	30	149	34	30	149	39	0	4602
Bougainville Reef	2	15	28	20	15	29	42	147	4	38	147	6	32	616
Cato Island Reef	5	23	14	30	23	15	30	155	31	30	155	34	30	611
Dart Reef	2	17	23	0	17	25	30	148	10	0	148	13	0	615
Diamond Islets	15	17	24	0	17	41	0	150	47	0	151	7	0	614
Diane Bank	5	15	42	0	16	18	0	149	28	0	149	45	0	617
Flinders Reefs	15	17	22	30	17	53	30	148	16	0	148	36	0	615
Flora Reef	2	16	43	30	16	46	30	147	41	30	147	46	30	615
Frederick Reefs	5	20	55	0	21	2	0	154	20	30	154	24	30	612
Heralds Surprise	2	17	18	30	17	20	0	148	26	0	148	29	30	615
Holmes Reefs	15	16	22	30	16	33	0	147	47	30	148	6	0	615
Kenn Reefs	8	21	12	55	21	23	0	155	32	0	155	54	30	611
Malay Reef	2	17	54	0	18	0	0	149	17	0	149	23	30	4602
McDermott Bank	5	17	10	30	17	18	0	147	47	0	147	55	30	4602
Moore Reefs	5	16	0	0	16	3	30	149	7	30	149	11	0	4602
Shark Reef	2	14	4	0	14	12	0	146	45	30	146	52	30	616
Tregrosse Reefs	5	17	41	0	17	48	0	150	29	30	150	47	0	4602
Willis Islets	15	16	6	0	16	19	0	149	56	0	150	3	0	617
Wreck Reefs	15	22	9	30	22	13	30	155	9	0	155	29	30	611