

WESTERN SKIPJACK TUNA FISHERY (WSTF) GENERAL CONDITIONS (AMENDED ON 27 AUGUST 2026)

AREA OF WATERS

1. This permit is granted for the area of waters described as:
 - (a) The area specified in Part 8 of Schedule 2 to the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*, and
 - (b) Those parts of the high seas that are within the area of competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC, hereinafter referred to as "the high seas of the Convention Area") and west of 141 degrees E longitude as specified in clause 3 of Schedule 1 to the *Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005*.

Conditions applying to this Fishing Permit

The conditions specified in this permit are made under subparagraph 32(6)(a)(i) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*. These conditions apply in addition to the conditions specified in the Act in subparagraphs 32(5)(a)-(e), the condition in subsection 42(2) to keep and maintain logbooks in accordance with any logbook determination, and the condition in subsection 32(7A) to comply with any fishery closure direction made by AFMA under section 41A.

By subsection 42B(1) of the Act, Regulations may also prescribe conditions that apply to fishing concessions/permits. Conditions applicable to this fishing permit are prescribed in the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*, including:

Regulation 33:	Nominated boat must be used on trip.
Regulation 37:	Concession holder to ensure that vessel monitoring system is fitted and operating.
Regulation 39:	Requirement to carry observer.
Regulation 40:	Concession holder to ensure provision for observer and equipment.
Regulation 41:	Concession holder to ensure observer is able to perform functions.
Regulation 43:	Fish to be disposed of to fish receiver permit holder. *
Regulation 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.
Regulation 86:	Navigating in area that is a closed zone.

* Not applicable to some concessions

Note: Under sub section 32(8) of the Fisheries Management Act 1991 these conditions may be varied, revoked or a further condition specified by written notice from AFMA.

AREA LIMITATION

2. The holder must not fish under this permit outside the area of waters described in this document.

MOVEMENT LIMITATIONS

3. While the holder is fishing in the high seas of Convention Area as described in condition 1(b) 'Area of Waters' above, the holder must not intentionally fish within 1 nautical mile of a data buoy, intentionally interact with a data buoy or take on board a data buoy unless authorised or requested by AFMA to do so.
4. Interacting with a data buoy includes, but is not limited to; encircling the data buoy with fishing gear, tying up to or attaching any part of the boat or any fishing gear, to a data buoy or its mooring, or cutting a data buoy anchor line.
5. If the holder unintentionally comes into contact with a data buoy while fishing, they must remove any entangled fishing gear with as little damage to the data buoy as possible and report this contact to AFMA.
6. The holder must report any data buoys that are observed to be damaged to AFMA.
7. The reports under conditions 5 and 6 above must be sent by fax (+612 6225 5440) or email to monitoring@afma.gov.au and include:
 - (a) The date of observation
 - (b) The buoy location
 - (c) Any discernible identifying information contained on the data buoy.

Note: Data buoys are defined as floating devices, either drifting or anchored, that are deployed by governmental or recognised scientific organisations or entities for the purpose of collecting and measuring environmental data, and not for the purposes of fishing activities.

APPLICABLE BOAT

8. The holder must not use a boat nominated to this permit, to fish on the high seas of the Convention Area unless:
 - (a) The boat is legibly marked with the international radio call sign of the boat on its hull or superstructure on both port and starboard sides, and on the boat's deck and on any awnings or covers that might obscure visibility of the deck. The markings must meet international technical specifications set out in the *FAO's Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels*¹ or that of the WCPFC CMM 2004-03².

¹ [FAO The Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification Vessels](#)

² [CMM 2004-03 - Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels](#)

- (c) The holder must not unload fish in a foreign port without prior approval from AFMA. Approval may be sought by contacting AFMA Licensing by fax on (02) 6225 5440 or by email to licensing@afma.gov.au.
- (d) At least 48 hours prior to entering a foreign port for the purposes of unloading, provide AFMA with the following information via email to VMSreporting@afma.gov.au or fax (02) 6225 5440:
 - i. the name and international distinguishing symbol of the boat;
 - ii. the proposed foreign port or ports of unloading;
 - iii. the estimated time and date the boat will arrive at that foreign port; and
 - iv. quantities of all species on board the boat.
- (e) In case of a VMS unit has failed at-sea as the result of a mechanical failure, the holder must contact AFMA during business hours either by phone 02 6225 5555 (follow the prompts) or email ausvms@afma.gov.au.
 - i. All manual reports can be made by either phoning (02) 6225 5369 or via email at ausvms@afma.gov.au. The AFMA Duty Officer is available in an emergency on 02 6275 5818.

NOTE: Manual reporting is only approved until the completion of the current trip³.

- (f) The holder complies with the following:
 - i. ensure all fishing gear remains stowed and secured when transiting any other country's EEZ;
 - ii. where the boat has entered any foreign fishing jurisdiction from the high seas for the intention of mooring in port, the boat must travel to port by the most direct route possible, unless approval for fishing within that jurisdiction has been obtained from that country in respect of the boat;
 - iii. where the boat leaves any foreign port, the boat must travel directly to the high seas by the most direct route possible unless approval for fishing within that jurisdiction has been obtained from that country in respect of the boat;
 - iv. not to partake in fishing activity within any foreign fishing jurisdiction during a trip unless approval for fishing within that jurisdiction has been obtained from that country in respect of the boat;
 - v. not to partake in any unloading activity within any foreign port unless an approval for unloading within that foreign port has been obtained from that country in respect of the boat; and
 - vi. Facilitate boarding and cooperate with foreign officials undertaking an inspection of the vessel in accordance with their laws in the port or in their EEZ.

³ AFMA [Manual Reporting Procedure](#)

TRANSHIPPING LIMITATIONS

9. Unless authorised by AFMA, the holder must not carry any fish on board the nominated boat which was not caught by the nominated boat during its fishing operations, except fish that is being used as bait or that was brought onboard for the consumption by the crew.
10. Unless authorised by AFMA, the holder must not tranship skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) to another boat.
11. Transhipment of fish or fish product, either to or from the nominated boat, is prohibited in the high seas of the Convention Area.
12. If authorised by AFMA in writing, transhipment of fish or fish product within Australia's EEZ must be undertaken in accordance with the following conditions:
 - (a) The transferring vessel (that caught the catch through fishing) and the receiving vessel (which will receive catch from the transferring vessel) must both be nominated to separate WSTF and /or WTBF boat SFRs.
 - (b) At least 24 hours prior to each transshipping event the transferring vessel and the receiving vessel must inform AFMA of the intent to tranship by providing the following information via email to transhipment@afma.gov.au and provide:
 - i. the name and distinguishing symbols of the vessels;
 - ii. the proposed port of unloading;
 - iii. the estimated time and date the vessel will arrive at that port; and
 - iv. standard names and quantities of all species transhipped to the receiving vessel.
 - v. intended location of transhipment (estimated latitude and longitude)
 - (c) The transferring vessel must complete Parts A and B of the PT02B Catch Disposal Record (CDR) for all product it tranships to a receiving vessel, and the comment "Transhipped Catch" must be written into the Comments box of both Part A and Part B forms. The receiving vessel must ensure the CDR remains with the product that has been transhipped and that the CDR is submitted to an authorised Commonwealth fish receiver upon landing.
 - (d) If the receiving vessel has also fished on the same trip, a separate CDR must be completed for any fish taken by the receiving vessel.
 - (e) During any fishing trip, the vessel nominated to this permit may only tranship fish to a receiving vessel if:
 - i. The transhipment occurs entirely within the Australian EEZ, and
 - ii. All fish taken by the nominated vessel and the receiving vessel during that trip were taken within the area of Australian EEZ.
 - iii. No fishing was conducted on the high seas during the fishing trip.

Note: AFMA's intent in setting rules in relation to transshipping is that each boat's catch must be

reported on a separate CDR which must accompany that catch on the receiving vessel.

GEAR LIMITATIONS

13. This permit authorises the use of the following gear and specifications only:

(a) Purse Seine.

- i. The size of the purse seine nets must not exceed 1482 metres x 280 metres.
- ii. The dimensions of the purse seine nets are to be determined as follows:

The hung length of a purse seine net must be measured between the last attached net mesh at each end of the headline. The depth of a purse seine net is the distance in the centre of the net between the headline and the footrope when they are at their maximum stretch distance apart.

14. The holder must ensure that gear used by the vessel is marked appropriately, e.g., the ends of nets, lines and gear in the sea, shall be fitted with flag or radar reflector buoys by day and light buoys by night sufficient to indicate their position and extent.
15. Marker buoys and similar objects floating, and on the surface, and intended to indicate the location of fixed fishing gear, shall be clearly marked at all times with the letter(s) and/or number(s) of the vessel to which they belong.
16. The use of Fish Aggregating Devices, or FADs, during purse seine fishing are not permitted in the Australian EEZ, and therefore, the holder must not deploy any FAD while fishing under this permit within Australian EEZ.

Note: 'Fish Aggregating Device' or 'FAD' means an object or group of objects, of any size, that has or has not been deployed, that is living or non-living, including but not limited to buoys, floats, netting, webbing, plastics, bamboo, logs and whale sharks floating on or near the surface of the water that fish may associate with. This does not include equipment authorised by this permit.

17. If the holder is fishing in the high seas of the Convention Area, FADs, DFADs (Drifting Fish Aggregating Device) or AFADs (Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices) may be used in accordance with the following conditions:
 - (a) the marker buoys and similar objects floating and on the surfaces are clearly marked at all times with the letter(s) and / or number(s) of the vessel to which they belong.
 - (b) when fishing on a DFAD, to only fish on DFADs that were deployed together with an instrumented buoy that is registered on the DFAD Register. The holder must notify AFMA and IOTC within 24 hours of activation of an instrumented buoy through a notification in the IOTC DFAD register.⁴

⁴ DFAD Register | IOTC

- (c) the nominated boat shall not deploy at sea, at any one time, more than 250 instrumented buoys and does not acquire more than 400 instrumented buoys annually.
- (d) all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent accidental loss of DFADs and instrumented buoys.
- (e) when retrieving an instrumented buoy attached to a DFAD from the sea, do not leave the DFAD without an active instrumented buoy.
- (f) the FAD materials are biodegradable in marine environment, and they do not deploy instrumented buoys on DFADs which do not comply with the requirements of IOTC concerning biodegradability⁵.
- (g) Only use DFADs which comply with the design and construction regulations of the IOTC and are permanently marked with a specific IOTC DFAD unique identifier⁶.
- (h) To avoid AFAD loss, take into account the nature and profile of the sea bottom when choosing a site and, where possible, avoid sites with steep slopes to minimise the risk of AFAD loss while deploying new AFADs or replacing existing ones.
- (i) Ensure that the upper floatation of AFADs is suitable for offshore, high current deployments by using designs which are streamlined to reduce drag and resistance to currents and waves.
- (j) Ensure that only non-entangling and non-mesh materials are used in the sub-surface aggregates of AFADs.
- (k) Construct AFADs from materials that will ensure increased longevity so that they continue to retain their integrity for the longest lifespan possible. Where sub-surface aggregators are attached to the mooring line of AFADs, the holder should ensure that these aggregators are constructed from bio-degradable materials.

An 'instrumented buoy' is defined as a buoy with a clearly marked reference number allowing its identification and equipped with a satellite tracking system to monitor its position. The buoy shall be activated exclusively on board the vessel.

- 18. The holder must not use aircrafts and/or unmanned aerial vehicles as fishing aids.
- 19. The holder must not use, install or operate surface or submerged artificial lights for the purpose of aggregating tuna and tuna-like species beyond territorial waters. The use of lights on DFADs is also prohibited.
- 19A. The holder must not intentionally conduct fishing activities around or near any vessel or DFAD equipped with artificial lights for the purpose of attracting tuna and tuna-like species

⁵ IOTC Resolution 24/02 on Management of Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in the IOTC Area of Competence

⁶ As above

- 19B. DFADs equipped with artificial lights, which are encountered by the vessel, should as far as possible be removed and brought back to port, and reported to AFMA by fax (+612 6225 5440) or email to monitoring@afma.gov.au.

SPECIES LIMITATIONS

20. This permit authorises fishing for the following species only:

- (a) Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*);
- (b) Longtail Tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*)
- (c) Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*); and
- (d) Northern pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*);

21. The holder must not take:

- (a) Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*);
- (b) Broadbill swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*);
- (c) Striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*); or
- (d) Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*);

except in accordance with the *Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005*.

22. A maximum 35 tonne limit of Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) per fishing year is in place across all Commonwealth fisheries. A 10 Longtail tuna fish trip limit per operator will be imposed when informed by AFMA that the 35-tonne trigger limit has been reached.

23. The holder must not take fish of the family Bramidae (commonly known as pomfrets or rays bream) in Commonwealth waters adjacent to the State of Western Australia landward of the 200-metre isobath.

24. When fishing by the purse seine method, the holder must retain on board the nominated boat and land all Bigeye Tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) and Yellowfin Tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) except those fish considered by the holder to be unfit for human consumption.

Note: "unfit for human consumption" means fish that are meshed or crushed in the purse seine net, fish that are damaged due to depredation, or fish that have died and spoiled in the net where a gear failure has prevented the retrieval of the net and catch and prevented the release of the fish alive, and has spoiled before landing due to reasons beyond the control of the master or captain and crew of the vessel. "Unfit for human consumption" does NOT include fish that are considered undesirable in terms of size, marketability or species composition, or fish which are spoiled or contaminated as a result of an act or omission of the holder or crew of the nominated boat.

25. If Bigeye Tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) or Yellowfin Tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) are caught by the purse seine method, the holder must not discard any fish after the point in the set when the purse seine net is fully pursed and more than one half of the net

has been retrieved.

- 25A. If an equipment malfunction affects the process of pursing and retrieving the net in such a way that this condition cannot be complied with, the holder must make efforts to release the tuna as soon as practicable.
26. If the holder determines there is insufficient well space to accommodate any Bigeye Tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) or Yellowfin Tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) caught during the final set of a trip, the tuna may be discarded only if:
- (a) The holder and crew attempt to release the tuna in a live and vigorous state as soon as possible; and
 - (b) No further fishing is undertaken under the authority of this permit after any tuna are discarded.
27. Where the master of the vessel determines that fish should not be retained on board, the master must record the event in the relevant logbook including estimated weight and species composition of discarded fish; and estimated weight and species composition of retained fish from that fishing operation.
28. Notwithstanding the conditions above (20-26) and below (29 and 31), a holder must **retain** on board and then land, to the extent practicable, the following non-targeted species or species group; other tunas, rainbow runner, dolphinfish, triggerfish, billfish (excluding blue and black marlin), wahoo, and barracuda, except fish considered unfit for human consumption as per (22).
29. This permit does not allow fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*). Any take of Southern Bluefin Tuna is to be in accordance with the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Plan 1995*.
30. If the holder takes a Northern Pacific Bluefin Tuna or Southern Bluefin Tuna then they must:
- (a) Report to AFMA at email northernbluefin@afma.gov.au (or to fax 02 6225 5440 if email is not possible) at least one hour prior to the boat mooring or anchoring at port the following information:
 - i. NBT/SBT report;
 - ii. the name of the boat;
 - iii. distinguishing symbol of the boat;
 - iv. port of landing;
 - v. date and time of landing;
 - vi. number and weight of Northern Pacific Bluefin Tuna on board;
 - vii. number and weight of Southern Bluefin Tuna on board;
 - (b) Determine whether the fish is a Northern Bluefin or Southern Bluefin tuna:

- i. if the Bluefin Tuna was taken north of 28 degrees south or was greater than 220cm fork length, it may be deemed to be a Northern Bluefin Tuna; or
- ii. if the Bluefin Tuna was taken south of 28 degrees south, between 1 January and 1 May and was greater than 200cm, it may be deemed to be a Northern Bluefin Tuna; or
- iii. if the Bluefin cannot be deemed a Northern Bluefin in part b(i) or b(ii), the permit holder must;
 - a. Obtain genetic testing showing that the fish in question is a Northern Bluefin (AFMA will then deem the fish a Northern Bluefin); or
 - b. For fish exported to the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market (Toyosu market), document the fish as a Bluefin Tuna on the relevant Catch Disposal Record (CDR) and provide the documentation from the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market (Toyosu market) showing the fish was sold as a Northern Bluefin Tuna (AFMA will then deem the fish as a Northern Bluefin).
 - c. Should the landed tuna be deemed a Southern Bluefin Tuna (either by the holder or through identification), the holder must comply with all requirements of the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Plan 1995*.

31. Fishing for bait is subject to the following limitations:

(a) QUEENSLAND, WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND NORTHERN TERRITORY

If this permit allows access to waters adjacent to the States of Queensland and Western Australia, and the Northern Territory, the holder may fish for bait.

(b) SOUTH AUSTRALIA

If this permit allows access to waters adjacent to the State of South Australia the holder may use a lampara net, lift net and/or small-scale purse seine to fish for:

- i. Unlimited amounts of *Emmelichthyes*, *Trachurus*, *Sardinops*, *Clupea*, *Engaulis* and *Scomber australasicus* for use as live bait; and
- ii. Up to three tonnes per trip in total comprising one or more of *Emmelichthyes*, *Trachurus*, *Sardinops*, *Clupea*, *Engaulis* and *Scomber australasicus* for use as dead bait.

Any bait taken must only be used by the holder for fishing under this permit.

BYCATCH LIMITATIONS

32. (a) ALL WATERS

- i. The holder must not take more than the following amounts of fish per trip while operating in Commonwealth waters:
 - a. 20 sharks, excluding Oceanic Whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), Silky Shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), School shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), Gummy shark (*Mustelus antarcticus*), Elephant fish of the Families *Callorhinchidae*, *Chimaeridae* and *Rhinochimaeridae* and Sawshark;

- b. If the boat nominated to this permit is not nominated to a Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Boat SFR, the holder may take 5 carcasses in total of Gillnet, Hook and Trap Fishery quota species comprising School shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*), Gummy shark (*Mustelus antarcticus*), Elephant fish of the Families *Callorhynchidae*, *Chimaeridae* and *Rhinochimaeridae*, and Sawshark (*Pristiophorus cirratus* and *Pristiophorus nudipinnis*).

- ii. The holder must not take any of the following species:

Blue Eye trevalla (*Hyperoglyphe antarctica*), Blue grenadier (*Macruronus novaezelandiae*), Blue warehou (*Seriola lalandi*), Flathead (*Platycephalus* sp., *eoplatycephalus* sp.), Gemfish (*Rexea solandri*), Jackass morwong (*Nemadactylus macropterus*), John dory (*Zeus faber*), Ling (*Genypterus blacodes*), Mirror dory (*Zenopsis nebulosus*), Ocean perch (*Helicolenus* sp.), Orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*), Redfish (*Centroberyx affinis*), Royal red prawn (*Haliporoides sibogae*), School whiting (*Sillago findersi*), Silver trevally (*Pseudocaranx dentex*), Spotted warehou (*Seriola punctata*), Blue marlin (*Makaira mazara*), Black marlin (*Makaira indica*) and Black cod (*Epinephelus daemeli*).

The holder must also ensure they do not retain on board, tranship or land any Striped Marlin or Indo Pacific Sailfish smaller than 60 cm Lower-Jaw Fork Length (LJFL).

- iii. The holder must not retain any live Longfin Mako (*Isurus paucus*), Shortfin Mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) or Porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*).
 - a. Only dead sharks of these species may be retained and only when the fish is dead at haulback, and the vessel has an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system (EMS) on board to verify the condition of the sharks. In the absence of an observer or a functioning EMS, all shortfin and longfin mako sharks shall be released or discarded.
 - b. Must promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, these sharks when brought along side for taking on board the vessel.
 - c. Mako and porbeagle sharks released alive **must** be recorded in e-logs or in the PS01A logbook with the Discard/Retained Code field as “RA”.
- iv. Any shark species mentioned in condition (a) (i), (iii) above taken alive must be returned to the water.

(b) WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The holder must not take more than the following amounts of fish per trip while operating in Commonwealth waters off Western Australia:

- i. 2 fish in total consisting of either yellowtail kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*); or Amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*);
- ii. 10 fish in total consisting of Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*), Australian spotted mackerel (*Scomberomorus munroi*), Mackerel tuna (*Euthynnus affinis*), Frigate mackerel (*Auxis thazard*), Shark mackerel (*Grammatorcynus*

bicarinatus), Rake Gilled mackerel (*Rastrelliger kanagurta*), Australian bonito (*Sarda australis*), Oriental bonito (*Sarda orientalis*), Leaping bonito (*Cybiosarda elegans*), Rainbow runner (*Elagatis bipinnulata*), Dog Toothed tuna (*Gymnosarda unicolor*), Emperors, Tropical snappers (family *Lutjanidae*), Emperors (family *Lethrinidae*), Cods, Groupers (family *Serranidae*), Wrasses, Tuskfishes (family *Labridae*), Trevallies (family *Carangidae* except for Genus *Seriola*), Dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Snapper (*Pagrus auratus*), Blue Eye trevalla (*Hyperoglyphe antarctica*), Hapuku (*Polyprion oxygeneios*) and Bar cod (*Polyprion moeone*);

- iii. 20 fish in total consisting of Butterfly mackerel (*Gasterochisma melampus*), Slender tuna (*Allothunnus fallai*) and Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*).

(c) NORTHERN TERRITORY

The holder must not take more than the following amounts of fish per trip while operating in Commonwealth waters off the Northern Territory:

- i. 10 fish per trip in total consisting of Mahi Mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*).

(d) SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The holder must not take more than the following amounts of fish per trip while operating in Commonwealth waters off South Australia:

- i. Twenty kilograms of fish consisting of Bastard Trumpeter (*Latridopsis forsteri*) and Striped Trumpeter (*Latris lineata*);
- ii. Fifty kilograms fish consisting of Blue Groper (*Achoerodus gouldii*) and Snapper (*Pagrus auratus*);
- iii. One hundred kilograms of fish consisting of Mulloway (*Argyrosomus hololepidotus*);
- iv. Ten fish in total consisting of Yellowtail Kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*); and
- v. Two hundred kilograms of fish consisting of Black Reef Leatherjacket (*Eubalichthys bucephalus*), Chinaman Leatherjacket (*Nelusetta ayraudi*), Parrotfish (or knifejaw) (*Oplegnathus woodwardi*) or Rough Leatherjacket (*Monacanthus chinensis*).

Note: there is a 200 kilogram total trip limit for all species combined listed in i) - v) above

33. Mobulid Rays (family Mobulidae - including mantas and mobula rays)

- (a) The holder must not fish for or target mobulid rays or retain on board any part of a mobulid ray.
- (b) The holder must ensure any mobulid ray caught during fishing operations, is released alive and unharmed, to the extent practicable, as soon as they are seen in the net, on the hook, or on the deck, and do it in a manner that will result in the least possible harm to the individuals captured
- (c) in the case of mobulid rays that are unintentionally caught and landed as part of a purse seine vessel operation, the vessel must surrender the whole mobulid ray to AFMA or discard them (not sold) at the point of landing.
- (d) The holder must ensure mobulid rays are released using proper mitigation, identification,

handling and releasing techniques, including the following.

- i. Mobulid rays must not be gaffed lifted, dragged, carried or held, using gaffs, hooks or ropes by the horns (“cephalic lobes”), gill slits, mouth, wings (except when no other option is available), eye, spiracles, or have holes punched through the rays body.
 - ii. Rays too large to be lifted safely by hand shall be, to the extent possible, released directly from the net using the brailer or directly from the brailer.
- (e) From 01 January 2028, the holder must carry on board and use the following release equipment
- i. Mobulid sorting grid,
 - ii. Stretcher,
 - iii. Cargo net, canvas sling, or any similar device that can be attached to any lifting device, such as crane, available onboard,
 - iv. Large straps.

TAKING/CARRYING OF SHARK OBLIGATIONS

34. Retained and/or landed School Shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) and Gummy Shark (*Mustelus antarcticus*) must exceed 450 millimetres when measured in a straight line from the middle of the posterior edge of the aftermost gill-slit to the ventral insertion of the caudal fin.
35. The holder must not take deepwater dogfishes of the following species - Harrison's Dogfish (*Centrophorus harrissoni*), Endeavour Dogfish (*C. moluccensis*), Southern Dogfish (*C. zeehaani*) and Greeneye Spurdog (*Squalus chloroculus*), unless:
- (a) for trips under 6 days, the combined amount of these species taken does not exceed 15kg whole weight per day; or
 - (b) for trips over 6 days, the combined amount of these species taken does not exceed 90kg whole weight per trip.

In this condition:

- one day is a 24-hour period that commences at 00.01 hours UTC + 8.
- the weights in clauses (a) and (b) apply to all deepwater dogfish of the species specified, including those returned to the water whether alive or dead.

Deepwater dogfishes of the species specified in this condition that are taken alive, must be returned to the water carefully and quickly.

36. The holder must not land or retain on board, tranship, and store any part or whole carcass of any Thresher sharks (family *Alopiidae*), Oceanic whitetip shark and whale shark. Any Thresher sharks taken must be returned to the water in a manner that maximizes post-release survival potential without compromising the safety of crew.
37. The holder must report any interaction with Thresher sharks in the relevant logbook.

38. 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 naturally attached to the shark's carcass.

WHALESHARK AND CETACEAN OBLIGATIONS

39. The holder must not intentionally set a purse seine net around any species of cetacean, or whale sharks.
40. If a cetacean or whale shark is encircled within a purse seine net, the holder must:
- (a) take all practicable steps to ensure the safe release of the cetacean or whale shark, while taking into account the safety of the crew;
 - (b) Report the incident to the AFMA at licensing@afma.gov.au with the following details:
 - i. the species (if known);
 - ii. the number of individuals;
 - iii. a short description of the interaction, including details of how and why the interaction occurred, if possible;
 - iv. the location of the encirclement;
 - v. the steps taken to ensure safe release;
 - vi. an assessment of the life status of the animal on release, including whether the cetacean, mobulid ray or Whale shark was released alive but subsequently died.

HIGH SEAS FISHING TRIPS

41. The holder must notify AFMA prior to departure and again prior to landing if a high seas only trip will be made. Notify AFMA by facsimile (02) 6225 5440 or email VMSreporting@afma.gov.au and provide:
- i. boat's name;
 - ii. boat's distinguishing symbol
 - iii. port at which it is intended the boat will depart; and
 - iv. date and time of departure.
42. On nominating a high seas fishing trip, the holder is not permitted to conduct fishing operations in the AFZ at any time while undertaking the high seas fishing trip.
43. On nominating a high seas fishing trip, the holder must transit the AFZ via the most direct means or seek prior approval for an alternative route by telephoning the AFMA Duty officer on (02) 6275 5818.

OTHER OBLIGATIONS

44. All nominated boats twelve (12) metres or above must have an International Maritime Organization (IMO) number.
45. The holder must not discharge any plastics (including plastic packaging, items containing plastic and polystyrene) but not including fishing gear.
46. The holder must not discharge:
 - (a) oil or fuel products or oily residues into the sea;
 - (b) garbage, including fishing gear⁷, food waste, domestic waste, incinerator ashes and cooking oil; and
 - (c) sewage,except as would be permitted under applicable international instruments.
47. The holder should attempt to retrieve all abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear and keep such gear separate from other waste for discharge to port reception facilities. Where retrieval is not possible or does not occur, the holder should report the latitude, longitude, type, size and age of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear to AFMA by fax (+612 6225 5440) or email to monitoring@afma.gov.au.
48. If a boat is nominated to this permit, at all times when the boat is being used under this permit, the holder must have provided to AFMA a current emergency contact facility for the nominated boat.
49. 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.
50. 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

51. The holder accepts concurrent liability for all conduct by its servants or agents infringing the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (or the Regulations, Management Plans or concession 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.

⁷ Fishing gear, for the purposes of this measure, that are released into the water with the intention of later retrieval such as FADs, traps and static nets, are not considered garbage.

52. 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.
53. 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.
54. 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.
55. The holder must ensure the master of the boat fishing under the authority of this permit is nominated as an authorised agent for the holder before any fishing operation may take place.
56. The holder must ensure the authorised agent signing the determined *Daily Fishing logbook page was the master of the boat (skipper) at the time the recorded fishing operation took place.
57. The holder may sign the determined *Daily Fishing logbook page if they were the master of the boat (skipper) when the recorded fishing operation took place.
58. If more than one master of the boat is on board the boat during the fishing trip, each master must complete and sign a separate determined *Daily Fishing logbook page for each of the fishing operations for which they had control over.

**These instructions are for all determined Daily Fishing Logs including e-Logs.*

TEMPORARY ORDERS OBLIGATIONS

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

DIRECTION OBLIGATIONS

60. The holder must comply with any lawful Direction (including a lawful Direction given to the holder by an AFMA staff member, consultant or other person engaged under contract to assist AFMA) under section 41A of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* relating to the partial or total closure of a fishery or part of a fishery.

NAVIGATING IN CLOSED ZONE

61. 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 VMS 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 *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*, to meet the exempting provisions of sub regulations 86 (2) or 86(3). Such suspension will then continue until the 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 sub section 38(2) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*; whichever is the earlier.

OBSERVER/MONITORING OBLIGATIONS

62. 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 the AFMA office on 02 6225 5555 or the Observer 24 hours duty phone on 0427 496 446;
- (b) be equipped with electronic monitoring (EM) to the Standard specified by AFMA; and
- (c) ensure that the boat does not leave port until:
 - i. 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; and
 - ii. if the boat is equipped with EM equipment, an electronic monitoring function test has been completed, AFMA has been notified of the result of the test, and AFMA has notified the holder, or a person acting on behalf of the holder, that it is satisfied that the equipment is working correctly.

Note 1: These conditions are in addition to the conditions concerning the taking of observers that are prescribed in the Fisheries Management Regulations 2019 (the Regulations). Those conditions are in Division 5, regulations 38 to 41.

Note 2: AFMA may direct under the Regulations that an observer be carried, even if electronic monitoring equipment is installed and is to be operated.

INTERACTIONS WITH WILDLIFE OBLIGATIONS

63. When fishing by the purse seine method in the Convention Area as detailed in 1(b) of the area of waters and a Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*) or cetacean is sighted by the holder prior to the setting of a purse seine net, the holder must not intentionally set a purse seine net around the Whale Shark or cetacean.
64. When fishing by the purse seine method in the Convention Area as detailed in 1(b) of the area of waters and a Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*) or cetacean is unintentionally encircled in a purse seine net, the holder must:
- (a) Take all reasonable steps to ensure the safe release of the Whale Shark and/or cetacean(s); and
 - (b) Report the interaction to AFMA via the Wildlife and Other Protected Species Form attached to the Purse Seine Daily Fishing Logbook. The holder must ensure the following additional

information is included in the comments section of the form:

- i. A short description of the interaction including details of how and why the interaction occurred; and
- ii. The steps taken to ensure the safe release of the Whale Shark and/or cetacean(s).

65. When fishing by the purse seine method in the Convention Area as detailed in 1(b) of the area of waters, the holder must ensure that:

- (a) To the extent practicable, avoid encirclement of marine turtles, and if a marine turtle is encircled or entangled, take practicable measures to safely release the turtle;
- (b) To the extent practicable, release all marine turtles observed entangled in FADs or other fishing gear;
- (c) If a marine turtle is entangled in the net, stop net roll as soon as the turtle comes out of the water; disentangle the turtle without injuring it before resuming the net roll; and to the extent practicable, assist the recovery of the turtle before returning it to the water;
- (d) Carry and employ dip nets, when appropriate, to handle marine turtles.
- (e) Encourage such vessels to adopt FAD designs that reduce the incidence of entanglement of marine turtles according to international standards;
- (f) Require that the holder of the vessel record all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbooks and report such incidents to AFMA.

MANDATORY AFMA SUPPLIED VMS

66. Direction to Fit

- (a) When directed by AFMA in writing, the holder (or a person acting on the holder's behalf) must;
 - i. 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
 - ii. Provide all reasonable assistance to the AFMA approved technician including (but not limited to);
 - a. the provision of an un-interrupted connection to the boat's main power source, and
 - b. an appropriate position for the mounting of the AFMA VMS unit.
- (b) When directed by AFMA in writing, the holder (or a person acting on the holder's behalf) must;
 - i. 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

- ii. Provide all reasonable assistance to the AFMA approved technician.

67. Holder must not interfere with AFMA VMS Unit

- (a) The 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 38 1 (a) or 38 2(a), 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 Fisheries Management Regulations 2019.*

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

68. The holder (or a person acting on the holder's behalf) must not mistreat bycatch⁸.

Definitions:

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

⁸ [AFMA Bycatch handling and treatment Guide](#)

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.).