



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Dear Interested Person

Environmental Assessment of the Queensland Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

The current export approval for the Queensland Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery is valid until 26 March 2021 and the fishery is now due for assessment for ongoing export accreditation. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment received an application, *Marine Aquarium Fish Wildlife Trade Operation submission February 2021*, from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in February 2021.

The application has been prepared to address the Australian Government *Guidelines for the ecologically sustainable management of fisheries - 2nd edition* and to provide updates on the implementation of any conditions or recommendations made in the previous Australian Government assessment. The application will be used to assess the operation of the fishery for the purposes of Part 13 and Part 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Consideration will be given to:

- declaring the Queensland Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery as managed consistent with the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Queensland) and *Fisheries (General) Regulation 2019*, *Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019*, *Fisheries Declaration 2019* and *Fisheries Quota Declaration 2019* (Queensland), as an approved wildlife trade operation under section 303FN of the EPBC Act, and
- including in the list of exempt native specimens, specimens harvested in the Queensland Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery under the provisions of the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Queensland) and *Fisheries (General) Regulation 2019*, *Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019*, *Fisheries Declaration 2019* and *Fisheries Quota Declaration 2019* (Queensland).

In accordance with the provisions of sections 303FR and 303DC of the EPBC Act, you are invited to comment on this proposal.

The call for public comments is open from **22 February 2021** until **25 March 2021**.

Electronic copies of the application and the guidelines are available from the Department's website at <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/marine/fisheries> or a hard copy can be mailed to you upon request.

Please submit your comments to:

The Director
Wildlife Trade Assessments Section
Department of the Environment and Energy
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Submissions may also be emailed to sustainablefisheries@awe.gov.au.

Any comments received will form part of the documentation provided to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, or Minister's delegate for a decision. Copies of comments may be made available to other persons with a particular interest in the application. If you wish to claim confidentiality for any part of your comments, please contact

the Director of the Wildlife Trade Assessments Section by emailing
sustainablefisheries@awe.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Wildlife Trade Assessments Section
19 February 2021