

**PERMIT UNDER SECTION 37
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1994**

AUTHORISED MODIFICATIONS TO CLARENCE RIVER PRAWN TRAWL NETS

In accordance with the provisions of section 37(1)(e) of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 (the Act) Mr Steve Everson (FL780721) or his nominee and any person of the class specified below is authorised to use a try net as specified below and an otter-trawl net (prawn) with one or more of the following specified modifications when operating pursuant to a Clarence River Estuary Prawn Trawl endorsement as prescribed in the *Fisheries Management (Estuary Prawn Trawl Share Management Plan) Regulation 2006*, subject to the conditions specified in this permit.

Class of persons

Any person who holds and is operating pursuant to a Clarence River Estuary Prawn Trawl endorsement as prescribed in the *Fisheries Management (Estuary Prawn Trawl Share Management Plan) Regulation 2006*.

Conditions

1. Try net specifications

The net is a square- or diamond-shaped mesh net as described below (or a combination thereof) attached to a frame not exceeding 0.6 metres in width and 0.5 metres in height, with a total length from the centre of the frame to the extremity of the net not exceeding 2 metres:

- (a) *Square-shaped mesh*: mesh not less than 27 mm, constructed of single twine knotless polyamide or polyethylene material not more than 2.5 mm in diameter, and hung on the bar so that the meshes are square shaped.
- (b) *Diamond-shaped mesh*: mesh not less than 32 mm, constructed of single twine material not more than 2.5 mm in diameter, and hung so that the meshes are diamond shaped.

2. Otter-trawl net (prawn) modification 1: multiple nets

Three (3) or four (4) nets of any headline length may be used at any one time subject to the headline length of all nets combined not exceeding 15 metres.

3. Otter-trawl net (prawn) modification 2: spreading mechanism (beam)

In lieu of otter boards, a single beam between two sleds may be used to spread one or more of the nets subject to:

- (a) the beam being a single, straight structure;
- (b) the sleds being no greater than 150 mm wide at the base (shoe); and
- (c) the points of attachment of the headline and footrope to the sleds being not more than 1 metre apart.

4. Otter-trawl net (prawn) modification 3: diamond-mesh size (body of net)

The body (including belly, wings and extension) of an otter-trawl net (prawns) may consist of mesh not less than 34 mm subject to the following conditions (a) and (b) of this permit:

- (a) **Side taper**: if the body of the net consists of <40 mm diamond-shaped mesh, the length of the body of the net (centre head rope to end taper) must not exceed 3.2 metres, 3.0 metres and 2.8 metres for double or dual, triple and quad net

configurations, respectively, measured in a straight line along the centre line of each net from the headline to the attachment of the extension (where the body taper finishes); and,

- (b) **Wing depth:** if the body of the net consists of <40 mm diamond-shaped mesh, the depth of the wings must not exceed 2.3 metres measured in a straight line from the inside edge of the top knot (along the top seam) to the inside edge of the bottom knot (at the bottom seam) along any single line/row of meshes when stretched.

5. Otter-trawl net (prawn) modification 4: square-shaped mesh panels (wings and body)

The wings and side panels of a net or parts thereof may consist of mesh not less than 34 mm subject to the mesh being hung on the bar so that the meshes are square-shaped.

Standard conditions

1. The permit holder must abide by any instruction, relating to the operation of this permit, given by an Officer of the NSW Department of Primary Industries.
2. The permit holder must nominate whether they intend to use try gear of utilise anterior gear modifications provided for by this permit. The permit holder must maintain and provide upon request to any Officer of the NSW Department of Primary Industries records of the modifications made to the net.
3. The permit holder must accept and assist any observer or observers, as directed by any Officer of the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Notes

- This permit is only valid if the person is of the class of persons specified above and the holder of a current commercial fishing licence.
- Other than where expressly stated, this permit does not authorise fishing activities in contravention of the Act or any Regulation under the Act.
- This permit may be varied, suspended or cancelled at any time by a duly delegated Officer of the NSW Department of Primary Industries.
- The issue of this permit in no way implies or guarantees future rights in any fishery or continued use of the authorised methods and modifications beyond the date of expiry of this permit.
- Operators may be put on notice that if significant issues of equity arise then the permit may be revoked.

Unless sooner suspended or cancelled this permit is valid until **1 July 2019**.



Andrew Goulstone
Group Director, Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture

Date: 20 July 2016