



Christmas Island Marine Park Management Plan 2025
Section 4.3.3 (Commercial fishing) and 4.5.2 (Class approvals)

CLASS APPROVAL – COMMERCIAL FISHING

Approved Persons	Persons authorised to take Approved Actions in accordance with an existing fishing concession, licence or exemption under the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (WA) (CI)</i> and <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1996 (WA) (CI)</i> on the date this class approval comes into effect. This includes employees, servants, agents and contractors of the person authorised by the existing concession, licence or exemption.
Approved Actions	Commercial fishing operations by commercial fishing vessels in the Christmas Island Marine Park using Approved Fishing Methods within Approved Zones, by Approved Persons, in accordance with the Conditions of Approval. This does not include commercial fishing operations that use the Excluded Fishing Methods.
Approved Zones	Habitat Protection Zone (Christmas Island)
Approved Fishing Methods	• Minor line (handline, rod & reel, trolling, jig, poling). • Hand collection (including using hookah, scuba, snorkel). • Hand net (hand, barrier, skimmer, cast, scoop, drag, lift).
Excluded Fishing Methods	• Dropline • Longline (demersal auto-longline) • Longline (pelagic) • Net (demersal) • Net (pelagic) • Purse seine • Trap, pot • Trawl (demersal) • Trawl (mid-water) • Trotline • Any other fishing method not included in the Approved Fishing Methods.
Conditions of Approval	1. Approved Actions must be conducted in accordance with and subject to: a) the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i> ('EPBC Act'); b) the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation EPBC Regulations 2000 (Cth)</i> including any prohibitions, restrictions or determinations made under the Regulations;

	c) the Christmas Island Marine Park Management Plan 2025; d) the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (WA) (CI)</i>; e) the <i>Fish Resources Management Regulations 1996 (WA) (CI)</i>; f) the <i>Christmas Island Applied Laws Ordinance 1992 (CI)</i>; g) other applicable Commonwealth, State and Territory laws (to the extent those laws are capable of operating concurrently with the laws and instruments described in paragraphs (a) to (g)).
	2. All employees, servants, agents and contractors having operational control of a vessel in the conduct of the Approved Actions must be informed of these Conditions of Approval before taking part in the Approved Actions.
	3. A copy of this Class Approval (hard or electronic copy) must be kept on board each vessel used in the conduct of the Approved Actions.
	4. On request of the Director of National Parks, an Approved Person must make available, within 21 days of receipt of that request, information regarding: (a) the total number of days in which the Approved Actions were conducted during a specified period within the previous 12 months; (b) the species caught and the total quantity of each species caught during a specified period within the previous 12 months. Note: <i>This condition will be satisfied where equivalent information is available to the Director of National Parks from the relevant fisheries management agency.</i>

This class approval will come into effect on 1 September 2025 and will remain in effect for the term of the Christmas Island Marine Park Management Plan 2025, unless this class approval is suspended, cancelled or varied sooner by the Director of National Parks in accordance with that management plan.

This class approval does not apply to Christmas Island National Park.

For enquiries relating to this class approval, contact: marineparks@dcceew.gov.au.



Ricky Archer

Director of National Parks

Date: 1 September 2025



Interpretation

In the class approval and conditions:

1. **Approved Actions** means the actions described as Approved Actions in this class approval.
2. **Approved Fishing Methods** means the following actions:

Hand collection – means removing species from rocks, crevices, the seafloor or other benthic substrate by hand using dive hookah, self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (scuba) or snorkel.

Hand net (hand, barrier, skimmer, cast, scoop, drag, lift) means a small mesh net that is operated by hand to trap fish including a hand net, barrier net, skimmer net, cast net, scoop net, drag net, lift net.

Minor line (handline, rod & reel, trolling, squid jig, poling) means any line fishing (e.g. handline, rod and reel, jigging and pole fishing) with a small number of hooks. Trolling is dragging a lure or baited hook behind a moving vessel and reeling it in (either by hand, reel or winches). Poling is dragging a lure or baited hook on a fixed length of line behind a vessel and flicking or gaffing the fish into the boat. Jigging involves vertical lines being jigged up and down by hand or mechanically to attract fish or squid.

3. **Approved Person** means a person in the class of persons described as Approved Persons in this Class Approval.
4. **Approved Zones** means a Zone in which the Approved Actions are authorised by this class approval to be carried out.
5. **Director** means Director of National Parks continuing under section 514A of the EPBC Act and includes any agency that succeeds to the functions of the Director.
6. **EPBC Act** means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and includes any Act which amends or replaces the EPBC Act.
7. **EPBC Regulations** means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (Cth) and includes any Regulations that amend or replaces the EPBC Regulations.
8. **Excluded Fishing Methods** means the following actions:

Dropline means a line that is vertically set or suspended in the water column between a weight (normally in contact with the seabed) and a vessel or a buoy on the water surface. Baited hooks are attached to the mainline via smaller lines (branch-lines or snoods).

Longline (demersal auto-longline) means a line that is horizontally set along the seafloor between weights to maintain contact with the seafloor. The main line has a vertical line attached at each end which is connected to buoys on the water surface.

Baited hooks are attached to the main line via smaller lines (branch-lines or snoods). An auto-longline is a longline where the hooks are baited by a machine rather than manually.

Longline (pelagic) means a line that is horizontally set near the surface of the water and avoids contact with the seafloor. The main line has a vertical line attached at each end which is connected to buoys on the surface of the water. Baited hooks are attached to the main line via smaller lines (branch-lines or snoods). Buoys are generally used intermittently along the main line to help maintain buoyancy in the water column. The line may be left to drift in the water or anchored by vertical lines to the seafloor.

Purse seine means using a long-winged surface hauling net with a pursing line at the bottom used to close the net.

Net (demersal) means a rectangular mesh net anchored to the seafloor with weights. The net may have small floats along the upper line to maintain its shape in the water. Each end has a vertical line that is connected to buoys on the surface of the water.

Trawl (demersal) means a cone-shaped mesh net towed through the water column on or near the seabed that may come into contact with the seabed during use. The net is held open horizontally by otter boards or trawl doors while towing. The bottom of the net opening generally has chains, rubber or steel bobbins and spacers threaded along its length to help reduce snagging by slightly lifting the net off the seafloor. The last section of the net is a cod end where the catch is retained. Long metal cables connect the net and boards to a vessel. The cable length and mesh size varies depending on the species being targeted (fish or prawns). These nets can be towed by one vessel in various configurations such as one or four nets.

Trawl (midwater) means a cone-shaped mesh net towed through the water column that does not come into contact with the seabed at any stage during use. The net is held open horizontally by otter boards or trawl doors while towing. The bottom of the net opening is weighted. The last section of the net is a cod end where the catch is retained. Long metal cables connect the net and boards to a vessel. The cable length and mesh size varies depending on the species being targeted (fish or prawns). These nets can be towed by one vessel in various configurations, such as one or four nets. Note: for the purpose of this Class Approval, if the fishing gear contacts the seabed at any stage, the method will be deemed to be Trawl (demersal).

Trap, pot(s) are made in a variety of shapes and sizes from various materials. They are generally baited to attract fish or crustaceans through one or more entrances or openings. Traps and pots are set on the seafloor and connected to a vertical line with a buoy on the surface of the water.

Trotline means a line that is horizontally set along the seafloor. The main line has a vertical line attached at each end which is connected to buoys on the surface of the water. Baited hooks are attached to the main line via smaller lines (branch-lines or

snoods). Buoys are used intermittently along the main line to lift baited hooks away from the seafloor.

9. **Fishing concession or licence** means a Statutory Fishing Right, licence, Individual Transferable Quota, permit or other approval issued, under Commonwealth, State or Territories fisheries legislation, to a person allowing participation in a commercial fishery.
10. **Vessel** means a ship, boat, tender, raft or pontoon, or anything capable of carrying persons or goods through or on water and includes a floating structure and hovercraft.
11. **Zone** means a management Zone established by, and described under, Section 4.1 of the Christmas Island Marine Park Management Plan.