



**Australian Government**

**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

# **Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery**

**Management Arrangements Booklet 2024 - 25**



## **AFMA Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery**

Edited and revised in 2024 by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

### **Important Note:**

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is correct and accurate at the time of printing. However, the information provided is intended to serve as a guide only, and therefore AFMA will not be liable for any loss caused, whether due to negligence or otherwise, arising from the use of or reliance upon this booklet. The booklet is not intended to replace any conditions or requirements of an operator's concession; *The Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003*, *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*. Some of the items in this booklet may not apply to a particular fishing operation. Operators should refer to the key documents listed in this booklet.

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Table 1: Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and other limits for the 2024–25 fishing year.

Quota Species	Multi-year TAC (t) <sup>#</sup>	2024-25 TAC (t)	TAC change from 2023-24 (t)	Overcatch/ Undercatch %
<b>Alfonsino</b>	Trigger species*	1,017	0	10
<b>Bight redfish (GAB)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 4	959	0	10
<b>Blue-eye trevalla</b>	Single-year TAC 54 t catch limit on seamount stock.	263**	+25	10
<b>Blue grenadier</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 3	17,084	0	10
<b>Blue warehou</b>	N/A (depleted species)	30 (incidental)	0	0
<b>Deepwater flathead (GAB)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> year of 3	940	-298	10
<b>Deepwater shark basket (east)</b>	Single year TAC	24	0	10
<b>Deepwater shark basket (west)</b>	Single year TAC	327	+92	10
<b>Elephant fish</b>	Trigger species	114	0	10
<b>Flathead</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 3	2,333	0	10
<b>Gemfish (eastern)</b>	N/A (depleted species)	100 (incidental)	0	0
<b>Gemfish (western)</b>	Trigger species	180	0	10
<b>Gummy shark</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> year of 3	1,558	-114	10
<b>Jackass morwong</b>	N/A (depleted species)	50 (incidental)	0	0
<b>John dory</b>	N/A (depleted species)	60 (incidental)	0	0

Quota Species	Multi-year TAC (t) <sup>#</sup>	2024-25 TAC (t)	TAC change from 2023-24 (t)	Overcatch/ Undercatch %
<b>Mirror dory</b>	Single year TAC	182	+61	10
<b>Ocean perch</b>	Trigger species	318	0	10
<b>Orange roughy (Albany &amp; Esperance)</b>	N/A (depleted species)	50 (incidental)	0	0
<b>Orange roughy (Cascade Plateau)</b>	Single year TAC	397	0	10
<b>Orange roughy (Eastern)</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> year of 3	879	-96	100% under 10% over
<b>Orange roughy (Southern)</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> year of 3 (Pedra Branca)	98 (67 Pedra Branca, 31 incidental)	-7	0
<b>Orange roughy (Western)</b>	N/A (depleted species)	60 (incidental)	0	0
<b>Oreo (smooth cascade)</b>	Trigger species	150 (10 t revision trigger)	0	10
<b>Oreo (smooth other)</b>	Trigger species	90	0	10
<b>Oreo (basket)</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> year of 3	137	0	10
<b>Pink ling</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> year of 3	1,533 (including 441 t eastern notional catch limit)	-32	10
<b>Redfish</b>	N/A (depleted species)	30 (incidental)	0	0
<b>Ribaldo</b>	Trigger species	393	0	10
<b>Royal red prawn</b>	Trigger species	628	0	10
<b>Sawshark</b>	Trigger species	525	0	10
<b>School shark</b>	N/A (depleted species)	197(incidental)	-28	0

Quota Species	Multi-year TAC (t) <sup>#</sup>	2024-25 TAC (t)	TAC change from 2023-24 (t)	Overcatch/Undercatch %
School whiting	4 <sup>th</sup> year of 3	914	0	10
Silver trevally	1 <sup>st</sup> year of 3	25	0	10
Silver warehou	3 <sup>rd</sup> year of 3	350	0	10

**# Multi-year TACs** – For multi-year TACs, the AFMA Commission set the TACs for the coming fishing season based on the most recent assessment and a review of fishery indicators. This ensures there have been no fundamental changes from the understanding of the stock at the time of the assessment.

**\*Trigger species** – Species that are at very low risk for falling to near or below their Limit Reference Points. Fishery indicator data is reviewed if it has been more than six years since the last assessment or if a trigger amount has been caught. For more information on each species requirements see the most recent [SESSF species summary document](#).

**\*\* Blue-eye trevalva TAC** – For the TAC of 263 t, a limit applies for the seamount stocks of 108 t over the 3-year period with no more than 54 t to be caught in a single year.

#### Research Catch Allowance:

Orange roughy Western Zone - 200 t

Orange roughy Great Australian Bight Trawl (GABT) - 200 t

**Table 2: Total Allowable Catch for non-quota species in the East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector (ECDWT).**

Non-quota Species	2024-25 TAC (t)	Change from 2023-24
Boarfish – trigger (ECDWT sector)	200	0
Orange roughy – incidental catch (ECDWT sector)	50	0
Hagfish <sup>#</sup>	80	0

**#** For the Hagfish TAC of 80 t, no more than 40 t can be taken north of the parallel of latitude 36 degrees 45 minutes south, and no more than 40 t can be taken south of this parallel of latitude.

**Table 3: SESSF conversion factors for the 2024–25 fishing season.**

Quota Species	2024-25 TAC (t)	Number of SFRs	2024-25 Conversion Factor #	2023-24 levy amount \$ (per quota SFR and ITQ incl. FRDC levy)
Alfonsino	1,017	752977	1.35063886	0.00148
Bight redfish (GAB)	959	1000000	0.9590	0.00580
Blue-eye trevalva	263	788654	0.33347957	0.17189
Blue grenadier	17,084	4950838	3.45072894	0.28626
Blue warehou	30 (incidental)	2384834	0.01257949	0.00006

Deepwater flathead (GAB)	940	3000000	0.31333333	0.00613
Deepwater shark basket (east)	24	217081	0.11055781	0.05724
Deepwater shark basket (west)	327	259750	1.25890280	0.08598
Elephant fish	114	92373	1.23412686	0.11088
Flathead	2,333	2940220	0.79347804	0.00035
Gemfish (eastern)	100 (incidental)	198855	0.50287898	0.06902
Gemfish (western)	180	285607	0.63023665	0.00341
Gummy shark	1,558	2236206	0.69671578	0.44666
Jackass morwong	50 (incidental)	1365760	0.03660965	0.00053
John dory	60 (incidental)	204895	0.29283291	0.00098
Mirror dory	182	673210	0.27034655	0.00000
Ocean perch	318	298914	1.06385114	0.03146
Orange roughy (Albany & Esperance)	50 (incidental)	200000	0.25	0.00205
Orange roughy (Cascade Plateau)	397	1506641	0.26350006	0.01421
Orange roughy (Eastern)	879	7254511	0.12116599	0.03088
Orange roughy (Southern)	98 (67 Pedra Branca and 31 incidental )	7356328	0.01332187	0.00226
Orange roughy (Western)	60 (incidental)	1450898	0.04135370	0.00130
Oreo (smooth cascade)	150 (10 t revision trigger)	227028	0.66071145	0.00206
Oreo (smooth other)	90	137834	0.65295936	0.02438
Oreo (basket)	137	564421	0.24272662	0.02285
Pink ling	1,533 (including 441 t eastern notional catch limit)	894840	1.71315542	0.19807

Redfish	30 (incidental)	473897	0.06330490	0.00003
Ribaldo	393	258877	1.51809546	0.09877
Royal red prawn	628	382098	1.64355741	0.00000
Sawshark	525	346343	1.51583834	0.10156
School shark	197 (incidental)	464116	0.42446284	0.31927
School whiting	914	2020998	0.45225180	0.00000
Silver trevally	25	463723	0.05391149	0.00020
Silver warehou	350	981803	0.35648699	0.00005

# Conversion factor is obtained by:  $[TAC \text{ in kg}] / [\text{number of SFRs}]$

**Table 4: SESSF 2023–24 levy amounts.**

Concession	Levy Amount (\$) per SFR (2023-24)
Auto longline fishing permit	3,961.61
CTS Trawl boat SFR	8,812.44
ECDT permit	572.67
GAB trawl boat SFR	42,708.04
Gillnet boat SFR	5,840.32
SA coastal sector permit	2,373.65
Scalefish hook boat SFR	2,546.26
Shark hook boat SFR	4,176.86
TAS coastal sector permit	2,373.65
Trap permit	21,750.63
TRL sector permit	2,373.65
VCW sector permit	736.29

**Table 5: Scientific and common names for SESSF quota species.**

Quota Species	Scientific Name	Common Name	CAAB Code
Alfonsino	<i>Beryx splendens</i>	Alfonsino	37 258002
Bight redfish	<i>Centroberyx gerrardi</i>	Bight redfish	37 258004
Blue-eye trevalla	<i>Hyperoglyphe antarctica</i>	Blue-eye trevalla	37 445001
	<i>Schedophilus labyrinthicus</i>	Ocean blue-eye	37 445014
Blue grenadier	<i>Macruronus novaezelandiae</i>	Blue grenadier	37 227001
Blue warehou	<i>Seriolella brama</i>	Blue warehou	37 445005
Deepwater flathead	<i>Neoplatycephalus conatus</i>	Deepwater flathead	37 296002
Deepwater shark	<i>Centroscyllium kamoharai</i>	Bareskin dogfish	37 020024

	<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>	Portugese dogfish	37 020025
	<i>Centroscymnus crepidater</i>	Golden dogfish	37 020012
	<i>Centroscymnus owstoni</i>	Owston's dogfish	37 020019
	<i>Centroscymnus plunketi</i>	Plunket's dogfish	37 020013
	<i>Dalatias licha</i>	Black shark	37 020002
	<i>Deania calcea</i>	Brier shark	37 020003
	<i>Deania quadrispinosa</i>	Longsnout dogfish	37 020004
	<i>Etmopterus bigelowi</i>	Smooth lanternshark	37 020027
	<i>Etmopterus brachyurus</i>	Short-tail lanternshark	37 020032
	<i>Etmopterus dianthus</i>	Pink lanternshark	37 020029
	<i>Etmopterus dislineatus</i>	Lined lanternshark	37 020031
	<i>Etmopterus evansi</i>	Blackmouth lanternshark	37 020030
	<i>Etmopterus fusus</i>	Pygmy lanternshark	37 020028
	<i>Etmopterus granulosus</i>	Southern lanternshark	37 020021
	<i>Etmopterus lucifer</i>	Blackbelly lanternshark	37 020005
	<i>Etmopterus mollerii</i>	Moller's lanternshark	37 020033
	<i>Etmopterus pusillus</i>	Slender lanternshark	37 020015
Elephant fish	Family Rhinochimaeridae	Long-nosed chimaeras	37 044000 37 044902
	Family Callorhynchidae	Elephant fish	37 043000 37 043901 37 043001
Flathead	<i>Platycephalus aurimaculatus</i>	Toothy flathead	37 296035
	<i>Platycephalus richardsoni</i>	Tiger flathead	37 296001
	<i>Platycephalus bassensis</i>	Southern sand flathead	37 296003
	<i>Platycephalus caeruleopunctatus</i>	Bluespotted flathead	37 296007
	<i>Platycephalus speculator</i>	Southern bluespotted flathead	37 296037
Gemfish (east)	<i>Rexea solandri</i>	Gemfish	37 439002
Gemfish (west)	<i>Rexea solandri</i>	Gemfish	37 439002
Gummy shark	<i>Mustelus antarcticus</i>	Gummy shark	37 017001
Jackass morwong	<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>	Jackass morwong	37 377003
John dory	<i>Zeus faber</i>	John dory	37 264004
Mirror dory	<i>Zenopsis nebulosis</i>	Mirror dory	37 264003
Ocean perch	<i>Helicolenus barathri</i>	Bigeye ocean perch (offshore)	37 287093
	<i>Helicolenus percoides</i>	Reef ocean perch (inshore)	37 287001
Orange roughy (Albany and Esperance zones)	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	Orange roughy	37 255009
Orange roughy (Cascade Plateau)	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	Orange roughy	37 255009
Orange roughy (eastern)	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	Orange roughy	37 255009



Orange roughy (southern)	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	Orange roughy	37 255009
Orange roughy (western)	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	Orange roughy	37 255009
Oreo (basket)	<i>Allocyttus niger</i>	Black oreo dory	37 266005
	<i>Allocyttus verrucosus</i>	Warty oreo dory	37 266004
	<i>Neocyttus rhomboidalis</i>	Spikey oreo dory	37 266001
	<i>Neocyttus psilorhynchus</i>	Rough oreo dory	37 266006
Pink ling	<i>Genypterus blacodes</i>	Pink ling	37 228002
Redfish	<i>Centroberyx affinis</i>	Redfish	37 258003
Ribaldo cod	<i>Mora moro</i>	Ribaldo	37 224002
Royal red prawn	<i>Haliporoides sibogae</i>	Royal red prawn	28 714005
Sawshark	<i>Pristiophorus cirratus</i>	Common sawshark	37 023002
	<i>Pristiophorus nudipinnis</i>	Southern sawshark	37 023001
School shark	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	School shark	37 017008
School whiting	<i>Sillago flindersi</i>	Eastern school whiting	37 330014
Silver trevally	<i>Pseudocaranx georgianis</i>	Silver trevally	37 337062
Silver warehou	<i>Seriola punctata</i>	Silver warehou	37 445006
Smooth oreo dory	<i>Pseudocyttus maculatus</i>	Smooth oreo dory	37 266003

**Table 6: Statutory Fishing Rights (SFR) and permit information.**

Type of SFR/ Permit	Main Target Species	Methods Employed	Specific Gear Requirements	Electronic schema	Logbook	Catch Disposal Record
Scalefish Hook Boat SFR	Blue-eye trevalla, Pink ling	Demersal longline, Dropline, Trotline, Hydraulic hand-reel.	No limit on hooks if manually baiting. Scalefish Hook Boat SFR can be used in conjunction with a SESSF Auto longline Fishing Permit which allows the use of 15,000 hooks.  Hydraulic hand-reel drop lining means individual droplines which stay attached to the boat, with a maximum soak time of 90 minutes and no more than 25 hooks per individual line.	ADC_LB	LN01B	SESS2B
Auto Longline Fishing Permit	Gear permit only	Automatic longline	15,000 hook limit. This permit must be used in conjunction with a Scalefish Hook Boat SFR. Additional seabird mitigation measures are required for automatic longline fishing (see <a href="#">section 8.4.3</a> ).	ADC_LB	LN01B	SESS2B
Shark Hook Boat SFR	Gummy shark	Demersal longline	Demersal longline no limit on number of hooks in Commonwealth waters. The use of automatic baiting equipment is not permitted.	ADC_LB	LN01B	SESS2B
Gillnet Boat SFR	Gummy shark	Bottom set gillnet	<b><u>Waters relevant to states:</u></b> maximum headrope length is specified in the Coastal Waters permit (see below). <b><u>For boats with an electronic monitoring system:</u></b> headrope length is not limited in Commonwealth waters. <b><u>For boats without electronic monitoring:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>In waters adjacent to South Australia:</u> maximum permitted headrope length is 4,200 m.</li> <li>- <u>In all other Commonwealth waters:</u> maximum permitted headrope length is 6,000 m.</li> </ul> <p>The depth or 'drop' of a net must not exceed 20 meshes. Mesh size must be between 15-16.5 cm (5.9-6.5 inches) wide.</p> <p>Additional dolphin mitigation measures are required for gillnet fishing (see <a href="#">section 8.4.3</a>).</p>	ADC_GN	NT01B	SESS2B

Type of SFR/ Permit	Main Target Species	Methods Employed	Specific Gear Requirements	Electronic schema	Logbook	Catch Disposal Record
Trap Fishing Permit (Linked)	Pink ling	Fish trap	<p>Total of 100 fish traps which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are each no greater than 0.9 m high by 1.2 m wide by 1.8 m long</li> <li>- have an escape hole located on the lower portion of one side measuring at least 60 mm high by 250 mm wide</li> <li>- have only one rectangular shape entrance located on the front, measuring no greater than 250 mm wide by 460 mm high.</li> </ul>	ADC_TRA P	TR01	SESS2B
Trap Fishing Permit (Linked)	Hagfish	Fish trap	<p>Total of 100 fish traps (not to be used in NSW OCS waters) which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are each no greater than 0.9 m high by 1.2 m wide by 1.8 m long</li> <li>- have an escape hole located on the lower portion of one side measuring at least 60 mm high by 250 mm wide</li> <li>- have only one rectangular shape entrance located on the front, measuring no greater than 250 mm wide by 460 mm high.</li> </ul> <p>Or a total of 300 hagfish traps which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are each no greater than 1.0 m long;</li> <li>- have a circumference not exceeding 2.0 m;</li> <li>- have entrance holes with an outer entrance no greater than 120 mm in diameter and an inner entrance of 25 mm in diameter;</li> <li>- have a minimum of 5 escape holes per 10 L of trap capacity;</li> <li>- have escape holes with a minimum diameter of 16 mm;</li> <li>- have escape holes with a minimum diameter of 10 mm on one of the lines set; and</li> <li>- for every trip that an observer is on board, 25 per cent of traps set must have escape holes with a minimum diameter of 18 mm.</li> </ul>	ADC_TRA P	TR01	SESS2B

Type of SFR/ Permit	Main Target Species	Methods Employed	Specific Gear Requirements	Electronic schema	Logbook	Catch Disposal Record
TAS Coastal Waters Fishing Permit	Gummy shark	Demersal longline and/or gillnet	Demersal longline and/or demersal gillnet depending on permit. Hook limit of 200 or 1,000. Maximum permitted headrope length of 1,800 m, 2,100 m, 2,520 m or 4,200 m. The use of automatic baiting equipment is not permitted.  Additional dolphin mitigation (as above for Gillnet Boat SFR).	ADC_GN or ADC_LB	NT01B or LN01B	SESS2B
SA Coastal Waters Fishing Permit	Gummy shark	Demersal longline and/or Gillnet	Demersal longline and/or demersal gillnet depending on permit. Hook limit of 400. Maximum permitted headrope length of 1,800 m. The use of automatic baiting equipment is not permitted.  Additional dolphin mitigation (as above for Gillnet Boat SFR).	ADC_GN or ADC_LB	NT01B or LN01B	SESS2B
TAS Rock Lobster Fishing Permit	Gummy shark	Demersal longline and/or Gillnet	Demersal longline only. Hook limit 200 or 1,000 depending on permit (1800 for gillnet). The use of automatic baiting equipment is not permitted.	ADC_LB	LN01B	SESS2B
Gillnet to Hook Fishing Permit	Gummy shark	Demersal longline and/or automatic longline	Hook limit of 400 for South Australian Coastal Waters permits and hook limit of 5,000 for permits outside of Coastal Waters. These permits apply to waters relevant to South Australia only and, depending on the permit, must be used in conjunction with either a South Australian Coastal Waters Fishing Permit or a Gillnet Boat SFR. Please note automatic longline is only permitted in Commonwealth waters, with additional requirements in place to use the longline fishing gear, which are specified in the permit conditions and must be approved by AFMA. Automatic longline fishing gear is not permitted in South Australian Coastal Waters. Sharks and fish that are not to be retained must be manually removed before they reach the de-hooker for permits allowing the use of longline equipment.	ADC_LN	NT01B or LN01B	SESS2B

Type of SFR/ Permit	Main Target Species	Methods Employed	Specific Gear Requirements	Electronic schema	Logbook	Catch Disposal Record
SESSF Trawl Boat SFR	Tiger flathead, School whiting, Pink ling,	Mid-water trawl, Demersal otter trawl	<b>Mid-water trawl:</b> Not less than 90 mm mesh at any part of the net.	ADC_DS ADC_TW	EFT01C SWT01B	SESS2B
SESSF East Coast Deepwater Trawl Permit	Blue grenadier, Orange roughy (east)	(scalefish), Danish seine, Pair trawling	<b>Demersal Otter Trawl (prawns):</b> Not less than 40 mm and not greater than 60 mm mesh at any part of the net. <b>Demersal Otter Trawl (scalefish):</b> Mesh size in the wings and the net mouth (shoulders, belly and veranda) not less than 115 mm. A mesh size of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 90 mm single twine mesh; or</li> <li>• Double twine mesh of at least 102 mm or greater; or</li> <li>• At least 90 mm double twine mesh with one or more bycatch reduction devices</li> </ul>			
Victorian Coastal Water Permit			<b>Danish seine:</b> not less than 38 mm mesh at any part of the net, or 80 mm in the codend when targeting flathead; minimum codend length of 50 meshes; only free-flowing lifting strops may be used; no less than a 1:1 ratio (a:b) between a) the stretched circumference of the posterior body of the net and b) the stretched entrance of the codend. <b>Pair trawling:</b> Not less than 90 mm mesh at any part of the net.			

**Table 7: Trip limits for State managed species in waters relevant to Victoria.**

FINFISH (Victoria, non-trawl methods)		
Australian anchovy	No Take	
Australian salmon		
Blue sprat		
King George whiting		
Australian sardine (pilchard)		
Sprat		
Wrasse		
Barracouta	200 kg	Combined 200 kg
Leatherjackets		
Snapper	50 kg	
Striped trumpeter	20 kg	
Yellowtail kingfish	10 individuals	
FINFISH (Victoria, trawl methods)		
Snapper	200 kg. See <a href="#">AFMA / SETFIA Snapper Management Arrangement</a> for incidental catch arrangements	
CRUSTACEANS (Victoria)		
Carid prawns (Family Pandalidae)	Trip limits do not apply	
Deepwater prawn		
Prawn (Genus <i>Aristeus</i> )		
Red prawn		
Royal red prawn		
Scarlet prawn		
Eastern king prawn	No Take	
Rock lobster		
School prawns		
Giant (king) crab ( <i>Psuedocarcinus gigas</i> )	5 individuals	Combined 50kg
Shovel-nosed and slipper lobsters (Family Scyllaridae - includes bugs)	10 kg	
Other crustaceans	50 kg	
MOLLUSCS (Victoria)		
Arrow squid	Trip limits do not apply	
Red ocean squid		
Southern ocean arrow squid		
Yellowback squid		
Scallops	50 kg	
Abalone	No take	
Shells & Shellfish (Class Gastropoda)	50 kg	Combined 500 kg for trawl methods (no more than 50 kg can be from the Class Gastropoda)
Other molluscs	500 kg	

**Table 8: Trip limits for State managed species in waters relevant to South Australia.**

FINFISH (South Australia)		
Australian anchovy		No Take (for all methods)
Australian salmon/Tommy ruff		
Australian sardine (pilchard)		
Australian sprat		
Banded morwong		
Black bream		
Bluespotted goatfish		
Blue sprat		
Dusky morwong		
Grassy (rock) flathead		
King gar		
King George whiting		
Luderick		
Magpie morwong		
Sea sweep		
Snook		
Southern garfish		
Wrasse		
Yelloweye mullet		
Yellow-fin whiting		
Bastard trumpeter	20 kg	Combined 200 kg (for trawl methods)
Striped trumpeter		
Blue groper	50 kg	
Snapper#		
Mulloway	100 kg	
Yellowtail kingfish	10 individuals	
# For further restrictions, see section <a href="#">7.5.2 - South Australian Snapper</a>		
FINFISH (South Australia non-trawl)		
Bastard trumpeter	20 kg	Combined 200 kg (for methods other than trawl)
Striped trumpeter		
Blue groper	50 kg	
Snapper#		
Mulloway	100 kg	
Yellowtail kingfish	10 individuals	
Parrotfish (knifejaw)	200 kg	
Leatherjackets (black reef, chinaman & fanbelly)	200 kg	
CRUSTACEANS (South Australia)		
Carid prawns (Family Pandalidae)		Trip limits do not apply
Deepwater prawn		



Prawn (Genus <i>Aristeus</i> )		
Red prawn		
Royal red prawn		
Scarlet prawn		
All other prawns	No Take	
Rock lobster		
Shovel-nosed and slipper lobsters (Family Scyllaridae - includes bugs)	200 kg	
Giant (king) crab ( <i>Psuedocarcinus gigas</i> )	5 individuals	Combined 50 kg
Other crustaceans	50 kg	
<b>MOLLUSCS (South Australia)</b>		
Arrow squid	Trip limits do not apply	
Red ocean squid		
Southern ocean arrow squid		
Yellowback squid		
Abalone	No take	
Scallops		
Shells & Shellfish (Class Gastropoda)	50 kg	Combined 500 kg (no more than 50 kg can be from the Class Gastropoda)
Other molluscs	500 kg	

**Table 9: Trip limits for State managed species in waters relevant to Tasmania.**

FINFISH (Tasmania)		
Australian anchovy	No Take	
Australian salmon/Tommy ruff		
Australian sardine (pilchard)		
Australian sprat		
Banded morwong		
Black bream		
Bluespotted goatfish		
Blue sprat		
Dusky morwong		
Grassy (rock) flathead		
Handfish (Family Brachionichthyidae)		
King gar		
King George whiting		
Luderick		
Magpie morwong		
Mulloway		
Sea sweep		
Seahorses and pipefish (Family Sygnathidae)		
Snook		
Southern garfish		
Three finned blennies (Family Tripterygiidae)		
Wrasse		
Yelloweye mullet		
Yellow-fin whiting		
Bastard trumpeter	20 kg	
Blue groper	50 kg	
Snapper	Combined 250 kg (no more than 150 kg can be Striped trumpeter)	
Striped trumpeter		
Yellowtail kingfish		
CRUSTACEANS (Tasmania)		
Carid prawns (Family Pandalidae)	Trip limits do not apply	
Deepwater prawn		
Prawn (Genus <i>Aristeus</i> )		
Red prawn		
Royal red prawn		
Scarlet prawn		
Other prawns	No Take	
Rock lobster		
Giant (king) crab ( <i>Psuedocarcinus gigas</i> )	5 individuals	Combined 50 kg

Other crustaceans	50 kg	
<b>MOLLUSCS (Tasmania)</b>		
Arrow squid	Trip limits do not apply	
Red ocean squid		
Scallops		
Southern ocean arrow squid		
Yellowback squid		
Abalone	No take	
Limpets or keyhole limpets		
Shells & Shellfish (Class Gastropoda)	50 kg	Combined 500 kg (no more than 50 kg can be from the Class Gastropoda)
Other molluscs	500 kg	

# 1 Introduction

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This 'Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) Management Arrangements Booklet' is a guide to the management arrangements that will apply to SESSF concession holders in the 2024–25 fishing season, which runs from 01 May 2024 to 30 April 2025.

Please note that the Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector (GABTS), while part of the SESSF, has a separate management arrangements booklet titled 'Boat Operating Procedures Manual for the Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery', available on the [AFMA website](#), ('Fisheries management' – 'Fisheries' – 'Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery' – 'Fishery publications').

Further information on any of the SESSF management arrangements can be found on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries management' – 'Fisheries' – 'Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery') or by contacting one of the people listed in [Section 10](#).

## 2 Management of the fishery

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The SESSF is managed in accordance with the [Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Management Plan 2003](#) (the Management Plan). Management of the fishery is mainly through output controls, such as Total Allowable Catches (TACs), but there are some input controls, such as gear and species restrictions. A TAC is set for each quota species and certain non-quota species, and is the total catch by all concession holders that may be taken during that fishing season.

Other management arrangements used in the SESSF include trip limits, incidental catch limits, size limits, prohibited take, and spatial and temporal closures.

Currently, 34 species/species groups are managed under quota, which includes two species in the GABTS. The TACs for the 2024–25 fishing season are provided in [Table 1](#).

To fish in the SESSF, operators must hold a relevant fishing concession which provides access to an area in which to fish, method by which they are allowed to fish (boat Statutory Fishing Right (SFR) or permit); and if fishing for quota species, relevant quota holdings for that species.

The SESSF is a limited entry fishery, which means that no new fishing concessions are created and an existing concession must be obtained in order to enter the fishery. Further information on fishing concessions is provided in [Section 3](#).

Industry associations also develop and promote voluntary management measures in cooperation with AFMA. These include gear restrictions, catch limits and Codes of Conduct.

### 2.1. Sectors of the fishery

The SESSF is a multi-sector, multi-species fishery that covers almost half of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ). The area of the fishery extends south from Fraser Island in southern Queensland, around Tasmania, to Cape Leeuwin in southern Western Australia ([Attachment 3](#)). The fishery operates in both Commonwealth and State waters under different Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) arrangements with each government. Please note that Lord Howe Island and Balls Pyramid are not part of the SESSF.

The fishery comprises seven major sectors, each of which has a defined area of operation, which may (or may not) overlap with that of others (see map at [Attachment 3](#)). These sectors include the:

- Commonwealth Trawl Sector (CTS);
- East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector (ECDWTS);
- Scalefish Hook Sector;
- Shark Hook Sector;

- Shark Gillnet Sector;
- Trap Sector; and the
- GABTS.

In this booklet, the Scalefish Hook, Shark Hook, and Gillnet and Trap Sectors are collectively referred to as the Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector (GHAT). There are also smaller sectors in the SESSF, which include the South Australian, Tasmanian, and Victorian Coastal Waters (VCW) sectors. The major fishery sectors are outlined below.

An overview of the main species taken, methods employed, specific gear requirements and reporting logbooks for each sector is shown in [Table 6](#). Details of a number of spatial closures, that apply to one (or more) of the above sectors, are provided in [Attachment 4](#).

### **2.1.1. Commonwealth South East Trawl Sector**

This sector covers the area of the AFZ extending southward from Barrenjoey Headland (north of Sydney) around the New South Wales, Victorian and Tasmanian coastlines to Cape Jervis in South Australia. This sector adjoins the ECDWTS, GABTS, and the Commonwealth VCW sectors of the SESSF, and the South Tasman Rise (STR) Sector. The STR is not part of the SESSF and has been closed since 2007. Stocks in the STR are cooperatively managed between Australia and New Zealand. There is some overlap between the CTS and the GHAT.

### **2.1.2. East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector**

The ECDWTS extends in a 200 nautical mile (nm) radius around Lord Howe Island off New South Wales. All fishing methods are prohibited within 25 nm of Lord Howe Island and Ball's Pyramid, and the sector is bounded to the west by a trawl exclusion zone.

### **2.1.3. Scalefish Hook Sector**

The Scalefish Hook Sector includes all waters off South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania from 3 nm to the limit of the AFZ. It also includes waters off southern Queensland (south of Sandy Cape) and New South Wales from approximately the 4,000 m depth contour (60–80 nm from the coast) to the limit of the AFZ. Waters inside this area are managed by the respective State governments.

### **2.1.4. Shark Hook and Gillnet Sectors**

The Shark Hook and Shark Gillnet Sectors include AFZ waters from the New South Wales/Victorian border, westward to the South Australian/Western Australian border, including the waters around Tasmania. All targeted shark fishing is prohibited within Victorian Coastal Waters (i.e., within 3 nm of the coast). Shark fishing in Tasmanian Coastal Waters and South Australian Coastal Waters is managed as part of the SESSF. Coastal Waters permit holders for both South Australia and Tasmania, are able to fish out to 3 nm from the territorial sea baseline as determined by reference to the *Seas and Submerged Lands Act 1973* (currently under the *Seas and Submerged Lands (Territorial Sea Baseline) Proclamation 2016*). Coastal Waters permits do not allow fishing in the internal waters of Tasmania or South Australia.

### **2.1.5. Trap Sector**

Each trap fishing permit has different areas where fishing is authorised. Refer to individual concession conditions for further information.

### **2.1.6. Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector**

The GABTS extends from Cape Jervis in South Australia westward to Cape Leeuwin in southern Western Australia. It overlaps with gillnet and hook sectors in waters off South Australia, and is adjoined by the CTS to the east. For management arrangements in the GABTS, refer to the *Boat Operating Procedures Manual for the Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery*.

## 2.2. Consultative arrangements

### 2.2.1 Resource Assessment Groups

Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs) provide advice and recommendations to management advisory committees, AFMA management, the AFMA Commission and the AFMA Research Committee, on the status of fish stocks, substocks, species (target and non-target), fishery economics, and on the impact of fishing on the marine environment. They also consider research priorities for the fishery.

The Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Resource Assessment Group (SESSFRAG) is the key research and scientific committee for management of the SESSF. The group reviews the previous year's assessments for quota species, general research priorities for the fishery, and provides fishery wide advice. The group provides oversight and recommendations to the South East Resource Assessment Group (SERAG), Shark Resource Assessment Group (SharkRAG) and the Great Australian Bight Resource Assessment Group (GABRAG). These groups provide general recommendations on fishery related research and recommended biological catches for the following species:

**SERAG** – Alfonsino, blue-eye trevalla, blue grenadier, blue warehou, deepwater sharks, gemfish (east/west), hagfish, jackass morwong, John dory, mirror dory, ocean perch, orange roughy (all zones except Albany/Esperance), pink ling, redfish, ribaldo, royal red prawn, oreo (basket, and smooth cascade/non-cascade), school whiting, silver trevally, silver warehou, and tiger flathead.

**SharkRAG** – Gummy shark, school shark, elephantfish and saw shark

**GABRAG** – Bight redfish, deepwater flathead and orange roughy (Albany/Esperance).

### Management Advisory Committees

Management advisory committees (MACs) provide management advice to AFMA on the scientific and economic status of fish stocks, substocks, species (target and non-target species) and the impacts of fishing on the marine environment. Members are from industry, economic, conservation, state and territory governments, recreational and research fields. They provide a forum where management issues relating to a fishery are discussed and possible solutions developed.

The South East MAC (SEMAC) is the overarching committee that provides management advice to AFMA for the following fisheries:

- the SESSF (excluding the GABTS);
- the Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF); and
- the Southern Squid Jig Fishery (SSJF).

SEMAC receives scientific advice from the SESSFRAG, Squid Resource Assessment Group (SquidRAG), Small Pelagic Fishery Resource Assessment Group (SPFRAG), SERAG and the SharkRAG.

The Great Australian Bight MAC (GABMAC) provides management advice to AFMA for the GABTS, and receives scientific advice from the Great Australian Bight Resource Assessment Group (GABRAG).

## 2.3. State managed species

The OCS fisheries arrangements and associated Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) define catch limits and prohibited species for Commonwealth and State concession holders fishing in waters relevant to various jurisdictions (outlined in Tables 7–9). Commonwealth operators must hold permits to take Commonwealth managed quota species in State waters. AFMA is responsible for administering these permits – see [Section 3](#) for further information.

## 2.4. Fishing in other Commonwealth fisheries

You must hold a valid fishing concession to fish in any Commonwealth fishery. For information on requirements in other Commonwealth fisheries please contact AFMA on 1300 723 621.

## 2.5. Fishing in a State and Commonwealth fishery

Prior to fishing under the authority of multiple fishing concessions across jurisdictions on a single trip, you must seek written approval from AFMA and the other jurisdiction.

Applications must be in writing to the manager (refer to [Section 10 – Contacts](#)) of the relevant fishery, outlining the 2 concessions that you wish to use on a single trip, the proposed target species, and the gear type(s). Each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## 2.6. Fishing outside the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ)

A SESSF fishing concession does not authorise fishing outside the AFZ, such as on the high seas. To fish on the high seas, you must hold a High Seas Permit. Boats must not engage in fishing inside the AFZ and on the high seas in the same trip unless arrangements have been made with AFMA prior to the start of the trip. For further information please contact AFMA's High Seas Manager on (02) 6225 5520.

# 3 Licensing

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Fishing concessions specify the conditions under which the concession holder may fish, including the type and amount of gear allowed to be used.

To fish, you must have a fishing concession specific to the sector in which you intend to fish, nominated to a boat. When you nominate a boat SFR or permit to a boat, all concessions must be held in the same name.

## 3.1. Statutory Fishing Rights (SFRs)

In the SESSF, SFRs allow the holder to take a particular quantity of fish (quota SFR) or use a boat in the fishery (boat SFR).

SFRs can be permanently transferred or leased to another person or company. Records of these transactions are maintained by AFMA.

### 3.1.1. Quota SFRs

Quota SFRs allow a holder to take an amount of fish up to their kg limit for a particular quota species. Kilogram equivalents for each SFR are calculated prior to each fishing season ([Table 3](#)).

Currently SFRs have been granted for 28 of the 34 Quota species. Oreos, deepwater sharks and ribaldo remain as Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs). The Fisheries Management Act (The Act) requires AFMA to maintain a public register of SFRs. Some details from the registers are available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Services for fishers' – 'Concession holders') or by contacting the AFMA Licensing and Data section on 1300 723 621.

### 3.1.2. Boat SFRs

Boat SFRs allow a fisher to use a nominated boat in an area of the fishery, using the methods specified for the boat SFR. The 4 types of boat SFRs in the SESSF (excluding the GABTS) are:

- Commonwealth Trawl Boat SFR;
- Scalefish Hook Boat SFR;
- Shark Hook Boat SFR; and
- Gillnet Boat SFR.



### 3.1.3. Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs)

Oreos, deepwater sharks and ribaldo in the SESSF are managed as Individual Transferrable Quotas (ITQs); to be held in conjunction with an SEQ holding permit. Species' ITQs may be transferred or seasonally leased to other SEQ permit holders. An SEQ holding permit is only required if you intend to fish for oreos, deepwater sharks and ribaldo or hold ITQs for these species. The SEQ holding permit must be nominated to the boat to fish for these species and must be used in conjunction with another fishing concession. These permits are not transferrable.

## 3.2. Fishing permits

Fishing permits in the SESSF are granted for up to one fishing season and contain conditions the permit holder must comply with. Fishing permits are specific to a fishing sector. Permits may be granted to allow fishing activities that are not covered under the Management Plan or issued to implement new fishing conditions. Operators require permits to enter the ECDWTS and numerous Coastal Water areas.

### 3.2.1. Coastal Waters permits

Permits may be granted to allow Commonwealth operators to take Commonwealth managed quota species in Coastal Waters. These permits are as follows:

#### 3.2.1.1. South Australian Coastal Waters – Shark hook and/or gillnet

These permits allow operators to take school and gummy shark under Commonwealth quota from South Australian Coastal Waters. These waters can only be fished if the holder also holds a fishing concession issued by the State of South Australia that allows the use of the same fishing gear. In some cases, the holder may also be required to hold a Commonwealth boat SFR that authorises the use of the same gear type. Details of gear restrictions and concessions to be held are detailed in the South Australian Coastal Waters permit conditions.

All catch of species, other than school and gummy shark, must be covered by the concession issued by the State of South Australia. Scalefish and shark limits for South Australia are managed by the South Australian government. Size and daily commercial limits can be found in the Marine Scalefish User Guide at [www.pir.sa.gov.au](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au).

Please refer to [section 2.5](#) if you plan to fish in South Australian and Commonwealth waters on the same trip.

#### 3.2.1.2. Tasmanian Coastal Waters – Shark hook and/or gillnet

These permits allow operators to take school and gummy shark under Commonwealth quota from Tasmanian Coastal Waters. These waters can only be fished if the holder also holds a fishing concession issued by the State of Tasmania that allows the use of the same fishing gear. In some cases, the holder may also be required to hold a Commonwealth boat SFR that authorises the use of the same gear type. Details of gear restrictions and concessions to be held are outlined in the Tasmanian Coastal Waters permit conditions.

All catch of species, other than school and gummy shark, must be covered by the concession issued by the State of Tasmania. Scalefish and shark limits for Tasmania are managed by the Tasmanian government. Size and daily commercial limits can be found in the Operational Guide for the Commercial Scalefish Fishery at [www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au)

Please refer to [section 2.5](#) if you plan to fish in Tasmanian and Commonwealth waters on the same trip.

#### 3.2.1.3. Tasmanian Rock Lobster Zone

Tasmanian rock lobster permits allow the take of school and gummy shark under Commonwealth quota in the area of waters defined in the permit conditions.

#### 3.2.1.4. Victorian Coastal Waters – Inshore trawl

These permits allow operators to use gear authorised under a Commonwealth trawl boat SFR in Victorian Coastal Waters. Limits on species and other information can be found in the permit conditions.

#### 3.2.2. Fish receiver permits (FRPs)

All fish (quota and non-quota species) taken in the SESSF must only be unloaded to the holder of a Commonwealth Fish Receiver Permit (FRP).

FRPs are granted for 12 months upon completion of an application form and an application fee may be payable. FRPs are not transferable.

Fish receivers are required to complete the Catch Disposal Record (CDR) as per the instructions printed on the CDR, immediately upon receipt of the consignment.

#### 3.2.3. Scientific permits

Scientific permits are granted for the purpose of conducting scientific research in a specified area of the AFZ or in a specified fishery.

AFMA will only grant a scientific permit if:

- the application is made using the approved form;
- it provides sufficient information for the application to be assessed;
- the proposed activity is for a scientific research purpose; and
- it is supported by a specific scientific research project plan.

Scientific permits are granted for a maximum duration of 6 months and are not transferable.

For further information on obtaining a scientific permit you can refer to the *Fisheries Management Paper 11* available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Reporting and Accountability' – 'Fisheries management policies' – 'Scientific permits') or alternatively contact AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

#### 3.2.4. Gillnet to Hook Permits

These permits allow qualifying gillnet fishers affected by spatial closures to use hook methods to target gummy shark in waters adjacent to South Australia. Gillnet to hook permits are granted upon application only. These permits are non-transferable.

### 3.3. Where can I obtain a licensing application form?

All AFMA licensing forms are available on the [AFMA website](#) ('commercial fishers' – 'forms') or can be obtained by contacting AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

### 3.4. Transfer of a statutory fishing right or fishing permit

You may transfer SFRs and some types of fishing permits by filling out the appropriate application form and submitting it to AFMA.

AFMA must register the transfer of an SFR unless:

- the owner of the right (transferor) is being investigated for, or has been convicted of, a fisheries offence;
- the right has been suspended (including instances where the owner has requested a review of that suspension); or
- levies are due and not yet paid in full when transfer application is received.

## 4 Data collection

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Accurate and comprehensive fisheries data is important for the stock assessment and TAC setting process.

### 4.1. Logbook and Catch Disposal Records

#### 4.1.1. Electronic logbook return

Electronic logbook (e-logs) are used across all commonwealth fisheries including the SESSF for the completion and transmission of logbook returns.

E-logs must be submitted prior to the boat docking.

Concession holders and their authorised agents **must ensure they have an AFMA** user ID before they can participate in the electronic submission of logbooks. All holders or agents submitting the e-log **MUST** have their own AFMA user id and password. For further information contact AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

To submit e-logs, a concession holder will need to purchase e-log software that is certified for the fishing method and fishery. A list of the vendors who offer e-log software for Commonwealth operators is on the [AFMA website](#) ('Monitoring Tools'- 'Logbooks and elogs' – 'E-logs information – 'Getting Started').

Concession holders have access to their submitted e-log information in their GoFish account.

Further information can be obtained from the AFMA website under Services on the [AFMA website](#) ('Monitoring Tools' - 'Logbooks and elogs' – 'E-logs information' – 'Where to get help') or by contacting the AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

E-CDRs are available in the SESSF for use by operators that have an e-log system installed. To use this system, your receiver must also participate in the e-CDR program. AFMA has built a Fish Receiver portal to enable receivers to complete electronic CDRs. This program is in the testing phase and will be implemented early in the season, for more information contact AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

#### 4.1.2. Paper logbook and Catch Disposal Record (CDR) returns

Relevant information about each fishing operation and all fish taken in the SESSF must be accurately and fully recorded by the master of the boat<sup>1</sup> and submitted to AFMA. These must be completed in accordance with the general information and instructions of the relevant logbook, CDR or transit form (or their replacement/s):

- (a) for line fishing, the logbook titled 'Line Fishing Daily Fishing Log' (LN01B)
- (b) for trap fishing, the logbook titled 'Trap Fishing Daily Fishing Log' (TR01)
- (c) for gillnet fishing, the logbook titled 'Gillnet Fishing Daily Fishing Log' (NT01B)
- (d) for trawl fishing, the logbook titled 'Eastern Finfish Trawl Daily Fishing Log' (EFT01C) or for the GABTS the 'Southern and Western Finfish Trawl Daily Fishing Log' (SWT01B)
- (e) the Catch Disposal Record (CDR) titled 'Commonwealth Catch Disposal Record' (SESS2B)
- (f) the transit form titled 'Commonwealth Managed Fisheries Transit Form' in accordance with information and instructions in the CDR specified in (e) above and that transit form.

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<sup>1</sup> The person signing the Daily Fishing logbook page must be the master of the boat (skipper) at the time the recorded fishing operation takes place, this is a requirement for both paper logbooks and e-logs

A Commonwealth Managed Fisheries Transit Form is required when landing fish inside the AFZ using multiple vehicles to transport the fish to one receiver.

All interactions with Protected species must be recorded in the 'Listed Marine and Threatened Species' form at the back of the logbook and submitted with the relevant log page.

The holder must ensure the master of the boat fishing is nominated as an authorised agent for the holder before any fishing operation may take place. For further details on this requirement please read the '*Agent Obligations*' section in your SFR or permit conditions.

Operators wishing to nominate their master of the boat (skipper) as an authorised agent to complete AFMA logbooks, CDR and/or transit forms on their behalf, must complete the *authorised agent nomination form* (RA) and return it to Licensing and Data Services. Please note that **new nominations** will not take effect until AFMA has sent you written confirmation of the nomination.

Alternatively, the sole operator or their primary agent can authorise a logbook or licensing agent through GoFish. The agent they wish to authorise must already be registered with AFMA. For more information on agents and primary agents, please call AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

The original completed white copy of the **CDR** and **logsheets** are to be returned to AFMA **within 3 days** of unloading a consignment.

**Note:** Each page of the logbook and CDR is numbered and therefore any spoiled or incorrectly completed forms must be clearly marked and returned to AFMA.

For further information on logbooks, or if you require a new logbook or CDR book, please contact AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

## 4.2. Fishery observers

### 4.2.1. Observer obligations

A fishing operator **must carry an AFMA observer upon request by AFMA**. The cost of observers is generally recovered through industry levies, but some trips may be invoiced directly, including for:

- the ECDWT sector;
- the orange roughy and blue grenadier fishery during spawning seasons;
- gillnet boats in South Australia to monitor protected species interactions; and
- trips being conducted for the purpose of scientific research.

Under certain concessions in the GHAT, a fishing operator must carry an AFMA observer, unless they have an operational electronic monitoring system onboard. Further details on these requirements are provided in [section 4.3](#).

The master of the boat must provide at least 72 hours' notice to AFMA's Observer Program if an observer is required. The observer is to be supplied with adequate food and accommodation while the observer is on board during the trip. The master must:

- allow the observer access to the parts of the boat which the observer reasonably requires access to;
- allow the use of facilities;
- allow the observer to collect samples from the catch; and
- provide assistance to the observer, to the extent that is reasonably necessary for them to perform their functions.

The master is also required to give the observer the information that they reasonably ask for in relation to:

- the boat;
- its equipment; and/or
- fish taken using the boat.

Further information can be obtained by calling the Observer Manager on +61 2 6225 5344 or the Observer duty phone on 0427 496 446.

#### 4.2.2. Role of the observer

The role of an observer is to collect independent, accurate and reliable data on Commonwealth fishing operations, catches and interactions with the environment by the boat and its fishing gear.

This is achieved through:

- collection of boat activity and catch data (that is not obtainable through logbooks);
- collection of data and samples for research programs, supporting marine management and other issues relevant to environmental awareness and fisheries management; and
- observing compliance of the boat with its fishing concession.

The role of the observer is not that of a fisheries officer. Observers have no authority to direct fishing operations of the boat or act in an enforcement role. However, observers are required to report their observations, including illegal fishing activity.

### 4.3. Electronic monitoring

The AFMA electronic monitoring (e-monitoring) program uses video and sensor data to independently validate fishing operations and logbook information. Cameras only record fishing activity, and the footage is analysed to verify catch records and protected species interactions that fishers are required to report in daily logbooks.

E-monitoring has been a requirement in the GHAT since 2015. All boats fishing full time with demersal gillnet and longlines are required to have an AFMA approved operational e-monitoring system as per the [E-Monitoring \(Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery\) Direction 2021](#). For the purposes of e-monitoring, a boat in the GHAT is considered full time and is required to have an operational e-monitoring system while fishing if it meets the following criteria:

- fishing with **gillnets** for 50 or more days in the current or previous fishing season;
- fishing with **automatically baited demersal longlines** for 50 or more days in the current or previous fishing season; or
- fishing with **manually baited demersal longlines** for 100 or more days in the current or previous fishing season.

In addition to the above, boats operating under certain concessions in the GHAT are also required to have an operational e-monitoring system while fishing, if it is operating in the following manner:

- Fishing using **any combination** of gillnets, automatically baited longlines, manually baited longlines and droplines for 100 or more days in the current fishing season.
- Fishing with **droplines** for 100 or more days in the current or previous fishing season.
- Fishing with **gillnets** in the Australian Sea Lion Management Zone, unless the boat is carrying an observer.
- Fishing with **gillnets** using > 4,200 m headrope length in South Australian waters; or > 6,000 m in all other waters.

- **Shark hook boats** and **Tasmanian rock lobster boats** fishing in the following closures, unless carrying an observer: Murray Dogfish Closure, Murray Commonwealth Marine Reserve Closures, Freycinet Commonwealth Marine Reserve Closure, Barcoo and Taupo Seamount's Closure, Queensland and Britannia Seamount's Closure or the Gillnet Deepwater Closure.
- **Scalefish hook boats** fishing in the following closures, unless carrying an observer: Murray Dogfish Closure, Murray Commonwealth Marine Reserve Closures, Freycinet Commonwealth Marine Reserve Closure, Barcoo and Taupo Seamount's Closure or the Queensland and Britannia Seamount's Closure.
- or operates in another fishery (Small Pelagic Fishery or the longline sector of the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery) that has a requirement to install and operate an e-monitoring system.

To confirm whether these requirements apply to you, please refer to your concession conditions for details.

### **Maintaining the system**

You must maintain the system in good working order which means:

- performing regular function testing;
- reporting technical issues or damage to Archipelago Asia Pacific (AAP) as soon as practical;
- cleaning camera lenses regularly to make sure there is a clear field of view at all times; and
- ensuring views of catch handling and gear deployment are unobstructed and well-lit.

***It is an offence to tamper with any e-monitoring equipment or data.***

#### **4.3.1. Data drives**

You must:

- return your data drive to AFMA (even if it is not full) on the first landing of every month, using prepaid envelopes provided by AAP;
- replace your drive before the end of the month when it is 80 per cent full; and
- always keep a spare data drive on the boat.

If you haven't been fishing in the current month and there is no footage on your data drive, you do not need to send the drive to AFMA. However, if there is ANY footage on the drive it needs to be returned to AFMA by the end of this month.

AAP will send you new data drives and pre-paid envelopes to return your data drives. It is your responsibility to keep your address updated by filling out the 'vessel nomination for electronic monitoring' form provided to you by AAP.

Full details of the e-monitoring program including qualification criteria, auditing rates, data management, privacy and operational requirements are included in the 'Australian Fisheries Management Authority Electronic Monitoring Program - Program Overview 2020' document; available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – 'Monitoring Tools' – 'Electronic monitoring program').

System installation and servicing support, as well as data drive exchange and analysis are managed by the AFMA contractor, AAP. AAP has produced a system manual that is provided to all concession holders.



If you have operational and service questions about your e-monitoring system, please contact AAP on 02 6162 1192 or at [service@archipelago-ap.com.au](mailto:service@archipelago-ap.com.au).

For questions about the e-monitoring program and AFMA management, please contact the EM manager on 02 6225 5477.

#### 4.4. Shark Industry Data Collection (SIDaC) Program

In 2015, AFMA replaced onboard observers with a mandatory e-monitoring program in the GHAT. E-monitoring is not currently used to collect biological data (size, age, sex) or shot data that are required for stock assessments. In November 2018, AFMA engaged the Southern Shark Industry Alliance (SSIA) to collect biological data from gummy shark, school shark, ribaldo, pink ling and blue eye trevalla. The Shark Industry Data Collection (SIDaC) Program continues long term data records, previously supplied by the AFMA observer program. The SIDaC Program relies on industry participation to provide samples.

If you would like to participate in the SIDaC Program, or would like more information, please contact the SIDaC Program Manager, Ross Bromley ([ross@atlantisfcg.com](mailto:ross@atlantisfcg.com) or 0419 572 245).

## 5 Processing requirements

### 5.1. Processing at sea

Section 53 of the Management Plan imposes a general ‘no processing at sea’ condition on all fishing concessions in the fishery. This means that all fish must be landed whole or gilled, headed and gutted. Landing of sharks and rays must be in accordance with the processing standards specified within the boat SFR or permit conditions; or provisions of the [Fisheries Management Regulations 2019](#) and as described in [Table 10](#). However, further processing (i.e. filleting) at sea may be authorised in writing by AFMA.

**Table 10: Processing and landing requirements for shark species caught in the SESSF.**

(✓ may be removed, X must not be removed, \*Tail tip may be cut off at sub terminal notch).

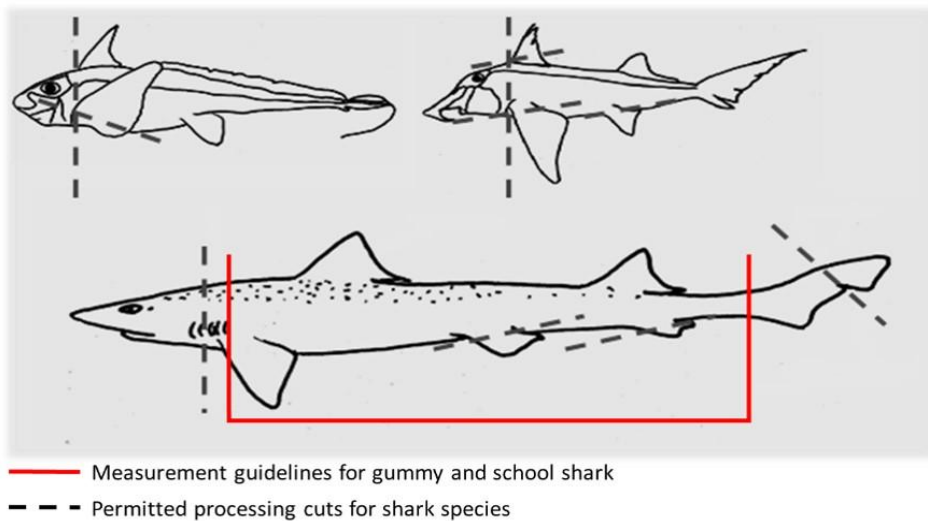
Species	Head	Belly Flaps	Pectoral Fins	Dorsal Fins	Caudal Fin	Pelvic Fins	Claspers
Sharks	✓	✓	X	X	X*	✓	✓
Angel sharks	✓	✓	✓	X	X*	✓	✓
Banjo sharks	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓
Dogfish (Family <i>Squalidae</i> excluding deepwater species below)	✓	✓	✓	X	X*	✓	✓
Chimeras (Elephantfish)	✓	✓	✓	X (first dorsal may be removed)	X	✓	✓

In addition to the requirements above, the following conditions apply to the processing and landing of fish as detailed on relevant boat SFRs or permits:

- shark finning is NOT permitted. Fins specified above must be landed attached to the carcass;



- the following species of deepwater dogfish must not be retained - Harrison's dogfish (*Centrophorus harrissoni*), endeavour dogfish (*C. moluccensis*), southern dogfish (*C. zeehaani*) and greeneye spurdog (*Squalus chloroculus*);
- landing shark livers without a carcass is not permitted. Livers may be landed separate from carcass but must be landed when the carcass is landed;
- gummy and school shark must be at least 45 cm in length when measured from the rearmost gill slit to the ventral insertion of the caudal fin (see [Figure 1](#));
- if any school shark are taken alive, they must be returned to the water alive;
- carrying, retaining or landing flathead less than 28 cm in length when measured from the point of the snout to the tip of the tail is prohibited; and
- skates and rays (including banjo shark) must not be skinned or filleted prior to the fish being landed and received by a receiver.



**Figure 1: Guidelines for measuring and processing shark**

## 5.2. Converting processed scalefish and shark weight to a whole weight

To calculate the catch weights deducted from quota after a trip, the weights of any processed scalefish and shark are converted to a 'whole weight equivalent'. To do this, the weights of the fish/shark are multiplied by the conversion factor in the relevant column in Tables [11](#) & [12](#).

**Table 11: Scalefish conversion factors.**

Species	Dressed	Filleted	Gilled and Guttled	Guttled	Headed and Guttled	Headed
Alfonsino	1.95	2.30	1.10	-	1.40	-
Bight redfish	-	2.50	1.10	1.10	1.50	-
Blue-eye trevalla	1.70	2.30	1.10	1.10	1.40	1.10
Blue grenadier	1.68	2.10	1.10	1.10	1.50	1.10
Blue warehou	-	2.50	1.10	1.10	1.50	-
Deepwater flathead	-	2.50	1.10	1.10	1.50	-
Flathead	-	2.50	1.10	1.10	1.50	-
Gemfish (eastern and western)	1.55	2.00	1.10	1.10	1.25	1.15
Jackass morwong	1.55	2.50	1.10	1.10	1.50	1.15
John dory	-	2.60	1.10	1.10	1.50	-
Mirror dory	1.80	2.50	1.10	1.10	1.50	-
Ocean perch	2.35	2.50	1.10	1.10	1.50	-
Orange roughy (all sectors)	2.00	4.00	1.10	1.10	2.00	-
Oreodory	2.25	2.50	1.10	1.10	2.20	-
Pink ling	1.80	2.10	1.10	1.10	1.50	1.10
Redfish	-	2.50	1.10	1.10	1.50	-
Ribaldo	1.50	2.50	1.10	1.10	1.50	-
School whiting	-	2.50	1.10	1.10	1.50	-
Silver trevally	-	2.50	1.10	1.10	1.50	-
Silver warehou	1.70	2.50	1.10	1.10	1.50	-
Smooth oreodory (Cascade)	2.25	-	-	-	2.20	-
Smooth oreodory (other)	2.25	-	-	-	2.20	-

Further conversion factors for gemfish (eastern and western) and ribaldo are provided in the concession conditions.

**Table 12: Shark conversion factors**

Species	Trunked	Trunked (fins removed)	Filleted	Finned	Gutted
Deepwater Shark (eastern and western)	1.00	-	-	1.13	-
Elephantfish	-	1.13	-	-	1.00
Gummy Shark	1.00	1.08	1.32	-	-
Saw Shark	1.00	1.13	-	-	-
School Shark	1.00	1.08	1.30	-	-

## 6 Quota management

### 6.1. 28-day quota reconciliation process

You have 28 days from the date of landing to cover catch with quota. During this 28-day period you can still fish. If you go further over quota during the 28-day period, the subsequent amount of overcatch must be reconciled within 28 days from when it is landed. That is, you have 28 days from the date of each specific landing to cover the catch from that specific landing with quota.

If you are still over quota after the 28-day period for each landing, you will be subject to compliance action. You must keep track of your catch and quota and ensure that you reconcile catch with quota prior to the due date. The only over-quota notification you will receive from AFMA is via GoFish.

If you are not able to reconcile your over-quota amount within 28 days, please submit your exceptional circumstance reasons to AFMA's Licensing and Data Section before the due date. This information will be considered by compliance in determining the enforcement action taken. Further information on quota reconciliation can be obtained from the [AFMA website](#) ('Services for fishers' – '28-day within season quota reconciliation').

Please see below for an example of a 28-day quota reconciliation.

- 1 May – operator lands 2 t of flathead above their quota entitlements.  
Operator can still fish but has until 29 May to buy/lease sufficient flathead quota to cover the 2 t overcatch.
- 10 May – the operator lands an additional one t of flathead.  
Operator can still fish, provided the initial 2 t overcatch of flathead quota is reconciled by 29 May.
- Operator has until 7 June (28 days from 10 May) to secure a further one t of flathead quota.

If the operator fails to reconcile catches after 28 days:

- AFMA Fisheries Officer issues an order to the nominated boat to return to port and the fishing concession may be suspended.
- The relevant concession(s) may be suspended for a period of 30 days.

Operators are responsible for monitoring their own catch and quota holdings. The only over-quota notification you will receive from AFMA is via GoFish. When you log on to GoFish and you have

triggered a 28-day reconciliation period by being over-quota, for one or more species, a screen will appear, much like Figure 2 overleaf. You will be required to acknowledge the screen before you can proceed to any other area within GoFish.

If you are not already registered for GoFish, you can do so by completing the appropriate application form. Please call AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621 or see the [AFMA website](#) ('Services for Fishers' – GoFish Help).



Figure 2: GoFish Over-quota acknowledgement message

## 6.2. Overcatch and undercatch

### 6.2.1. Overcatch

Overcatch is when you catch more than the quota allocated to your quota SFR for a particular species, in a given fishing season. If a percentage of overcatch has been set by AFMA for that particular species, AFMA will subtract this excess catch from your quota allocation for that species in the following season. Overcatch allows AFMA to avoid pursuing operators who exceed their entitlements by small amounts. There is no overcatch allowance for some quota species in the 2024–25 fishing season (See [Table 1](#)).

### 6.2.2. Undercatch

Undercatch is when you catch less than the quota allocated to your quota SFR for a particular species in a season. When undercatch occurs, you can carry over a percentage of undercatch kgs to use in the next season. If a percentage of undercatch has been set by AFMA for that particular species, this is the maximum amount of uncaught quota that you will be allowed to carry over to the next season. **Undercatch is non-transferable.** There is no undercatch allowance for some quota species for the 2024–25 fishing season (See [Table 1](#)).

### 6.2.3. Determined amounts

The AFMA Commission has set a 'determined weight' of 2,000 kg for the 2024–25 season. Determined weight allows you to take an additional 2,000 kg, in excess of the 10 per cent overcatch, without being prosecuted. However, the additional 2,000 kg is decremented against your quota allocation in the subsequent season at twice the rate (i.e., if 2,000 kg in excess was taken, 4,000 kg would be decremented in the subsequent season).

#### 6.2.3.1. Overcatch and determined weight example

If you hold 100,000 kg of flathead quota in the current season and go over your quota holdings by up to 112,000 kg at the end of the season, you are entitled to use:

- overcatch of up to 10,000 kg (10 per cent of your quota holdings) – which is deducted in the following season; and
- determined weight of up to 2,000 kg – which is deducted at twice the rate in the following season.

Therefore a total of 14,000 kg would be deducted from your quota in the following season ([10% x 100,000 kg = 10,000 kg overcatch] + [2 x 2,000 kg = 4,000 kg determined weight]).

Any catch in excess of the overcatch percentage and determined amount would be an offence and will be subject to compliance action.

### 6.3. Quota deduction

Quota is deducted from your total quota allocation using the verified weights detailed on Part C of the CDR (GAB2C, SESS2B, or via electronic CDRs) from the fish receiver. The holder or authorised agent must forward Part B of the CDR to AFMA and the fish receiver must send Part C of the CDR to AFMA within 3 calendar days. If no Part C is available for a given fishing trip, AFMA will use the information provided on Part B of the CDR (your accurate estimate catch weight) for a given quota species as an interim weight until the Part C has been received from the fish receiver.

Please note that you must record the form of landed fish (e.g. whole) and include all the quota species on your CDR. Quota species must not be recorded as mixed fish.

### 6.4. Keeping track of your quota

#### 6.4.1. Quota transaction statements

You can obtain a free Quota Holding and catch Summary (QHS) or Quota Transaction Statement (QTS), through GoFish. Alternatively, you can contact AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621 to obtain the statements for a fee.

#### 6.4.2. GoFish

You can use GoFish for:

- updating contact information;
- viewing, exporting and printing QHSs and QTSs;
- quota reconciliation statement (Report for continuous 28 day reconciliation – the statement is located in GoFish under Documents);
- leasing or permanent transfers (if authorised) of quota SFRs, boat SFRs and permits (if transferable);
- nomination and denomination of boat SFRs, Quota SFRs and permits;
- online renewal of permits (this function allows you to renew your permits online from 2 weeks prior to the permit expiring);
- receiving all your correspondence from AFMA via GoFish if you have 'Opted In' to receiving it electronically;
- submitting applications online for permits such as FRP, ITQ holding permit; and
- clients accessing their submitted e-log information in their GoFish account.

On the GoFish logon screen there is a function 'New User' which allows a person to sign up to use GoFish. **NOTE:** this function is only to give a new or existing client a GoFish logon, it does not negate the requirement to further authorise a person as an agent.

Fish Receiver Portal is available through GoFish–. This allows a fish receiver to record the accurate information from your unload online. The receiver can only use this system if the boat has a current e-logs system and the fisher has submitted their part of the e-CDR first. More information can be obtained from Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

### 6.4.3. Instructions on how to get access to GoFish

Information for GoFish is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Services for Fishers' – 'GoFish Help') or from AFMA Licensing and Data Services area on 1300 723 621.

Organisations (including companies and partnerships) need to complete an RA form to authorise an individual (or individuals) as an agent to act on their behalf when using GoFish or e-logs.

Some individual concession holders and agents may need to complete an AGR form for registration to gain access to the GoFish or e-log system. Please check with AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

## 6.5. Balancing process and important dates for end of the 2023–24 fishing season

- **16 April 2024** – Permanent transfers will cease for the 2023–24 fishing season.
- **17 April 2024** – the 2024–25 fishing season will be opened for trading.
- **17 April 2024** – permits for the 2024–25 fishing season will be available for renewal on GoFish.
- **30 April 2024** – is the end of the 2023–24 fishing season.
- **12 May 2024** – you must have sent in all 2023–24 CDRs prior to this date. AFMA will then generate a final QTS for 2023–24. If, upon checking of the final QTS you feel that there is a discrepancy in the figures you should contact AFMA immediately to rectify the issue.
- **28 May 2024** – all trading for the 2023–24 season, including that to cover any over quota status, closes. Once this date has passed, AFMA will close off the 2023–24 season and conduct the over catch/under catch process.
- **03 June 2024** – undercatch and overcatch is calculated by AFMA and a report is produced for concession holders.

Overcatch - on 01 June 2024, you must hold enough quota for each species in the 2024–25 season to cover any overcatch in the 2023–24 season (including catches for the new season).

## 6.6. Balancing process and important dates for 2024–25 fishing season

The 2024–25 fishing season will be for 12 months from 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025.

- **1 May 2024** – is the start of the 2024-25 fishing season

Continuous 28 day reconciliation will again be in force during the 2024–25 fishing season

- **28 March 2024** – TACs finalised for 2024-25 fishing season.
- **16 April 2024** – Permanent transfers will cease for the 2023–24 fishing season.
- **17 April 2024** – The 2024–25 season will be opened for trading.
- **30 April 2024** – Is the end of the 2023–24 fishing season.
- **12 May 2024** – you must have sent in all 2023–24 CDRs and AFMA will generate a final QTS for 2023–24. If, upon checking of the final QTS, you feel that there is a discrepancy in the figures, you should contact AFMA immediately to rectify the issue. If you are in an over-quota position, you must balance all your excess catches of quota species by leasing or transferring in 2023–24 uncaught quota. You will need to lease or transfer sufficient 2023–24 uncaught quota to reduce your overcatch to the allowable overcatch percentage applicable to that species.

- **28 May 2024** – all trading for the 2023–24 season, including that to cover any over quota status, closes. Once this date has passed, AFMA will close off the 2023–24 season and conduct the overcatch/undercatch process.
- **03 June 2024** – undercatch and overcatch is calculated by AFMA and a report is produced for concession holders.

Overcatch – on 03 June 2024, you must hold enough quota for each species in the 2024–25 season to cover any overcatch in the 2023–24 season (including catches for the new season).

## 6.7. End of season CDRs

**Note:** Please annotate the final CDR for the season as the ‘last trip for 2023–24’. For leases or transfers, you are requested to annotate the documentation with the season to which the transaction will apply.

If you are fishing during the transition between seasons, you must complete upon landing, a separate CDR for the catch taken in each season. For example; you have taken a total of 96 kg Flathead in the trip, you must complete a CDR for the 2023–24 season portion of the 96 kg (for example 32 kg) and another CDR for the 2024–25 balance of flathead taken (in this example that would be 64 kg).

## 6.8. School shark balancing obligations in the shark sector

Holders of a Shark Hook Boat SFR concession, Gillnet Boat SFR concession, South Australian Coastal Waters Fishing Permit, Tasmanian Coastal Waters Fishing Permit, Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishing Permit or Gillnet to Hook Fishing Permit must not take school shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) unless:

- (a) the holder holds 5 times more gummy shark (*Mustelus antarcticus*) quota (caught and uncaught) than the amount of school shark that the holder has taken; or
- (b) at the end of the:
  - i. **first period**, the holder has taken less than 250 kg of school shark (trunked weight) in that period.
  - ii. **second period**, the holder has taken less than 500 kg of school shark (trunked weight) in that period.
  - iii. **third period**, the holder has taken less than 750 kg of school shark (trunked weight) in that period.
  - iv. **fourth period**, the holder has taken less than 1000 kg of school shark (trunked weight) in that period.

The important dates to remember for school shark quota and catch balancing are:

- **1 May 2024 to last Friday in July 2024 (first period)** – Final day to reconcile the first period, 12 August 2024.
- **1 May 2024 to last Friday in October 2024 (second period)** – Final day to reconcile the second period, 11 November 2024.
- **1 May 2024 to last Thursday in January 2025 (third period)** – Final day to reconcile third period, 14 February 2025.
- **1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025 (fourth period)** – Final day to reconcile the fourth and final period for a fishing season, 28 May 2025.

Example: If, at the end of the first period the person has taken 600 kg of school shark, the holder must hold at least 3 t of gummy shark quota (600 kg x 5) on the final reconciliation date, which is 12 Aug 2024.



## 6.9. Annual management and research levies

Operators who own fishing concessions that attract a levy will receive three separate invoices. Each invoice will be one third of the total annual levy amount payable on the fishing concessions you own on the day of invoicing. Levy invoices are issued in January, March and May every year.

**Note: Levies are issued by financial year, not fishing season.**

### 6.9.1. How to pay your levies

You can make your payments by BPAY, direct deposit to the National Australia Bank, or by credit card (by sending in your card details or calling AFMA direct). All account details, biller code and contact details are included on the payment options page of your levy invoice. Please include the associated reference (invoice) number with your payment so AFMA can ensure your payment is attributed correctly.

**It is important to note that while cheques are still accepted, the Australian Government is making changes to payment systems which will include winding back the use of cheques. If you currently use cheques to pay your levies and licensing fees, it would be advisable to get familiar with the electronic payment alternatives AFMA offers.**

### 6.9.2. Need more time to pay your levies?

A concession holder can request to enter into an arrangement to pay an overdue levy. To request an arrangement to pay, a concession holder must contact AFMA as soon as possible on 1300 723 621 to discuss payment options. There are fees and conditions attached to entering into an arrangement and unpaid amounts attract the penalty charge of 20 per cent annually. AFMA will suspend and may cancel fishing concessions if a levy remains unpaid and an arrangement has not been entered into.

For further information on levies, including invoice issue and due dates, please refer to the AFMA Levy Arrangements Guide for the year, available on the [AFMA website](#).

## 7 Species specific management arrangements

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### 7.1. Rebuilding Strategies

Some commercial species are currently considered overfished in the SESSF and are managed under a stock rebuilding strategy. Whilst an incidental catch TAC may still be set for these species, they are not to be targeted and industry must work to reduce bycatch as much as possible to ensure that these species rebuild within the required timeframe.

AFMA has developed stock rebuilding strategies to manage and monitor the recovery of orange roughy, redfish, eastern gemfish, school shark, and blue warehou. The objective of stock rebuilding strategies is to rebuild these species within the area of the SESSF to 20 per cent of unfished levels within biologically reasonable timeframes.

The commercial fish species stock rebuilding strategies are available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' - 'Management Tools' - 'Rebuilding Strategies').

#### 7.1.1. Orange roughy

The stock structure of orange roughy in Australian waters is uncertain. Genetically similar stocks can be demographically separate and may require separate management. Therefore, orange roughy is managed as nine zones in the SESSF (Maps at Attachment 4.5).

1. Eastern Zone (CTS)
2. Cascade Plateau (CTS)
3. Southern Zone (CTS)
4. Western Zone (CTS)
5. Southern Remote Zone (CTS)



6. North-eastern Remote Zone (CTS)
7. STR (CTS)
8. East Coast Deepwater Trawl Zone (CTS)
9. Great Australian Bight Trawl (GABT): far west, west, central west, central east, east.

#### 7.1.1.1. Eastern zone

In 2024–25, the eastern zone will be subject to a TAC of 879 t. Overcatch provision for the eastern zone has been set at 10 per cent, which is consistent with other commercially targeted species.

Undercatch for the eastern zone has been set at 100 per cent to remove the incentive for a concession holder to conduct trawl shots when only a small amount of their quota holdings remain. This reduces the risk of obtaining catches of orange roughy on aggregations that exceed quota holdings.

#### 7.1.1.2. Southern Zone

In 2024–25, the southern zone will be subject to a TAC of 98 t, of which 67 t can be commercially targeted in the Pedra Branca Orange Roughy Management Area (ORMA). The remaining 31 t applies to the rest of the zone for incidental catches.

A current stock assessment for the southern zone of the fishery is not available (with the exception of the Pedra Branca ORMA), and the stock is managed as a rebuilding species. Consequently, undercatch/overcatch provisions will not apply.

#### 7.1.1.3. Western Zone

AFMA and SETFIA have developed a Western Orange Roughy Research Plan (WORRP). Fishing in the WORRP will recommence for a fourth season in the 2024–25 fishing season, with fishing starting in May. The objective of the WORRP is to collect appropriate data, including age, size structure, catch and effort data, which may provide information on the status of the western orange roughy stock and inform future stock assessments. A stock assessment will help inform management decisions regarding when commercial fishing for western orange roughy can resume and to determine a sustainable level of fishing under the SESSF Harvest Strategy.

Under the WORRP, operators can apply for a scientific permit to participate in the program. The program will be managed under AFMA's co-management arrangement with SETFIA and successful applicants will be granted access to a specified Research Catch Allowance, to be set annually, as part of their scientific permit. The research plan is an industry-led data collection program and thus, the cost of collecting data under the research plan has not been included in the AFMA levy base. To find out more, contact Simon Boag (SETFIA) on 0428 141 591 or visit the AFMA website [www.afma.gov.au](http://www.afma.gov.au).

#### 7.1.1.4. Management Arrangements in Eastern and Southern ORMA

AFMA has developed specific management arrangements for the eastern ORMA (in the Eastern Zone) and the Pedra Branca ORMA (Southern Zone). These arrangements provide for sustainable commercial fishing in these areas and maximises flexibility for operators.

During the period 1 June to 31 August each year, a boat nominated to the concession must carry an observer for the first 3 trips in the ORMA and every second trip thereafter. Where a master (skipper) has had 3 consecutive trips with observer coverage in the previous season without records of discards exceeding 500 kg in any shot, observer coverage will only be required on the first trip and every second trip thereafter.

The cost of carrying an observer will be covered under the levy base until data collection targets under the Integrated Scientific Monitoring Program (ISMP) are met. All trips thereafter will be directly recovered from the operator.

Minimum quota holdings for fishing in ORMAs

The minimum quota holdings for fishing in the Eastern Orange Roughy Management Area 1 June – 31 August 2024:

- to enter the area and begin fishing – 30 t; and
- to remain in the area and complete further shots – 2.5 t

The minimum quota holdings for fishing in the Pedra Branca Orange Roughy Management Area 1 June – 31 August 2024:

- to enter the area and begin fishing – 10 t; and
- to remain in the area and complete further shots – 500 kg.

### 7.1.2. Blue warehou

Targeted fishing for blue warehou (*Seriolella brama*) is prohibited and a bycatch TAC is set annually to cover incidental catches only.

A move-on provision was introduced for trawlers in the 2019–20 season to reduce the risk of large catches of blue warehou and remains in place for the current 2024-25 season. If an operator catches more than 200 kgs of blue warehou in any shot (retained or discarded), the operator must not fish within 3 nautical miles of any point in which the fishing gear was in the water, between setting and hauling, for a period of 24 hours. AFMA will continue working with SETFIA to ensure industry has ongoing awareness of this requirement while reviewing catch data and analysing targeting behaviour.

### 7.1.3. Redfish

Targeted fishing for redfish is prohibited and a bycatch TAC is set annually to cover incidental catches only.

### 7.1.4. Eastern gemfish

Targeted fishing for eastern gemfish is prohibited and a bycatch TAC is set annually to cover incidental catches only.

**Note:** Operators are no longer required to pre-report landings of eastern gemfish. AFMA observers will be deployed as part of the standard ISMP program to collect biological information.

**Please refer to your licence conditions for specific reporting requirements.**

### 7.1.5. School shark

School shark is managed under the School Shark Stock Rebuilding Strategy. Under the School Shark Rebuilding Strategy, targeted fishing for school shark is not permitted. The incidental catch TAC is determined annually to cover unavoidable bycatch only.

To ensure school shark is not targeted, a catch ratio of school shark to gummy shark was implemented in the 2011–12 season. The catch ratio rule means that a gillnet or shark hook operator (holders of a Shark Hook Boat SFR concession, Gillnet Boat SFR concession, South Australian Coastal Waters Fishing Permit, Tasmanian Coastal Waters Fishing Permit, Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishing Permit or Gillnet to Hook Fishing Permit) cannot catch an amount of school shark that exceeds 20 per cent of their gummy shark quota holdings.

In addition, holders of a Scaefish Hook Boat SFR concession are not permitted to take school shark and gummy shark in excess of 100 kg combined weight per trip. This condition does not apply if the boat is also nominated to an Automatic Longline Fishing Permit, Gillnet to Hook Fishing Permit, or Shark Hook Boat SFR concession.

All school shark caught alive must be returned to the water alive. This is included as a condition on your fishing concession and applies to all methods in the SESSF. Any school shark that has been returned to the water (discarded) must be reported in your daily fishing logbooks or equivalent e-

log. Fishers are now able to include the animal life status and reason for discard when recording discarded school shark. All retained dead school shark must be reported.

A copy of the School Shark Stock Rebuilding Strategy is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – 'Management tools' – 'Rebuilding strategies – 'School Shark Rebuilding Strategy').

A full review of the Strategy will be completed following an updated stock assessment, which is expected in 2025 and other relevant research. Concession holders will be advised if there are any changes to management arrangements resulting from the review.

Any queries regarding school shark should be directed to the GHAT Manager on 02 6225 5555.

### **7.1.6. Jackass morwong**

Targeted fishing of jackass morwong is prohibited, and a bycatch TAC is set annually to cover incidental catches only. AFMA will work to commence development of a formal rebuilding strategy.

### **7.1.7. John dory**

Targeted fishing of john dory is prohibited, and a bycatch TAC is set annually to cover incidental catches only. AFMA will work to commence development of a formal rebuilding strategy.

## **7.2. Upper-Slope Dogfish Management Strategy**

The Upper-Slope Dogfish Management Strategy primarily aims to promote the recovery of Harrison's dogfish (*Centrophorus harrissoni*) and southern dogfish (*C. zeehaani*). The following is a summary of the management arrangements that apply under the Upper-Slope Dogfish Management Strategy:

- a network of spatial closures. Indicative maps are provided in [Attachment 4](#);
- 100 per cent monitoring through AFMA approved methods (e-monitoring or observer) where permitted fishing occurs in closures;
- a combined trigger limit of 3 Harrison's dogfish and/or southern dogfish when undertaking permitted fishing in closures, resulting in a ban from fishing under that concession in the closure area for a period of 12 months. This trigger limit does not apply to the hydraulic hand-reel droplining method;
- a zero retention for Harrison's dogfish, southern dogfish, endeavour dogfish (*C. moluccensis*) and greeneye spurdog (*Squalus chloroculus*); and
- careful handling of sharks to maximise post-capture survivorship of hook caught animals.

The above measures are implemented via the Fisheries Management (SESSF and SPF Closures) Direction 2021 and license conditions.

A copy of the Upper Slope Dogfish Management Strategy is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – 'Management Tools' – 'Rebuilding Strategies' - 'Upper Slope Dogfish Management Strategy').

A review of the Upper-Slope Dogfish Management Strategy was completed in 2022 with no substantive changes required. To inform the review, AFMA sought advice from scientific experts, SEMAC and the public. Further research is underway to inform a baseline from which to measure recovery of the stocks. Concession holders will be advised if there are any changes to management arrangements.

### **Important – Dogfish identification**

The correct identification and reporting of these species is critical to management. If you catch these species, please take care to identify them correctly, using the gulper shark identification key

([Attachment 5](#)) and/or the ‘Deepwater shark and skate identification guide’, and report the catches correctly in your logbooks.

A copy of the ‘Deepwater shark and skate identification guide for commercial fishers in southern Australia’ is available on the [AFMA website](#) (‘Fisheries management’ – ‘Species’ – ‘Deepwater sharks’).

### 7.3. Deepwater shark area

The Western Deepwater Shark Area (Schedule 38 of the [Fisheries Management \(SESSF and SPF Closures\) Direction 2021](#)) was opened to improve the economic efficiency of fishers targeting the deepwater shark (basket) quota species in the west. An orange roughy (western) trigger limit (25 t) is implemented for all methods in this area to ensure that rebuilding of orange roughy (western) is not negatively impacted. If this limit is reached, the deepwater shark area will close to trawl methods for the remainder of the season. All catches of orange roughy in this area must be covered with quota.

### 7.4. Pink ling (eastern)

Pink ling will be managed under a global (east and west) TAC of 1,533 t for the 2024–25 season. Within this TAC, no more than 441 t can be taken east of Longitude 147° East.

To ensure catches of eastern pink ling remain within the nominal eastern catch limit for the 2024–25 season operators will be subject to a 200 kg trip limit for pink ling when fishing east of Longitude 147° East, unless they opt to limit their catch under an arrangement with SETFIA described below.

#### SETFIA Commitment Boats

Operators can commit to catch a limited amount of eastern pink ling during the 2024–25 season, with the commitments to be managed by SETFIA. AFMA have engaged SETFIA to provide this service under a co-management arrangement.

All operators who wish to participate in SETFIA arrangements for the 2024–25 season (including those who committed to this arrangement in the previous 2023–24 season), must contact Mr Simon Boag (SETFIA) at [simonboag@setfia.org.au](mailto:simonboag@setfia.org.au) or 0428 141 591 prior to 1 May 2024.

### 7.5. Snapper

#### 7.5.1. AFMA/SETFIA Management Arrangement

AFMA and SETFIA are continuing the arrangement for the management of snapper caught by Commonwealth trawl boat concession holders in waters relevant to Victoria (i.e., snapper caught in the eastern and western zones, or landed in a Victorian port). The aim is to allow incidental catches of snapper, in waters relevant to Victoria, in excess of the 200 kg trip limit, to be landed instead of discarded without creating incentives to target snapper. The 200 kg trip limit will continue to apply to waters around Port Phillip Heads (central zone).

SETFIA administers the arrangement and will:

- in exceptional circumstances, approve snapper landings of incidental catches in excess of 200 kg per trip in the eastern and western zone; if the following conditions are met:
  - proposed landings of incidental snapper catches greater than 200 kg are reported to SETFIA prior to landing; including information on the port of landing and position and circumstances of the shot(s); and
  - SETFIA is satisfied the boat has complied with the ‘SETFIA Snapper Code of Conduct’.

- ensure that all applications made by operators will be treated equally irrespective of whether the applicant is a member of SETFIA or not;
- ensure accurate records are kept;
- advise AFMA by email of approvals prior to the boat arriving in port; and
- advise AFMA in writing of all applications under this arrangement, irrespective of whether approval is granted or not.

Snapper catches greater than 200 kg must be reported to AFMA ([snapperreports@afma.gov.au](mailto:snapperreports@afma.gov.au)) with details prior to each landing. Trawl operators should read the attached SETFIA Snapper Code of Conduct ([Attachment 6](#)) and direct any inquiries to Mr Simon Boag [simonboag@setfia.org.au](mailto:simonboag@setfia.org.au), 0428 141 591.

## 7.5.2. South Australian Snapper

In November 2019, in response to concerns about the status of its snapper stocks, the South Australian Government introduced management measures to return its snapper fishery to sustainable levels. In 2021, these measures were revised as the South Australian Government introduced a TAC for snapper in the South East region, removing the need for a seasonal closure in this area. The management measures were maintained and extended following a recent stock assessment of snapper in 2022. The revised measures are:

- a total snapper closure, including the take and possession, applies in waters in the West Coast, Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent regions from 1 November 2019 to 30 June 2026; and
- Commonwealth fishers in the south-east region are permitted to retain 50 kgs of snapper per trip.

The closure arrangements are illustrated in [Attachment 4.5](#).

See also the SA snapper management for more information:

[pir.sa.gov.au/recreational\\_fishing/managing\\_recreational\\_fishing/snapper\\_management](http://pir.sa.gov.au/recreational_fishing/managing_recreational_fishing/snapper_management)

## 8 Environmental management

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### 8.1. Bycatch and discarding workplans

Under the [Management Plan](#), AFMA is required to develop and implement fishery specific Bycatch and Discarding Workplans. Workplans are developed in consultation with industry and research partners to find practical and affordable solutions to minimising bycatch and discarding of target species. Specifically, they aim to:

- reduce the number of high risk species assessed through AFMA's Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) process;
- avoid interactions with species listed under the [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#) (EPBC Act);
- reduce discarding of target and non-target species to as close to zero as practically possible; and
- minimise overall bycatch in the fishery over the long-term.

SESSF Bycatch and Discarding Workplans can be accessed via [AFMA's website](#) ('Environment and research' - 'Reducing Bycatch' - 'Bycatch and Discarding Workplans').

The SESSF Bycatch and Discarding Workplans will be reviewed following the finalisation of the results from the revised SESSF ERA.

## 8.2. Bycatch handling

The 'Handling practices guide for commonly caught bycatch species' outlines the different species that fishers may encounter, and how best to return them to the water safely. A copy of the guide is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Environment and research' – 'Reducing bycatch' – 'Reports, publications and guides').

AFMA is committed to improving handling practices for all bycatch species encountered during fishing operations. To further ensure that fishers use best practice when handling bycatch, AFMA has introduced a condition to reinforce the need for fishers to correctly handle bycatch. The condition will allow for enforcement action to be taken against any operator not acting in accordance with bycatch handling requirements.

AFMA has developed the following six bycatch handling principles to assist fishers to comply with the bycatch handling condition. These are:

- Principle 1: Safety of the boat and its crew are paramount  
Mishandling does not include actions taken (or not taken), which are reasonably necessary (see Principles 3 and 4) to ensure the safety of the boat and or its crew.
- Principle 2: All reasonable steps should be taken  
Operators are expected to take all reasonable steps to ensure that bycatch is returned to the water as quickly as practicable and in a manner which does not reduce its chance of survival.
- Principle 3: Minor gear recovery is not 'reasonably necessary'  
Actions taken for the sole purpose of recovering minor<sup>2</sup> fishing gear, are not considered 'reasonably necessary'.
- Principle 4: Expediting removal from gear is not 'reasonably necessary'  
It is not 'reasonably necessary' to injure bycatch when removing it from fishing gear to save time.
- Principle 5: Harm, injury or death caused during capture is not mishandling  
Mishandling does not include where bycatch is already dead, injured or stressed when it is brought on-board<sup>3</sup>.
- Principle 6: Compliance with approved bycatch management plans  
Handling of bycatch in accordance with AFMA approved bycatch management plan(s) is not mishandling.

### 8.2.1. Shark and ray handling

Improving handling practices can have a significant impact on the survival of sharks and rays that are released. Other benefits of improved handling practices include the reduced risk of injury to crew as sharks can bite and rays can sting in self-defence when threatened.

The 'Shark and Ray Handling Practices' guides commercial fishers in southern Australia on the best practice for handling these species. A copy of the guide is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Environment and research' – 'Reducing bycatch' – 'Reports, publications and guides').

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<sup>2</sup> Minor gear includes items such as hooks, which are unlikely to cause further harm to the bycatch, or marine pollution, if discharged/discarded attached to the bycatch.

<sup>3</sup> Unless further deliberate action or inaction results in the death or further injury to the bycatch.



## 8.3. Protected species interactions

### 8.3.1. How and when do I fill out a Listed Marine and Threatened Species form?

Paper and Electronic logbooks can be used to report interactions with a Protected species:

- As a general rule, a Listed Marine and Threatened Species Form (located at the back of your logbook) must be completed for all protected species interactions.
- Information about completing an e-log report can be found at [www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/logbooks/e-logs-information](http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/logbooks/e-logs-information).

#### 8.3.1.1. Reporting an interaction

- All interactions must be reported according to the instructions in your Daily Fishing Logbook or e-log.
- This means you need to circle yes in the box at the bottom of the logsheet and complete the Protected Species Form (located at the back of your logbook). Return the form to AFMA with the corresponding logsheets.
- If there is an observer present, immediately inform them of the interaction. You are still required to report the interaction in your logbook.
- Following the dolphin strategy development, fisheries must complete an interaction evaluation form to AFMA. Some management strategies require additional reporting and requires, see [section 8.4](#).
- All interactions with seabirds must be reported in the same way.

#### 8.3.1.2. Porbeagle, shortfin mako and longfin mako sharks

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has advised that, provided an operator is fishing in accordance with the Management Plan, the operator may retain and trade any of these migratory sharks that are brought up dead. However, live sharks **must** be returned to the sea unharmed.

All catches of these migratory sharks, whether retained or discarded, **must be reported in the daily fishing log or e-log** as you would normally record catch.

In addition, all trawl operators (logbook EFT01C) must complete a Protected Species Form or e-log equivalent.

#### 8.3.1.3. What is an interaction with a protected species?

Interaction is defined in the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019* as physical contact that occurs between an organism and any object on board, or attached to, a nominated boat, other than that being used by an observer, that could cause the organism to be distressed.

#### 8.3.1.4. Which species do I need to report?

The EPBC Act establishes 4 categories of protected species in Commonwealth managed areas:

- **listed threatened species or ecological community** – species or communities whose survival is threatened, e.g. those with low population numbers or those which have had a reduction in habitat or distribution;
- **listed migratory species** – to provide protection for species listed under the *International Convention on Migratory Species*;

- **listed marine species** – listed to provide general protection to Australia’s native marine wildlife to reduce the likelihood of population decline; and
- **all cetaceans** i.e. whales, dolphins and porpoises.

All whales, dolphins, seasnakes, turtles, seals and sea lions, syngnathids (seahorses, seadragons and pipefish), sawfishes (green, dwarf and freshwater), crocodiles, dugongs, sharks (great white, grey nurse, silky shark, shortfin mako, longfin mako and porbeagle) and all seabirds are protected under the EPBC Act. You must report all interactions with these species under the EPBC Act.

A full listing of protected species is available online at the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water ([www.dcceew.gov.au](http://www.dcceew.gov.au)). AFMA has also provided a Protected Species Identification Guide to all SESSF operators. The protected species guide is available on the AFMA website (‘Environment and research’ – ‘Protected species management’ – ‘protected species ID guide’)

### 8.3.1.5. AFMA assistance with reporting obligations

To assist operators in fulfilling their reporting obligations, AFMA provides a protected species interaction summary report to DCCEEW on a quarterly basis, on behalf of fishers. These reports are published on the [AFMA website](#) (‘Environment and research’ – ‘Protected species management’ – ‘Interaction reports’).

### 8.3.2. CITES species reporting

In 2023, hammerhead sharks (Sphyrnidae), guitarfishes (Rhinobatidae) and requiem sharks (Carcharhinidae) were added to the [CITES Appendix II species list](#). In accordance with Condition 9 of the [Wildlife Trade Operations Approval for the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery](#) AFMA requires that all catch of CITES listed species (including discards where possible) taken in the SESSF is recorded to the species level. For the SESSF, particular attention should be paid to the following species.

- **All requiem sharks** ([Carcharhinidae](#)), including:
  - grey reef shark ([Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos](#)), copper shark ([C. brachyurus](#)), bull shark ([C. leucas](#)), common blacktip shark ([C. limbatus](#)), blacktip reef shark ([C. melanopterus](#)), dusky shark ([C. obscurus](#)), sandbar shark ([C. plumbeus](#)), Australian blacktip shark ([C. tilstoni](#)), and blue shark ([Prionace glauca](#)).
- **All hammerhead sharks** ([Sphyrnidae](#)), including:
  - scalloped hammerhead ([Sphyrna lewini](#)), and smooth hammerhead ([S. zygaena](#)).

### 8.3.3. Interactions with tagged wildlife

Researchers investigating wildlife will periodically tag animals (or use bands in the case of seabirds) to help improve the understanding of their biology and population. Operators are typically asked to record information from the tag if they capture a tagged animal. However, due to the risks posed by a current outbreak of avian influenza, a highly contagious viral disease that affects both wild birds and marine mammals, it is at the operator’s discretion whether they handle such wildlife.

If they choose to, operators who capture a tagged animal can:

- record details in the relevant Protected Species Form or e-log equivalent, with the band or tag number inserted in the appropriate section of the form;
- record the following details in the comments section: tag or band number, band colour, species identification or description (photos are very useful), size, sex, time, date, and position of capture; and



- if the tagged animal is captured alive, operators should record as many details as possible about the animal then release it as carefully as possible, noting the condition in which it was released. AFMA will arrange to notify the appropriate researchers.

**Remember: Don't get caught, just report!**

## 8.4. Management arrangements for protected species

Under the Act and the EPBC Act, AFMA has obligations to ensure the protection of native species, and in particular, prevent the extinction and promote the recovery of threatened species. Additionally, where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be considered a reason for postponing measures.

AFMA, in consultation with Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and other stakeholders, has developed management strategies for:

- Australian sea lions;
- dolphins; and
- seabirds.

### 8.4.1. Australian Sea Lion Management Strategy

AFMA's Australian Sea Lion Management Strategy aims to monitor and minimise the impacts of interactions between Australian sea lions and gillnets used by Commonwealth shark fishers; to enable breeding colonies of sea lions to recover.

The management measures detailed in the Australian Sea Lion Management Strategy include:

- gillnet closures around all sea lion breeding colonies in South Australian waters spanning 18,500 km<sup>2</sup>;
- 100 per cent monitoring of all gillnet fishing effort in South Australian waters;
- the setting of Australian sea lion mortality limits that act to trigger additional closures if unacceptable levels of interactions occur;
- an ongoing review of gillnet fishing practices, including allowing eligible gillnet operators to use hook fishing methods instead of gillnets; and
- an industry initiative to develop and implement a gillnetting code of conduct; with assistance from AFMA and the Commonwealth Fisheries Association.

Gillnet fishers operating in the 'Australian Sea Lion Management Zone' (the area East of the parallel of longitude 129° East and West of the parallel of longitude 139° East) must carry an AFMA observer or have an AFMA approved e-monitoring system operating at all times. A map of the ASL zone has been provided at [Attachment 8](#) of this booklet, which includes a new closure enforced in March 2022 to protect a newly identified breeding colony of Australian Sea Lions.

Any pinniped captured in the 'Australian Sea Lion Management Zone' will be treated as an Australian sea lion for the purpose of the trigger limits, unless there is evidence to the contrary. This evidence may include, but is not limited to, photographs, observer reports, and e-monitoring footage.

If a pinniped is caught in the 'Australian Sea Lion Management Zone', the holder must immediately cease fishing and report the interaction to the GHAT manager on 02 6225 5373 or the AFMA Duty Officer on 0419 205 329 and provide email notification to [GHAT@afma.gov.au](mailto:GHAT@afma.gov.au).

A copy of the [Australian Sea Lion Management Strategy](#) is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – 'Management Tools' – 'Rebuilding Strategies').

### 8.4.2. Seal Exclusion Devices (SEDs) on freezing/processing boats

Seal Exclusion Devices (SEDs) are required on factory boats when fishing in waters south of 40° South and west of 147° East, during the period 1 June to 30 September each season. SEDs are to be used for every trawl shot and must comply with the following specifications:

- a grid is used to prevent seals from entering the codend of the trawl net, being a grid that is made of a rigid material strong enough to repel a seal (such as a 25 mm diameter stainless steel rod) with a spacing between bars of no more than 250 mm. The grid must conform as closely as possible to the corresponding cross-section dimensions of the net;
- the escape hatch must be no smaller than 800 mm in length and 600 mm in width at its widest point and be free of obstruction, and be located at the top of the net adjacent to the SED;
- the use of a 'hood' over the escape hatch is optional. If a hood is used it must be made of mesh of no greater than 40 mm and have a kite attached to the leading edge of the escape hatch that ensures that the escape hatch egress is maintained; and
- at least one single 20 cm diameter float is attached at the centre of the leading edge of the kite for initial flotation.

At the conclusion of any shot in which seals are captured, AFMA must be immediately notified via email at [monitoring@afma.gov.au](mailto:monitoring@afma.gov.au), detailing the number of 'alive' and/or 'dead' seals.

### 8.4.3. Gillnet Dolphin Mitigation Strategy

The Gillnet Dolphin Mitigation Strategy applies to all gillnet fishing in the SESSF. A copy of the Gillnet Dolphin Mitigation Strategy is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – 'Management tools' – 'Rebuilding strategies').

Fishing with gillnets is not permitted unless the nominated boat has an AFMA-approved Dolphin Mitigation Plan. A template for a Dolphin Mitigation Plan is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Research and Environment' – 'Protected species management' – 'Protected species' – 'Dolphins').

Completed Dolphin Mitigation Plans are to be sent to [GHAT@afma.gov.au](mailto:GHAT@afma.gov.au). These should be reviewed annually and updated as required.

For any dolphin interaction, operators are required to complete a Dolphin Interaction Evaluation Report and submit it by email to [GHAT@afma.gov.au](mailto:GHAT@afma.gov.au) within 48 hours of landing, complete a Protected Species Form or e-log equivalent as part of the daily fishing logbook and return their e-monitoring data drive to AFMA within 48 hours of landing.

Specific management responses are triggered for dolphin interactions based on performance criteria of the boat which incurs an interaction. The management response is dependent on performance criteria of the boat, including previous interactions and interaction rates within set review periods (1 May – 31 October; 1 November – 31 April). Management responses can be found at [Attachment 7](#) and are located in the Gillnet Dolphin Mitigation Strategy.

Operators should check their Gillnet Boat SFR or permit conditions for the full set of conditions implemented under the Gillnet Dolphin Mitigation Strategy. For any additional information on the Gillnet Dolphin Mitigation Strategy, or reporting requirements following an interaction with a dolphin, please contact the GHAT Manager on 02 6225 5373.

A review of the Gillnet Dolphin Mitigation Strategy is in progress. For additional information, comments or queries contact the GHAT Manager on 02 6225 5373.

## 8.4.4. Management arrangements for seabirds

### 8.4.4.1. Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) for the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations 2018

The aim of this plan is to reduce the bycatch of seabirds during oceanic longline operations in the AFZ. In the SESSF, hook concession holders must abide by the TAP. A copy of the TAP is available on the [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water](#) website ('Environmental management' – 'Plants & animals' – 'Threat Abatement Plan' – 'Seabirds').

#### **Trigger rate**

In accordance with the TAP, SESSF longline operators are required to keep seabird interaction rates below 0.01 interactions (this includes dead and alive interactions) per 1,000 hooks set. Additional management measures may be enforced if interactions exceed this rate.

### 8.4.4.2. Automatic longline mandatory seabird mitigation measures and specifications:

- An AFMA approved Seabird Management Plan (SMP) must be on the boat at all times.
- Tori lines must be deployed when setting.
- A bird excluder device (brickle curtain) must be deployed during the haul.
- Set at night only for the remainder of a TAP season if interaction rate exceeds 0.01 seabirds per 1,000 hooks.
- Lines must be weighted so sink rates exceed 0.3 meters/second.
- All baits used must be non-frozen.
- Offal must not be discharged while setting or hauling.

The tori line must:

- be at least 150 m in length;
- be set from a position on the boat that allows for at least 100 m aerial coverage, using a drogue;
- have the streamer pair nearest to the boat positioned not more than 10 m from the boat (measured horizontally);
- have all other streamer pairs positioned no more than 7 m apart; and
- have streamers maintained to ensure their lengths are as close to the water surface as possible.

All bird excluder devices, including tori lines must:

- deter birds flying directly into the area where the line is being hauled; and
- prevent birds that are sitting on the surface from swimming into the hauling bay area.

### 8.4.4.3. Demersal longline and dropline mandatory seabird mitigation measures

Offal must not be discharged while setting or hauling. An exemption for small boats may be given by AFMA. To apply for an exemption, please contact the AFMA GHAT manager in [section 10](#).

#### 8.4.4.4. Gillnet mandatory seabird mitigation measures

Gillnet operators must remove all biological material from a gillnet before setting the net. In addition, processing waste, including offal, must not be discharged from the boat while a gillnet is being set.

#### 8.4.4.5. Seabird Management Plans (SMPs) in trawl fisheries

AFMA approved SMPs are compulsory for all Commonwealth otter board trawl boats in the SESSF. SMPs identify and set out individually tailored mitigation measures that help reduce seabird interactions with warp wires. SMPs include physical devices to reduce seabird interactions and measures to manage the discharge of biological waste from boats to reduce seabird attraction and interaction.

Trawl fishers in the South East Trawl and Great Australian Bight fisheries must comply with one of the following mitigation measures:

- bird bafflers;
- water sprayers; or
- pinkies with zero offal discharge.

Of the methods listed above, the use of bird bafflers is considered by AFMA to be the most efficient and cost effective mitigation approach. Various designs have proven more effective than others over time, and operators are encouraged to modify their setups to best suit their boats. Additional information is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Research and Environment' – 'Reducing bycatch' – 'Bycatch reduction devices').

A bird baffle must meet the following criteria:

- two or more booms attached to a high point at the stern of the boat, with at least one boom attached to the starboard side and at least one boom attached to the port side;
- have brightly coloured droppers spaced no more than 500 mm apart;
- have droppers constructed of a brightly coloured, durable material and be weighted sufficiently to maintain rigidity and contact with the water in the absence of wind and swell;
- when deployed, the baffle must run between one and 3 m outside the trawl blocks;
- baffle droppers must extend as far aft of where the warps enter the water as practicable; and
- be able to remain deployed at all times whilst trawl gear is under tow.

Further information on bird baffle specifications is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Research and Environment' – 'Reducing bycatch' – 'Bycatch reduction devices' – 'Bird baffle').

Operators choosing to fish using pinkies and zero offal discharge, must also be able to demonstrate their offal management procedures to AFMA in order to deploy pinkies as an approved seabird mitigation measure. This option is no longer available for new operators entering the fishery.

New operators must either have bird bafflers or sprayers fitted, with their device approved by an AFMA officer prior to fishing. For further information on seabird mitigation, please contact the AFMA Southern Trawl Fisheries Manager on 0407 843 174 or email [mark.grubert@afma.gov.au](mailto:mark.grubert@afma.gov.au).

#### 8.4.4.6. Biological material retention requirements for CTS otter board trawl boats

While bafflers have been shown to reduce interactions with seabirds, there are still instances where boats interact with seabirds in high risk areas. To ensure interactions with seabirds are minimised,

additional management arrangements were introduced in the 2019–20 SESSF season, which require zero discharge of biological material for otter board trawl boats when fishing gear is deployed during daylight hours in high risk areas of the CTS.

Biological material is defined as whole fish, or any fish based biological material not being retained, traditionally referred to as discards or offal, but does not include small hard parts such as scales, fins or fish oil. The definitions of biological material allow for the discarding of sensitive large animals such as sharks and rays as well as small items such as oil and scales that reflect the reality of wet boat operations. Sharks, rays and protected species which are alive and have a reasonable likelihood of post-capture survival should be returned to the water quickly and carefully.

These arrangements were phased in on 1 November 2019. From this date, biological material must be retained while fishing gear is in the water south of latitude 39° South and west of longitude 147° East, during daylight hours. Daylight hours are defined as the hours of light between the times of nautical dusk and nautical dawn. Following this, the requirement was extended to south of 38° South from 1 July 2020. Exemptions to the new rule will be considered if operators can demonstrate biological material (offal) management techniques that remove the risk to seabirds interacting with trawl warps.

Requests for exemption will be considered against a set of guidelines available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Research and Environment' – 'Protected species management' – 'Protected species' – 'Seabirds').

Obligations under these arrangements will be documented in the boat's SMP. If you have any questions about these requirements or how to apply for an exemption, please first contact Mark Grubert, Manager Southern Trawl Fisheries on 0407 843 174.

## 8.5. Retrieving lost fishing gear

To retrieve fishing gear that is lost, or drifts into Australian Marine Parks where the fishing method is prohibited, contact the Marine Parks Duty Officer on 0419 293 465 before entering the Australian Marine Park to retrieve the gear.

# 9 Compliance

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## 9.1. Compliance overview

AFMA's compliance and enforcement program is ultimately designed to maintain the integrity of fisheries management arrangements and protect Australia's fishing resources. AFMA seeks to achieve a level of compliance consistent with its legislative objectives by maximising voluntary compliance and creating effective deterrents to non-compliance.

The main functions of the compliance program include:

- ensuring compliance with AFMA's domestic fisheries management measures;
- ensuring licensed boats comply with fishing conditions within the AFZ;
- ensuring that there are no unlicensed foreign boats operating in the AFZ;
- managing port access for foreign boats; and
- surveillance and apprehension of foreign boats fishing illegally in the AFZ.

The National Compliance and Enforcement Program is conducted via the use of a risk based approach, which enables AFMA's resources to be targeted to the areas where they are most needed and where they will prove most effective. It involves a series of steps to identify and assess non-compliance risks and then apply appropriate enforcement actions to mitigate these risks.

Risk-based compliance has a range of benefits<sup>4</sup>:

- **improved compliance outcomes** – AFMA can tailor or target compliance measures to effectively deal with the most significant non-compliance risks;
- **efficiency gains** – AFMA can tailor or target compliance measures to the most significant risks, ensuring resources are concentrated in the areas where they are most likely to improve compliance outcomes; and
- **greater industry support for compliance programs/measures** – risk management processes are widely understood by the fishing industry and the community as a whole.

In addition to the risk treatment model, it is essential that AFMA maintains a general deterrence program. By maintaining a presence at fishing ports (and at sea), AFMA discourages those members of the fishing community who do not wish to comply with the rules and regulations. It also reassures those who are complying that non-compliant activity is likely to be detected. Further, AFMA officers can assist those wishing to comply (but not knowing how) by providing advice and/or instructions on operators' responsibilities.

## 9.2. Navigation regulations

Regulations regarding navigation in closures can be found in Part 9 of the [Fisheries Management Regulations 2019](#).

Under the regulations a boat must maintain a speed over 5 kn when navigating in a closure. If the closure is in effect for less than 24 hours (such as daylight closures) the boat must either be stationary or travelling faster than 5 kn. A breach of the regulations is an offence of strict liability, equal to 25 penalty units, or \$6,875.

Speed is calculated via the boat's Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). Therefore, it is recommended that the most direct route is taken when travelling through a closure, so the boat does not appear to be navigating at less than 5 kn. If the boat is stationary within a closure, the boat is required to remain in that closure for greater than 30 minutes.

If the master of a boat is unable to comply with any of the navigation requirements due to an unforeseen emergency (e.g. crew safety, breakdowns etc.) then the master must contact AFMA as soon as possible to request an exemption from the regulation.

## 9.3. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

### 9.3.1. VMS reporting

It is the concession holder's responsibility to ensure that any boat nominated to their concession is fitted with a VMS of a category specified in the register of AFMA approved units. This register is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – 'Monitoring Tools' – 'Vessel Monitoring Systems' – 'List of approved units').

The VMS unit must remain switched on at all times that the boat is nominated to a Commonwealth concession, including when in port or engaged in State fishing. The concession holder must ensure the VMS is reporting correctly before going out to sea for the first time and that no interference occurs with the correct operation of the VMS unit. On becoming aware of a problem with the VMS functioning, the concession holder must advise AFMA as soon as practicable via:

Phone: (02) 6225 5369 (if prompted, follow instructions on the voice mail) or;

Fax: (02) 6225 5440; or

Email: [ausvms@afma.gov.au](mailto:ausvms@afma.gov.au).

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<sup>4</sup> Source: Risk-based Compliance information is available at [Best Practice Regulation Guidelines](#)



If the VMS is not operating or is malfunctioning, the boat must remain in port until the VMS is inspected, repaired if necessary and AFMA has received confirmation from an authorised technician that the Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) is functioning correctly.

### 9.3.2. Directions to return to port

Depending on the circumstances, and in accordance with its enforcement decision principles as outlined in the National Compliance and Enforcement Policy, if a nominated boat's VMS unit stops reporting, AFMA may require the boat to immediately return to, and/or remain in port until such a time as AFMA is satisfied that problems with the VMS unit have been rectified.

### 9.3.3. Manual reporting

If a nominated boat's VMS unit stops reporting, the concession holder must ensure that the operator manually reports the boat's position at a frequency specified by AFMA.

The manual position reports must include:

- the boat's name;
- the boat's distinguishing symbol;
- the boat's present latitude and longitude (in degrees and minutes); and
- the date and time.

Manual position reports are to be made via:

Phone: (02) 6225 5369 (if prompted, follow instructions on the voice mail); or

Fax: (02) 6225 5440; or

Email: [ausvms@afma.gov.au](mailto:ausvms@afma.gov.au).

### 9.3.4. Temporary Switch Off (TSO) arrangements

A TSO is a formal arrangement that allows a unit to be legitimately switched off. If a nominated boat is undergoing maintenance, berthed for an extended period or in other exceptional circumstances that render VMS operation impractical, the concession holder can apply for a TSO by filling out an '[Application for VMS Temporary Switch Off](#)' form. The request needs to be made prior to the VMS being switched off. A TSO is not automatically granted, and AFMA considers a variety of factors, including previous VMS non-compliance and whether the need is genuine before permission is granted.

Completed forms should be sent to AFMA via:

Fax: (02) 6225 5440;

Email: [ausvms@afma.gov.au](mailto:ausvms@afma.gov.au); or

Mail: AUSVMS

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

PO Box 7051

CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

Further information is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – 'Monitoring Tools' – 'Vessel Monitoring Systems').

**Note:** Switching off a unit without first obtaining a TSO will constitute an offence. It is also an offence for a boat to be moved from the place stipulated under the TSO without approval from AFMA.

## 9.4. Illegal/suspicious fishing – Call CRIMFISH: 1800 274 634

If you suspect illegal fishing operations are occurring or witness any suspicious activity involving fish or fishing type activity (e.g. selling fish off the back of boats or vehicles whilst offering a reduced price, questionable landing sites etc.) you can either contact AFMA's Freecall CRIMFISH hotline on **1800 274 634** (1800 CRIMFISH) or you can contact AFMA's Duty Officer on 0419 205 329 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) as soon as possible after you discover the event. More information is available on the CRIMFISH page on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – 'Compliance' – 'Report illegal fishing')

Reports may be made anonymously, all information received will be treated in the strictest confidence. Ideally any information supplied should be as detailed as possible to assist AFMA to investigate the incident and should include the following:

- the date, time and location that the activity took place;
- the names of any verifying witnesses; and
- any photographs and/or other evidence.

## 10 Contact details

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### SESSF Management

#### **Demersal and Midwater Trawl**

A/g Senior Manager – Sally Weekes (02) 6225 5555

(Based in Canberra office)

#### **Commonwealth South East Trawl and Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector**

Manager – Mark Grubert (03) 5155 6425

(Based in Lakes Entrance office) 0407 843 174

#### **Gillnet Hook and Trap and High Seas**

A/g Manager – Cate Coddington (02) 6225 5358

(Based in Canberra office)

### Observer Program

A/g Manager – Henry Oak (02) 6225 5344

Observer duty phone 0427 496 446

### Electronic Monitoring Program

Senior Manager – Tamre Sarhan 0429 275 894

### Licensing and Data Services



## **Licensing, Quota Management and Logbook**

A/g Manager – Karen Cullen	(02) 6225 5452
Licensing and Data Officers	1300 723 621
Licensing and Data facsimile	(02) 6225 5440
Licensing and Data email	<a href="mailto:licensing@afma.gov.au">licensing@afma.gov.au</a>

## **Levies**

Senior Debt Recovery Officer – Simone Pont	(02) 6225 5343
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## **Compliance**

Duty Officer	0419 205 329
Compliance email	<a href="mailto:domestic.compliance@afma.gov.au">domestic.compliance@afma.gov.au</a>
Senior Manager – Tod Spencer	(02) 6225 5312
Manager National Compliance – Josh Froggatt	(02) 6225 5467
Manager National Intelligence – Ash Mooney	(02) 6225 5376

## **Industry Associations**

### **Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA)**

George Kailis	0408 131 204
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### **South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA)**

Simon Boag	0428 141 591
Facsimile	(03) 5155 2859
Email	<a href="mailto:simonboag@setfia.org.au">simonboag@setfia.org.au</a>
Postal Address	PO Box 1125 Lakes Entrance Vic 3909

### **Southern Shark Industry Alliance (SSIA)**

Anthony Ciconte	0438 684 999
Email	<a href="mailto:anthony@atlantisfcg.com">anthony@atlantisfcg.com</a>

## **State Fisheries**

### **New South Wales**

Department of Primary Industries	1300 550 474
Fishers Watch	1800 043 536

### **Queensland**

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	13 25 23
Fishwatch	1800 017 116

### **South Australia**

Department of Primary Industries and Regions	(08) 8207 5332
FishWatch	1800 065 522

### **Tasmania**

Department of Natural Resources and Environment	1300 368 550
Fishwatch	0427 655 557

### **Victoria**

Victorian Fisheries Authority	136 186
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### **Western Australia**

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development	1300 374 731
FishWatch	1800 815 507

# 11 Important documents

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## Commonwealth legislation and policy

- [Fisheries Management Act 1991](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2021C00546)  
https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2021C00546
- [Fisheries Management Regulations 2019](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021C01167)  
https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021C01167
- [Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2018](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/fisheries/domestic/hsp.pdf)  
www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/fisheries/domestic/hsp.pdf
- [Guidelines for the Implementation of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2018](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/fisheries/domestic/harvest-strategy-policy-guidelines.pdf)  
www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/fisheries/domestic/harvest-strategy-policy-guidelines.pdf
- [Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy 2018](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/fisheries/environment/bycatch/bycatch.pdf)  
www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/fisheries/environment/bycatch/bycatch.pdf
- [Guidelines for the Implementation of the Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/fisheries/environment/bycatch/bycatch-guidelines.pdf)  
www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/fisheries/environment/bycatch/bycatch-guidelines.pdf

## SESSF legislative instruments

- [Seas and Submerged Lands \(Territorial Sea Baseline\) Proclamation 2016](http://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L00302)  
www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L00302
- [Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2023L00278/latest/text)  
https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2023L00278/latest/text
- [Fisheries Management \(Logbooks for Fisheries\) Determination 2022 – \(F2022L01072\)](http://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2022L01072)  
www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2022L01072
- [Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery \(Total Allowable Catch for Quota Species\) Determination 2023 – \(F2023L00278\)](http://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2023L00278)  
www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2023L00278
- [Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery \(Total Allowable Catch for Non-Quota Species\) Determination 2023 – \(F2023L00287\)](http://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2023L00287)  
www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2023L00287
- [Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery \(Total Allowable Catch for Non-Quota Species – Common Hagfish\) Determination 2023 – \(F2023L00294\)](http://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2023L00294)  
www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2023L00294
- [Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery \(Overcatch and Undercatch\) Determination 2023 – \(F2023L00263\)](http://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2023L00263)  
www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2023L00263

## SESSF Directions

- [Fisheries Management \(Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery and Small Pelagic Fishery Closures\) Direction 2021](http://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00445/latest/text)  
www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00445/latest/text

## Management of commercial species in the SESSF

- [Harvest Strategy Framework For the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery 2009 \(Amended 2021\)](#)

- [Protected species management and commercial fish species rebuilding strategies](#)

## Environmental management arrangements

- [Ecological Risk Management Strategy for the Southern And Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery](#)  
www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/Ecological%20Risk%20Management%20Strategy%20for%20the%20Southern%20and%20Eastern%20Scalefish%20and%20Shark%20Fishery%202015.pdf
- [Guidelines for the retention of biological material in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector.](#)  
www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/guidelines\_for\_the\_retention\_of\_biological\_material\_in\_the\_cts\_jan\_2021.pdf
- [Australian Sea Lion Management Strategy](#)  
www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/Australian-Sea-Lion-Management-Strategy-2015-v2.0-FINAL.pdf
- [Gillnet Dolphin Mitigation Strategy](#)  
www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/gillnet\_dolphin\_mitigation\_strategy\_updated\_aug\_2019\_accessible.pdf
- [Upper Slope dogfish Management Strategy](#)  
www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-01/Upper-Slope%20Dogfish%20Management%20Strategy.pdf
- [Bycatch Handling and Treatment Guide](#)  
www.afma.gov.au/bycatch-and-discarding/reports-publications-and-guides
- [Bycatch Handling Practices Guide for commonly caught bycatch species](#)  
www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/handling\_practices\_guide\_for\_commonly\_caught\_bycatch\_species.pdf
- [Bycatch and Discarding Workplans](#)  
www.afma.gov.au/protected-species/reducing-bycatch/bycatch-and-discarding-workplans
- [Threat Abatement Plan for the incidental catch \(or bycatch\) of seabirds during oceanic fishing operations \(2018\)](#)  
www.antarctica.gov.au/site/assets/files/49352/threat-abatement-plan-for-the-incidental-catch-or-bycatch-of-seabirds-during-longline-oceanic-fishing-operations-2018.pdf

## Electronic Monitoring

- [Australian Fisheries Management Authority Electronic Monitoring Program Overview 2020](#)  
www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/australian\_fisheries\_management\_authority\_electronic\_monitoring\_program\_june\_2020.pdf

## Logbooks and forms

- [AFMA Logbooks and Catch Disposal](#)  
www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/logbooks-and-catch-disposal
- [AFMA Licensing and Quota Management Forms](#)  
https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/forms-fishers

## Attachment 1 – Acronyms

AAP	Archipelago Asia Pacific Pty Ltd
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AFZ	Australian Fishing Zone
ALC	Automatic Location Communicator
ASL	Australian Sea Lion
CDR	Catch Disposal Record
CTS	Commonwealth Trawl Sector
DNID	Data Network Identification Number
ECDWTS	East Coast Deep Water Trawl Sector
ECDWZ	East Coast Deep Water Zone
EFT01A	Eastern Finfish Trawl Daily Fishing Logbook
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
e-logs	electronic logbooks
e-monitoring	electronic monitoring
FRDC	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
FRP	Fish Receiver Permit
GAB	Great Australian Bight
GABTS	Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector
GHAT	Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector
ISMP	Integrated Scientific Monitoring Program
ITQ	Individual Transferrable Quota
MAC	Management Advisory Committee
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
OCS	Offshore Constitutional Settlement
QHS	Quota Holding and catch Summary
QTS	Quota Transaction Statement
RAG	Resource Assessment Group
SEMAC	South East Management Advisory Committee
SERAG	South East Resource Assessment Group
SESSFRAG	Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery and Shark Resource Assessment Group
SESSF	Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery
SESSF Plan	Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Management Plan 2003
SETF	South East Trawl Fishery
SETFIA	South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association
SFR	Statutory Fishing Right
SharkRAG	Shark Resource Assessment Group
SMP	Seabird Management Plan
STR	South Tasman Rise
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TAP	Threat Abatement Plan
VCW	Victorian Coastal Waters
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

## Attachment 2 – Area closures outside AFMA’s jurisdiction

### Fishing in Australian Marine Parks

There are Australian Marine Parks within the Commonwealth waters of the SESSF. The marine parks of relevance to SESSF fishers are within the Temperate East, South-east and South-west Marine Parks Networks. Fishers who are currently fishing, or intend to fish, should be aware that some fishing methods are not allowed in these marine parks. Please make sure you understand which fishing methods are allowed in each of the marine park zones prior to fishing. Class approvals outline the

areas where commercial fishing can occur, the fishing methods that can be used, and the conditions that need to be followed while operating or transiting through Australian Marine Parks. Remember that you need to keep a hard or electronic copy of the class approvals on board your boat.

## **Maps**

Maps of marine park networks and individual marine parks are available (including Shapefiles, MIF files and KML files) and can be downloaded to use on boat hardware at:

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/maps/>

Transiting is allowed through all marine park zone types (except Sanctuary zones). When transiting a zone where your fishing method is not allowed, you are required to:

- keep all fishing gear stowed and secured; and
- travel at more than 5 knots.

More information about these marine parks can be found at the following links or by contacting [marineparks@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@dcceew.gov.au).

## **Temperate East Network** (between Bundaberg (QLD) and Bermagui (NSW))

- [Class approval](#)  
[https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/class-approvals/Signed-Attach\\_E-Temperate\\_East\\_Marine\\_Parks\\_Network\\_Commercial\\_Fishing\\_Class.pdf](https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/class-approvals/Signed-Attach_E-Temperate_East_Marine_Parks_Network_Commercial_Fishing_Class.pdf)

## **South-east Network** (between Bermagui (NSW) and eastern side of Kangaroo Island (SA), and the Commonwealth waters surrounding Macquarie Island)

The 2013 South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Management Plan expired on 30 June 2023. Parks Australia is preparing a new management plan for the South-east Network. The South-east Network is being managed under [transitional arrangements](#) until a new management plan is finalised.

The current class approval for Macquarie Island Marine Park is available at: [General approval - Macquarie Island Marine Park yellow zone \(parksaustralia.gov.au\)](#)

The current class approval for the other 13 marine parks comprising the South-east Network is available at: [SE class approval - commercial fishing \(without MIMP\) \(parksaustralia.gov.au\)](#)

Updates on the plan review process will be published on the Parks Australia website: [Australian Marine Parks \(parksaustralia.gov.au\)](#)

## **South-west Network** (between eastern side of Kangaroo Island (SA) and Shark Bay (WA))

- [Class approval](#)  
[https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/class-approvals/Signed-attach\\_F-South-west\\_Marine\\_Parks\\_Network\\_Commercial\\_Fishing\\_Class\\_Approval.pdf](https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/class-approvals/Signed-attach_F-South-west_Marine_Parks_Network_Commercial_Fishing_Class_Approval.pdf)

[Determination Prohibiting Use of Vessels Part of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park – Marine Mammal Protection Area](#)

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018N00096>

## **Your stewardship is important**

If you witness or suspect there are illegal activities occurring within an Australian Marine Park, you are encouraged to report this activity. All reports are completely voluntary and anonymous, however, if

you choose to include your personal details, you may be contacted to provide more information about your report.

You can report in one of 2 ways:

1. via the Australian Marine Parks reporting hotline on 1800 852 975 where you can talk to a Marine Parks Officer; or
2. via email to [marinecompliance@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:marinecompliance@dcceew.gov.au)



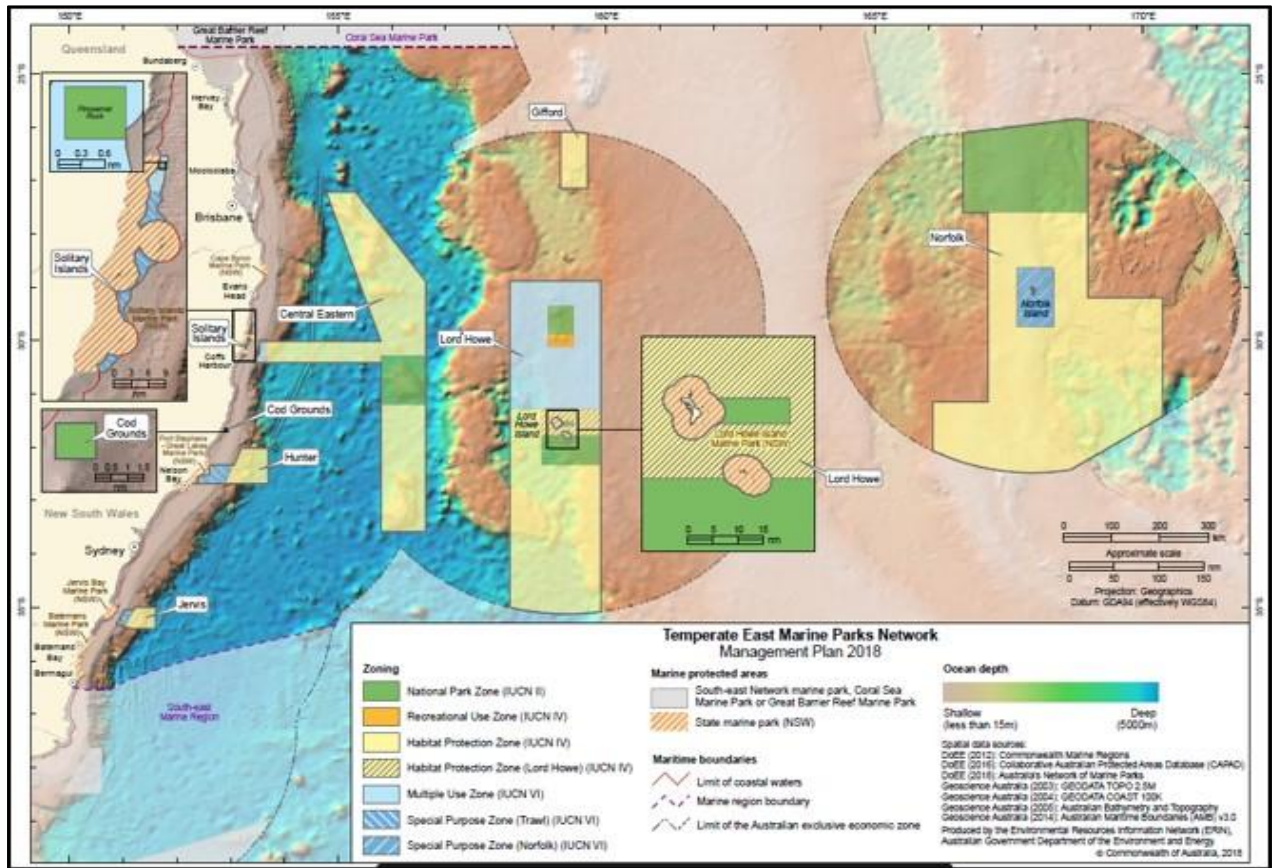


Figure 3: Map of the Temperate East Marine Parks

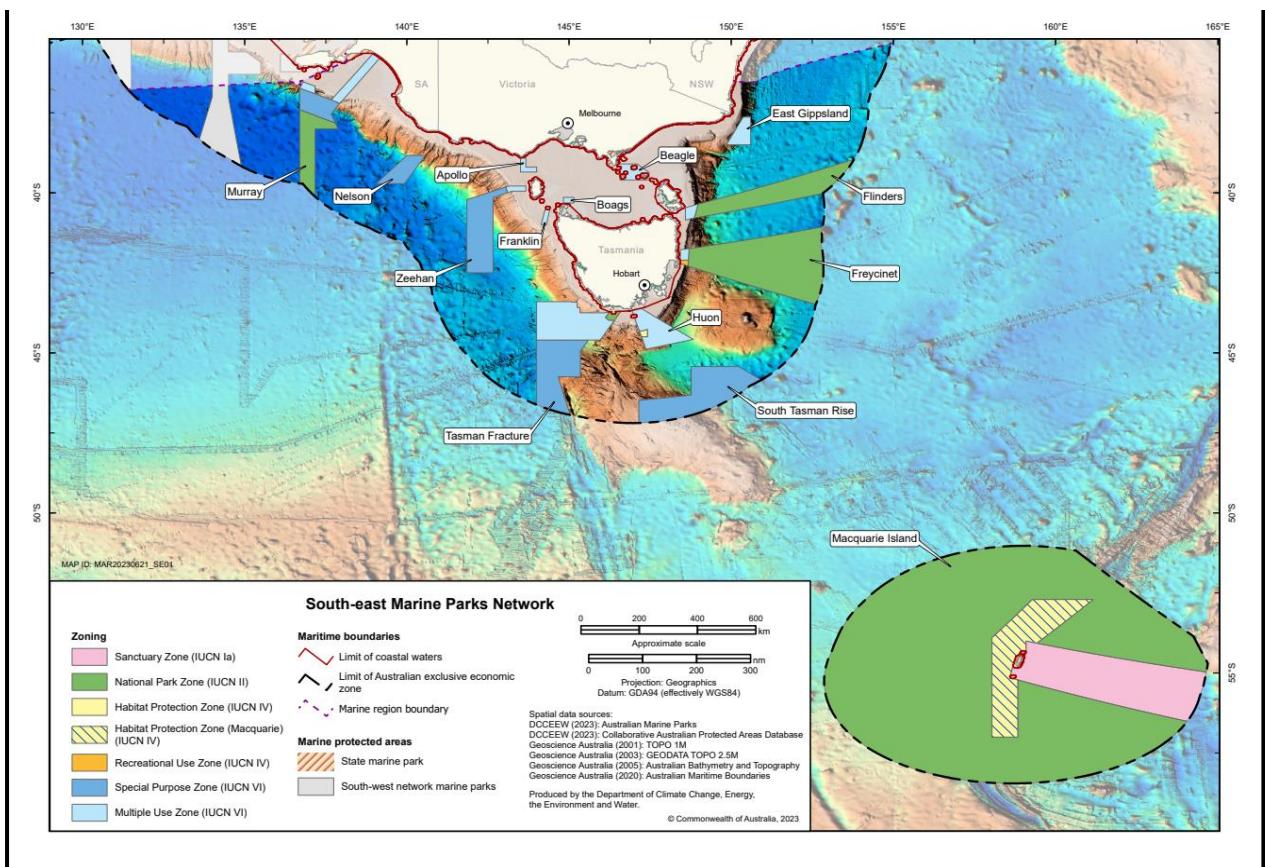


Figure 4: Map of the South-east Marine Parks Network



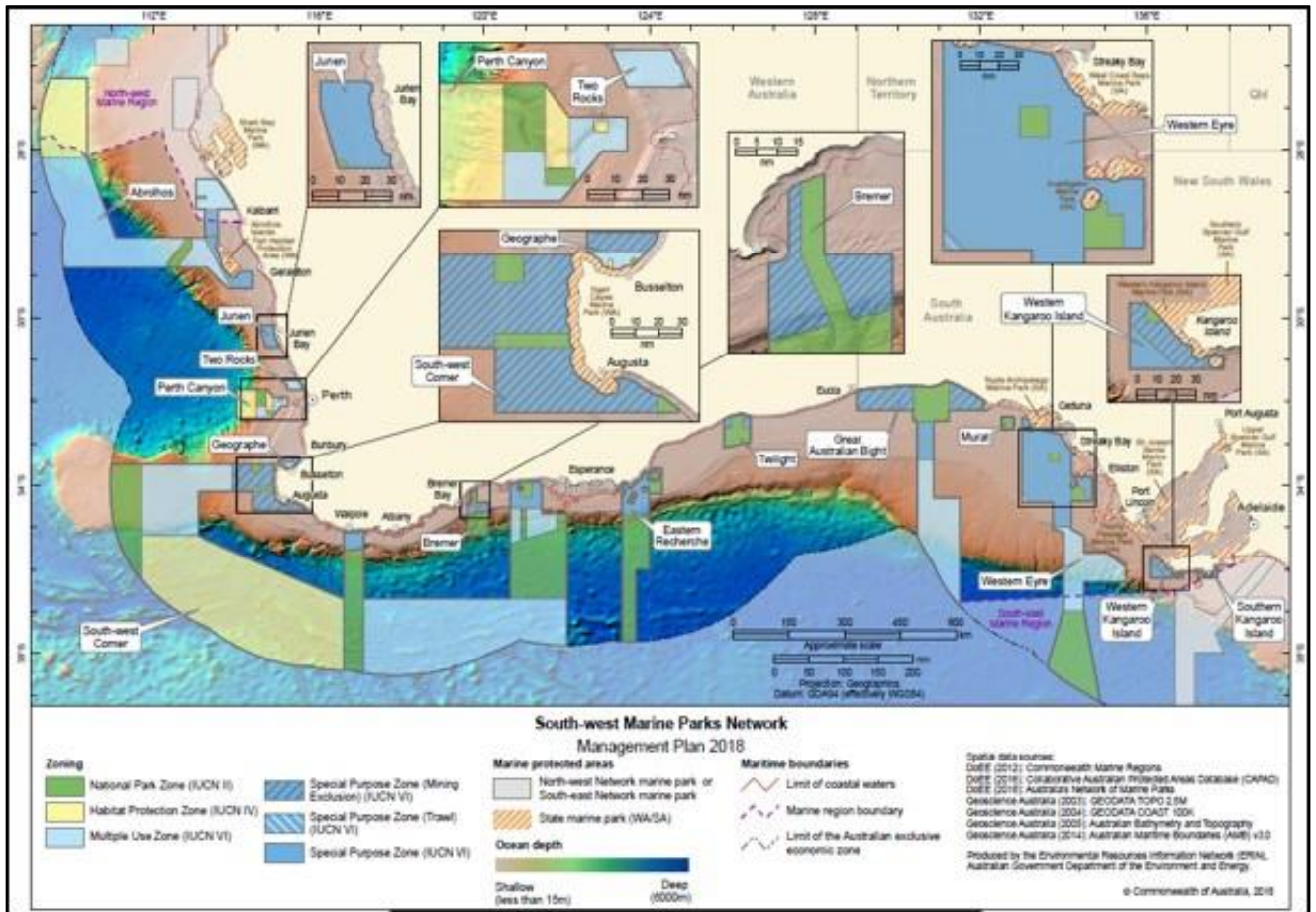


Figure 5: Map of the South-west Marine Parks Network

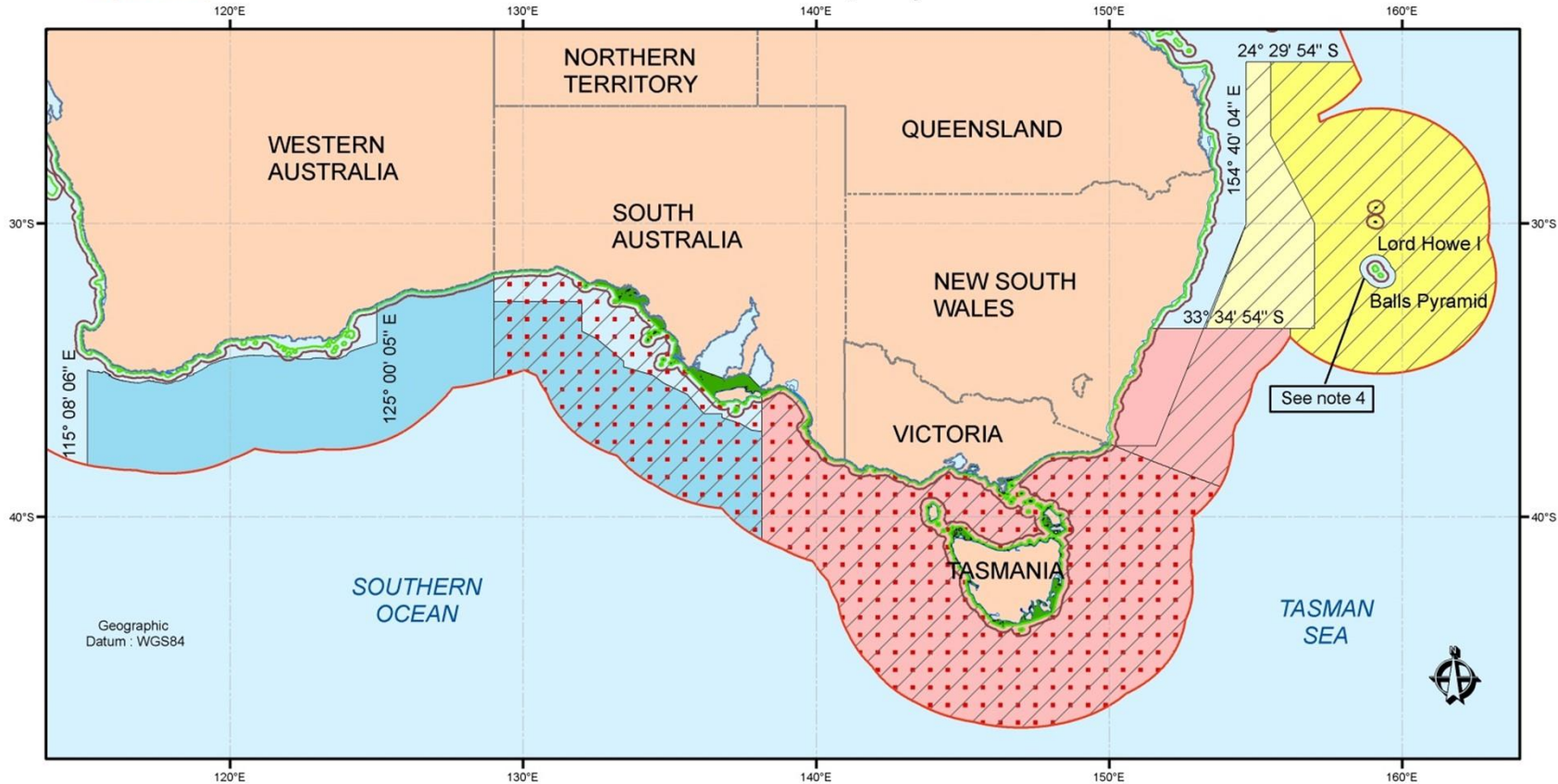
# Attachment 3 – Area of the SESSF

## Area of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery

JN: 63,200



Indicative map only



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Exclusive Economic Zone limit (200 nm) | East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector          |
| Territorial Sea limit (12 nm)          | Commonwealth South East Trawl Sector       |
| Coastal Waters limit (3nm)             | Commonwealth GAB Trawl Sector              |
| State Border                           | Commonwealth Gillnet and Shark Hook Sector |
| Trawl Exclusion Zone                   | Commonwealth Scalefish Hook Sector         |
|  | Coastal Waters Sectors                     |

Produced by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, February 2010 based on Geoscience Australia Data

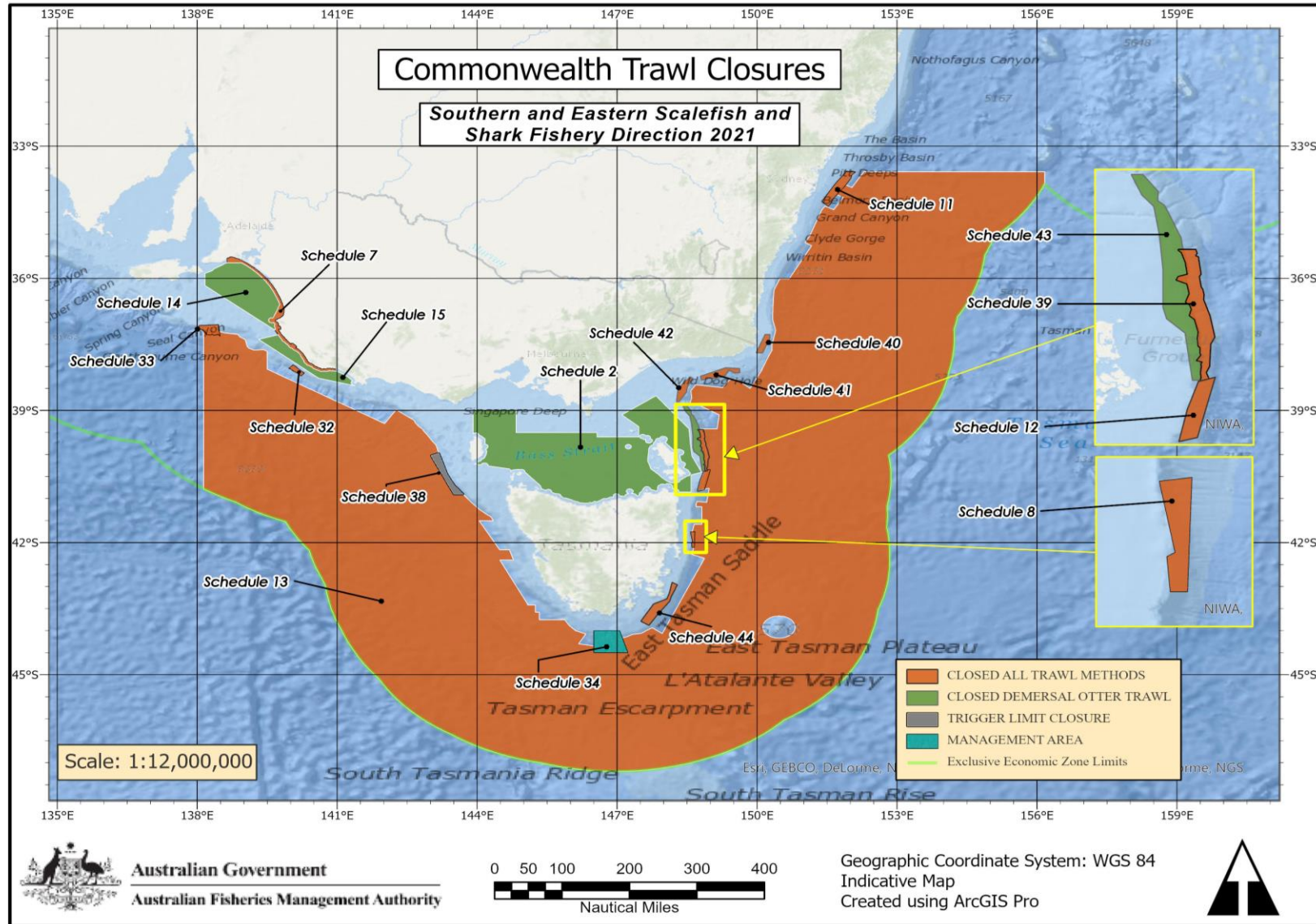
NOTES:

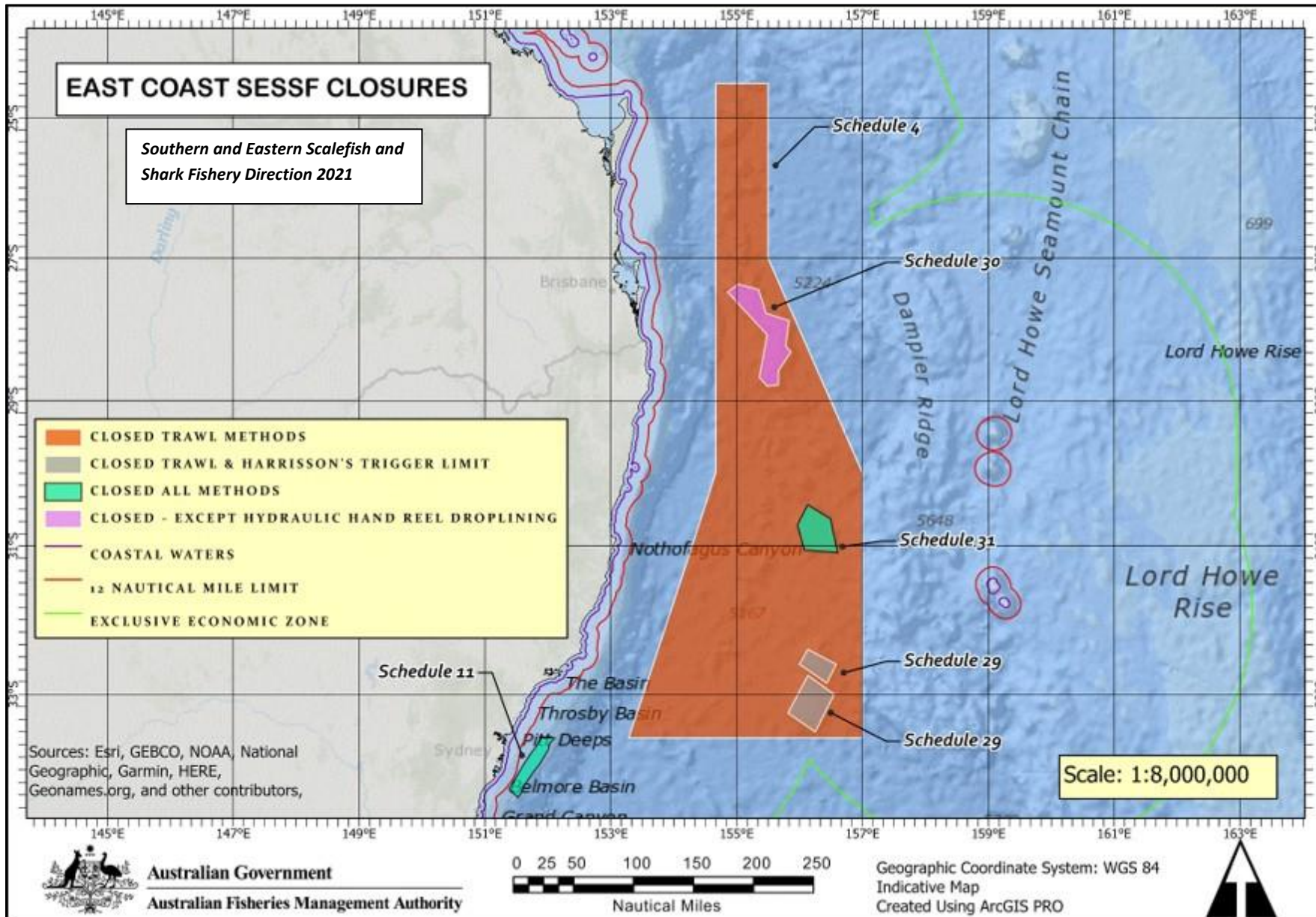
1. The area of the Fishery is sourced from the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003
2. Within this fishery, arrangements exist between the Commonwealth and TAS, VIC, and SA, whereby the Coastal Waters of these States are deemed to be part of the AFZ.
3. The maritime zone boundaries shown on this map are sourced from the "Australian Maritime Boundaries (AMB) v2.0"
4. The area of the fishery excludes waters within 25 nautical miles of the coastline of Lord Howe Island and Balls Pyramid at low water



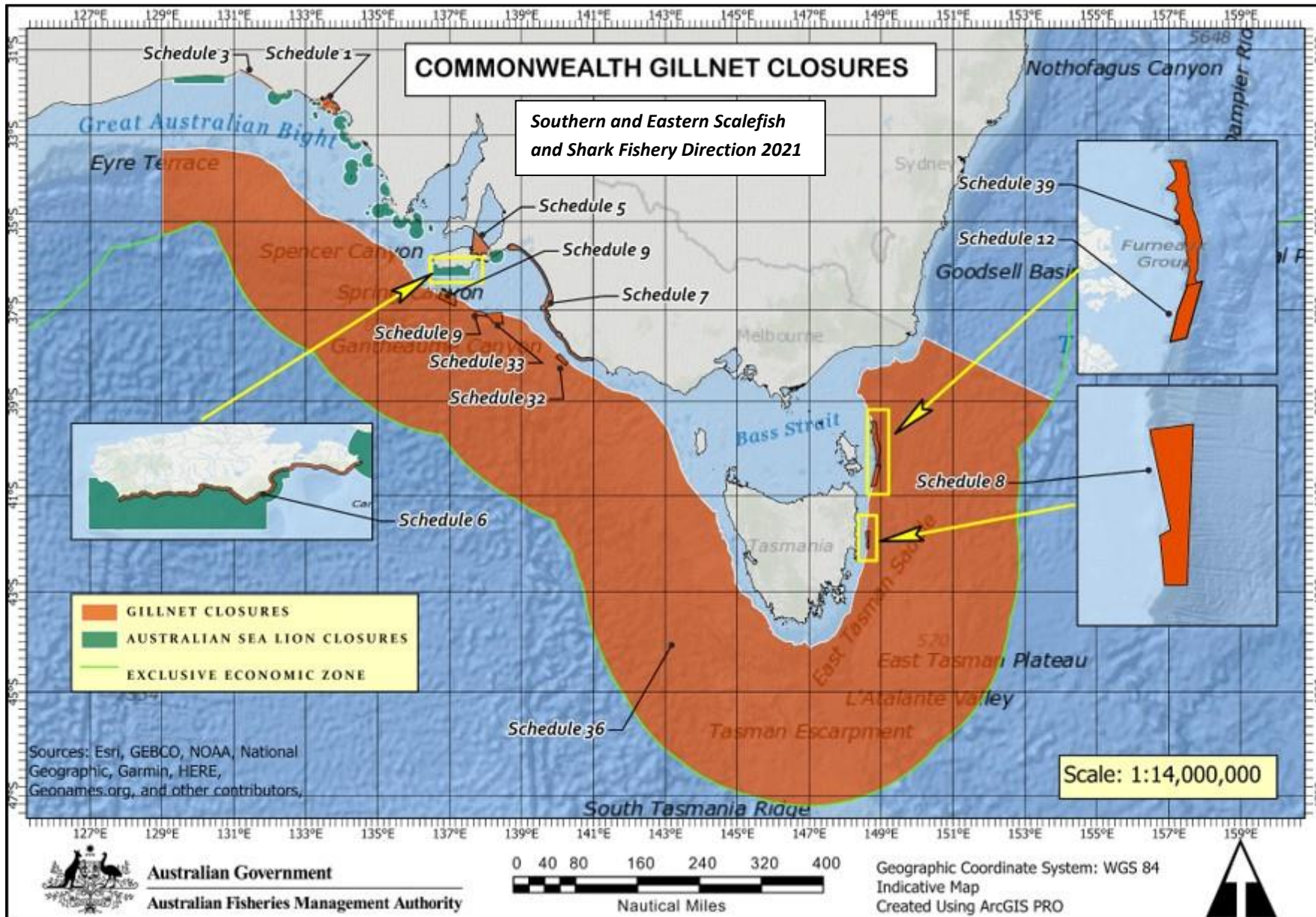
# Attachment 3.1 – Closures by sectors within the SESSF

(NOTE: Numbers refer to Schedules within the Fisheries Management (*Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery and Small Pelagic Fishery Closures*) Direction 2021)

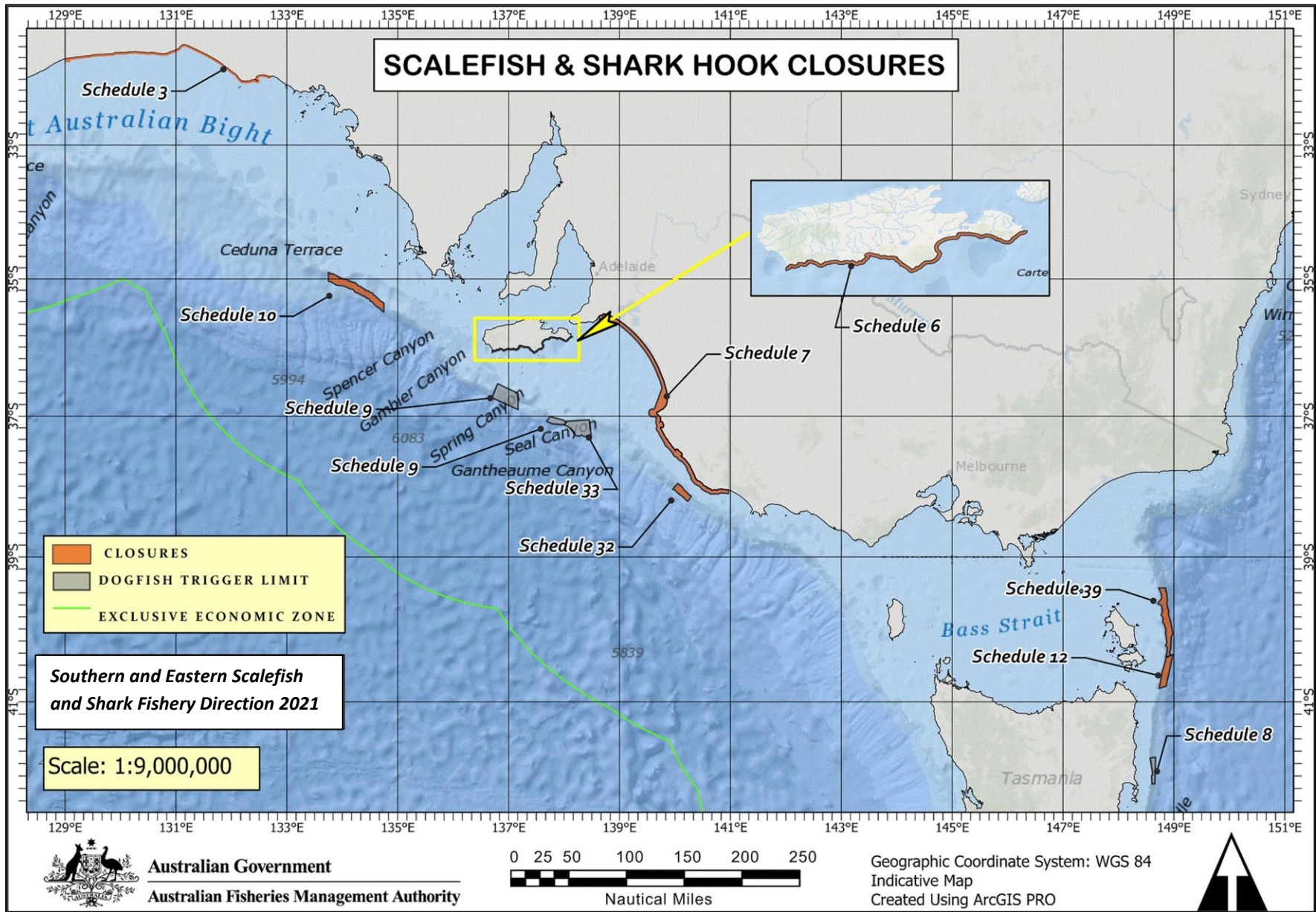




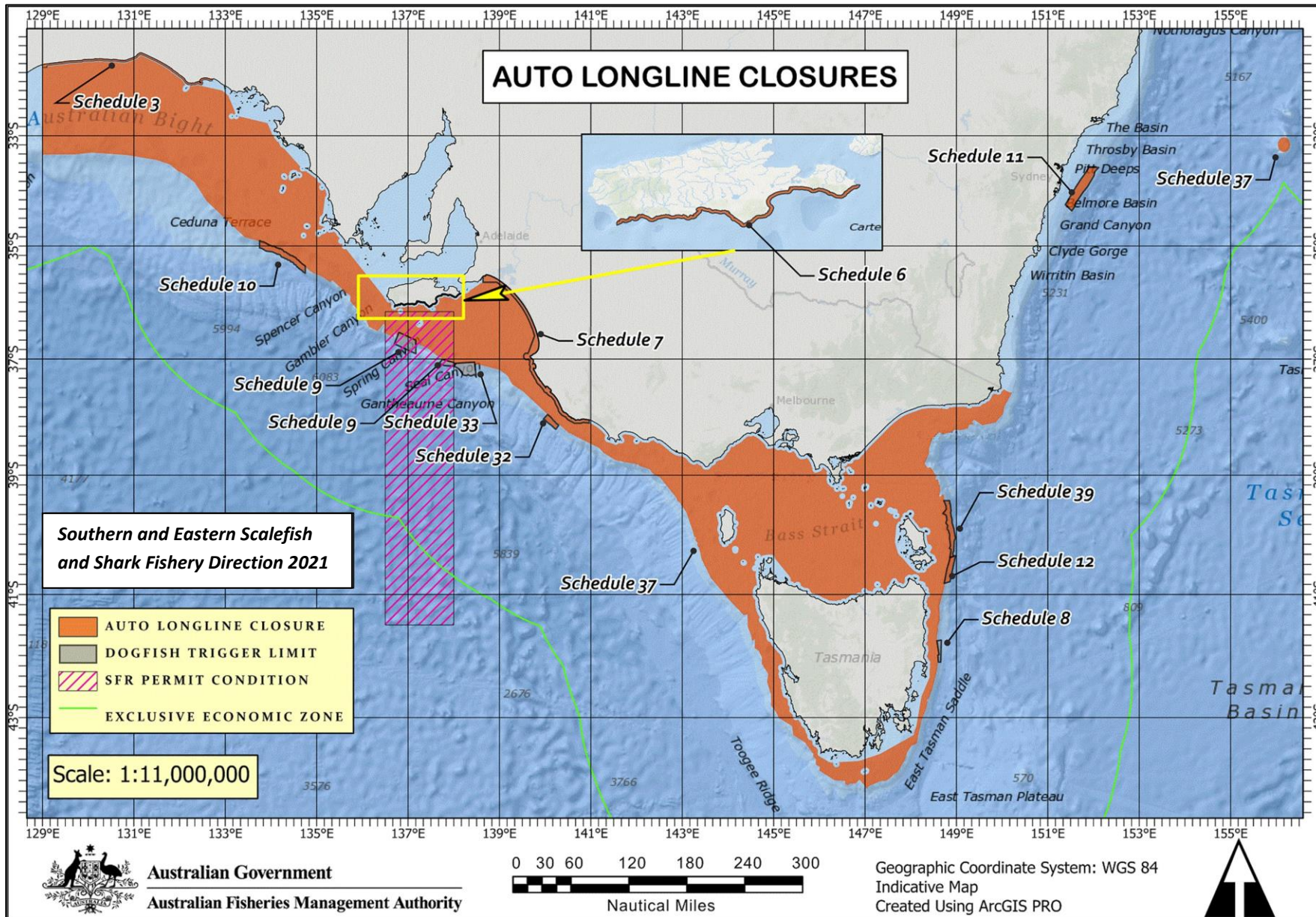




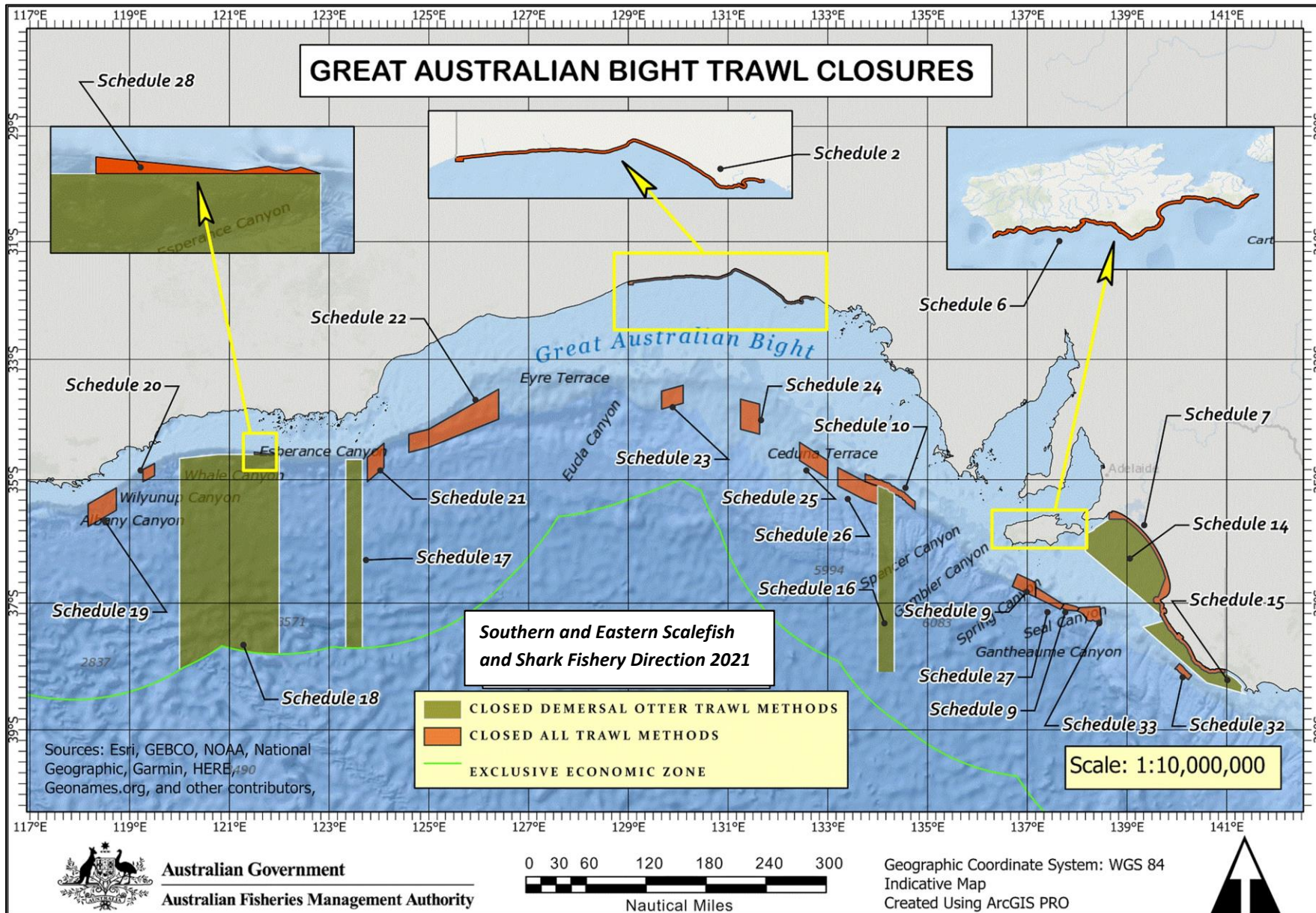














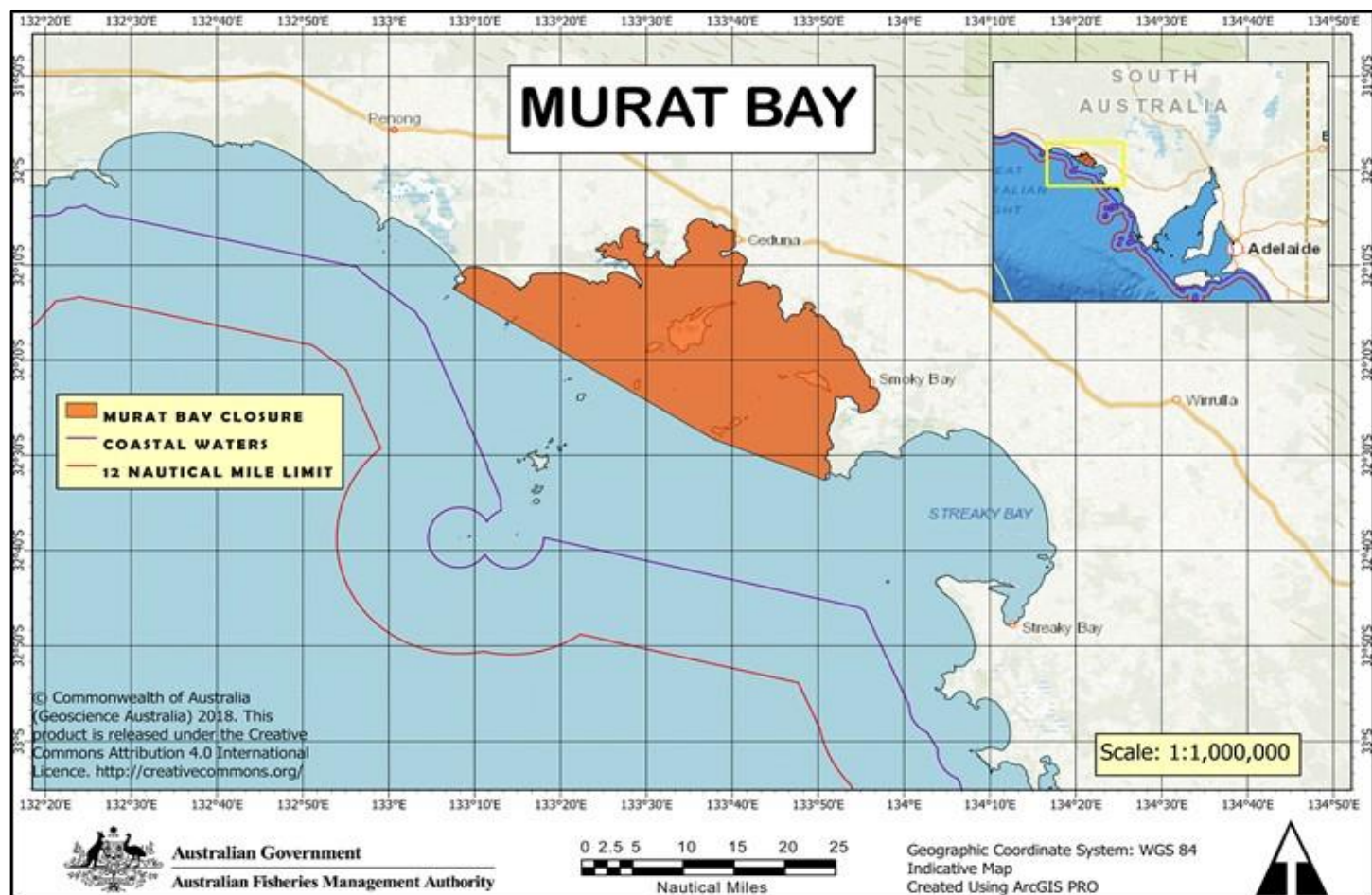
## Attachment 4 – Spatial Closures

The maps and closures described in this booklet are intended as a guide only. For exact coordinates of area closures, refer to the relevant sections in the SESSF Closure Directions.

### Attachment 4.1 – Fisheries Management (Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery and Small Pelagic Fishery Closures) Direction 2021

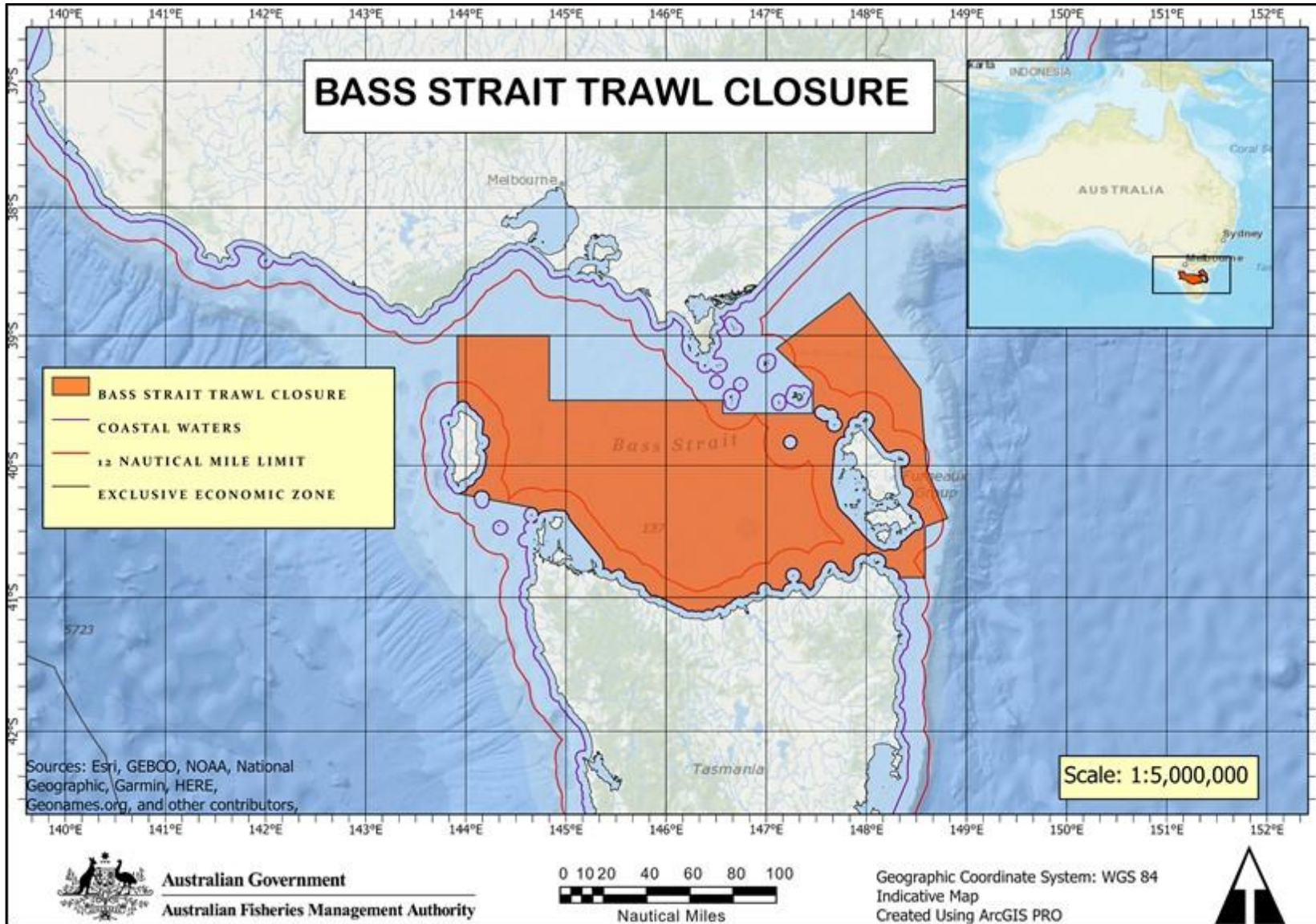
#### Schedule 1 – Murat Bay

**Reason:** Protect stocks of Australian sea lions, bronze whalers, pink snapper and mulloway - **Prohibited:** Gillnet Methods



## Schedule 2 – Bass Strait – Trawl Closure

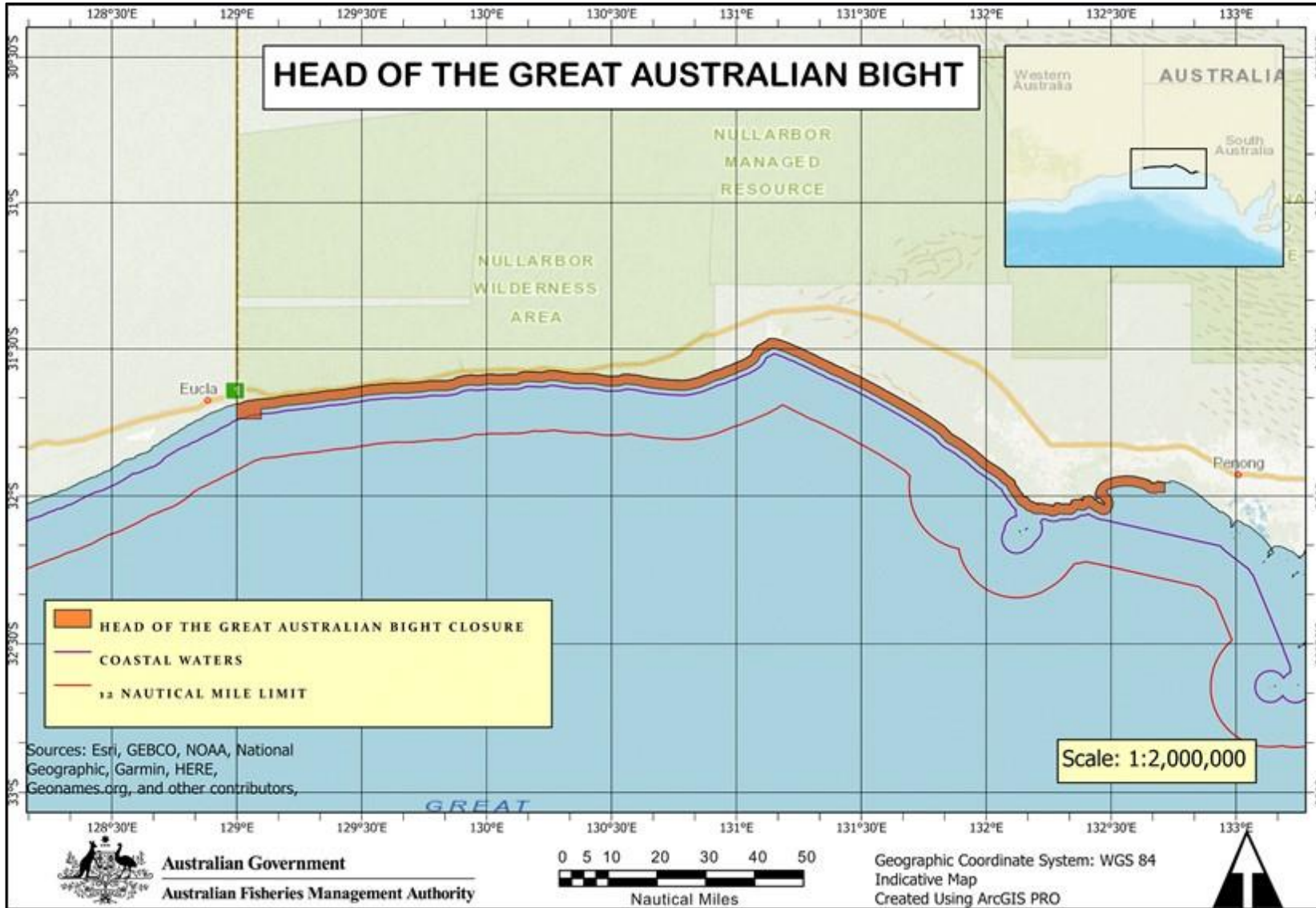
Reason: Protect school and gummy shark habitat - **Prohibited:** Demersal otter trawl methods





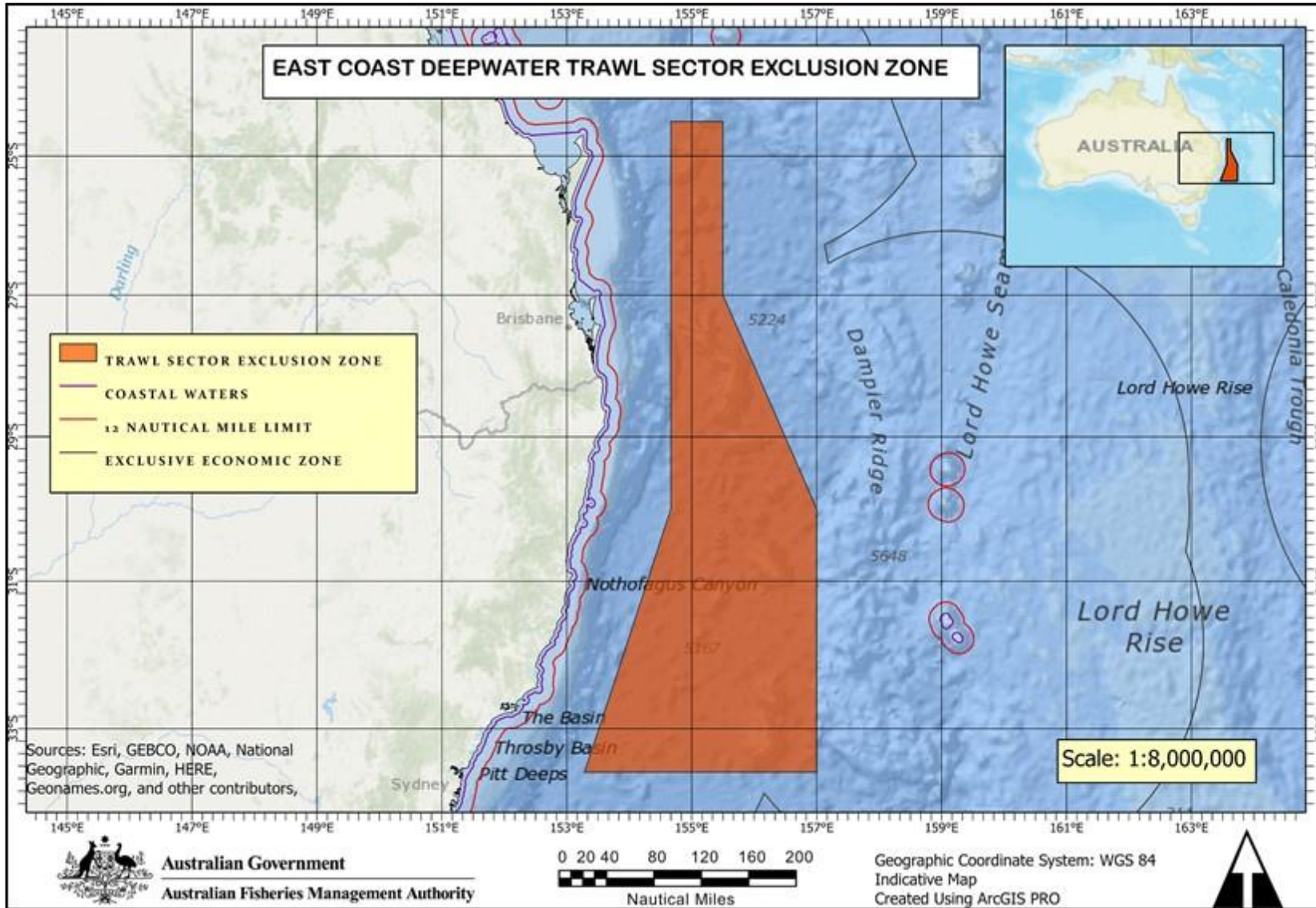
### Schedule 3 – Head of the Great Australian Bight

Reason: Protect breeding school shark and Australian sea lion populations - **Prohibited:** All fishing methods



# Schedule 4 – East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector Exclusion Zone

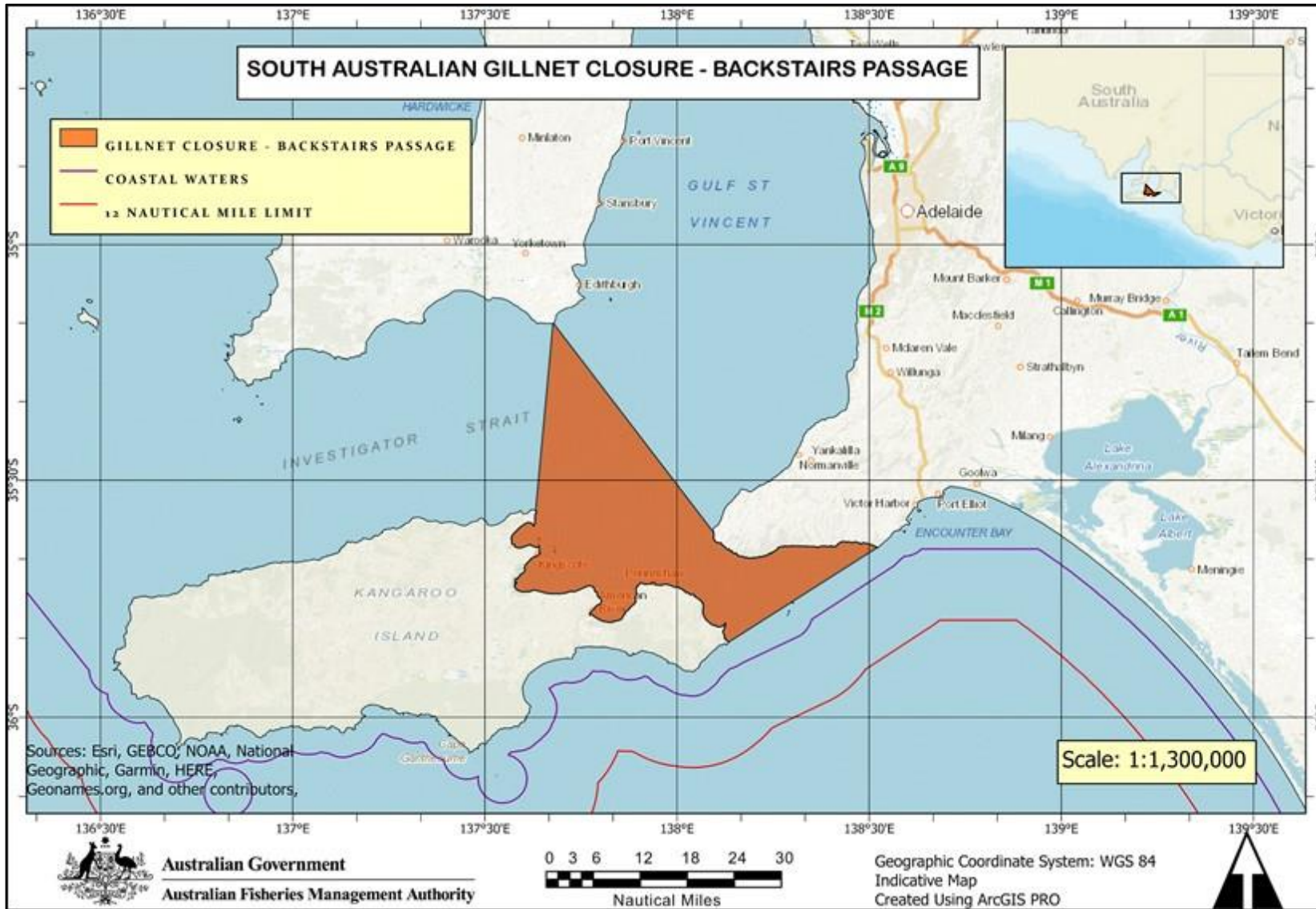
Reason: Protect benthic habitats - Prohibited: Trawl methods





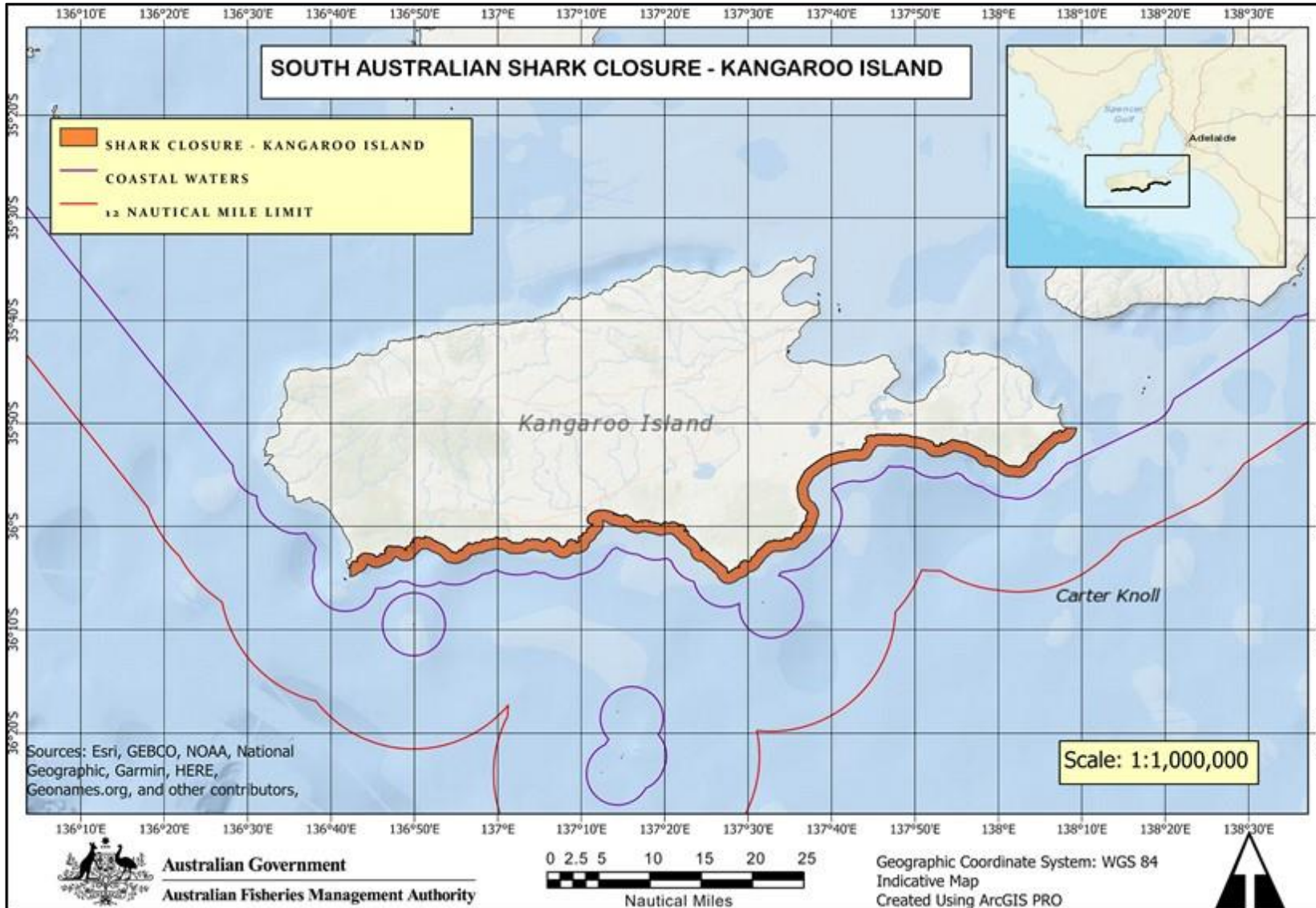
## Schedule 5 – South Australian Gillnet Closure – Backstairs Passage

**Reason:** Protect breeding school shark and Australian sea lion populations- **Prohibited:** Gillnet methods



## Schedule 6 – South Australian Shark Closure – Kangaroo Island

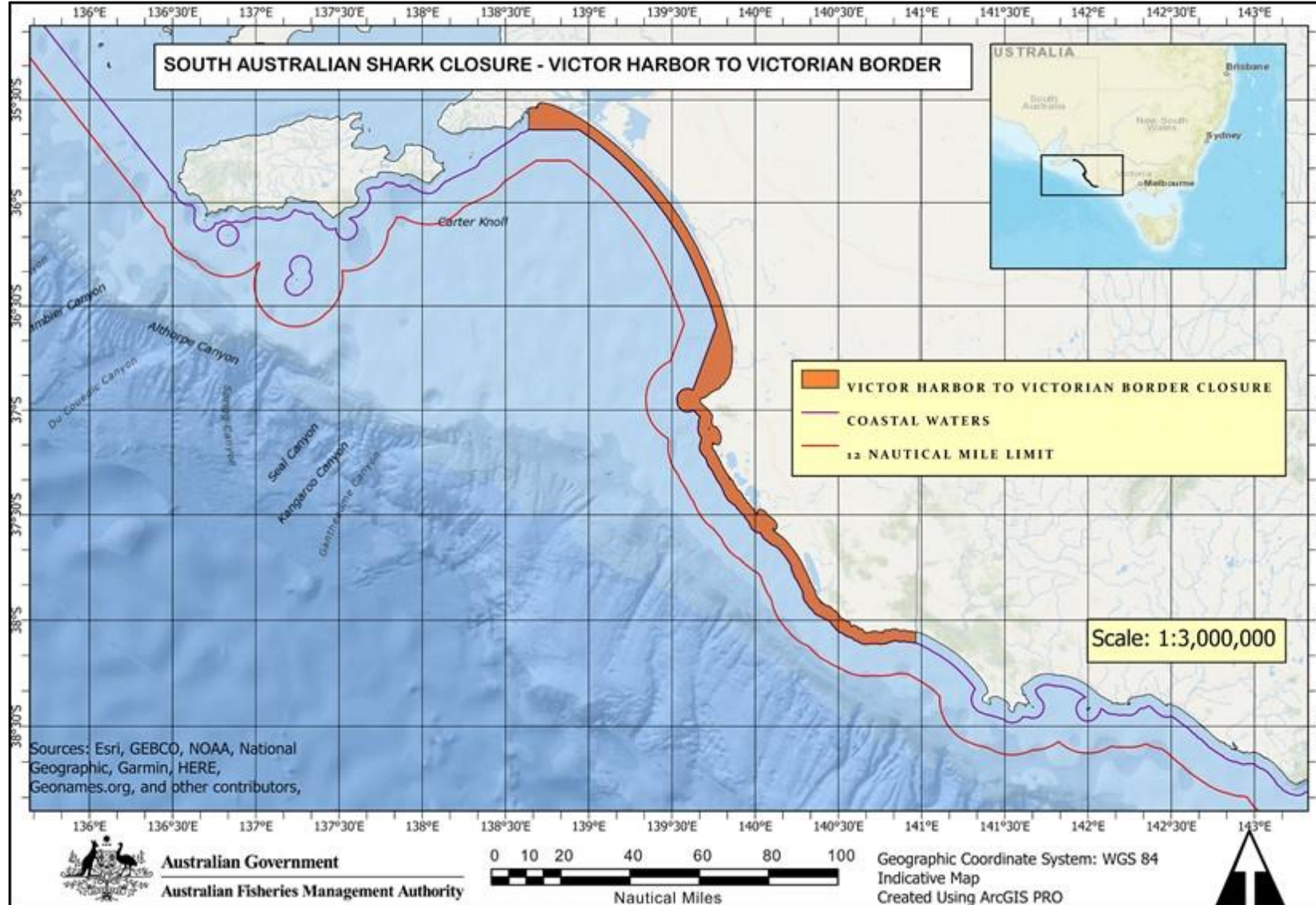
**Reason:** Protect breeding school shark and Australian sea lion populations - **Prohibited:** All fishing methods





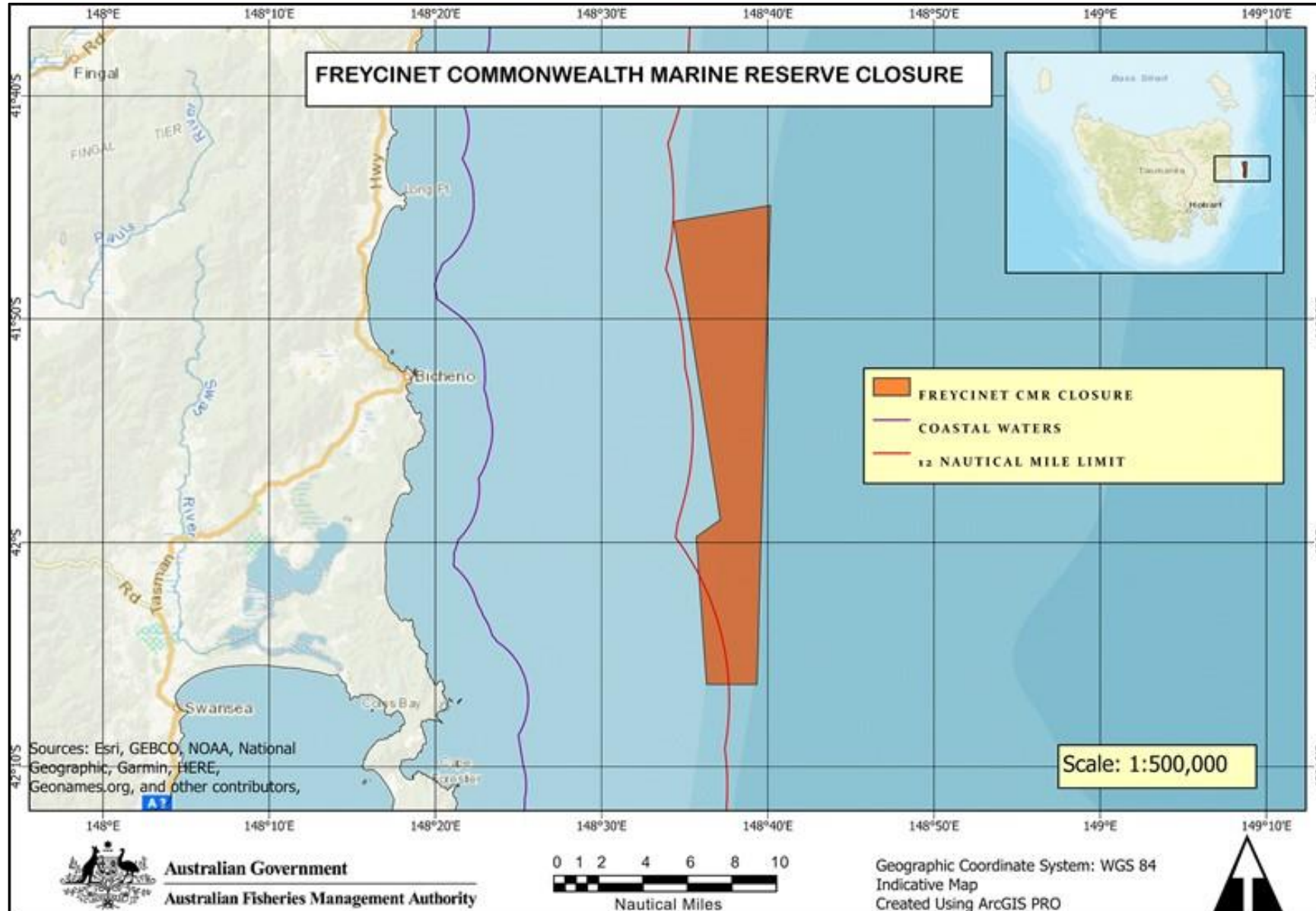
## Schedule 7 – South Australian Shark Closure – Victor Harbor to the Victorian Border

**Reason:** Protect breeding school shark and Australian sea lion populations - **Prohibited:** All fishing method



## Schedule 8 – Freycinet Commonwealth Marine Reserve Closures

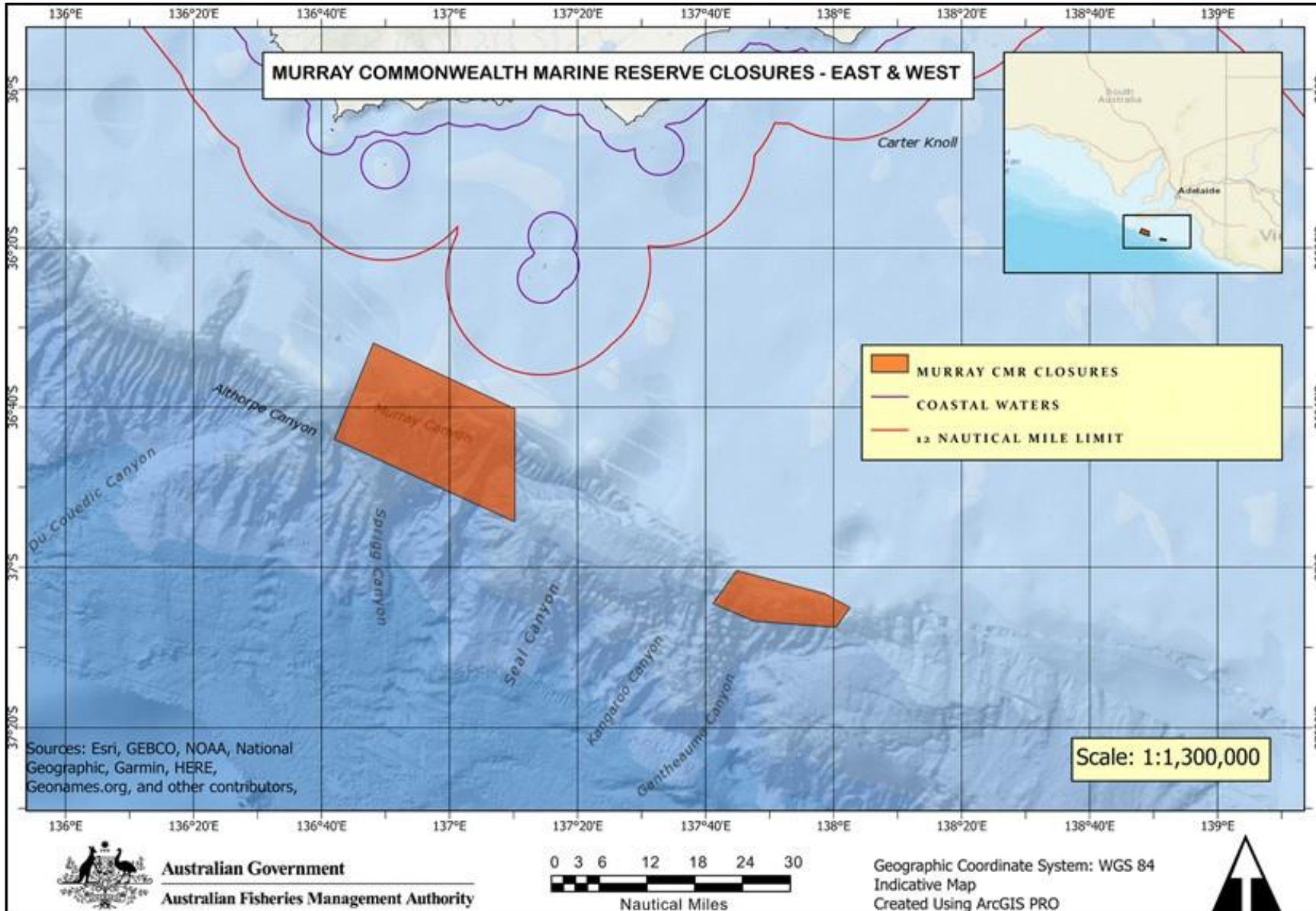
**Reason:** Protect Upper-Slope dogfish - **Prohibited:** If the Harrison's and southern dogfish triggers are met (refer to 6 (i) in the Direction), then all fishing methods (excluding hydraulic hand reel droplining) are prohibited for the concession holder for 12 months within this area. 100% observer coverage required. Please note that Demersal (bottom) Trawl, Danish Seine and Scallop Dredge are prohibited under the Commonwealth Marine reserve Closure. Refer to: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/> for updated information on prohibited fishing methods.





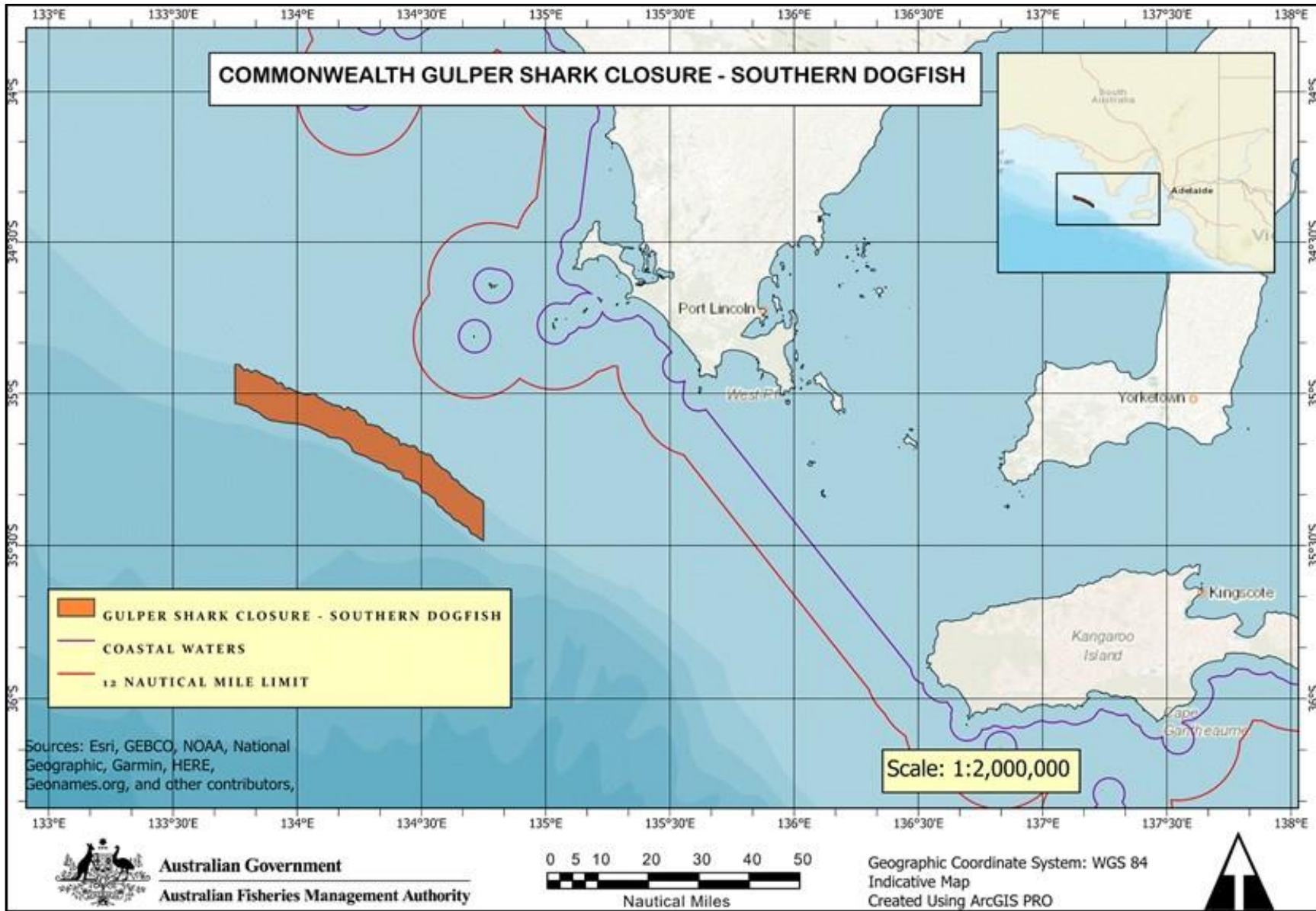
## Schedule 9 – Murray Commonwealth Marine Reserves Closures Schedule

**Reason:** Protect Upper-Slope dogfish - **Prohibited:** If the Harrison's and southern dogfish triggers are met (refer to 6 (i) in the Direction), then all fishing methods (excluding hydraulic hand reel droplining) are prohibited for the concession holder for 12 months within this area. 100% observer coverage required. Please note that Demersal (bottom) Trawl, Danish Seine and Scallop Dredge are prohibited under the Commonwealth Marine reserve Closure. Refer to: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/> for updated information on prohibited fishing methods.



# Schedule 10 – Commonwealth Gulper Shark Closure – Southern Dogfish

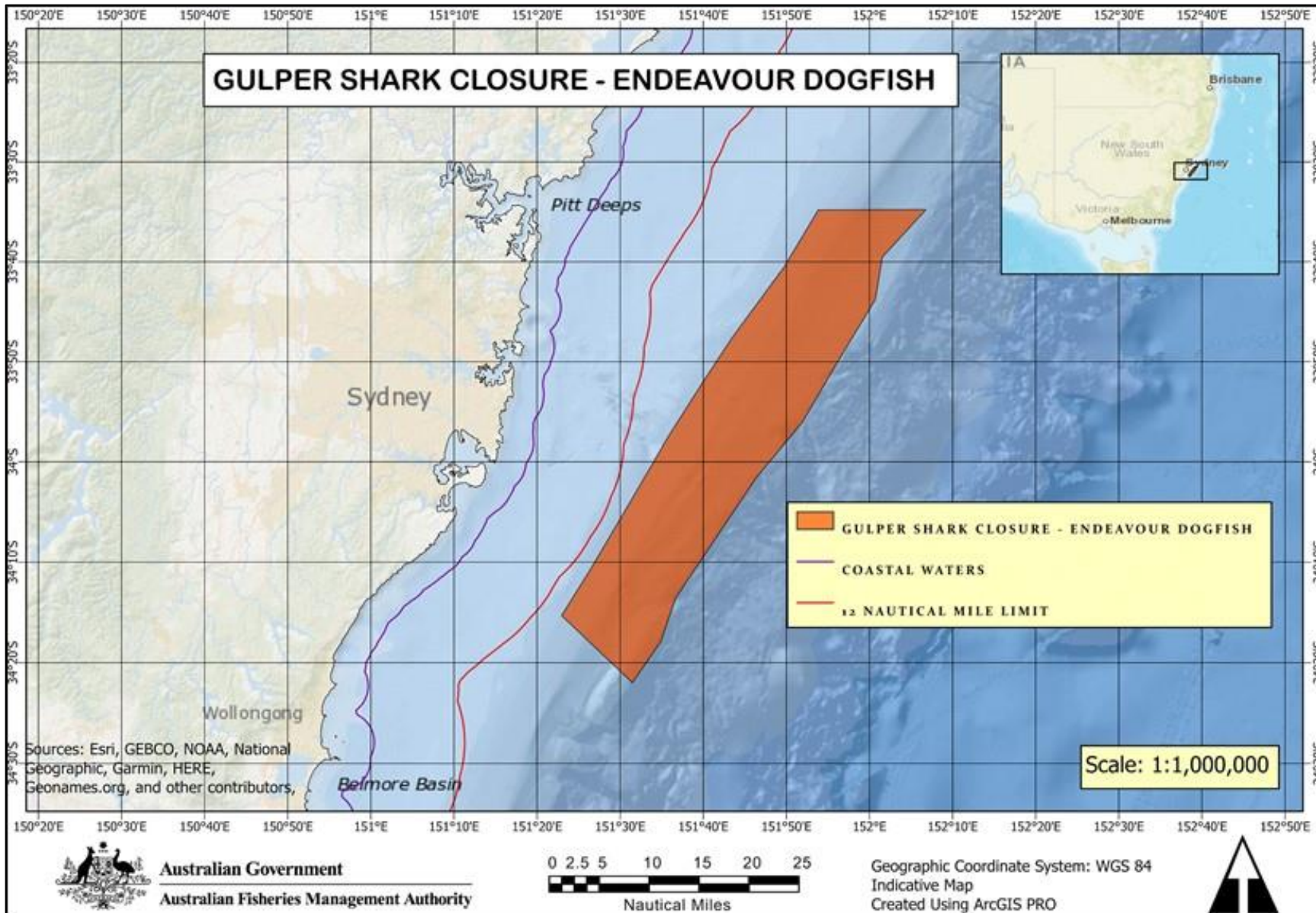
Reason: Protect Upper-Slope dogfish - Prohibited: Hook and Trawl methods





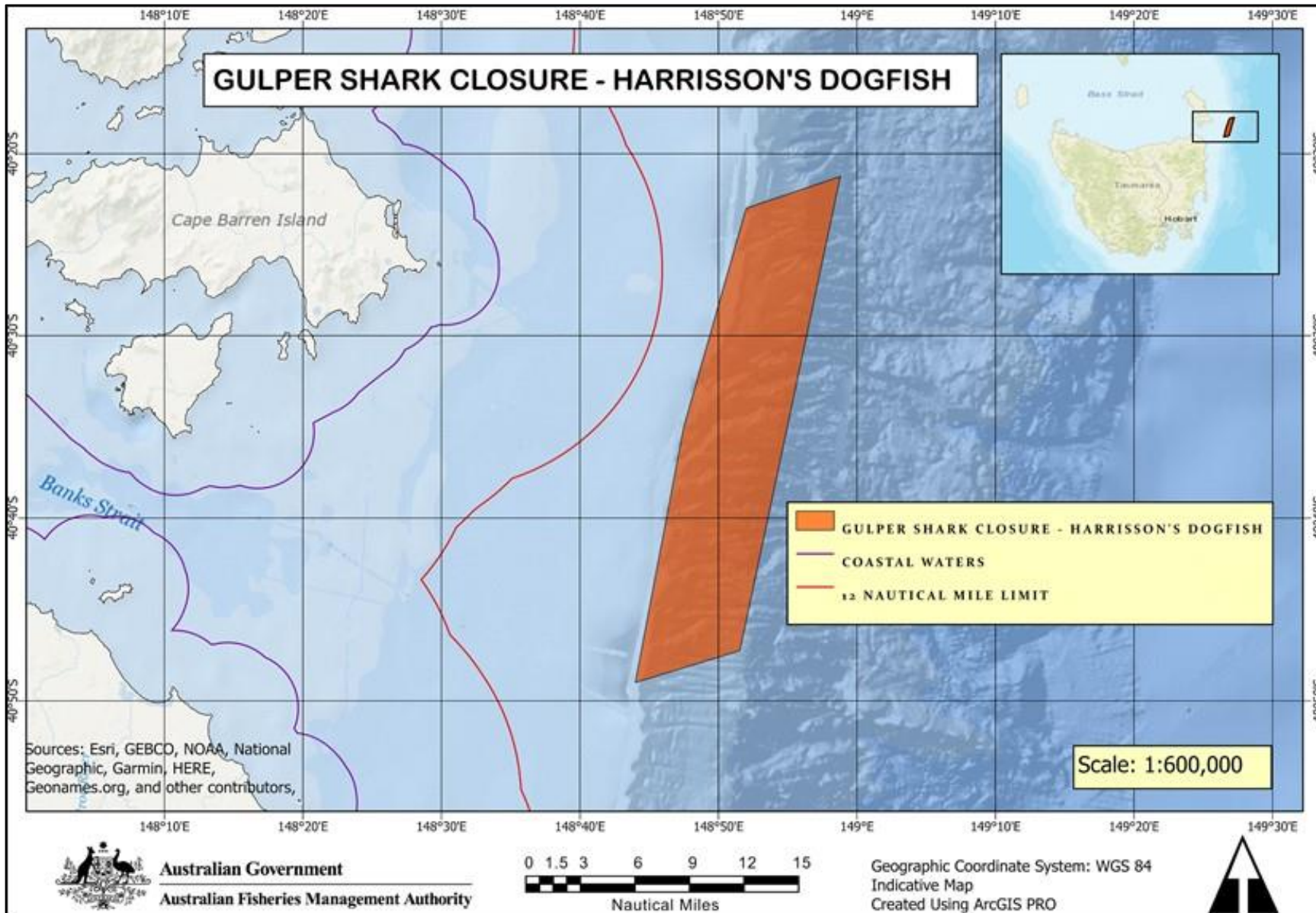
# Schedule 11 – Gulper Shark Closure – Endeavour Dogfish

Reason: Protect Upper-Slope dogfish - **Prohibited:** All fishing methods



## Schedule 12 – Gulper Shark Closure – Harrison’s Dogfish

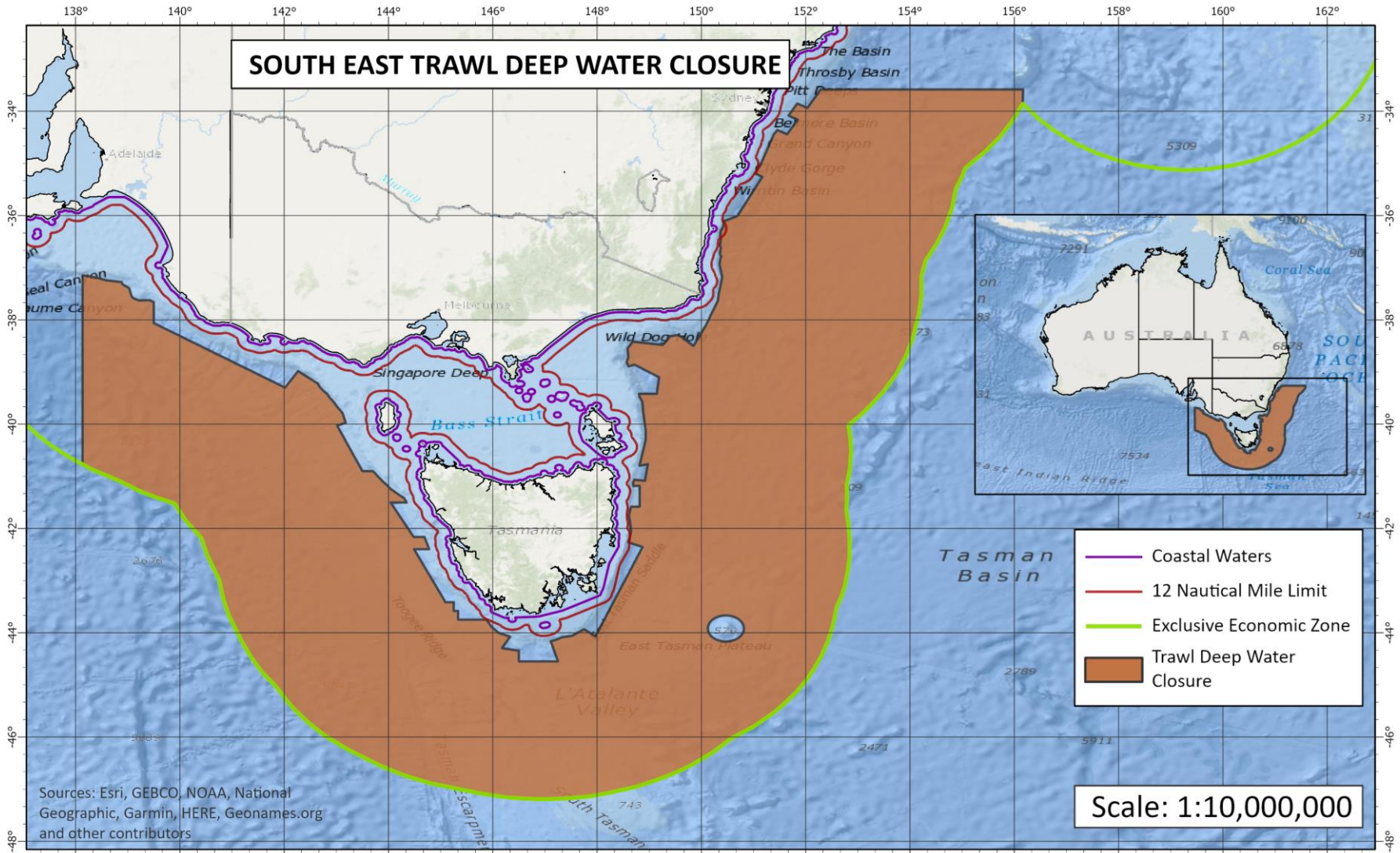
Reason: Protect Upper-Slope dogfish - **Prohibited:** All fishing methods





# Schedule 13 – South East Trawl Deep Water Closure

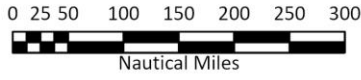
Reason: Protect orange roughy stocks - Prohibited: Trawl methods



Sources: Esri, GEBCO, NOAA, National Geographic, Garmin, HERE, Geonames.org and other contributors



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

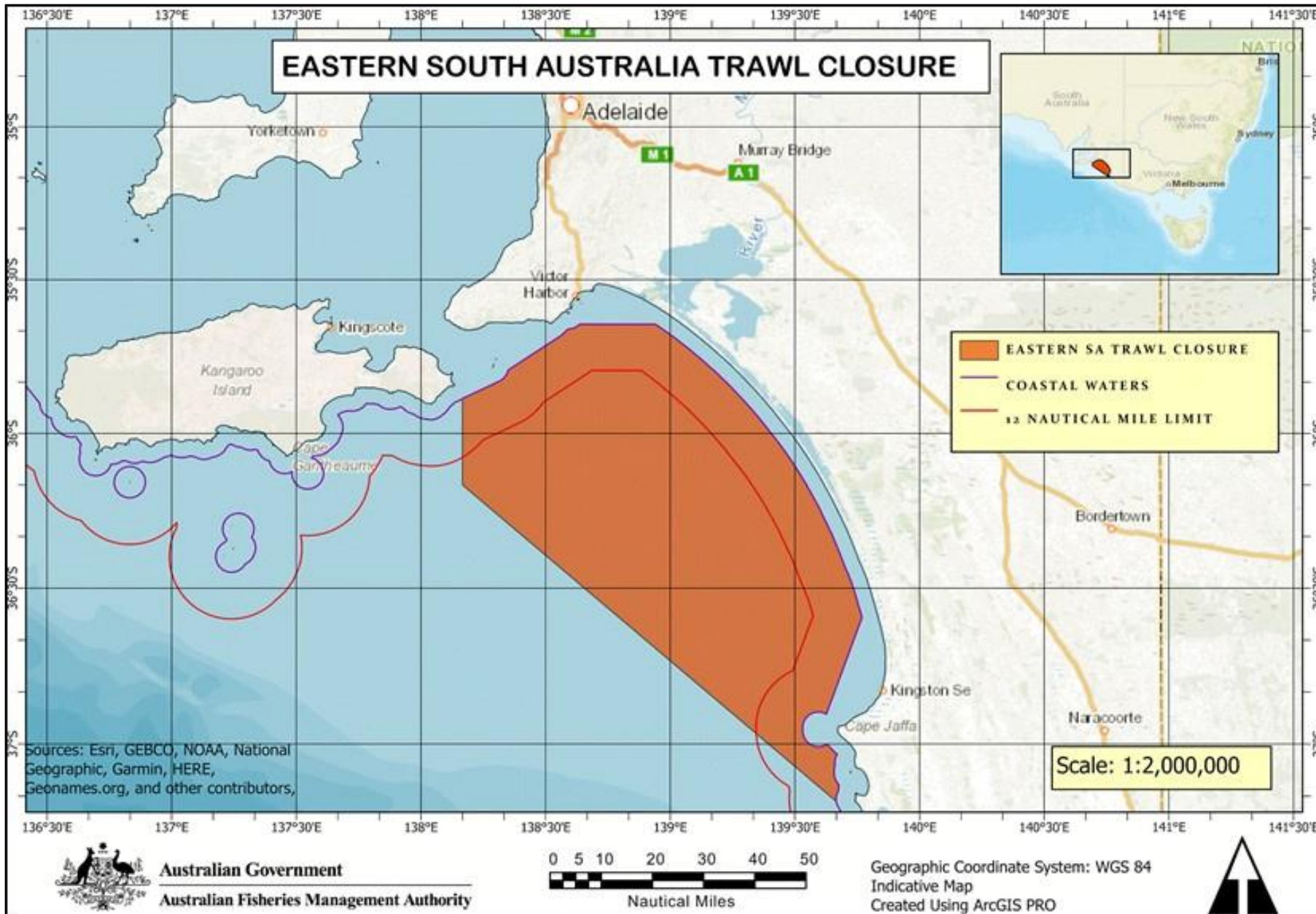


Geographic Coordinate System: WGS 84  
 Indicative Map  
 Created using ArcGIS Pro



# Schedule 14 – Eastern South Australia Trawl Closure

**Reason:** Reduce the catch of juvenile scalefish and protect structured benthic habitat - **Prohibited:** Demersal otter trawl methods





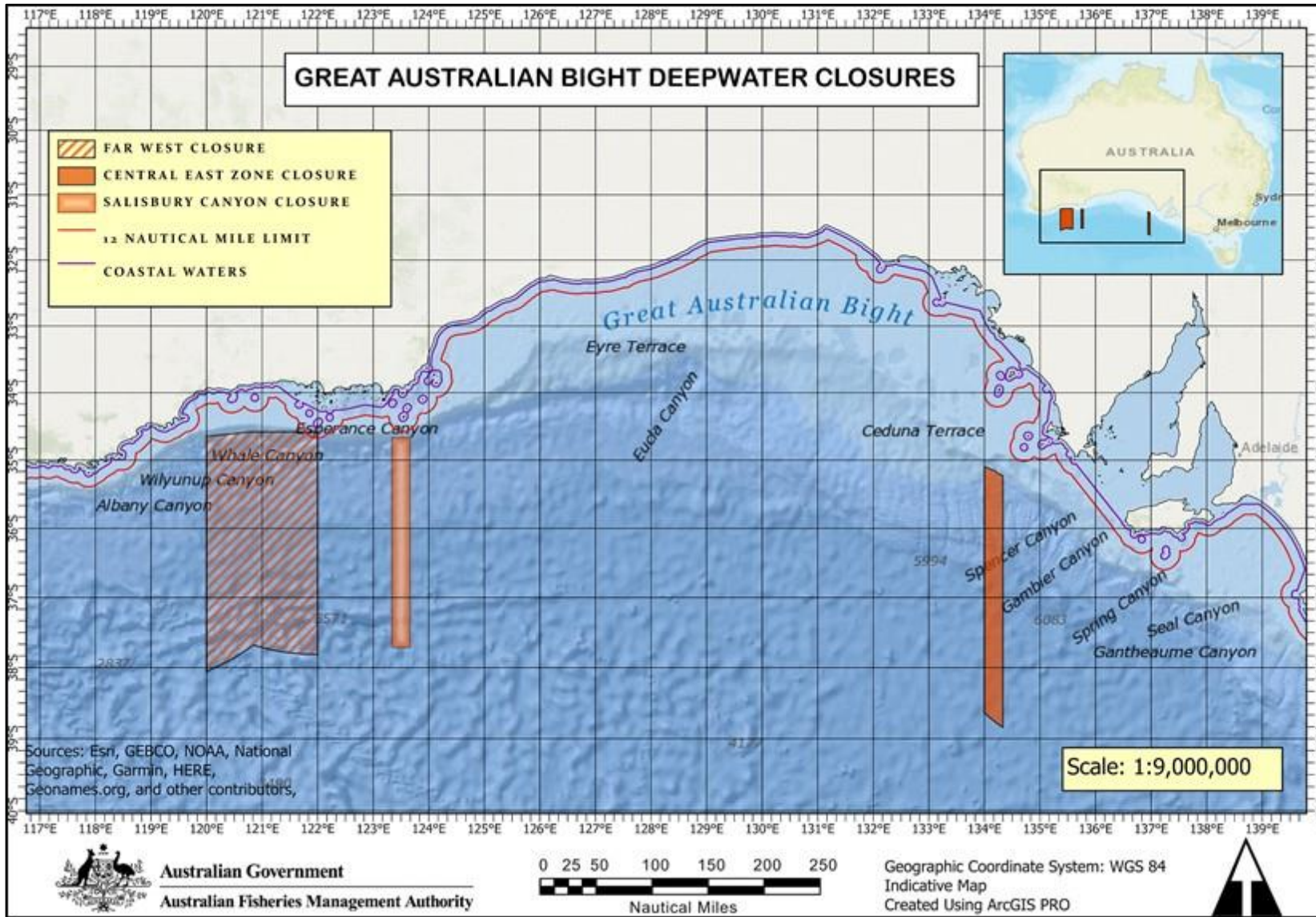
## Schedule 15 – Portland Area Trawl Closure

**Reason:** Reduce the catch of juvenile scalefish and protect structured benthic habitat - **Prohibited:** Demersal otter trawl methods



**Schedule 16 – Central East Zone**  
**Schedule 17 – Salisbury Canyon**  
**Schedule 18 – Far West**

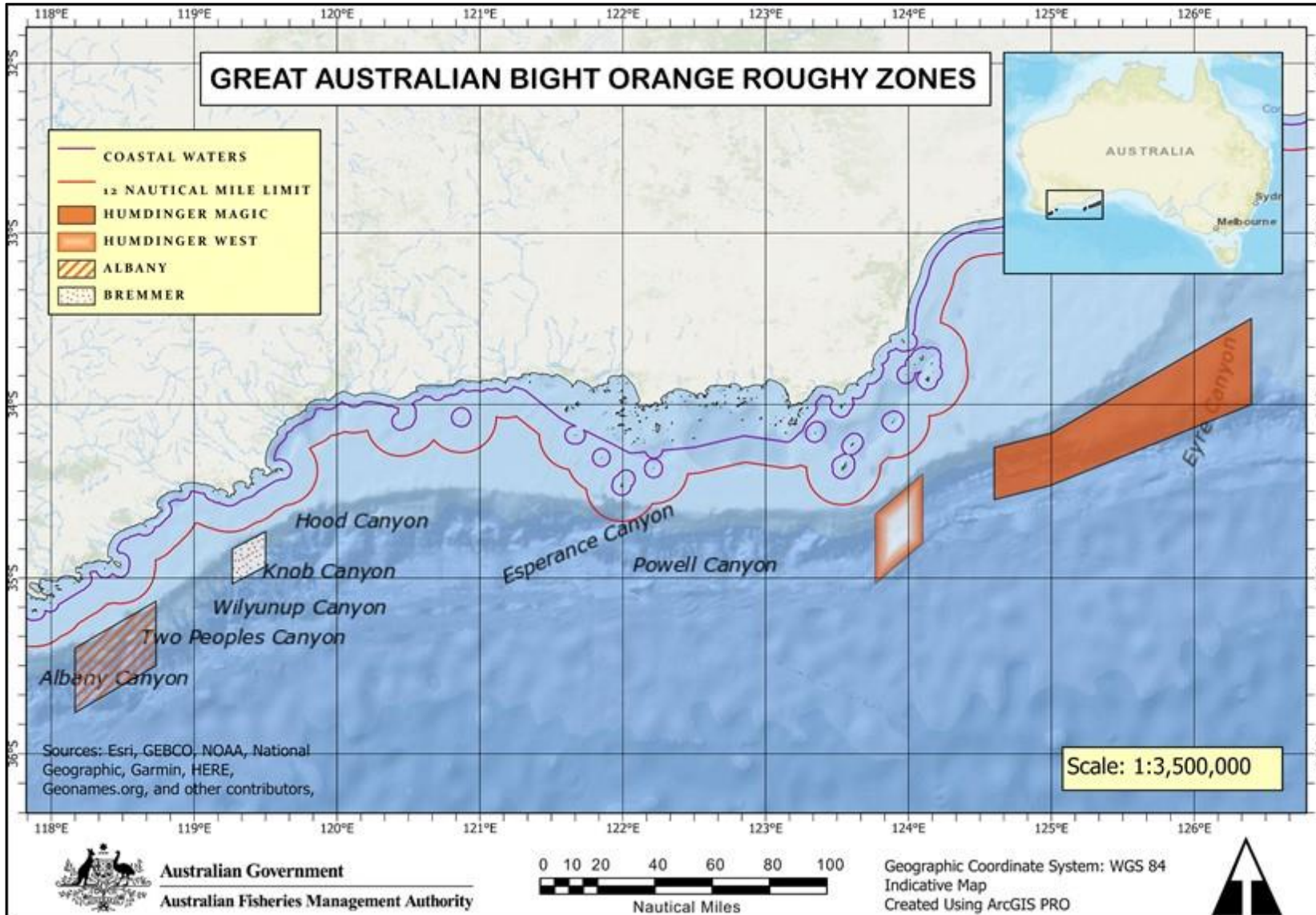
**Reason:** Protect deep water species and orange roughy stocks - **Prohibited:** Demersal otter trawl methods





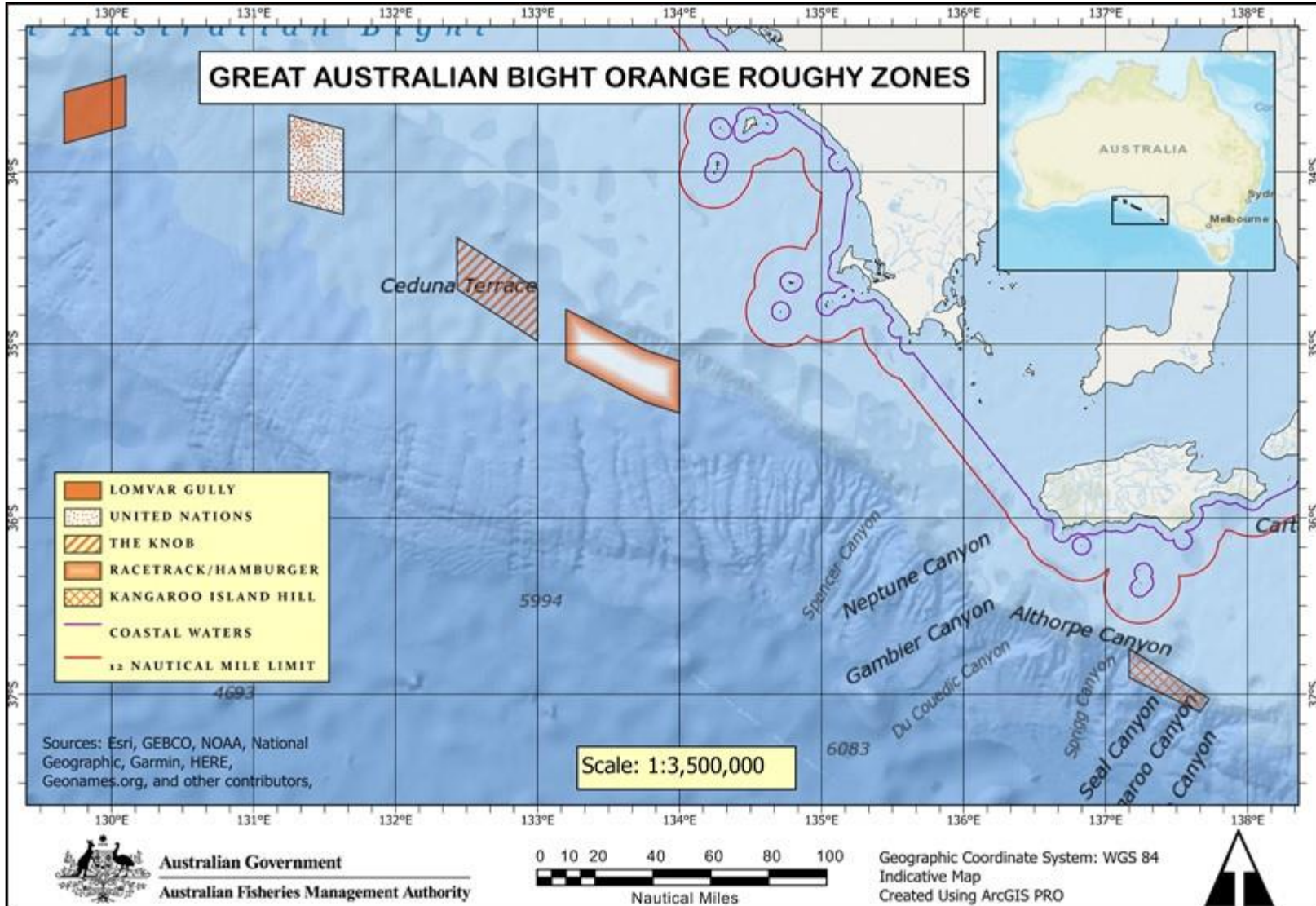
**Schedule 19 – Albany**  
**Schedule 20 – Bremmer**  
**Schedule 21 – Humdinger West**  
**Schedule 22 – Humdinger/Magic**

**Reason:** Protect orange roughy stocks - **Prohibited:** Trawl methods



- Schedule 23 – Lomvar Gully
- Schedule 24 – United Nations
- Schedule 25 – The Knob
- Schedule 26 – Racetrack/Hamburger
- Schedule 27 – Kangaroo Island Hill

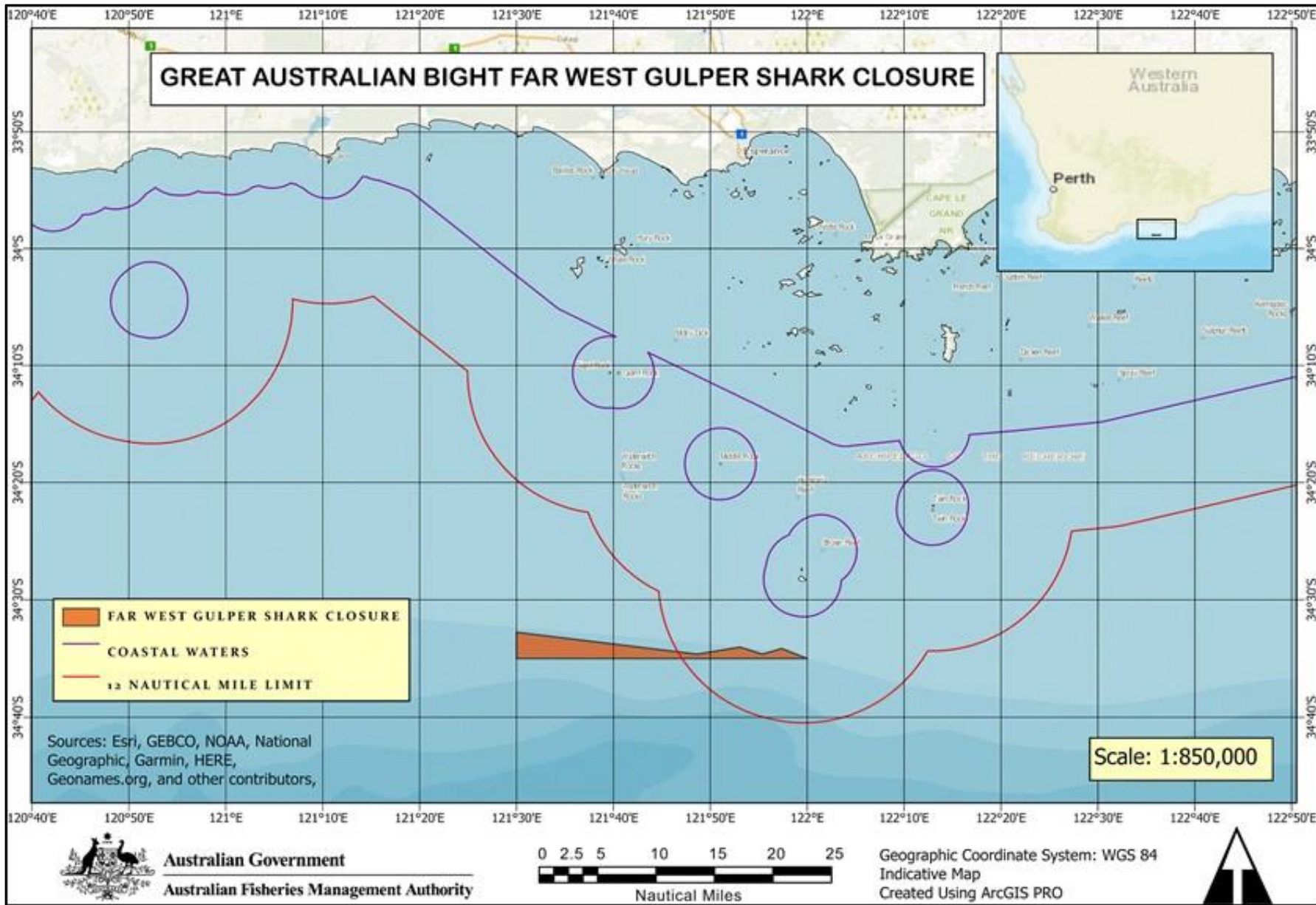
Reason: Protect orange roughy stocks - Prohibited: Trawl methods





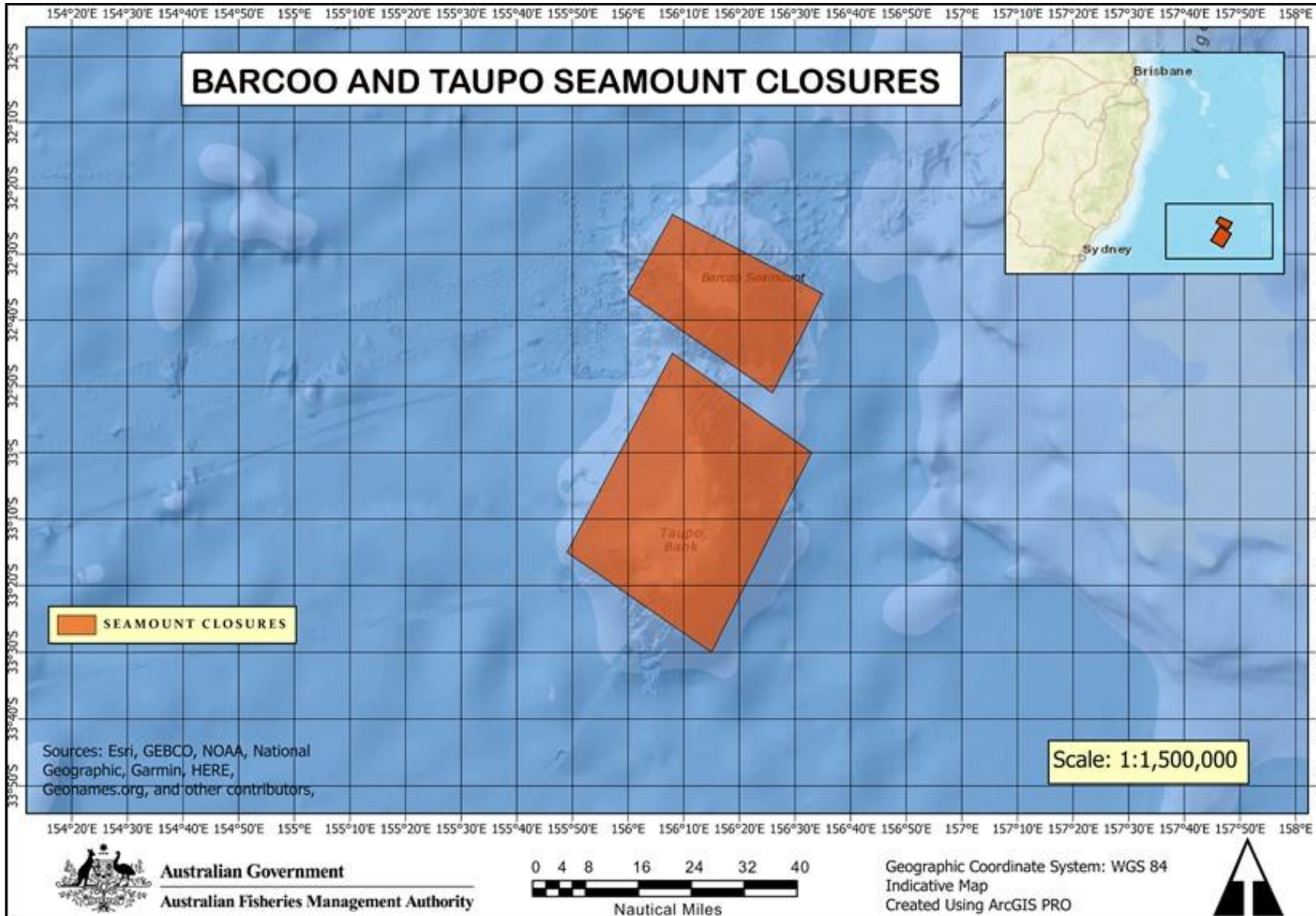
# Schedule 28 – Great Australian Bight Far West Gulper Shark Closure

Reason: Protect Upper-Slope dogfish - **Prohibited:** Trawl methods



## Schedule 29 – Barcoo and Taupo Seamounts' Closure

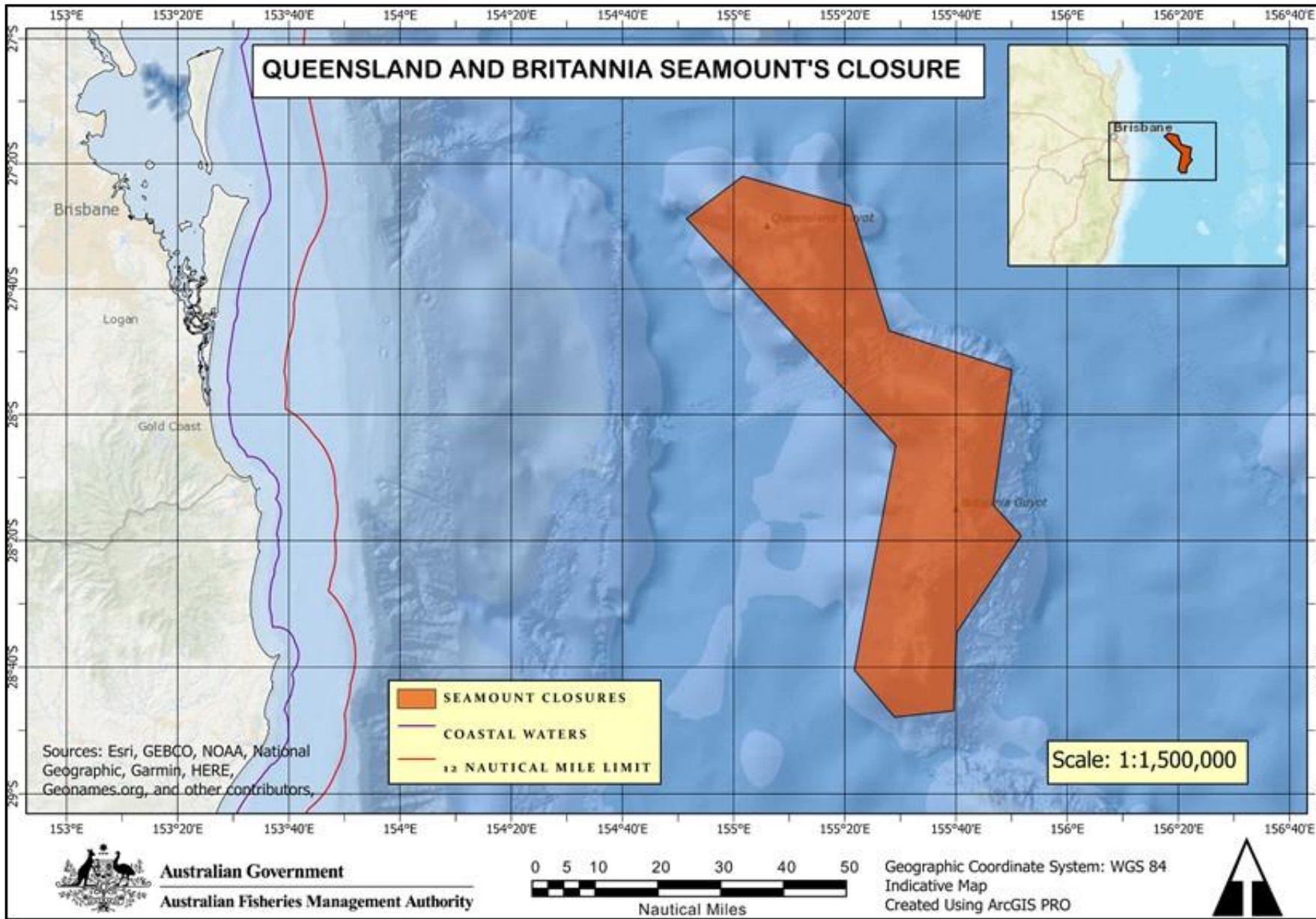
**Reason:** Protect Upper-Slope dogfish - **Prohibited:** Trawl methods and if the Harrison's and southern dogfish triggers are met (refer to 6 (q) in the Direction), then all fishing methods (excluding hydraulic hand reel droplining) are prohibited for the concession holder for 12 months within this area. 100% observer coverage is required.





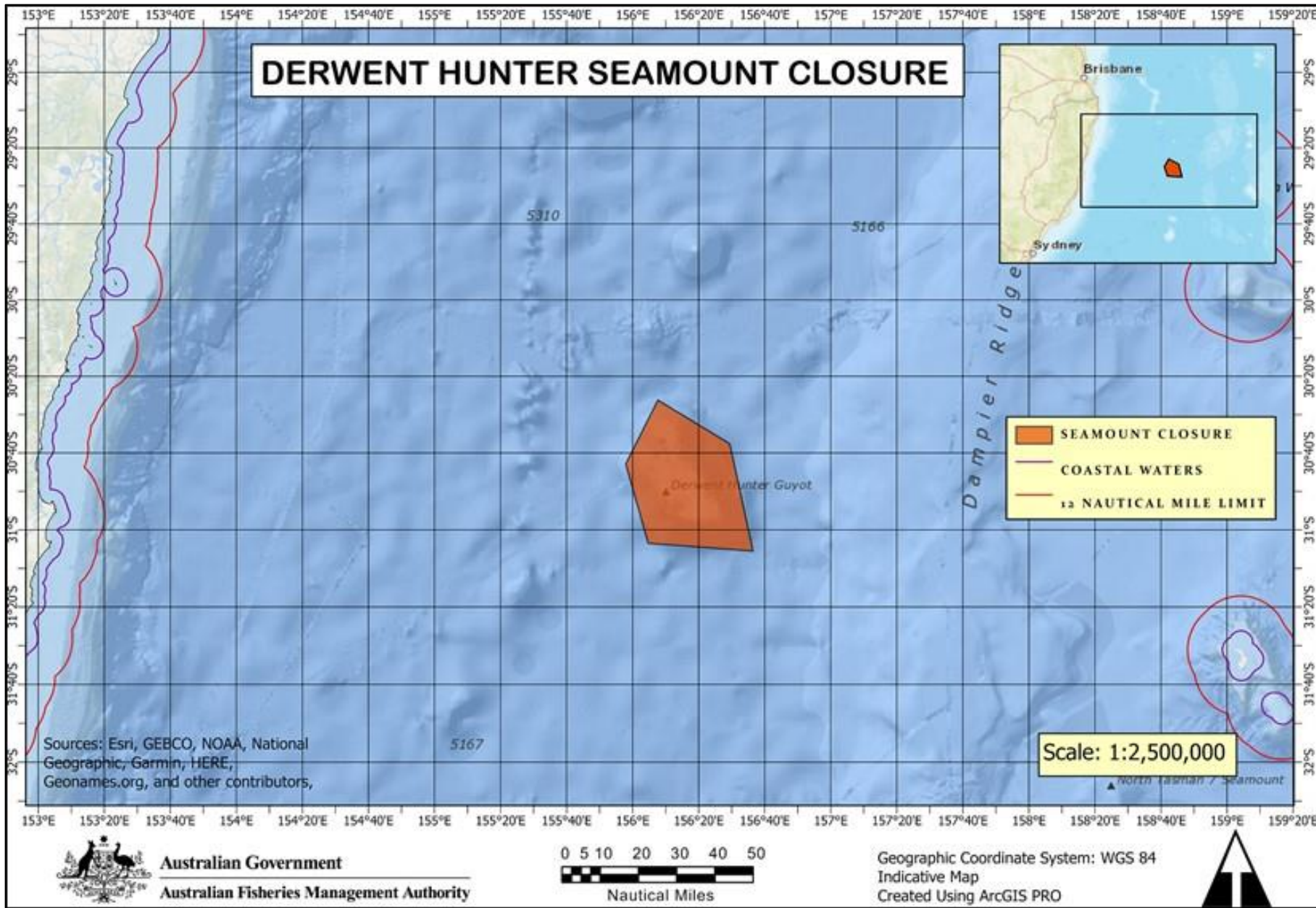
## Schedule 30 – Queensland and Britannia Seamounts' Closure

**Reason:** Protect Upper-Slope dogfish - **Prohibited:** All fishing methods, except hydraulic hand reel droplining



# Schedule 31 – Derwent Hunter Seamount Closure

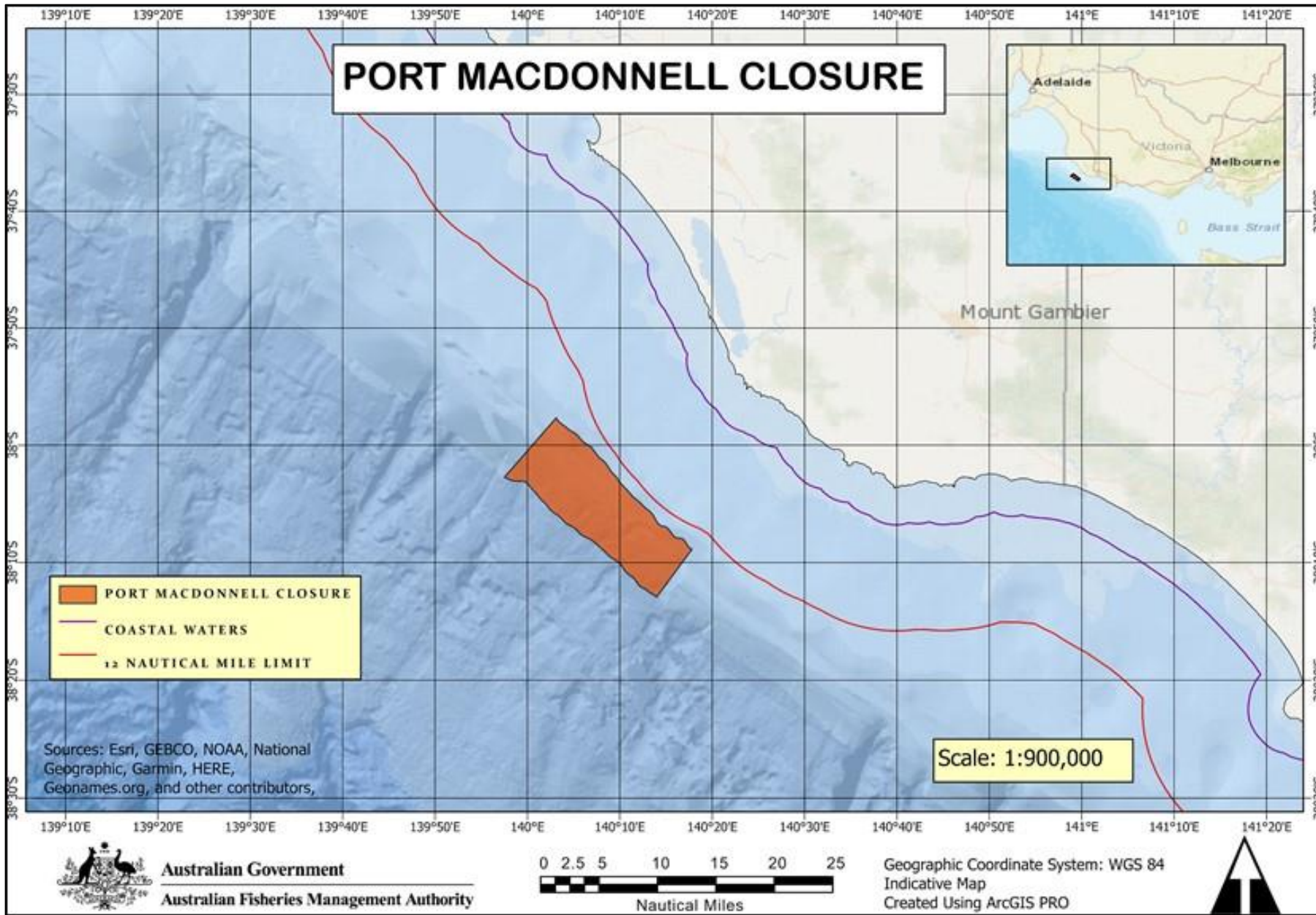
Reason: Protect Upper-Slope dogfish - **Prohibited:** All fishing methods





## Schedule 32 – Port MacDonnell Closure

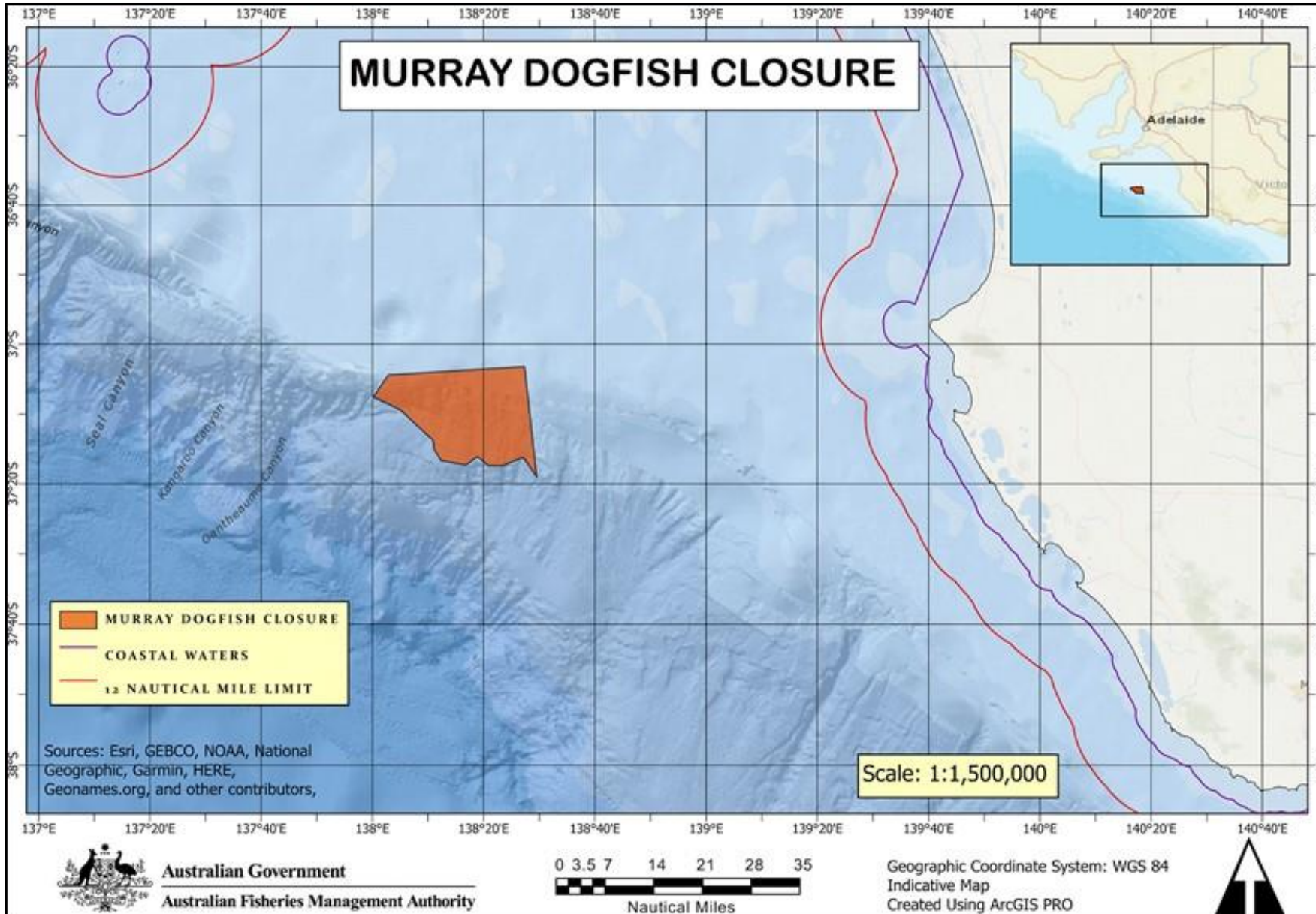
Reason: Protect Upper-Slope dogfish - **Prohibited:** All fishing methods





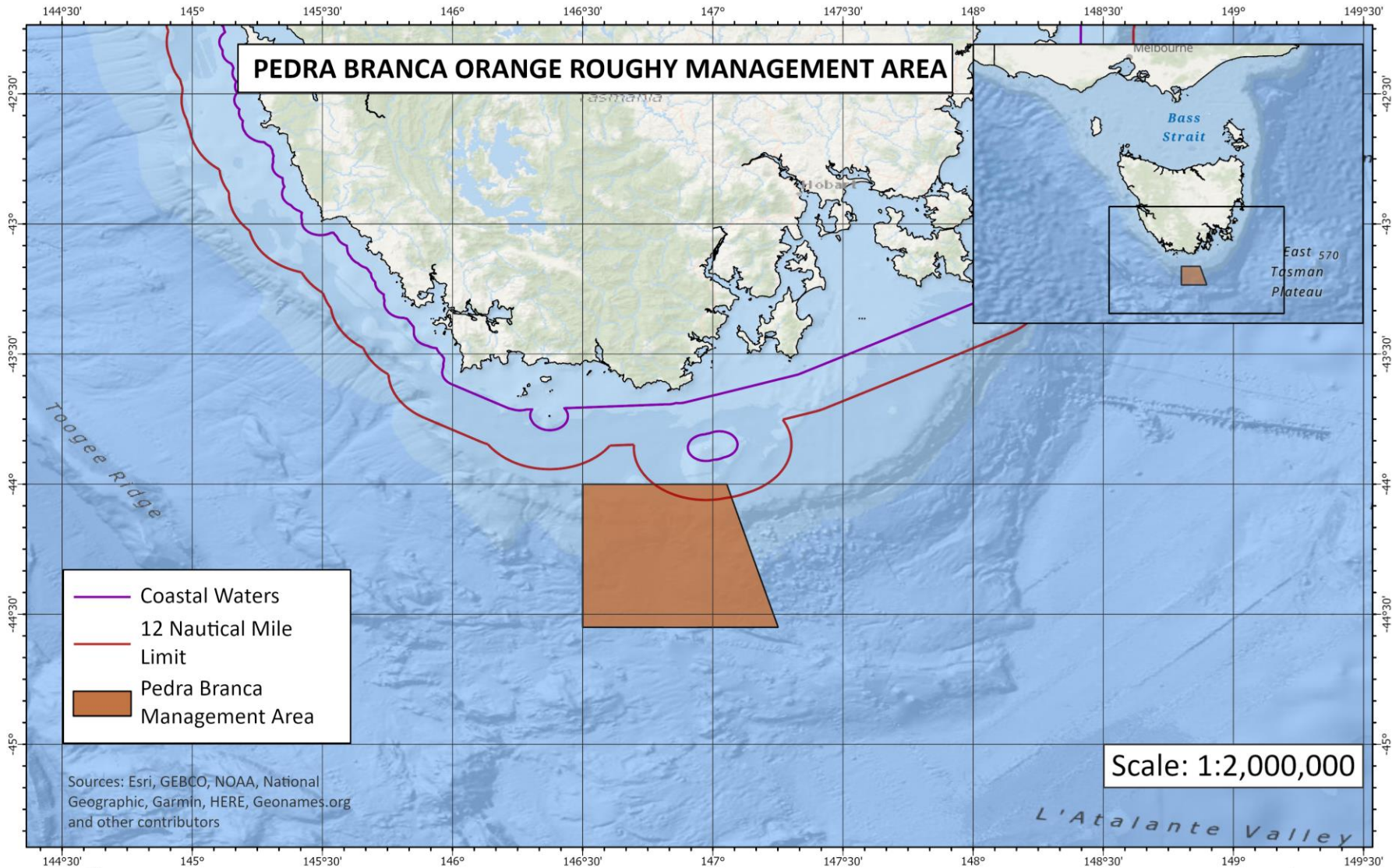
### Schedule 33 – Murray Dogfish Closure

**Reason:** Protect Upper-Slope dogfish - **Prohibited:** Trawl methods and if the Harrison's and southern dogfish triggers are met (refer to 6 (u) in the Direction), then all fishing methods (excluding hydraulic hand reel droplining) are prohibited for the concession holder for 12 months within this area. 100% observer coverage is required.

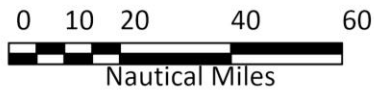


## Schedule 34 – Pedra Branca Orange Roughy Management Area

**Reason:** Allows for targeted fishing of orange roughy using trawl methods. 100% observer coverage is required during the period 1 June to 31 August of any year.



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**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**



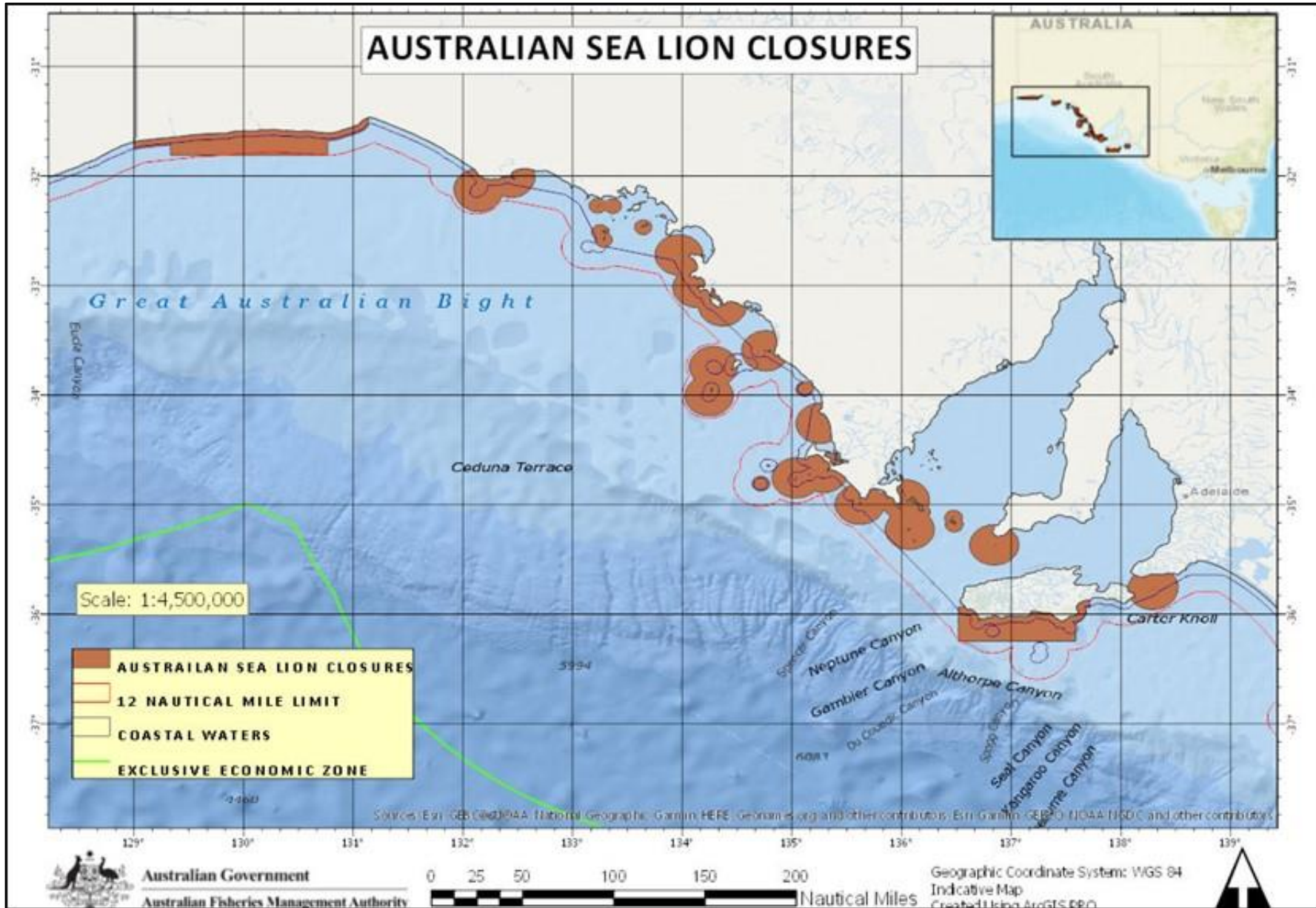
Geographic Coordinate System: WGS 84  
Indicative Map  
Created using ArcGIS Pro





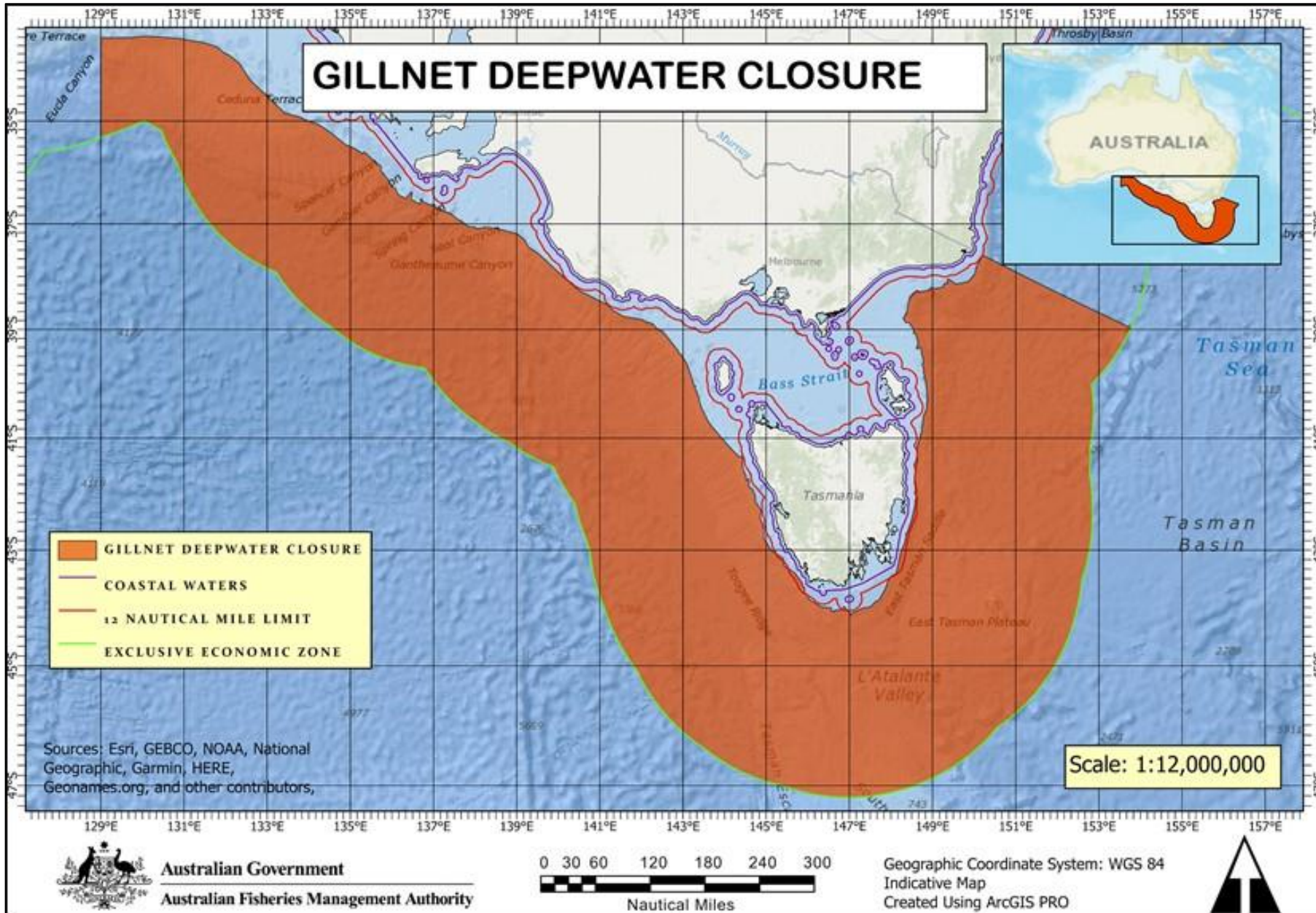
# Schedule 35 – Australian Sea Lion Closures

Reason: Protect Australian sea lions - Prohibited: Gillnet methods



# Schedule 36 – Gillnet Deepwater Closure

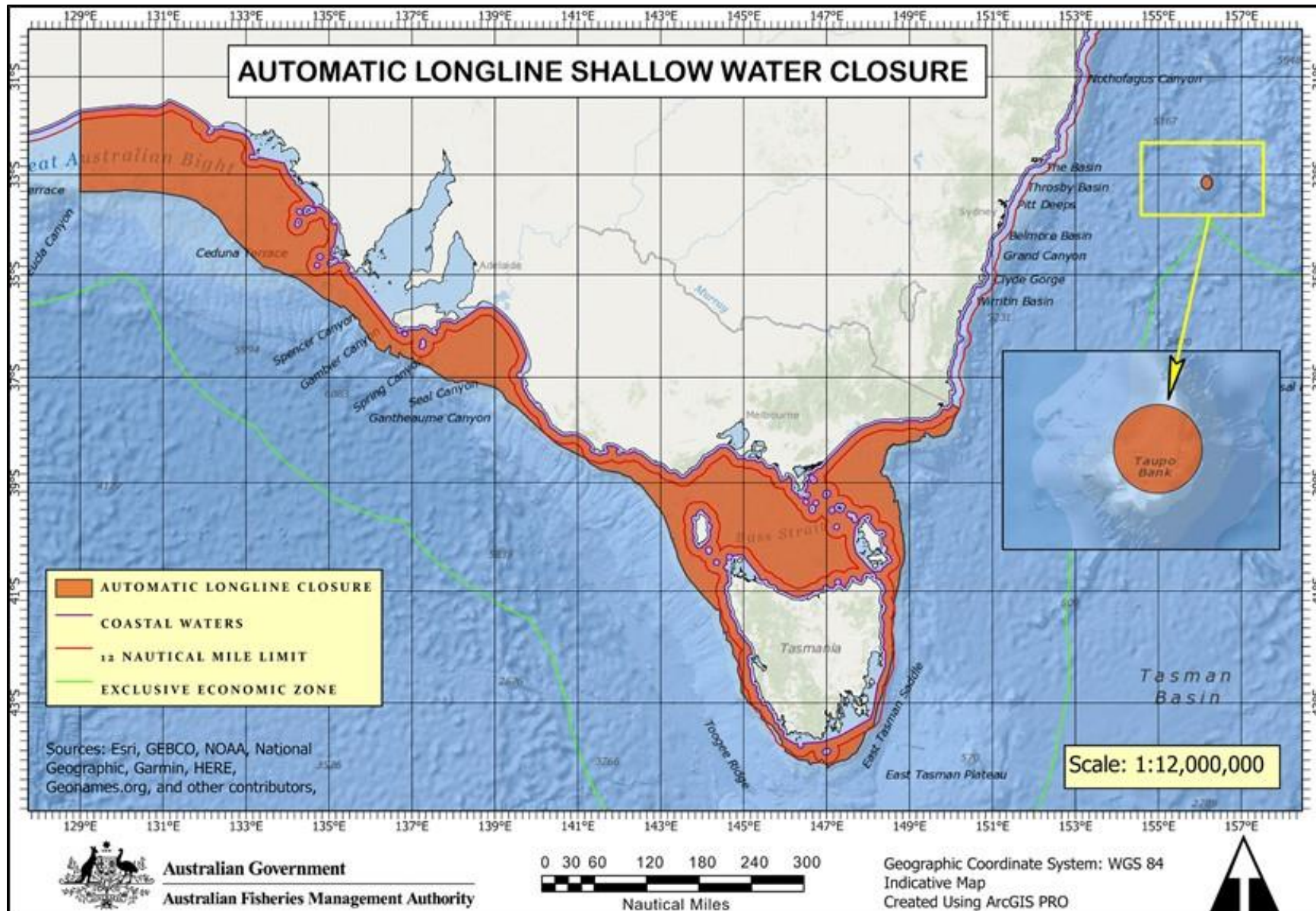
Reason: Protect breeding school shark populations - **Prohibited:** Gillnet Deepwater Closure





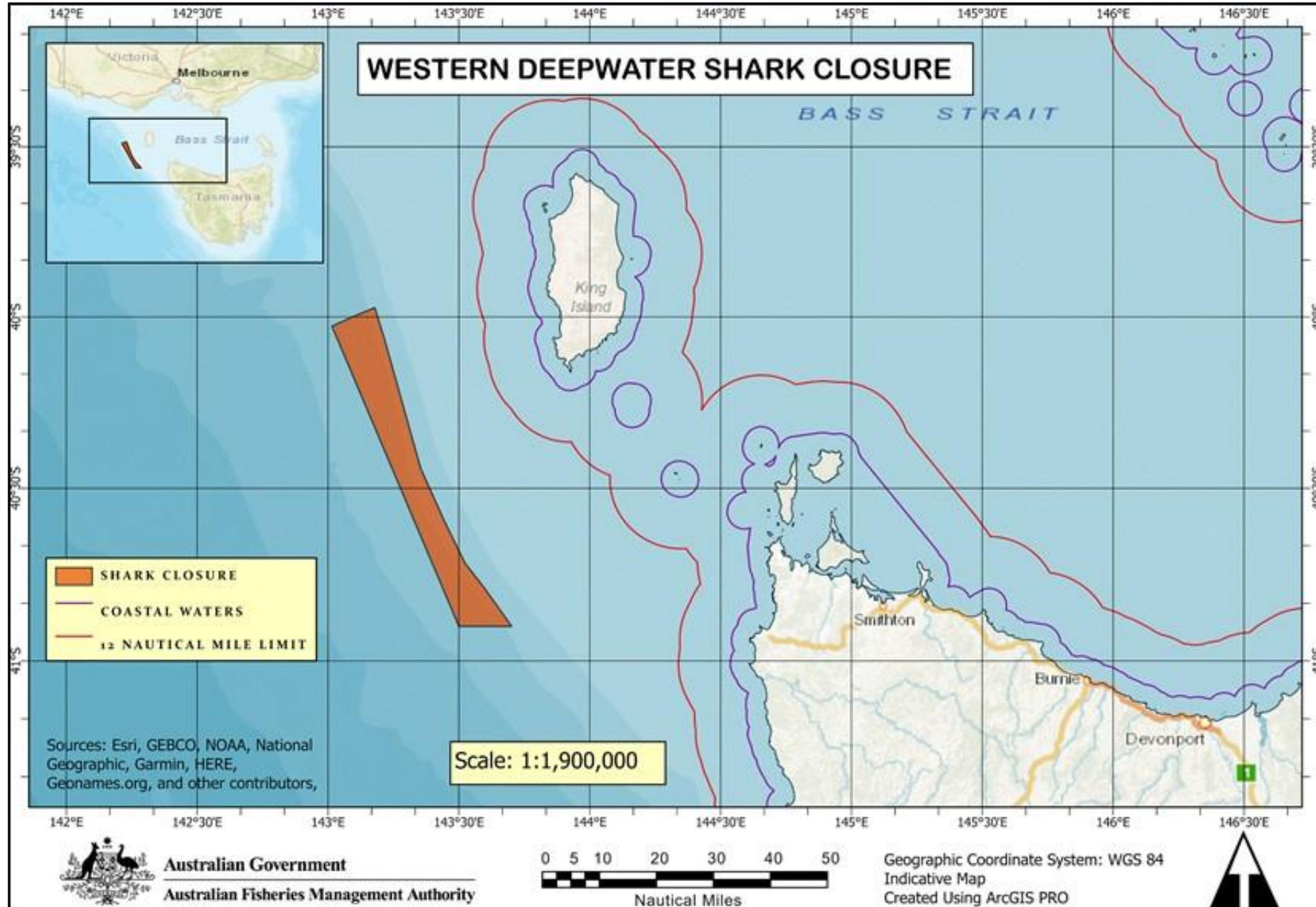
# Schedule 37 – Automatic Longline Shallow Water Closure

Reason: Protect school and gummy sharks - Prohibited: Automatic baiting equipment



## Schedule 38 – Western Deepwater shark Closure – opening and trigger limit

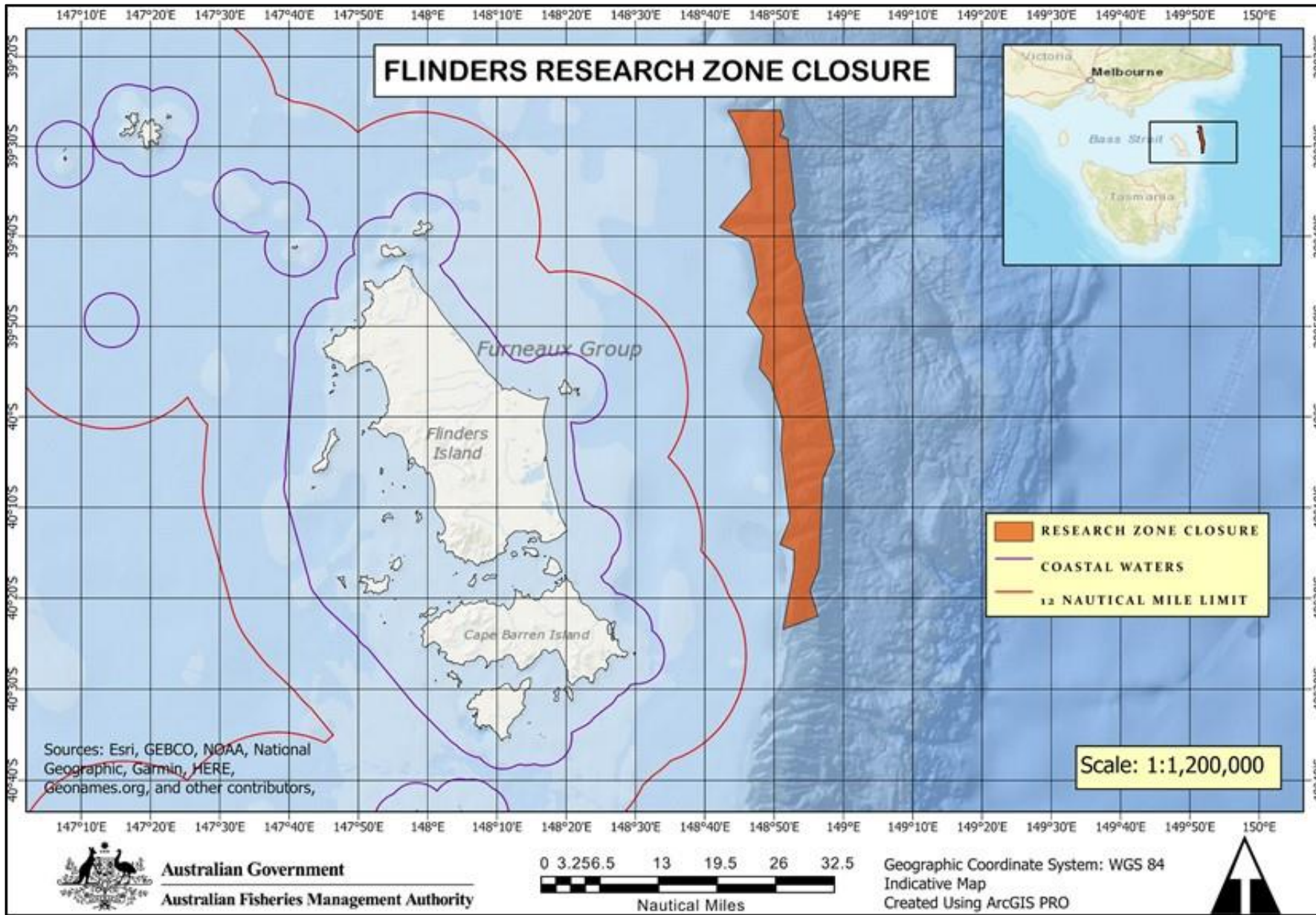
**Reason:** To provide access for otter trawl method to deepwater shark basket (west). However, if 25 t of orange roughy (western) is taken during the fishing season, all trawl methods will be prohibited in this area for the remainder of that season.





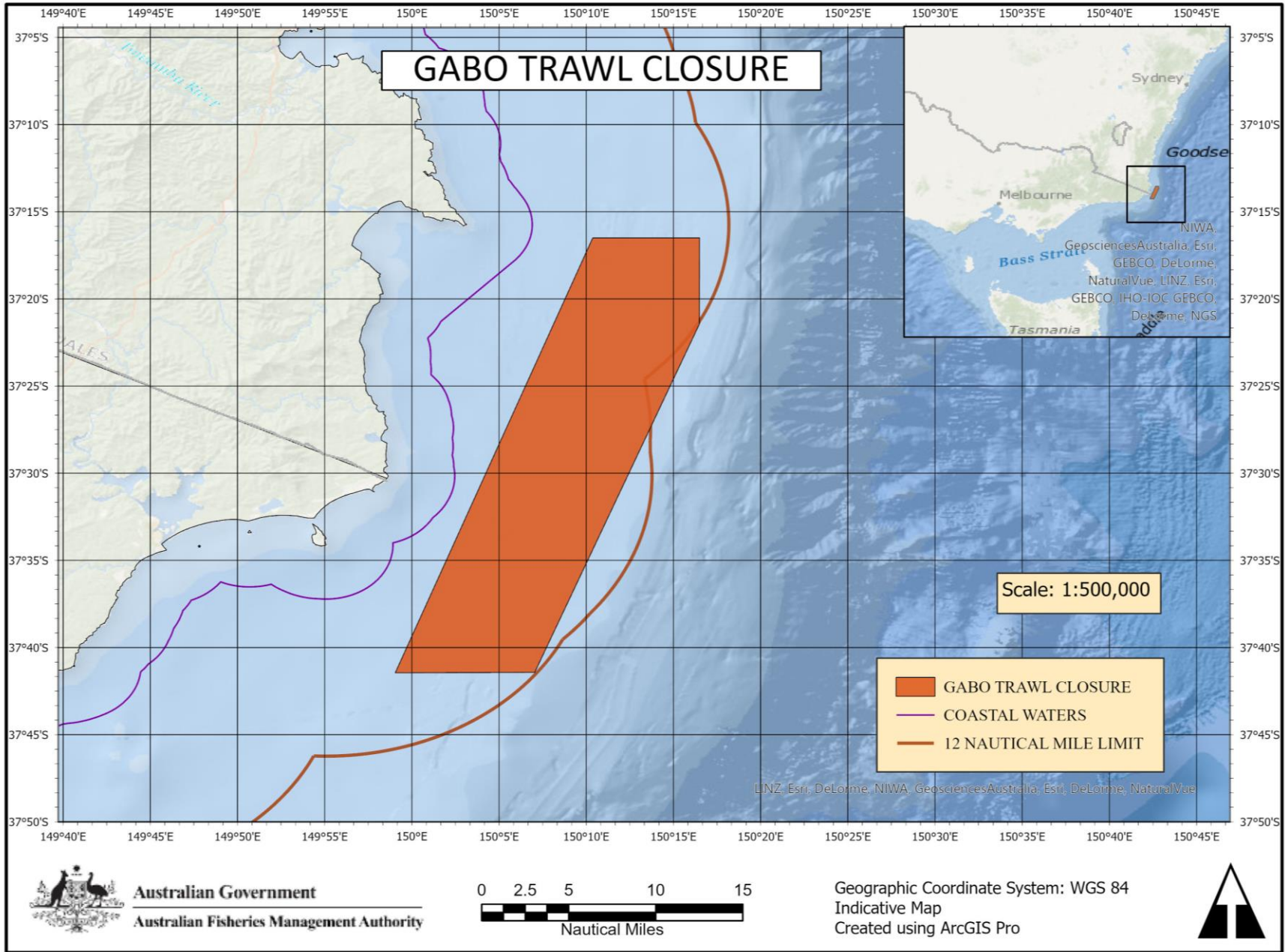
# Schedule 39 – Flinders Research Zone Closure

Reason: Protect Upper-Slope dogfish - **Prohibited:** All fishing methods



# Schedule 40 – Gabo Trawl Closure

Reason: Protect rebuilding species - **Prohibited:** All trawl fishing methods

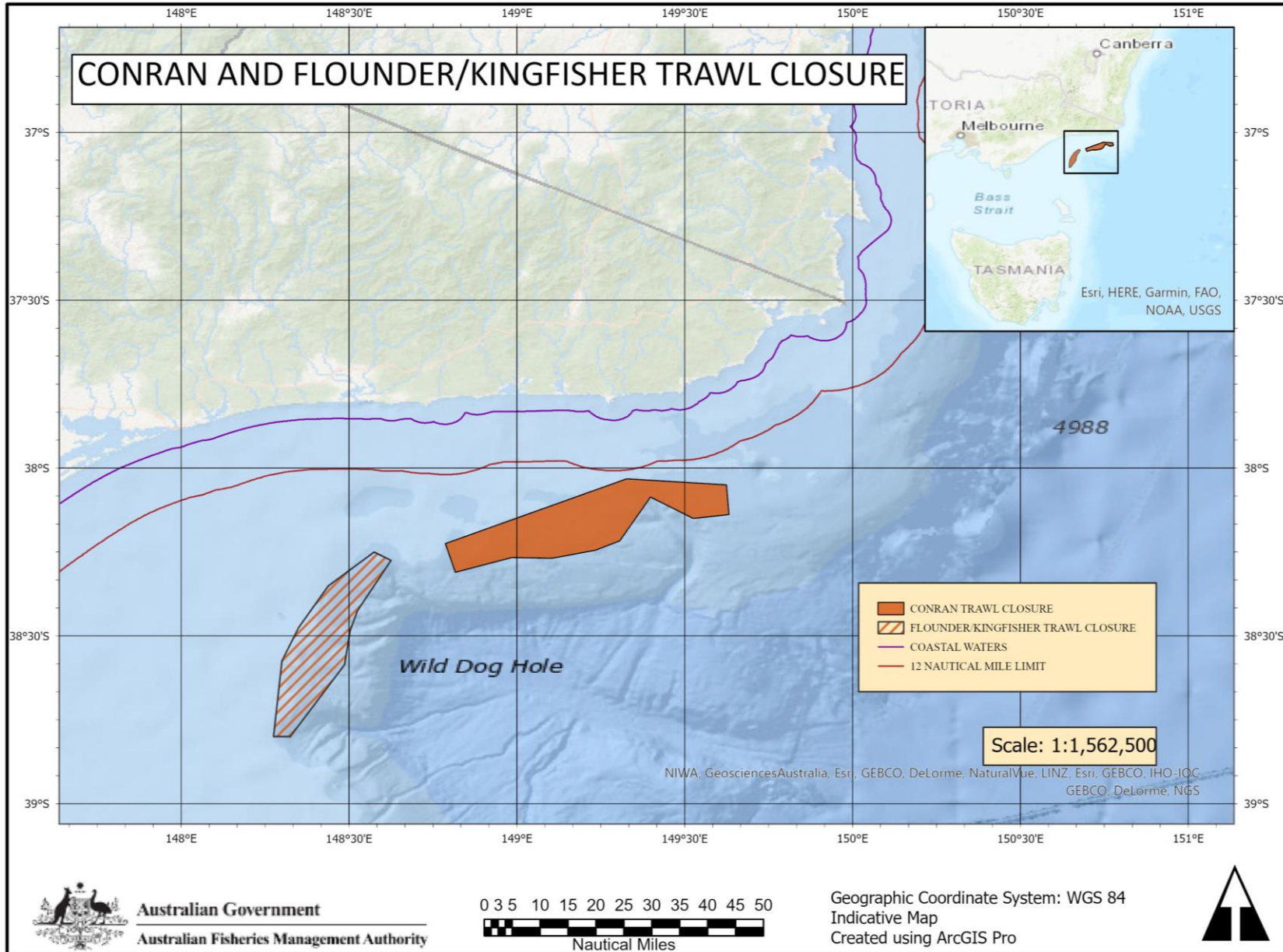




### Schedule 41 – Conran Trawl Closure

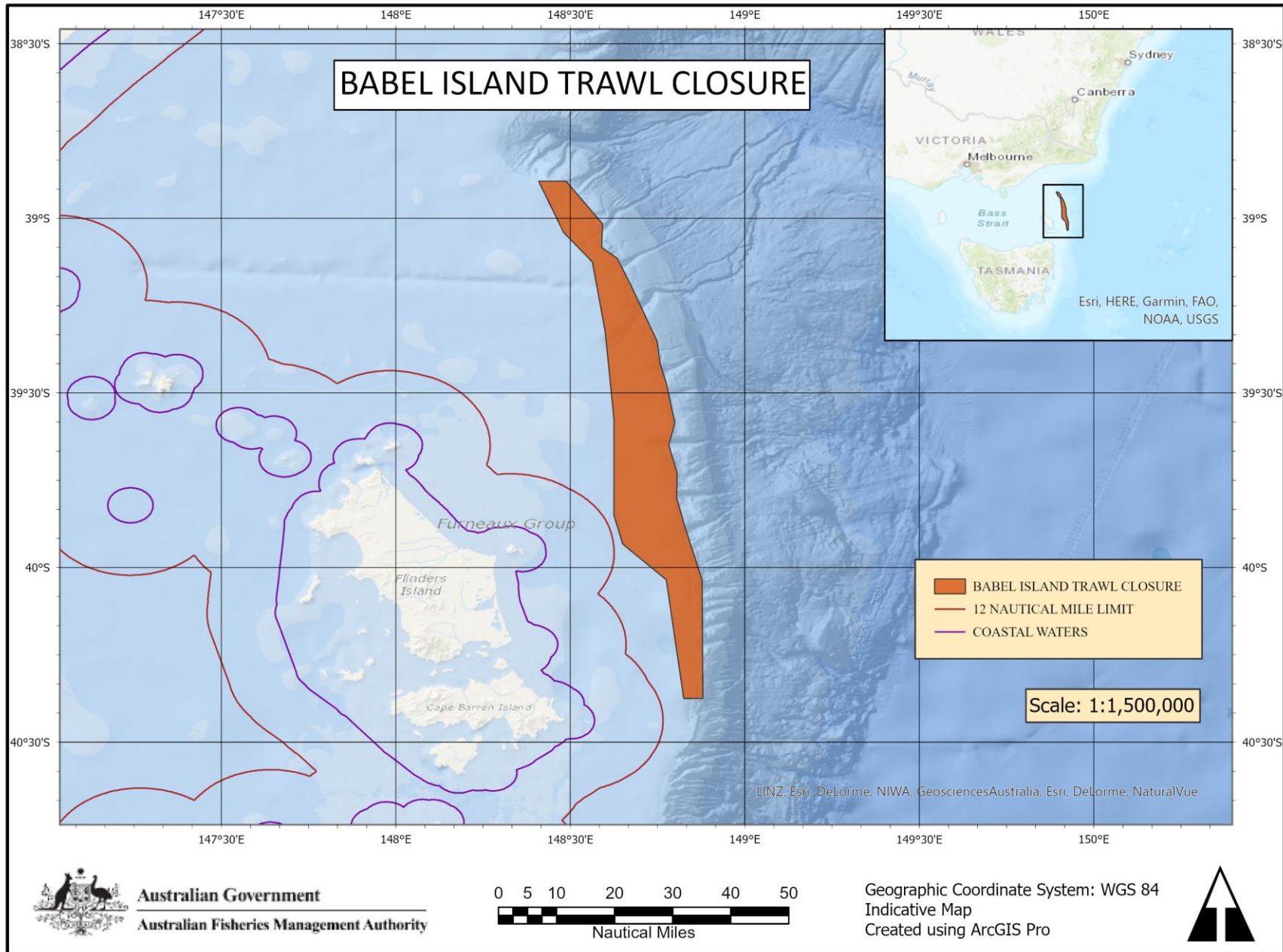
### Schedule 42 – Flounder/Kingfisher Trawl Closure

Reason: Protect rebuilding species - **Prohibited:** All trawl fishing methods



# Schedule 43 – Babel Island Trawl Closure

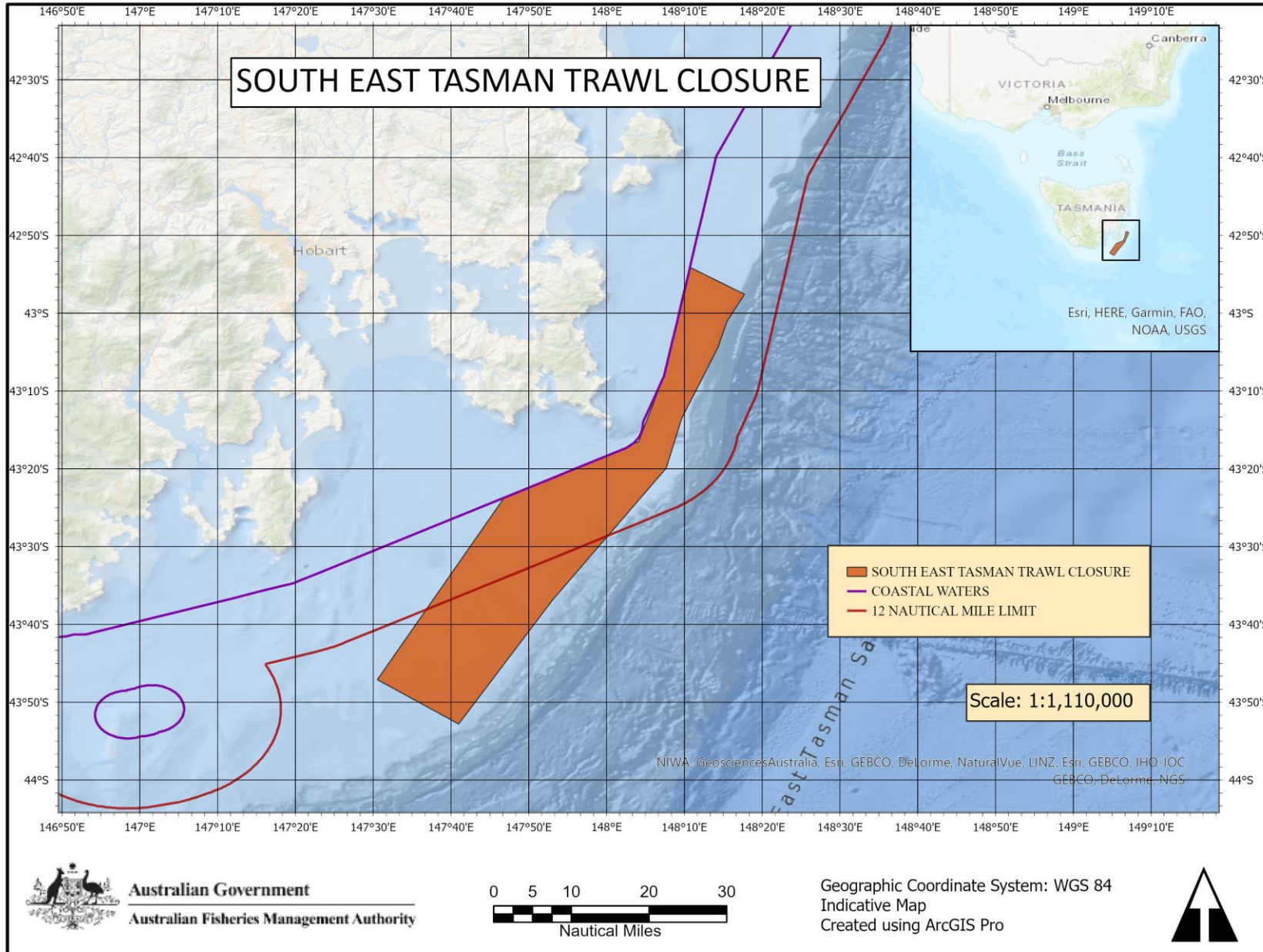
**Reason:** Protect rebuilding species - **Prohibited:** All trawl fishing methods with an exemption for Danish seine trawl with a minimum mesh size of 80mm.





# Schedule 44 – South Tasman Trawl Closure

Reason: Protect rebuilding species - **Prohibited:** All trawl fishing methods.

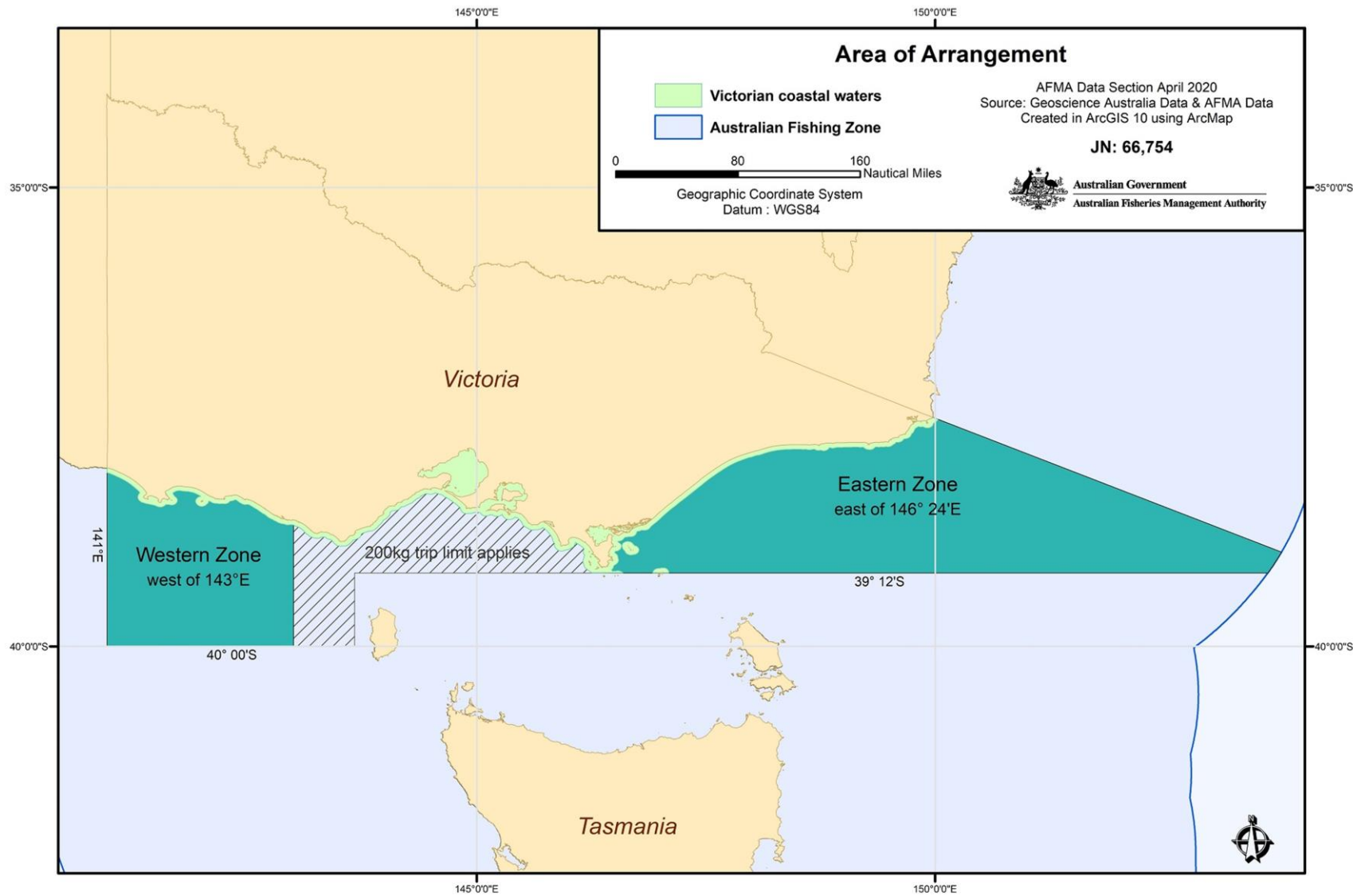


## Attachment 4.2 – SESSF SFR Conditions

### Commonwealth Trawl Sector Boat SFR Condition

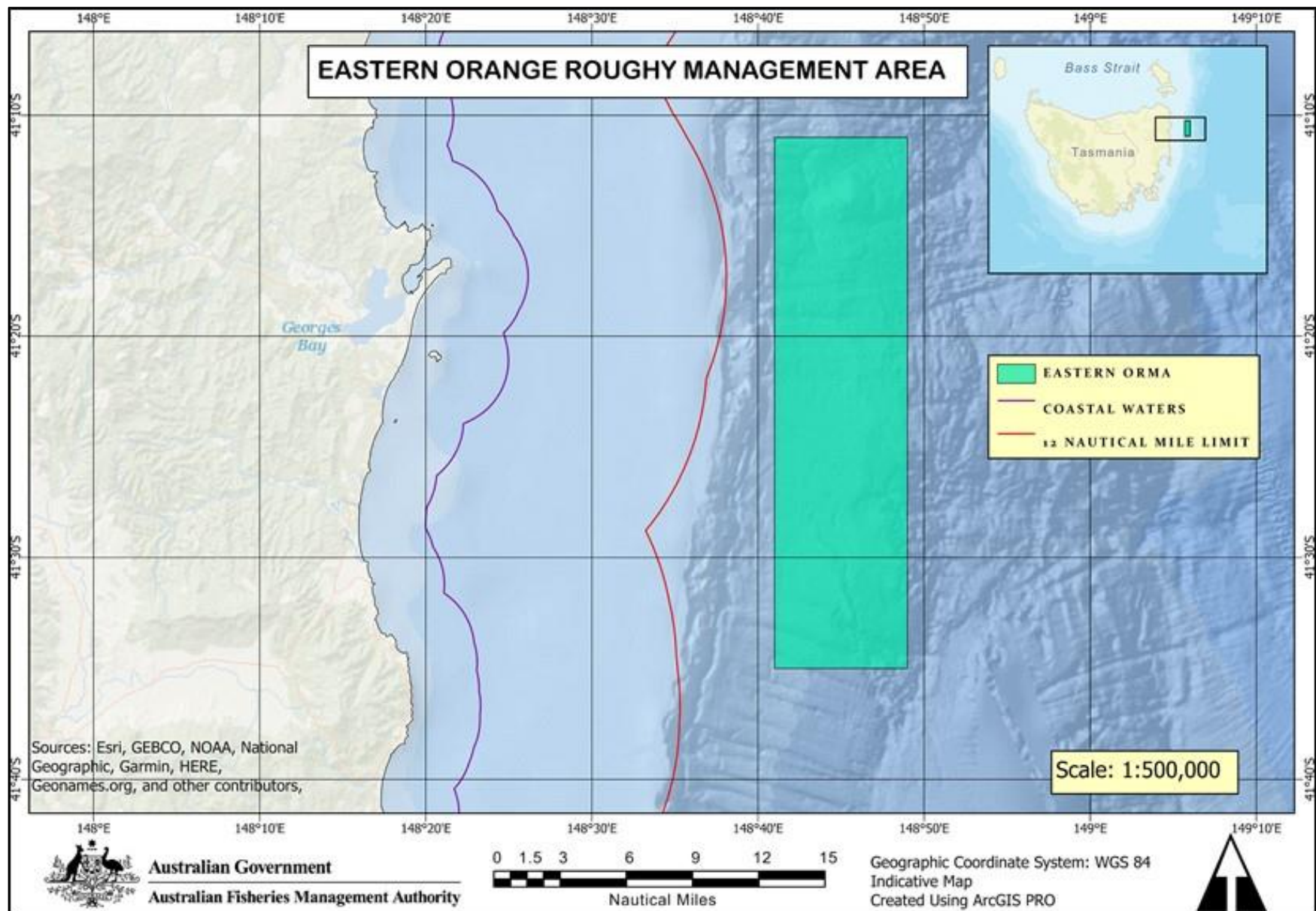
Reason: Special provision for snapper trip limit, 200 kg

Prohibited: Trawl (including Danish seine)



## Attachment 4.3 – Eastern Orange Roughy Management Area (ORMA)

Reason: Special management arrangements for orange roughy



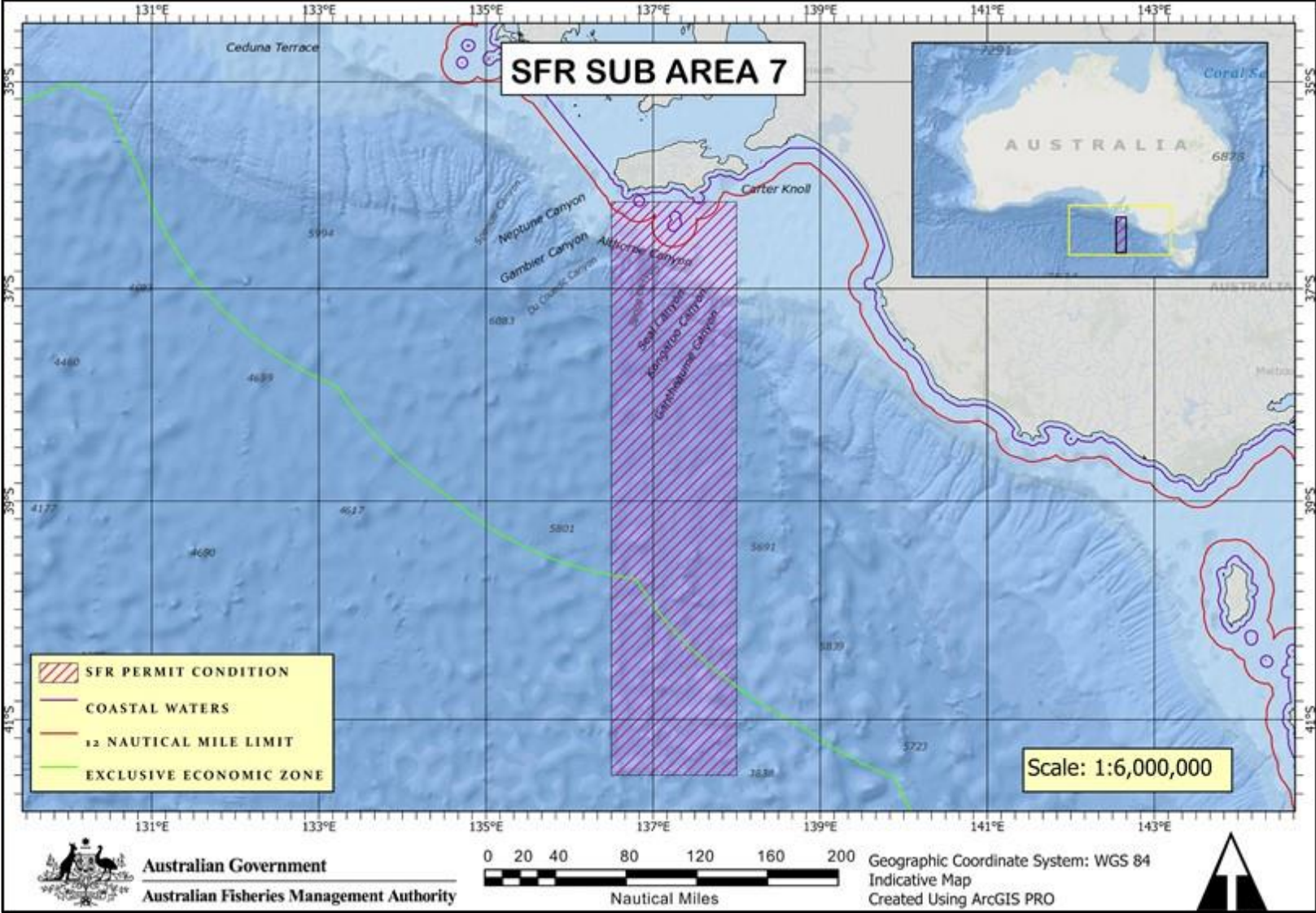


# Attachment 4.4 – SESSF Permit Conditions

## Gillnet Hook and Trap Auto-Longline Permit Conditions

Reason: Protect breeding school shark populations

Prohibited: Auto-Longline during the period 1 September to 31 October

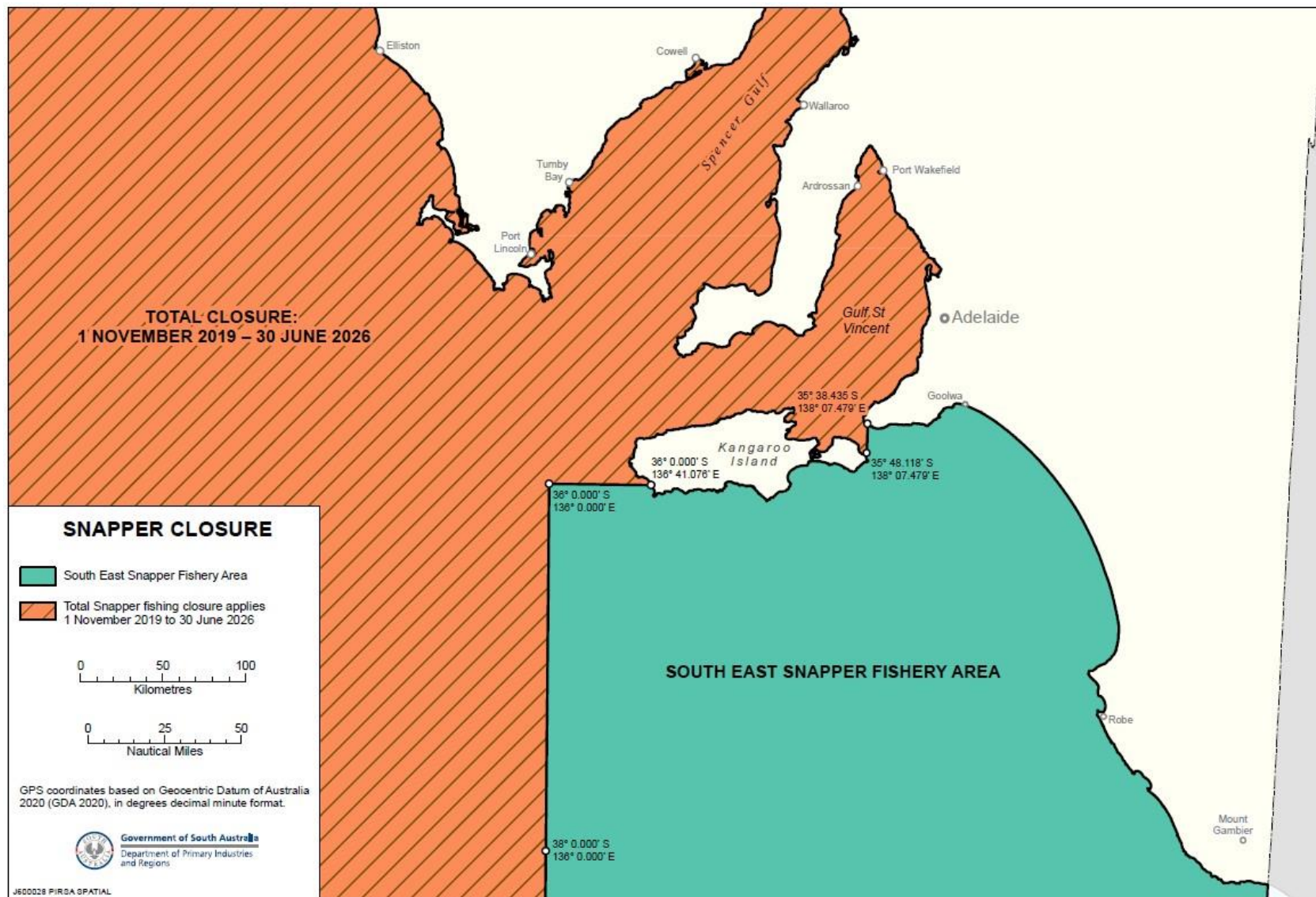




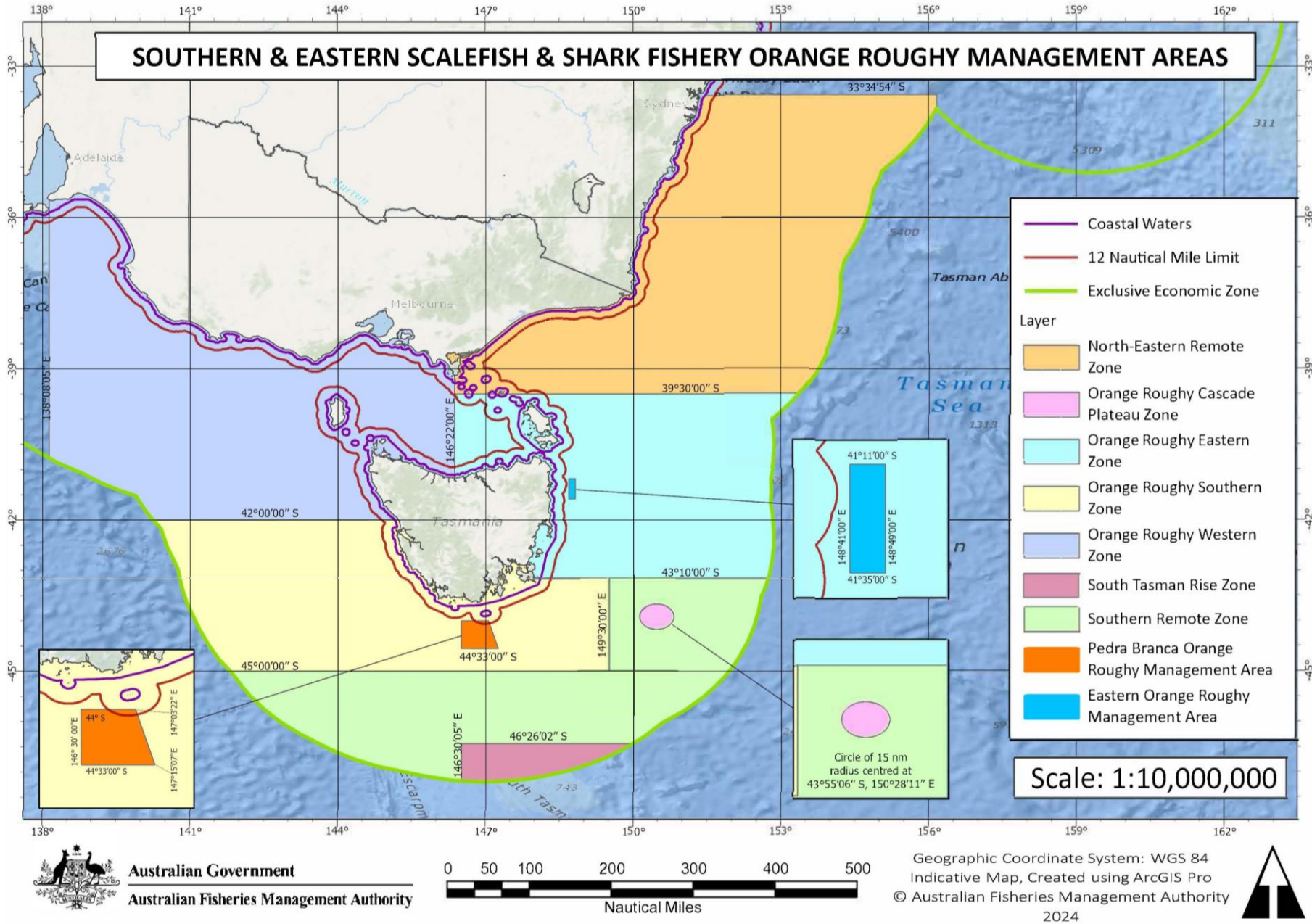
## Attachment 4.5 – South Australia Snapper Closures

**Reason:** Protect South Australian snapper stocks

**Prohibited:** Retaining snapper (all fishing methods)



# Attachment 4.6 – Orange Roughy Zones












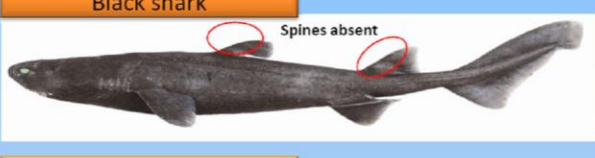









# Attachment 5 – Species identification

## Gulper Shark Identification








### Gulper shark identification key

Gulper sharks can be distinguished from other sharks by having no anal fin, spines present on both dorsal fins that are about the same size, and a notch in their tail. Use this key to help identify your shark. If you identify a gulper shark, follow the instructions on the back of this poster to find out how to submit a sample and be in the running for a great prize.

**Does the shark have?**

Anal fin absent 	NO	Other shark species 						
Dorsal fins far apart 	NO	Bramble shark 						
Large prickles absent 	NO	Prickly dogfish 						
Spines on both dorsal fins 	NO	Black shark 						
Notch in tail 	NO	Squalus spp. 						
2 big dorsal spines the same size 	NO	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Rear dorsal spine larger than front spine</td> <td>YES</td> <td>Lantern or Platypus shark </td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>NO</td> <td>Smallspine dogfishes </td> </tr> </table>	Rear dorsal spine larger than front spine	YES	Lantern or Platypus shark 		NO	Smallspine dogfishes 
Rear dorsal spine larger than front spine	YES	Lantern or Platypus shark 						
	NO	Smallspine dogfishes 						

**Gulper sharks**

Relatively small second dorsal fin	YES	Endeavour dogfish 				
	NO	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long snout and white back edge of dorsal fins</td> <td>Harrison's dogfish </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Short snout and no white edge on fins</td> <td>Southern dogfish </td> </tr> </table>	Long snout and white back edge of dorsal fins	Harrison's dogfish 	Short snout and no white edge on fins	Southern dogfish 
Long snout and white back edge of dorsal fins	Harrison's dogfish 					
Short snout and no white edge on fins	Southern dogfish 					

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Images supplied by CSIRO and FRDC

## Identification guide for bight skate

Bight skate *Dipturus gudgeri*

Logbook Code: **SKB**

**Distribution**—From NSW to WA, including Tasmania; along the outer continental shelf and upper slope in depths of 160-765m (commonly 400-550m).

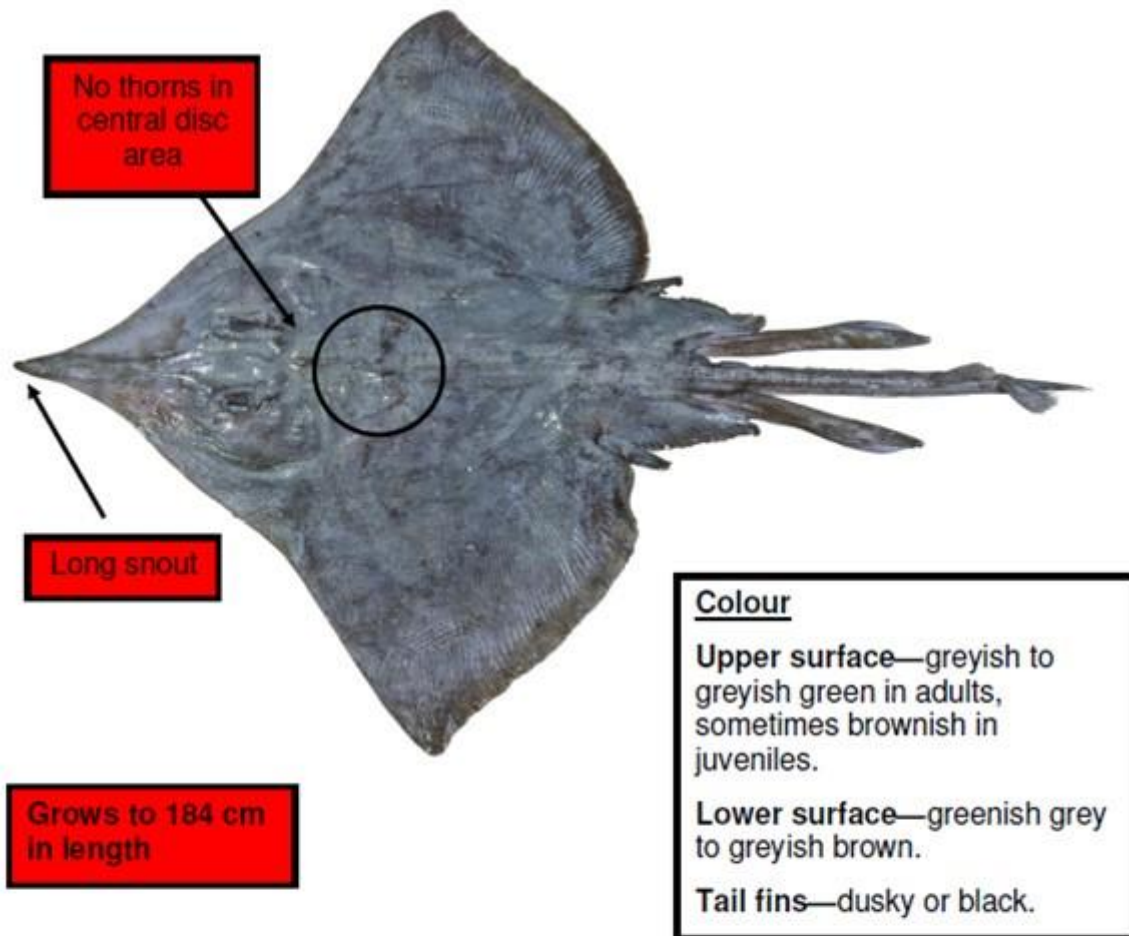


Image courtesy of: ©CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research



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## Identification guide for deepwater skate

Deepwater skate *Dipturus acrobelus*

Logbook Code: **SKD**

**Distribution**—Mid-continental slope off southern Australia from Eyre (WA) to Crowdy Head (NSW), including TAS, in depths of 450-1330m (commonly found in 800-1000m).

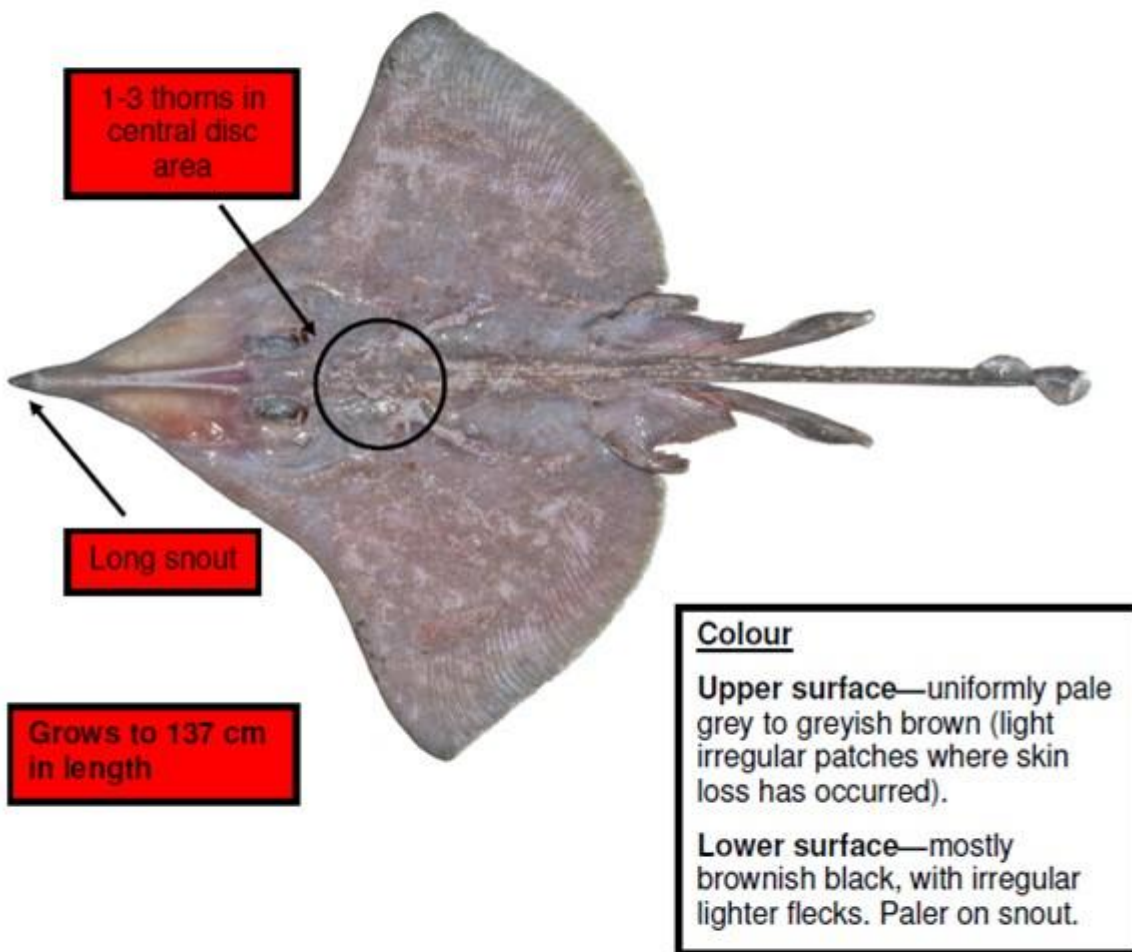


Image courtesy of: ©CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research



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# Identification guide for grey skate

Grey skate *Dipturus canutus*

Logbook Code: **SKG**

**Distribution**—Southern Australia from Crowdy Head (NSW) to at least Eucla (WA), including Tasmania; along the continental slope in depths of 400-600m.

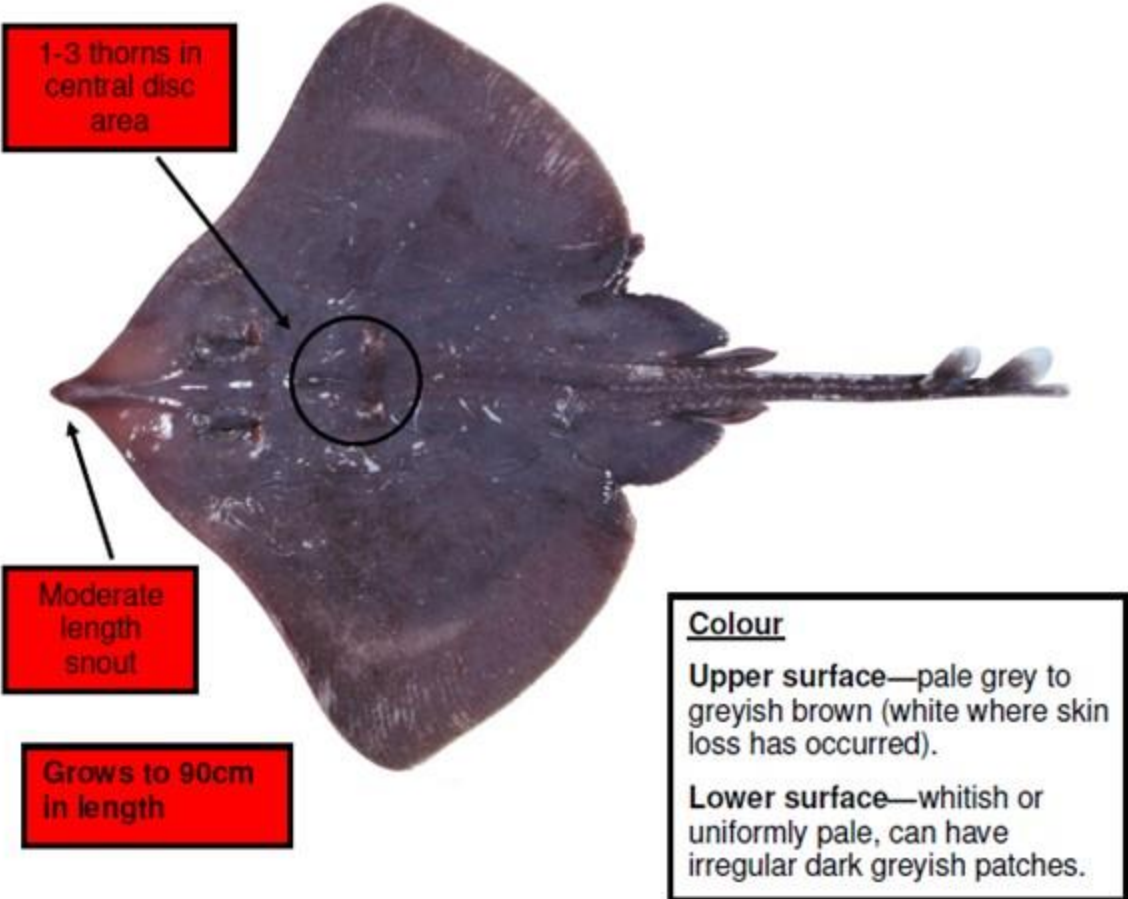


Image courtesy of: ©CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research



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## Identification guide for Sydney skate

Sydney skate (or common skate) *Dipturus australis*

Logbook Code: **SKY**

**Distribution**—Continental shelf and upper slope off eastern Australia between Moreton Bay (QLD) and Tathra (NSW) in depths of 22-325m.

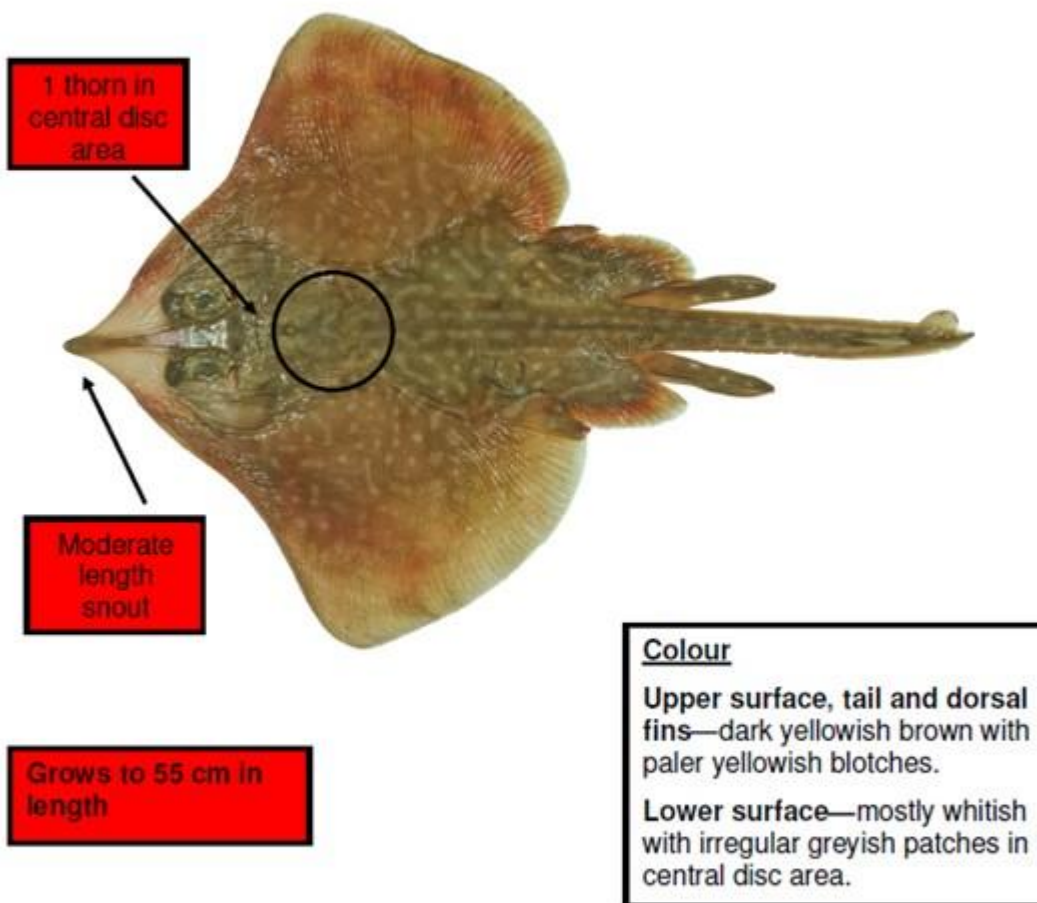


Image courtesy of: ©CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research



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## Attachment 6 – SETFIA Industry Code of Practice – Victorian Snapper

Industry Code of Practise to:

### Minimise snapper catch and discarding in waters adjacent to Victoria



#### Introduction:

The code of conduct sets down what SETFIA considers to be reasonable steps to reduce targeting and catch but also to reduce discarding of snapper.

Snapper is an iconic recreational species with more than 500 tonnes caught by Victorian recreational anglers each year. State licensed vessels must hold specific entitlements to target snapper commercially.



*Snapper - Pagrus auratus*

Juvenile

#### AFMA-SETFIA Co-Management

South East Trawl snapper landings have been managed under various trip limits and trials.

**A 200kg trip limit on landings of snapper caught in waters adjacent to Victoria or to Victorian ports remains in place.**

Snapper remains a non-target species in waters adjacent to Victoria for SET vessels.

SETFIA and AFMA have established a Co-management Arrangement under which SETFIA can approve landings of unavoidable catch in excess of 200kgs in exceptional circumstances. The Arrangement only applies to catches taken in, and landed to, the eastern or western zones of waters adjacent to Victoria.

What is meant by the phrase, “waters adjacent to Victoria” and eastern and western zones?

See map over page.

Any fish landed in a Victorian port is deemed to have been caught in waters adjacent to Victoria.

Any fish caught in waters adjacent to Victoria is deemed to have been caught in waters adjacent to Victoria.

Who does this Arrangement apply to?

The granting of a SETFIA approval to land snapper in exceptional circumstances applies to SETFIA members and non-members equally.



Industry Code of Practise to:  
Minimise Snapper Catch in eastern waters adjacent to Victoria  
Continued...



Zones within waters adjacent to Victoria shown in green.



What might indicate snapper targeting?

- If you have a shot of more than 200kg you must move 5 miles away from the area for 7 days. Do not re-shoot.
- Acting on information about catch from other vessels
- Repeated applications for an approval number.

Operators must not land more than 200kg of snapper into a Victorian port without a SETFIA approval number. SETFIA will give approval if an operator:

- Obtains approval prior to landing.**
- Has taken the snapper in the eastern or western zone.**
- Has only fished in one zone.**
- Lands the fish in the zone in which it was caught.**
- Demonstrates no evidence of targeting (see inset left)**
- Notes the SETFIA approval number on the relevant AFMA log book and CDR pages (or eLog).**
- Has completed an approved SETFIA education program (if available)**

How to apply for SETFIA approval

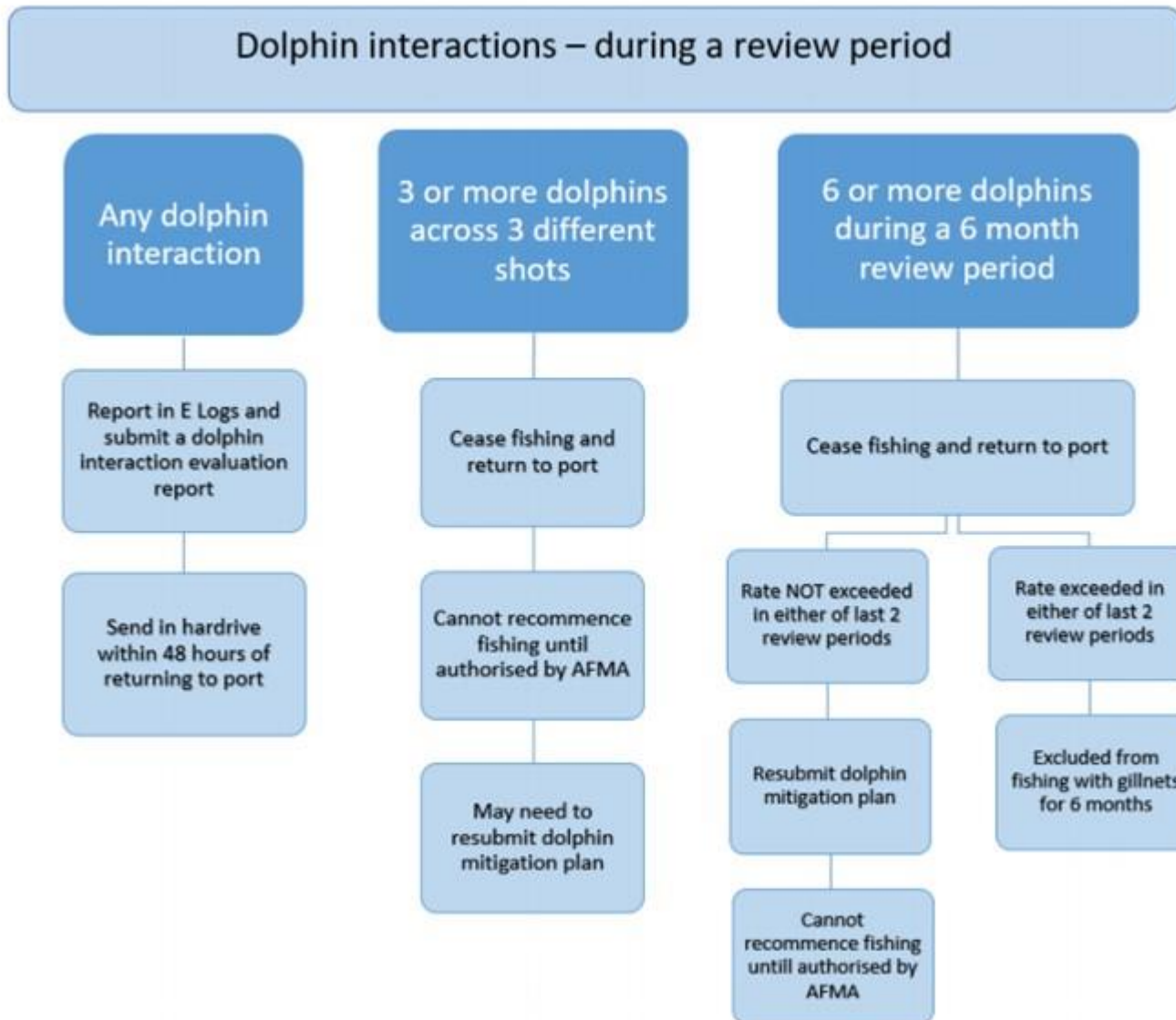
It is the Operator's responsibility to obtain a SETFIA approval number. Leaving a message is not an approval. Ring as early as possible. Please call the following numbers in order:

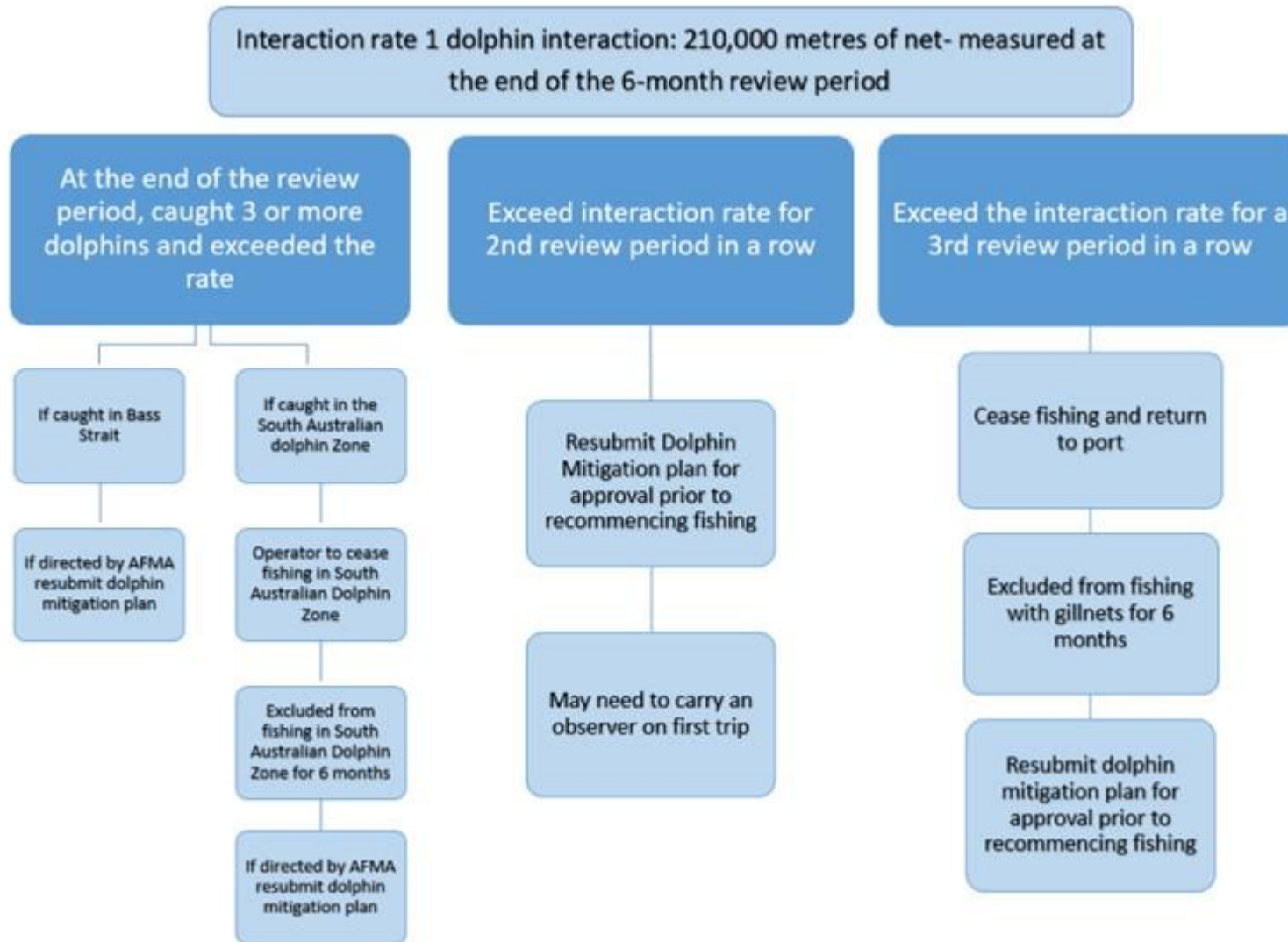
1. Simon Boag 0428-141591
2. Ross Bromley 0419-572245
3. Cameron Dixon 0407-525155

What happens if an Operator lands more than 200kgs of snapper without SETFIA approval?

Doing so is a breach of SFR conditions and would likely result in prosecution by AFMA.

## Attachment 7 – Dolphin Strategy Management Consequences flow chart





# Attachment 8 – ASL Zone and South Australian Dolphin Zone Map

## Gillnet Closures for the Protection of Marine Mammals in South Australia

