



Minister for the Environment and Tourism
Minister for Science and Innovation

Our reference: CTS 22516/24

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Mr David Bobbermen
Executive Officer
Queensland Seafood Industry Association Inc
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15 JAN 2025

Dear Mr Bobbermen

Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2024 requesting the review of the conservation status of the scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*) in Queensland.

As you are aware, the scalloped hammerhead was listed as 'endangered' under Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (the NCA) on 1 September 2024. The current management arrangements are administered by the Department of Primary Industries and were put in place under the *Fisheries Act 1994* prior to the NCA listing. The recent listing under the NCA did not change management requirements.

The listing of species under a conservation status in Queensland follows a rigorous scientific process, requiring recommendations to be made by an independent expert panel, the Species Technical Committee (STC). The STC is responsible for undertaking scientific assessments based on international criteria. This process seeks to align with national assessments and ensure that listings are kept up-to-date with current knowledge.

The national Threatened Species Scientific Committee's (TSSC) recent assessment of the scalloped hammerhead shark determined that it is eligible for listing as 'endangered' based on a population reduction of greater than 50% over 72 years based on fisheries catch information. However, under Commonwealth legislation, a species assessed as 'threatened' by the TSSC (for example, 'endangered' in Queensland), may alternatively be listed as 'conservation dependent' where it is considered that current management actions will provide for long-term survival of the species in the wild. Such a provision does not exist in the Queensland legislation. The national assessment is available at <https://environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/85267-listing-advice-15032018.pdf>.

Further information on the STC including their assessment reports and recommendations are available at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/conservation/threatened-species/classes/species-technical-committee>. This page also provides a nomination form to change the conservation status of a species under the NCA.

If you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please contact Karalyn Herse, Manager - Environment and Conservation Policy and Legislation, Environment and Heritage Policy and Programs of the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation on 0457 064 082 or by email at nc.act@des.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Powell MP
Minister for the Environment and Tourism
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