

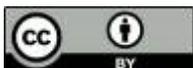


# Declared Fish Habitat Area Network Assessment Report 2012

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## Executive summary

A network of 70 declared Fish Habitat Areas (FHAs) protects over one million hectares of Queensland's key coastal fish habitats from development impacts to sustain fisheries productivity.

Desktop assessments were conducted for each declared FHA to assess the status of the network. Assessment criteria were based on the aims of the *Declared Fish Habitat Area Network Strategy 2009-14*. Each declared FHA was given a 'traffic light' rating based on the assessment score and corresponding to a priority for action: 'red' (high priority); 'yellow' (medium priority); or 'green' (low priority). Specific management actions were recommended for each declared FHA.

Overall the declared FHA network was assessed to be in good condition. There were no declared FHAs assessed as 'red'. Most (49) were assessed as 'yellow', with the remaining 21 'green'. 'Green' declared FHAs were most prevalent in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin regions, while the southern half of the state was dominated by 'yellow' declared FHAs. The highest ranked declared FHAs scored well across a range of criteria and had high to very high fish habitat diversity. The lowest ranked declared FHAs scored relatively poorly across a range of criteria.

Most declared FHAs had good fish habitat diversity and associated fisheries activity, which reflects the importance of these two key attributes in the selection of areas for FHA declaration.

Commonly identified issues included the need for increased communication activities, more partnerships with key stakeholders and better integration of declared FHAs into planning processes.

Implementation of the actions and priorities identified in this report will be subject to factors such as funding opportunities and risks from local development pressures. The effectiveness of the responses to the report's management actions will be reviewed annually and included in the next declared FHA network assessment report, due in three years (2015).

## Introduction

Queensland's fisheries rely on healthy fish habitats to remain productive and sustainable. Declared Fish Habitat Areas (FHAs) are Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) designed to maintain and enhance Queensland's fisheries productivity. A network of 70 declared FHAs (Figure 1) protects over one million hectares of the state's key coastal fish habitats from development impacts. Declared FHAs do not restrict fishing (except for collecting bait with a digging tool). FHAs are declared and managed under the *Fisheries Act 1994* and *Fisheries Regulation 2008*.



**Figure 1** The declared FHA network.

The declared FHA network began in 1969 with the declaration of seven 'Fisheries Habitat Reserves' in Moreton Bay (Sheppard *et al.* 2011). Additional reserves (later known as declared FHAs) were progressively declared along Queensland's coast, where the fish habitats of shallow

coastal and estuarine waters are the basis of the state's fisheries productivity (Quinn 1992). Through time, greater rigour and scientific assessment were applied to FHA assessment, consultation and declaration, which for the last decade has been subject to published operational policies (McKinnon *et al.* 2001 and 2003).

There are two management levels for declared FHAs: management A areas significantly restrict development activities (supporting public purposes only); while management B areas allow for more flexible management, particularly where there is existing and/or planned development. Management decisions are informed by operational policy (Derbyshire *et al.* 2008).

The *Queensland Fisheries Strategy 2009-14* recognises protecting fish habitats as one of the three key elements of sustainable fisheries management. Its supplementary strategy, the *Declared Fish Habitat Area Network Strategy 2009-14*, recommends that a reporting framework be developed for the declared FHA network and that reporting occur on a regular basis. This is the first assessment report for the declared FHA network.

## How the assessments were done

Desktop assessments for each declared FHA were based on the aims of the *Declared Fish Habitat Area Network Strategy 2009-14*. The weighting (expressed as a percentage) and assessment criteria for each aim (presented below) reflect the strong links between fish habitats and fisheries and the long term benefits of strategic planning. Aim 1 has a much greater weighting than the other aims as it is central to the purpose of declared FHAs.

### **Aim 1 Ensure a comprehensive, adequate and representative declared FHA network that effectively supports the state's fisheries (50%)**

- Size of declared FHA
- Number of fish habitat types (using the inshore and estuarine habitat classifications from McKinnon *et al.* 2003)
- Presence/absence of freshwater fish habitats in declared FHA
- Types of fishing (commercial, recreational, traditional) within declared FHA
- Number of targeted fish species within 50 km of declared FHA mouth
- Number of commercial fisheries within 50 km of declared FHA mouth
- Presence/absence of pest fish (tilapia) within declared FHA catchment

### **Aim 2 Form and enhance strategic partnerships for FHA declaration and management (10%)**

- Number and success of documented partnerships (e.g. with other agencies, local government, community groups, etc.) in the last five years
- Level of research and monitoring in declared FHA in the last five years, especially with application for declared FHA management
- Involvement with traditional owners in last five years

### **Aim 3 Maintain an effective declared FHA communication strategy (10%)**

- Development and approval of declared FHA network communication plan (applies to all)
- Level of communication plan activities for declared FHA in last five years, particularly with positive stakeholder feedback

### **Aim 4 Actively manage and respond to unlawful activities to prevent the degradation of individual declared FHAs and the declared FHA network (10%)**

- Level of unlawful works/activities in declared FHA in last five years
- Adequacy of management/compliance response to unlawful works

**Aim 5 Ensure legislation is appropriate to achieve the declared FHA network strategy aims (10%)**

- Declared FHA boundary amendment/revision/review in last five years
- Size of declared FHA increased in last five years

**Aim 6 Prepare and implement policies that clearly document the declared FHA program objectives (5%)**

- Application of declared FHA objectives/policy (e.g. public boat ramp to replace informal/unlawful ramps)

**Aim 7 Integrate the declared FHA network into planning processes (5%)**

- Level of integration of declared FHA management/plans incorporated into planning processes (e.g. regional plans)

Each aim was given a score out of 10, which was multiplied by its weighting. These weighted scores were summed to give a total score (out of a maximum possible 1000) for each declared FHA.

The total score for each declared FHA was converted to a 'traffic light' rating:

- > 699 = **Green** (low priority for action)
- 500-699 = **Yellow** (medium priority for action)
- < 500 = **Red** (high priority for action)

The declared FHA assessment criteria were developed by Rebecca Sheppard and Kurt Derbyshire in consultation with Dr John Beumer (Principal Scientist, Marine Habitat, Fisheries Queensland). The criteria were subject to trial assessments in declared FHAs on the Gold Coast, with minor modifications made. The finalised criteria were approved by Dr John Robertson, General Manager, Fisheries Habitat and Assessment, Fisheries Queensland.

A summary table of ratings for all declared FHAs is presented in Table 1, followed by 'Key outcomes' and 'Common issues'.

Each individual declared FHA assessment is presented in the section 'Individual declared FHA assessments', including recommended management actions. Following this is a section on 'Implementation' and 'Recommendations for future assessments'.

Appendix 1 includes a copy of the declared FHA assessment scoring proforma.

## Summary findings

**Table 1 Declared FHA assessment ratings and scores for 2012**

	Low priority for action
	Medium priority for action
	High priority for action

**Table 2**

Declared FHA name	Plan	Management area	NRM Region*	2012 Rating	Score
Annan River	FHA-049	A/B	Cape York	low priority	718
Baffle Creek	FHA-031	A	Burnett Mary	medium priority	598
Barr Creek	FHA-035	B	Wet Tropics	medium priority	560
Bassett Basin	FHA-044 (Rev. 1)	B	Mackay Whitsunday	medium priority	695
Beelbi	FHA-030	A/B	Burnett Mary	medium priority	548
Bohle River	FHA-027	B	Burdekin	low priority	755
Bowling Green Bay	FHA-007	A	Burdekin	low priority	720
Broad Sound	FHA-047	A	Mackay Whitsunday	medium priority	633
Burdekin	FHA-005	B	Burdekin	medium priority	638
Burrum	FHA-029	A/B	Burnett Mary	medium priority	583
Cape Palmerston - Rocky Dam	FHA-048	A/B	Mackay Whitsunday	low priority	738
Cattle - Palm Creek	FHA-074	B	Wet Tropics	low priority	763
Cawarral Creek	FHA-050	A	Fitzroy	medium priority	540
Cleveland Bay	FHA-071	A	Burdekin	low priority	720
Colosseum Inlet	FHA-037	A/B	Fitzroy	medium priority	538
Coombabah	FHA-016	B	South East Queensland	medium priority	528
Coomera	FHA-023	B	South East Queensland	medium priority	623
Corio Bay	FHA-067	A	Fitzroy	low priority	755
Currumbin Creek	FHA-020	B	South East Queensland	medium priority	628

<b>Declared FHA name</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Management area</b>	<b>NRM Region*</b>	<b>2012 Rating</b>	<b>Score</b>
Dallachy Creek	FHA-042	A	Wet Tropics	low priority	705
Deception Bay	FHA-013	A	South East Queensland	medium priority	653
Edgecumbe Bay	FHA-069	A/B	Mackay Whitsunday	medium priority	665
Eight Mile Creek	FHA-063	A	Gulf of Carpentaria	medium priority	645
Elliott River	FHA-052	A	Burnett Mary	medium priority	573
Escape River	FHA-060	A	Cape York	medium priority	670
Eurimbula	FHA-038	A	Burnett Mary	medium priority	553
Fitzroy River	FHA-072	A	Fitzroy	medium priority	690
Fraser Island	FHA-053	B	Burnett Mary	low priority	768
Half Moon Creek	FHA-033	B	Wet Tropics	medium priority	525
Halifax	FHA-024	B	Wet Tropics	medium priority	690
Hay's Inlet	FHA-012	A	South East Queensland	low priority	755
Hinchinbrook	FHA-028	A	Wet Tropics	low priority	720
Hull River	FHA-046	A	Wet Tropics	medium priority	685
Jumpinpin-Broadwater	FHA-021	A	South East Queensland	medium priority	570
Kauri Creek	FHA-055	A	Burnett Mary	medium priority	668
Kinkuna	FHA-002	A	Burnett Mary	medium priority	603
Kippa-Ring	FHA-014	A	South East Queensland	medium priority	643
Kolan River	FHA-032	B	Burnett Mary	medium priority	543
Maaroom	FHA-056	A	Burnett Mary	medium priority	663
Margaret Bay (Wuthathi)	FHA-070 (Rev. 1)	A/B	Cape York	medium priority	690
Maroochy	FHA-008	A/B	South East Queensland	medium priority	625

<b>Declared FHA name</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Management area</b>	<b>NRM Region*</b>	<b>2012 Rating</b>	<b>Score</b>
Meunga Creek	FHA-040	A	Wet Tropics	medium priority	665
Midge	FHA-001	B	Mackay Whitsunday	medium priority	688
Moreton Banks	FHA-015	A	South East Queensland	medium priority	643
Morning Inlet - Bynoe River	FHA-062	A	Gulf of Carpentaria	low priority	715
Murray River	FHA-009	A	Wet Tropics	low priority	715
Myora - Amity Banks	FHA-017	A	South East Queensland	low priority	763
Nassau River	FHA-059	A	Gulf of Carpentaria	medium priority	655
Noosa River	FHA-051 (Rev. 2)	A/B	South East Queensland	low priority	785
Peel Island	FHA-010	A	South East Queensland	medium priority	675
Pimpama	FHA-022	B	South East Queensland	medium priority	603
Pine River Bay	FHA-073	A/B	Cape York	low priority	785
Princess Charlotte Bay	FHA-043	A	Cape York	low priority	755
Pumicestone Channel	FHA-011	A/B	South East Queensland	medium priority	625
Repulse	FHA-004	A	Mackay Whitsunday	medium priority	673
Rodds Harbour	FHA-036	A/B	Fitzroy	medium priority	580
Sand Bay	FHA-006	A	Mackay Whitsunday	low priority	818
Seventeen Seventy-Round Hill	FHA-018	A/B	Burnett Mary	medium priority	623
Silver Plains	FHA-057	A	Cape York	medium priority	643
Staaten-Gilbert	FHA-06	A	Gulf of Carpentaria	medium priority	665
Starcke River (Ngulun)	FHA-068	A/B	Cape York	medium priority	693
Susan River	FHA-054	A	Burnett Mary	medium priority	663
Tallebudgera Creek	FHA-019	B	South East Queensland	medium priority	563

Declared FHA name	Plan	Management area	NRM Region*	2012 Rating	Score
Temple Bay	FHA-058	A	Cape York	medium priority	690
Tin Can Inlet	FHA-064	A	South East Queensland	medium priority	668
Trinity Inlet	FHA-003	A/B	Wet Tropics	low priority	770
Tully River	FHA-045	A	Wet Tropics	low priority	715
West Hill	FHA-039	A/B	Mackay Whitsunday	medium priority	668
Wreck Creek	FHA-041	A	Wet Tropics	low priority	730
Yorkey's Creek	FHA-034	B	Wet Tropics	medium priority	690

\*Australian Government 2011.

## Key outcomes

Overall, the declared FHA network was assessed to be in good condition, with individual declared FHAs and specific issues identified as priorities for management action.

The 2012 assessment resulted in:

- 21 'green' (low priority for action) declared FHAs
- 49 'yellow' (medium priority for action) declared FHAs
- No 'red' (high priority for action) declared FHAs.

The five highest scoring declared FHAs were:

- Sand Bay (818)
- Noosa River (785)
- Pine River Bay (785)
- Trinity Inlet (770)
- Fraser Island (768).

In general, the highest ranked declared FHAs scored well across a range of criteria. Each had high to very high fish habitat diversity, three were amended recently to include additional lands, and the Pine River Bay declared FHA is the newest in the Network.

The five lowest scoring declared FHAs were:

- Half Moon Creek (525)
- Coombabah (528)
- Colosseum Inlet (538)
- Cawarral Creek (540)
- Kolan River (543).

In general, the lowest ranked declared FHAs scored poorly across a range of criteria. Several of these declared FHAs had relatively low fish habitat diversity and/or were small in size. These five lowest ranked declared FHAs were all close (within 10%) to the cut-off for being rated as 'red' and are the highest priority for management actions as a result of the current assessment.

There are many declared FHAs clustered around the cut-off for being rated as either medium or low priority for action (e.g. 18 declared FHAs within 5%). Although the ratings may differ, there is little real difference between these declared FHAs.

## Declared FHA assessments by region

**Table 3 2012 declared FHA assessment totals by Natural Resource Management region.**

Region*	'Green' declared FHAs	'Yellow' declared FHAs	Total declared FHAs
Southern Gulf	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	2
Northern Gulf	0 (0%)	2 (100%)	2
Cape York	3 (38%)	5 (62%)	8
Wet Tropics	7 (54%)	6 (46%)	13
Burdekin	3 (75%)	1 (25%)	4
Mackay Whitsunday	2 (25%)	6 (75%)	8
Fitzroy	1 (20%)	4 (80%)	5
Burnett Mary	1 (8%)	11 (92%)	12
South East Queensland	3 (19%)	13 (81%)	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>21 (30%)</b>	<b>49 (70%)</b>	<b>70</b>

\*Australian Government 2011.

The Wet Tropics region had the highest number of 'green' declared FHAs (7 declared FHAs), whereas the Burdekin region had the highest percentage of 'green' declared FHAs (Table 2). Declared FHAs in the Wet Tropics generally scored well for involvement with Traditional Owners (Girrigun Aboriginal Corporation), and like those in the Burdekin, scored relatively well in areas of partnerships, research, communications and planning.

The Northern Gulf had no 'green' declared FHAs; however there were only two declared FHAs in this region. The Burnett Mary region also had a low percentage of 'green' declared FHAs. This is primarily due to lower scores for communications, partnerships and planning in these declared FHAs. This region is also a hot spot for unauthorised structures.

Declared FHAs in remote locations, such as in the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York, tended to have good scores for their undisturbed, highly diverse fish habitats. However, these declared FHAs did not score as well in communications, partnerships and planning.

## Declared FHA assessments by management level

The 2012 declared FHA assessment was generally consistent with the FHA management levels, with the most 'green' declared FHAs in management A areas:

- Management A declared FHAs: 13 'green' (out of 38 declared FHAs)
- Management A and B declared FHAs: 5 'green' (out of 16 declared FHAs)
- Management B declared FHAs: 3 'green' (out of 16 declared FHAs)

## Common management issues

The assessment of each declared FHA includes a list of management actions (see the section Individual declared FHA assessments). However, there were several management issues that tended to be common to the declared FHAs.

Most declared FHAs had good habitat diversity and associated fisheries activity (Aim 1). This is not surprising given that these are two key attributes in the selection and investigation of areas for FHA declaration.

The pest fish tilapia has been recorded in the catchments of 32 declared FHAs. The presence of tilapia was most common in the Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions of South East Queensland, Burnett Mary, Burdekin and part of the Wet Tropics. There are other pest fish species in some declared FHAs; however information on their presence is incomplete.

Very few declared FHAs have freshwater habitats within their boundaries, as FHA declaration has focussed on coastal and estuarine fish habitats which are recognised for their high fisheries productivity. The Annan River (Cape York) and Noosa River (South East Queensland) declared FHAs have large sections of freshwater, while others such as Cape Palmerston-Rocky Dam (Mackay Whitsunday), Myora-Amity Banks and Fraser Island (both South East Queensland) have relatively smaller freshwater components.

There were strategic partnerships with NRM groups, government agencies and other stakeholders in some declared FHAs throughout the state (Aim 2). However, this is generally an area where more effort is required.

Most declared FHAs scored poorly in the area of indigenous / Traditional Owner engagement, with the exception of those that were within the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation's area (El Arish to Rollingsstone) and the Pine River Bay declared FHA (near Weipa). There was some limited indigenous involvement with the Butchulla people in Great Sandy Straits, and some other areas in north Queensland, the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York.

Most communication activities in the last five years were part of a general declared FHA awareness campaign (Aim 3). Few declared FHAs have had specific communication activities. Where these did occur, they were often for signage (e.g. at boat ramps and boardwalks). The capacity for area specific declared FHA communications is subject to available funds and would benefit from local development offset and other funding opportunities.

In many declared FHAs there is no record of the extent of unlawful activities occurring (Aim 4). There were generally more compliance actions in declared FHAs near more densely populated areas. This is probably due to more unlawful activities occurring and also due to the increased likelihood of these activities being reported.

In the last 5 years, 4 new FHAs were declared and 22 declared FHAs have increased in size (Aim 5). Four declared FHAs decreased in size, although this was generally a result of showing the boundaries more precisely on the FHA Plan (e.g. showing an exclusion from within the boundary of the declared FHA on the Plan rather than relying on a description of this in the Fisheries Regulation 2008).

There was limited documented evidence of where declared FHA program objectives and policies had been applied through specific activities (Aim 6). It is possible that such activities (e.g. public boat ramp installed in declared FHA to replace illegal, unmanaged ramps) have occurred but these were not identified in the current desktop assessment.

Declared FHAs in the Mackay-Whitsunday region are well-integrated into local and regional planning processes. Most declared FHAs in other regions could be better integrated into local and regional planning processes, particularly in the Fitzroy, Burnett Mary, Cape York and the two Gulf regions (Aim 7).

## Individual declared FHA assessments - 2012

# Annan River - FHA-049

## Cape York



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has high fish habitat diversity and fisheries values, including a large section of freshwater</li> <li>• Good connectivity from freshwater, estuarine, marine waters and seagrass in Walker Bay.</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 2003, this 1753 ha management A and B declared FHA includes parts of the Annan River and Walker Bay, near Cooktown.

The Annan River declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include high diversity mangrove forests, and approximately 15 km of clear and pristine freshwater, including riffles and pools. This is one of the few declared FHAs with freshwater present.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occur within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted such as barramundi, mangrove jack, estuary cod and jungle perch. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

While there have been partnerships with organisations since the declaration of the Annan River FHA, including the Cook Shire Council and Annan and Endeavour Catchment Management Group, these were limited in the last five years.

Traditional Owners are consulted during fisheries and habitat research activities (e.g. seagrass monitoring).

The declared FHA has been incorporated into the *Cook Shire Planning Scheme* (Cook Shire Council 2007) and the *Annan and Endeavour Strategic Plan 2007* (Carroll *et al.* 2007).

Seagrass in the area was found to be in 'good' condition (McKenzie and Yoshida 2009).

FHA signs were installed when the Annan River was declared in 2003; however no continued or current communication activities are underway.

There are no known unauthorised structures and activities in the declared FHA.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Increase partnerships with local council, regional bodies/NRM groups and Traditional Owners.

## **Further resources**

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Annan River.*

DPI 2003, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Annan River FHA-049.*

Sheppard R and Helmke S A 1999, *A fisheries resource assessment of the Annan River, North Queensland*, DPI Information Series QI99043.

# Baffle Creek - FHA-031

Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creek system unimpeded by dams / weirs</li> <li>• History of unauthorised structures</li> </ul>

## Comments

Originally declared in 2001, this 2320 ha management A declared FHA includes Baffle Creek and its tributaries, north of Bundaberg.

The Baffle Creek declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include highly diverse mangrove forests, small patches of seagrass, intertidal sand, gravel and mud banks and rock bars.

Baffle Creek is one of the few river systems in the region unimpeded by weirs or dams, providing uninterrupted connectivity between estuarine and freshwater habitats.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are some partnerships with NRM groups in the area to address management issues. There is limited integration of the declared FHA into planning processes.

The Baffle Creek declared FHA has been the subject of Seagrass Watch research and was assessed in the *State of the Mangroves Report 2008*. Cattle grazing in tidal areas was

identified as a key issue causing damage to marine plants, sediment disturbance and bank destabilisation (Mackenzie and Duke 2011).

Signage has been placed at Horseshoe Bend, as part of a response to unlawful activities and there are a number of declared FHA signs installed.

A number of unauthorised structures and activities have been recorded in the declared FHA. In some cases compliance actions have not been undertaken due to insufficient evidence.

## Management actions

- Increase compliance efforts and communication activities
- Further develop partnerships and planning, including with government agencies.

## Further resources

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Baffle Creek*.

DPI 2001, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Baffle Creek FHA-031*.

Lupton CJ and Heidenreich MJ 1996, *A fisheries resource assessment of the Baffle Creek system in the Wide Bay – Burnett region of Queensland*, Queensland Department of Primary Industries, 135pp.

# Barr Creek - FHA-035

## Wet Tropics



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively small declared FHA with moderately diverse fish habitats</li> <li>• Good partnerships and planning to manage water quality issues</li> <li>• Well integrated into planning processes</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1974, this 64 ha management B declared FHA includes part of Barr Creek, north of Cairns.

The Barr Creek declared FHA has mangrove, saltmarsh, sand flats, and sandy fish habitats. It is an area of learning and research for the nearby Holloways Beach Learning Centre.

Recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

The Barr Creek declared FHA has been subject to fluctuating water quality due to sedimentation at the creek mouth. There is an ongoing partnership with state and local governments to manage the water quality of the area.

The Barr Creek declared FHA has been well integrated into the *Far North Queensland Regional Plan* and *Cairns Regional Council*

*Marine Plant Management Strategy (Evans 2010).*

There were no reported unauthorised structures or activities in the declared FHA in the last five years.

The FHA assessment score for this declared FHA is lowered by the small size and therefore small number of fish habitats present.

### Management actions

- Continue partnerships with local and state governments
- Increase partnerships with non-government organisations and school groups.

### Further resources

DPI 2001, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Barr Creek FHA-035.*

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Barr Creek.*

## Bassett Basin - FHA-044 (Revision 1)

### Mackay Whitsunday



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well integrated into planning processes</li> <li>Good communications</li> <li>Declared FHA boundary revised in 2008 and increased in size</li> </ul>

#### Comments

Originally declared in 1995, this 662 ha management B declared FHA includes parts of the Pioneer River and Bassett, Vines and Barnes Creeks immediately adjacent to Mackay City.

The Bassett Basin declared FHA has a moderate diversity of fish habitats. These include mangrove, saltmarsh, sand flats, undercut banks and Melaleuca wetlands.

Recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a number of highly sought after species targeted. Tilapia has not been recorded in the catchment.

There are no ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management of the area. The declared FHA is well integrated into planning processes, such as catchment management reports, the *Mackay, Isaac Whitsunday Regional Plan* and the *Water Quality Improvement Plan* for the area (Drewry *et al.* 2008).

Some long-term monitoring of the impacts of transport infrastructure on fish habitats has been done by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR), as well as mangrove dieback research.

Bassett Basin declared FHA was part of the Lucinda – Mackay FHA awareness communication program in 2006/7, which received good feedback.

There are no known unauthorised structures in the declared FHA.

In 2008 a boundary review of the declared FHA resulted in a small size increase (12 ha).

#### Management actions

- Undertake inventory / audit for unauthorised structures and activities
- Increase communication activities.

#### Further resources

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Bassett Basin*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Bassett Basin FHA-044 Revision 1*.

# Beelbi - FHA-030 Revision 1

## Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High fish habitat diversity</li> <li>• Seagrass Watch research</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1986, this 1841 ha management A and B declared FHA includes parts of Beelbi and Marsh Creeks and the adjoining coastal foreshore, north of Maryborough.

The Beelbi declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats, including extensive mangrove stands, seagrass areas, shallow littoral flats, and patches of saltmarsh.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with sought after species such as bream, flathead and estuary cod targeted.

Beelbi declared FHA has no ongoing partnerships and limited integration into planning processes.

Seagrass Watch are monitoring three sites in the declared FHA.

There were no specific communication activities for the Beelbi declared FHA in the last five years.

A small number of unauthorised structures and activities have been identified in the declared FHA and the majority were responded to appropriately.

Erosion on the southern bank of Beelbi Creek has been raised as an issue by residents.

### Management actions

- Develop partnerships with government agencies and NRM groups
- Ongoing compliance
- Increase communication activities.

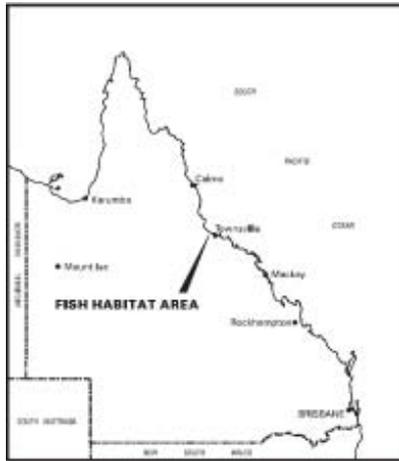
### Further resources

DPI&F 2005, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Beelbi FHA-030 Revision 1*.

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Beelbi*.

# Bohle River - FHA-027

## Burdekin



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very popular recreational fishing area with good facilities</li> <li>• Acts as buffer zone for adjacent residential development</li> <li>• Proposed expansion of declared FHA</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 1305 ha management B declared FHA includes the lower parts of the Bohle River and foreshore to the mouth of the Black River.

The Bohle River declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive stands of mangroves, saltmarsh and unvegetated claypans along the estuarine system, seagrass beds, undercut banks and sandy beaches.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species such as barramundi, mangrove jack, mackerel and bream targeted. Pest fish, including tilapia, oscars and gouramis, have been recorded upstream of the declared FHA.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments and non-government organisations to facilitate management and planning of the area, particularly in relation to the adjacent residential development, boat ramp facilities, education and communication, water quality, rubbish dumping and access issues.

There has been limited involvement with Traditional Owners.

The Bohle River declared FHA is well integrated into Townsville City Council planning schemes and reports and National Parks planning and management for the Town Common National Park.

In 2012 an expansion of the Bohle River declared FHA is proposed, to include the tidal portions of the Town Common National Park and adjacent tidal areas. This would see the declared FHA increase in size to approximately 4 274ha.

### Management actions

- Increased communication activities
- Installation of bollards to prevent access to the saltpan areas
- Increased interaction with Traditional Owners.

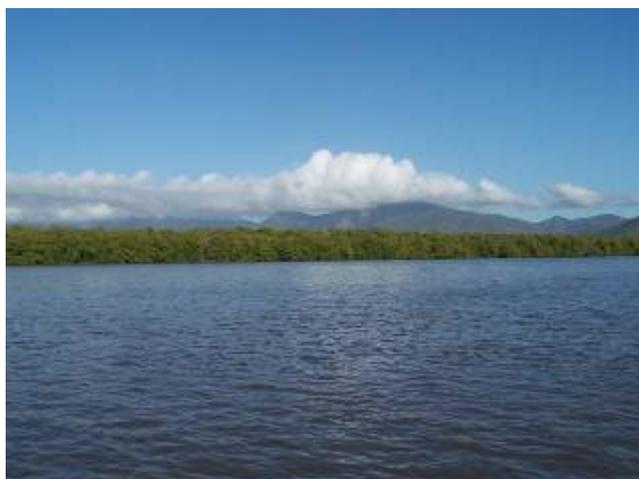
### Further resources

DPI 1999, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Bohle River FHA-027*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Bohle River*.

# Bowling Green Bay - FHA-007

## Burdekin



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very high fish habitat diversity, including linkages to brackish and freshwater lagoons</li> <li>• Good partnerships with local NRM group and Council</li> <li>• Upstream water quality issues</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1989, this 68 573 ha management A declared FHA includes Bowling Green Bay from Cape Cleveland to Cape Upstart.

The Bowling Green Bay declared FHA has a very diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive stands of mangroves, saltmarsh, rocky headlands, seagrass beds, sand and mud flats and sandy beaches. Brackish and freshwater wetlands are located immediately upstream and flow into the declared FHA.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species including barramundi, salmon, grunter, and mangrove jack targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments and NRM groups (NQ Dry Tropics) to facilitate management and planning of the area. These include management of access particularly to the

foreshore area, location of public and private facilities, management of weeds and barriers to fish movement. There are ongoing issues related to water quality upstream of the declared FHA.

There has been some limited involvement with the Traditional Owners.

The Bowling Green Bay declared FHA is included in local council and NRM planning.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Increased involvement with other NRM groups and organisations for managing upstream impacts on declared FHAs.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Bowling Green Bay*.

DPI 1998, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Bowling Green Bay FHA-007*.

## Broad Sound - FHA-047

### Mackay Whitsunday



Declared FHA status 2012	<b>Medium priority for action</b>
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The largest declared FHA in the network</li> <li>• Boundary revised in 2008 and large increase in size</li> <li>• Strong partnerships with Fitzroy Basin Association</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1986, this large, 170 394 ha management A declared FHA includes parts of Broad Sound and adjoining estuarine systems, south east of Mackay.

The Broad Sound declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats including extensive mangroves and saltmarshes around the estuary, sand beaches, rocky structures, mangrove-lined creeks and seagrass beds and extensive intertidal areas due to the high tidal range.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted such as barramundi, blue salmon and bream.

Two fishways have been installed in St Lawrence Creek immediately adjacent to the Broad Sound declared FHA, in partnership with the Fitzroy Basin Association.

The Broad Sound declared FHA has had limited integration into planning processes. Broad Sound declared FHA was part of the Mackay – Seventeen Seventy declared FHA

awareness communications program in 2007/8.

There are no known unauthorised structures.

In 2008 the declared FHA was increased in size by 5394 ha.

This is the state's largest declared FHA, and is an area with the largest tidal range in Queensland.

### Management actions

- Inventory / audit of unauthorised structures and disturbances.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Broad Sound*.

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Broad Sound FHA-047*.

## Burdekin - FHA-005

### Burdekin



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very high diversity of fish habitats</li> <li>• Very popular recreational fishing area</li> <li>• Number of illegal private structures</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1999, this 91 985 ha management B declared FHA includes Cape Bowling Green to Cape Upstart, Upstart Bay and the Burdekin delta.

The Burdekin declared FHA has a very diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangrove communities, seagrass meadows, saltpans and sand flats.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species such as barramundi, grunter, flathead, salmon, mackerel, mangrove jack and mud crabs targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are limited ongoing partnerships, mainly interaction with the local council and government organisations for site specific work.

There is limited involvement with the Traditional Owners.

There has been a considerable amount of research over the last five years and a number of fish passage projects are underway upstream of the declared FHA.

There are a number of unauthorised private structures (jetties, boat ramps) within the declared FHA that are currently being investigated.

### Management actions

- Follow up on illegal structures with investigations and removal
- Increase communications, particularly with education about illegal structures
- Increase involvement with local council and NRM groups.

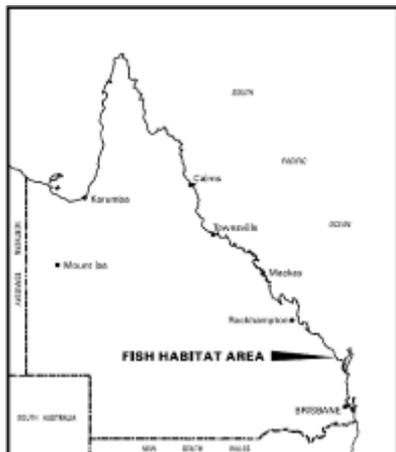
### Further resources

DPI 1999, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Burdekin FHA-005*.

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Burdekin*.

## Burrum - FHA-029

### Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong partnerships for management</li> <li>• Significant compliance activities in the last five years</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1986, this 4409 ha management A and B declared FHA includes the Burrum River and its tributaries and the coastal foreshore outside the river mouth, north of Maryborough.

The Burrum declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangroves, saltmarsh, seagrass, intertidal sand flats and shallow littoral areas.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a number of sought after species targeted.

There are ongoing partnerships with Bundaberg Regional Council and NRM groups such as the Burnett Mary Regional Group and OceanWatch to facilitate management of the area.

This declared FHA has had limited integration into planning processes.

The Burrum declared FHA has been the subject of Seagrass Watch research and was assessed in the *State of the Mangroves Report 2008*. Mangrove removal, cattle

grazing, feral pig damage and vehicle damage were identified as key issues (Mackenzie and Duke 2011).

There were no specific communication activities for the declared FHA in the last five years.

There have been several (at least five) unauthorised structures and activities in the last five years; however the majority were responded to appropriately.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Ongoing compliance.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Burrum*.

DPI 2003, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Burrum FHA-029*.

## Cape Palmerston – Rocky Dam - FHA-048

### Mackay Whitsunday



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very high fish habitat diversity, including small sections of freshwater</li> <li>• Declared FHA boundary revised in 2009 combining Cape Palmerston and Rocky Dam declared FHAs</li> <li>• Strong partnerships and planning</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1986 as two separate areas: Cape Palmerston and Rocky Dam (combined in 2009), this 21 507 ha management A and B declared FHA includes Ince Bay and Plum Tree, Rocky Dam and Dawson Creeks, south of Mackay.

The Cape Palmerston – Rocky Dam declared FHA has a very high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include a large sandy bay that dries at low tide to estuarine sand bars and channels, mangrove and saltmarsh areas and fringing inshore reef and seagrass meadows. There are also some small portions of freshwater in Rocky Dam Creek.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area. Issues covered include water quality, catchment management regional planning and most appropriate land use studies.

The Cape Palmerston – Rocky Dam declared FHA was part of the Mackay – Seventeen Seventy declared FHA awareness communication program in 2007/8.

There are no known unauthorised structures or activities in the declared FHA.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities.

### Further resources

DPI&F 2009, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Cape Palmerston-Rocky Dam FHA-048*.

DPI&F 2009, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Cape Palmerston – Rocky Dam*.

# Cattle – Palm Creeks - FHA-074

Wet Tropics



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very high fish habitat diversity</li> <li>• Strong partnerships with Traditional Owners</li> <li>• Amalgamation and size increase in 2011</li> </ul>

## Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 7115 ha management B declared FHA includes both Cattle and Palm Creeks, Orient Creek, Cassidy Creek and foreshore areas, with a large part within the Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park.

The Cattle – Palm Creeks declared FHA has a very diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangrove forests, saltmarsh, tidal channels and flats, seagrass beds and adjacent tea-tree swamps.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species including barramundi, Spanish mackerel, mangrove jack, bream, grunter and flathead targeted.

This declared FHA falls within the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) traditional lands and waters. Fisheries Queensland has long term partnerships with the Traditional Owners and is currently involved in numerous planning processes with GAC and other Queensland Government and Australian Government agencies, including the development of a Traditional Use of Marine

Resources Agreement (TUMRA) and the proposed Giringun Indigenous Protected Area (GAC 2012).

Unauthorised structures and activities have been responded to appropriately.

In 2011 the Cattle and Palm Creek FHAs were combined and additional lands joining the two areas included.

## Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Improve liaison with National Parks for cooperative management.

## Further resources

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Cattle – Palm Creeks FHA-074*.

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Cattle-Palm Creeks*.

# Cawarral Creek - FHA-050 (Revision 1)

## Fitzroy



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the lowest ranked declared FHAs</li> <li>• Relatively low fish habitat diversity</li> <li>• Increased in size in 2011</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1993, this 3130 ha management A declared FHA includes Cawarral and Coorooman Creeks south east of Rockhampton.

The fish habitats of Cawarral Creek declared FHA include mangroves, saltmarsh and intertidal flats.

Indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA and it is a major destination for recreational fishers on the Capricorn Coast.

There are no partnerships with state and local governments and NRM groups to facilitate management and planning of the area.

Cawarral Creek declared FHA was part of the Mackay – Seventeen Seventy declared FHA awareness communications program in 2007/8.

There have been several unauthorised structures in the area, the majority of which were responded to effectively.

In 2011 the declared FHA was increased in size.

### Management actions

- Confirm / investigate low fish habitat diversity (score)
- Improved partnerships with government and NRM groups
- Ongoing compliance
- Increase specific communication activities.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Cawarral Creek FHA-050 Revision 1*.

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Cawarral Creek*.

## Cleveland Bay - FHA-050

### Burdekin



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitats in good condition, relative to the proximity of a major city and port</li> <li>Large amount of fisheries and marine related research</li> <li>Well integrated into planning processes</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 2008, this 21 810 ha management A declared FHA includes the southern section of Cleveland Bay from south east of the Ross River to Cape Cleveland including Sandfly, Alligator, Crocodile, Cocoa Creeks and Blacksoil and Salmon Creek coastal wetland systems adjacent to Bowling Green Bay.

The Cleveland Bay declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangrove lined estuaries, extensive seagrass beds, mud flats, intertidal marshes and saltpan areas and adjacent wetland areas.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species such as barramundi, salmon, mullet, shark and mud crabs targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments and other organisations such as the Townsville Port Authority to facilitate management and

planning of the area. There has been limited involvement with the Traditional Owners.

Cleveland Bay is included in the Townsville City Council planning schemes and reports, Townsville Port Authority planning and State Government planning.

Due to its proximity to the City of Townsville and James Cook University (JCU), there has been a considerable amount of fisheries, habitat and marine related research in the declared FHA over the last five years, including for the Fisheries Queensland *Marine Fish Habitat Honours Scholarship Program* (DAFF 2012b).

Unauthorised structures and activities have been responded to appropriately.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities, in particular signage.

## **Further resources**

Baker, R & Sheppard, R 2005, *Fisheries resources of Cleveland Bay (Townsville)*, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Cleveland Bay*.

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Cleveland Bay FHA-050*.

## Colosseum Inlet - FHA-037

### Fitzroy



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High fish habitat diversity and fisheries values</li> <li>• One of the lowest ranked declared FHAs with low scores across a range of criteria</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983 as four separate areas (combined in 2003), this 11 572 ha management A and B declared FHA includes Colosseum Inlet and the Seven Mile Creek area, south of Gladstone.

The Colosseum Inlet declared FHA has high diversity of fish habitats, including extensive mangrove communities, estuarine channels, deltaic islands, samphire and salt pans, seagrass beds and a small coral community.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are no ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management of the area. The declared FHA has had limited integration into planning processes.

The Colosseum Inlet declared FHA was part of the Mackay – Seventeen Seventy FHA awareness communications program in 2007/8.

There have been several unauthorised structures / disturbances in the area, the majority of which were responded to effectively.

### Management actions

- Improved partnerships with government and NRM groups
- Ongoing compliance
- Increase communication activities.

### Further resources

DPI 2003, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Colosseum Inlet FHA-037*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Colosseum Inlet*.

# Coomababah - FHA-016

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the lowest ranked declared FHAs with low scores across a range of criteria</li> <li>• Fishing prohibited in Lake Coombabah</li> <li>• High level of research activity</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 489 ha management B declared FHA includes Coombabah Creek and Lake on the Gold Coast. It provides a buffer from intense urban development for the adjacent Jumpinpin-Broadwater declared FHA.

The Coombabah declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats including a large, shallow silty-sand estuarine lake fringed by mangroves. Access to mangrove habitats within the declared FHA is provided via an excellent boardwalk.

Fishing is limited to Coombabah Creek, although many highly sought after species are targeted here. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are no ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area. Integration into local and state planning processes is limited.

Many research and monitoring activities have and continue to be carried out within the declared FHA, including those by Griffith University as part of the Fisheries Queensland *Fish Habitat Management and Research Program* (DAFF 2012a), the Queensland Herbarium and Gold Coast City Council.

There are no specific communication activities for this declared FHA.

Knowledge of unauthorised structures is limited although it is likely that these exist near adjoining residential areas (e.g. revetments).

### Management actions

- Improve partnerships (e.g. local government; NRM groups; traditional owners)
- Increase communication activities
- Improve knowledge of unlawful structures with appropriate compliance response
- Improve integration of declared FHA into local and state planning processes.

**Further resources**

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Coombabah.*

DPI&F 1998, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Coombabah FHA-016.*

## Coomera - FHA-023

### South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffers adjoining Jumpinpin – Broadwater declared FHA from intense urban development</li> <li>• Partnership for vessel moorings management</li> <li>• No unauthorised structures / activities</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 607 ha management B declared FHA includes parts of Coomera Island and the adjacent Southport Broadwater on the Gold Coast. It provides a buffer from intense urban development for the adjoining Jumpinpin – Broadwater declared FHA.

The Coomera declared FHA has a moderately diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangroves, scattered seagrass beds and saltmarsh.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

Partnerships with state government agencies include planning for and management of vessel moorings in the area, although integration into other local and state planning processes is limited.

There were no specific communication activities for this declared FHA in the last five years.

There were no known unauthorised structures or activities in the declared FHA in the past five years.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Improve integration into local and state planning processes.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Coomera*.

DPI&F 1999, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Coomera FHA-023*.

# Corio Bay - FHA-067

## Fitzroy



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory of structures in the declared FHA completed</li> <li>• Well integrated into planning processes</li> <li>• Size increase in 2009</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1974, this 4652 ha management A declared FHA covers Corio Bay, north of Yeppoon.

The Corio Bay declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats, including extensive sandy shallows with areas of mangrove shrubland, rocky outcrops, seagrass beds on intertidal flats and saltmarshes.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted.

The declared FHA is well integrated into planning processes, such as the former Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) *Byfield Area Management Plan* and the *Central Queensland Regional Growth Management Framework*.

In 2009/10 an inventory of instream structures was undertaken (DEEDI 2011). Within the declared FHA, 24 structures were identified, some of which may be unlawful. The Corio Bay working group was formed to address high priority (those with a large

impact) structures. No structures have been removed to date.

One boat ramp in the declared FHA has signage prepared in partnership with the (former) Department of Environment and Resource Management.

Corio Bay declared FHA was part of the Mackay – Seventeen Seventy declared FHA awareness communications program in 2007/8.

The declared FHA increased in size by 562 ha in 2009.

### Management actions

- Reinvigorate the Corio Bay working group to address high priority and unlawful structures.

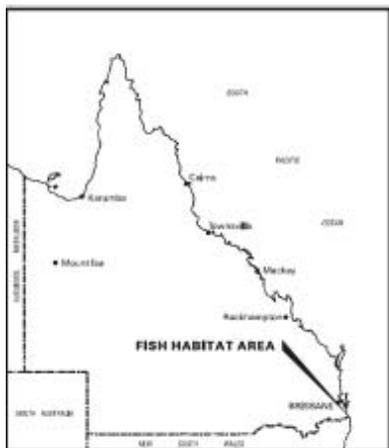
### Further resources

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Corio Bay*.

DPI&F 2009, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Corio Bay FHA-067*.

# Currumbin Creek - FHA-020

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smallest declared FHA in the network but has high fish habitat diversity and connectivity</li> <li>• Popular recreational fishing location</li> <li>• Outstanding educational value</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 9 ha management B declared FHA includes part of Currumbin Creek on the Gold Coast. It is the smallest declared FHA in the network.

The Currumbin Creek declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangroves, saltmarsh, seagrass and sand flats with high connectivity (i.e. in close proximity).

This is a very popular local recreational fishing spot, with fishing platforms in the declared FHA providing access to a range of targeted species. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There is an ongoing partnership with local government to enhance fish habitat signage in the area. Integration into local and state planning processes is limited.

The declared FHA has outstanding educational value as it borders the Palm Beach Currumbin High School, has a boardwalk that provides easy access and has fish habitat awareness signage.

There are no known unauthorised structures or activities in the declared FHA.

### Management actions

- Follow up on saltmarsh sign installation with Gold Coast City Council
- Improve integration into local and state planning processes.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Currumbin Creek*.

DPI&F 1999, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Currumbin Creek FHA-020*.

## Dallachy Creek - FHA-042

### Wet Tropics



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High fish habitat diversity in small creek system</li> <li>• Pristine habitats surrounded by National Park</li> <li>• Strong partnerships with Traditional Owners</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 1710 ha management A declared FHA includes the tidal portions of Dallachy and Whitfield Creeks.

The Dallachy Creek declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangrove forests, Melaleuca forests, intertidal flats and saltflats.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species including barramundi, bream, grunter, mangrove jacks, mackerel and whiting targeted.

This declared FHA falls within the GAC traditional lands and waters. Fisheries Queensland has long term partnerships with the Traditional Owners and is currently involved in numerous planning processes with GAC and other Queensland Government and Australian Government agencies, including the development of a TUMRA and the proposed Giringun Indigenous Protected Area (GAC 2012).

There were no specific communication activities in this declared FHA in the last five years.

There are no known unlawful structures.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Increase partnerships with local council and National Parks and integration into planning processes.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Dallachy Creek*.

DPI 2001, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Dallachy Creek FHA-042*.

# Deception Bay - FHA-013 (Revision 1)

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High development pressure</li> <li>• Partnerships for vessel moorings management</li> <li>• Size increased in 2011</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1969, this 1504 ha management A and B declared FHA includes parts of the Caboolture River and Deception Bay. There is pressure for development in the area, including marina development.

The Deception Bay declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include sand / mud flats, seagrass beds and undercut river banks.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area, including for vessel moorings in the area. Integration into local and state planning processes is limited.

There were no specific communication activities for this declared FHA in the last five years.

There are some unauthorised structures or activities in the declared FHA and most have been appropriately responded to.

In 2011 the declared FHA was increased in size and the seaward boundary definition improved.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Improve integration into planning processes to balance development needs with fish habitat protection.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Deception Bay FHA-013*.

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Deception Bay*.

## Edgecumbe Bay - FHA-069

### Mackay Whitsunday



Declared FHA status 2012	<b>Medium priority for action</b>
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good integration into planning processes</li> <li>• Numerous unlawful activities and structures with ongoing compliance action</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 2005, this 19 705 ha management A and B declared FHA includes Edgecumbe Bay, from Cape Gloucester to Adelaide Point, including Gregory River and several other small creeks.

The Edgecumbe Bay declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include sandy beaches, species rich mangrove forests, rocky shores, coral reefs and seagrass meadows.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted.

The Edgecumbe Bay declared FHA is well integrated into planning processes, including catchment management reports, most appropriate land use studies and the *Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Mackay Whitsunday Region* (Drewry et al. 2008).

Management of moorings has been identified as an issue, and this is being addressed in partnership with DTMR.

Seagrass Watch research occurs within the Edgecumbe Bay declared FHA.

This declared FHA was part of the Lucinda to Mackay FHA awareness program in 2006/7 which received good feedback. There is also declared FHA signage in the area.

There are a number of unauthorised structures and activities in the declared FHA, which are the subject of ongoing compliance action.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Increased / ongoing compliance, in partnership with council and other state agencies.

### Further resources

DPI 2005, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Edgecumbe Bay FHA-069*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Edgecumbe Bay*.

# Eight Mile Creek - FHA-063

## Southern Gulf



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote, relatively undisturbed area with little development pressure</li> <li>• Size increased in 2010</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1990, this 35 245 ha management A declared FHA includes the fish habitats between Tully Inlet and Bundella Waterholes, near the Northern Territory border. This declared FHA is in a remote, undisturbed area with little development pressure.

The Eight Mile Creek declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include fringing mangroves along the waterways and extensive sand flats.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted including barramundi, blue salmon, grey mackerel, king salmon, queenfish, grunter, mud crabs and catfish.

There are no ongoing partnerships to facilitate management and planning of the area and there is little integration into planning processes.

No specific communication activities were undertaken for the declared FHA in the last five years.

There are no known unauthorised structures in the Eight Mile Creek declared FHA.

The seaward boundary of the Eight Mile Creek declared FHA was amended from low water mark to 4 km offshore in 2010. This increased the size of the declared FHA.

### Management actions

- Involvement in the Carpentaria Land Council Ranger Program
- Improve awareness and communication with local and state groups, including Traditional Owners and Southern Gulf Catchments NRM group.

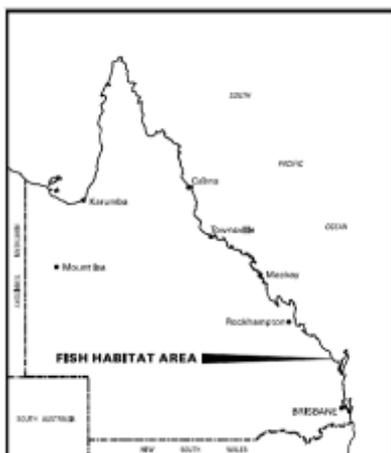
### Further resources

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Eight Mile Creek FHA-063*.

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Eight Mile Creek*.

## Elliott River - FHA-052

### Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	<b>Medium priority for action</b>
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Elliott River is unimpeded by dams / weirs</li> <li>• Some research activity</li> <li>• Vehicle hooning is an issue</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 2003, this 803 ha management A declared FHA includes the lower reaches of the Elliott River, near Bundaberg.

The Elliott River declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangrove forests, ephemeral seagrass beds, intertidal sand and mud banks and rock bars.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted such as flathead, whiting, bream and barramundi. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are no ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management of the area. There is limited integration of the Elliott River declared FHA into planning processes.

The Elliott River declared FHA has been the subject of Seagrass Watch research and was assessed in the *State of the Mangroves Report 2008*.

Vehicle damage (hooing) and mangrove removal have been identified as key issues (Mackenzie and Duke 2011).

There were no specific communications activities in the Elliott River declared FHA in the last five years.

There has been one prosecution for unauthorised works in the declared FHA. There are no other known unlawful structures.

The Elliott River is one of the few coastal systems in southern Queensland not regulated by weirs, dams or other impoundment structures, providing unimpeded connectivity between estuarine and freshwater habitat.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities to raise awareness of unlawful access and disturbance
- Develop partnerships with government and NRM groups in the area.

## **Further resources**

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Elliott River.*

DPI 2003, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Elliott River FHA-052.*

McKinnon, S, Lupton, C & Beumer, J 2002, *Declaration of Elliott River Fish Habitat Area, Final Report for Project MPA 31420.*

# Escape River - FHA-060

## Cape York



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote location with relatively low development pressure</li> <li>• Size increased in 2010</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 27 506 ha management A declared FHA includes part of Newcastle Bay, the mouth of the Escape River, and Jacky Jacky Creek, 20 km south of the tip of Cape York.

The Escape River declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include one of the most extensive stands of medium-tall mangroves in Queensland and seagrass beds between Turtle Island and the mainland.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted, such as barramundi, grey mackerel mangrove jack and various prawn species. Queensland's largest pearl culture area is within the Escape River declared FHA.

There are no ongoing partnerships to facilitate management of the area, and there has been little integration into planning processes.

New Seagrass Watch monitoring sites are being established within the declared FHA.

No specific communication activities were undertaken for the declared FHA in the last five years.

There are no known unauthorised structures in the Escape River declared FHA.

In 2010 the declared FHA was increased in size by 1706 ha.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Increase education and awareness with local and state organisations and the Traditional Owner group.

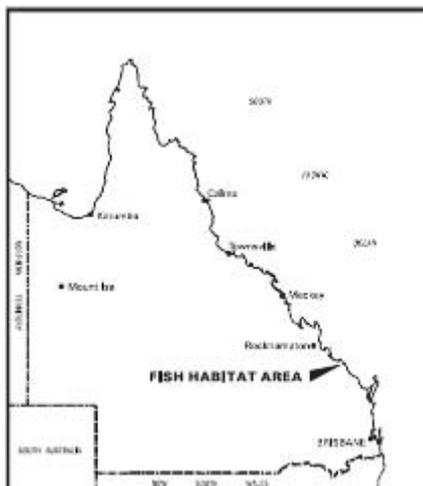
### Further resources

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Escape River FHA-060*.

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Escape River*.

## Eurimbula - FHA-038

### Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of only two estuaries where the mangrove <i>Lumnitzera racemosa</i> is locally common</li> <li>• No unauthorised activities or structures</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 606 ha management A declared FHA includes Eurimbula Creek, west of the Town of Seventeen Seventy.

The Eurimbula declared FHA has a moderate diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangroves, patches of salt marsh and clay pan, sandy beaches and intertidal flats.

Recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted such as barramundi, blue salmon, bream and estuary cod. The creek is closed to commercial mud crabbing and commercial netting.

There are no ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management of the area. The Eurimbula declared FHA has had limited integration into planning processes.

The declared FHA was part of the Mackay – Seventeen Seventy declared FHA awareness communications program in 2007/8.

There are no known unauthorised structures and activities within the declared FHA.

The declared FHA contains 1 of only 2 estuaries where the mangrove *Lumnitzera racemosa* is locally common.

### Management actions

- Develop partnerships with government and NRM groups
- Increase communication activities.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2012 *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Eurimbula*.

DPI 2003, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Eurimbula FHA-038*.

## Fitzroy River - FHA-072

### Fitzroy



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent fisheries research on king threadfin</li> <li>Communications as part of the declared FHA launch in 2008</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 2008, this 29 253 ha management A declared FHA includes parts of the Fitzroy River estuary, Raglan Creek and the wetland systems surrounding North Curtis Island, near Rockhampton.

The Fitzroy River declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive saltpans and saline grasslands fed by mangrove-lined creeks, mud and sand flats, rocky headlands and brackish lagoons.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted such as mud crab, barramundi, banana prawns and king salmon.

There are currently no partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management of the area. The Fitzroy River declared FHA has had some integration into planning processes.

Recent research by Moore *et al.* (2011) indicates that the king threadfin from the Fitzroy River estuary live longer, and reach greater lengths at ages of six years and older

than fish from the Mary and Brisbane River estuaries.

There was an extensive communications campaign around the launch of the declared FHA in 2008; it was also part of the Mackay – Seventeen Seventy declared FHA awareness communications campaign in 2007/8.

More than half of the unauthorised structures and activities in the Fitzroy River declared FHA have been responded to appropriately.

### Management actions

- Develop partnerships with government and NRM groups
- Increase communication activities.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Fitzroy River.*

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Fitzroy River FHA-072.*

Long, P & McKinnon, S 2002, *Habitats and fisheries resources of the Fitzroy River estuary (Central Queensland)*, Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

## Fraser Island - FHA-053

### Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the most highly ranked declared FHAs</li> <li>• Partnership for the Great Sandy Strait Instream Structure Inventory</li> <li>• Large size increase in 2008</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 43 520 ha management B declared FHA includes the foreshores of Fraser Island's east coast and the west coast between Sandy Cape and Moon Point.

The Fraser Island declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive sheltered tidal flats, steep rocky cliffs, sandy ocean beaches and some freshwater springs.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted, such as tailor, whiting, swallowtail dart, golden trevally and mackerel.

There has been limited integration of the Fraser Island declared FHA into planning processes.

The research partnership between Burnett Mary Regional Group, DERM, Fraser Coast Regional Council, WetlandCare, OceanWatch, Butchulla People and the Department of Defence involved an inventory

of structures in the Fraser Island declared FHA (DAFF in prep). No unlawful structures or disturbances were identified during the inventory.

There were no specific communication activities for the declared FHA.

The Fraser Island declared FHA was reviewed in 2008 and was increased in size by 25 520 ha.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Increase integration into planning processes.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Fraser Island*.

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Fraser Island FHA-053*.

## Half Moon Creek - FHA-033

### Wet Tropics



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lowest ranked declared FHA</li> <li>• Relatively small size and low diversity of fish habitats</li> <li>• Well integrated into planning processes</li> </ul>

#### Comments

Originally declared in 1974, this relatively small 216 ha management B declared FHA includes the lower reaches of Half Moon Creek, north of Cairns.

The Half Moon Creek declared FHA contains a mangrove-lined estuary, saltmarsh and sand flats.

Recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA, targeting species such as barramundi, blue salmon and bream. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are no current partnerships with NRM groups to facilitate management of the area. However, the Half Moon Creek declared FHA has been incorporated into the *Far North Queensland Regional Plan*, and within Cairns Regional Council's *Marine Plan Management Strategy*.

There are no unauthorised structures or activities in the declared FHA.

No specific communication activities were undertaken in the last five years; however there is some declared FHA signage (> 5 years old).

The Half Moon Creek declared FHA was the lowest ranked in this FHA assessment. This was strongly influenced by: size smaller than 500 ha; presence of relatively few fish habitat types; presence of tilapia.

#### Management actions

- Investigate increasing size of declared FHA including tidal parts of lot 3 on plan RP745338
- Investigate / confirm low fish habitat diversity
- Increase partnerships with state and local government and non government organisations including schools
- Increase communication activities, including signage.

#### Further resources

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Half Moon Creek*.

DPI 2001, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Half Moon Creek FHA-033*.

## Halifax FHA - FHA-024

### Wet Tropics



Declared FHA status 2012	<b>Medium priority for action</b>
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Popular recreational fishing area</li> <li>• Strong partnerships with Traditional Owners</li> <li>• Well integrated into planning processes</li> </ul>

#### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 5270 ha management B declared FHA includes parts of Halifax Bay, Victoria and Gentle Annie Creeks.

The Halifax declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangrove forests, intertidal sand flats and estuaries.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species including barramundi, bream, mackerel, mangrove jack, grunter, queenfish and prawns. It is close to the fishing township of Taylors Beach.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area and the declared FHA is included in local planning and management schemes.

This declared FHA falls within the GAC traditional lands and waters. Fisheries Queensland has long term partnerships with the Traditional Owners and is currently

involved in numerous planning processes with GAC and other Queensland Government and Australian Government agencies, including the development of a TUMRA and the proposed Giringun Indigenous Protected Area (GAC 2012).

There are currently a number of fisheries and habitat specific research projects in the area including through the Fisheries Queensland *Marine Fish Habitat Honours Scholarship Program* (DAFF 2012b).

#### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Increase partnerships with council and Hinchinbrook Local Marine Advisory Committee.

#### Further resources

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Halifax*.

DPI 2003, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Halifax FHA-024*.

# Hay's Inlet - FHA-012

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excellent communication activities</li><li>• Strong partnerships</li></ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1969, this 1205 ha management A declared FHA includes parts of Hay's Inlet and Pine River between Redcliffe and Brisbane.

The Hay's Inlet declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangroves, samphire flats and intertidal mud / sand / rocky flats.

While fishing is prohibited by Marine Park zoning in part of the declared FHA, in other parts a large number of highly sought after species are targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments and community groups to facilitate management and planning of the area. This included a flood debris clean up in 2012 coordinated by OceanWatch in partnership with several agencies.

There is a strong record of communication activities in this declared FHA including signage and collaboration with the adjoining Moreton Bay Regional Council Osprey House Environmental Centre.

Unauthorised structures and activities have been responded to appropriately.

### Management actions

- Continue to foster partnerships and communication activities.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Hay's Inlet*.

DPI&F 1998, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Hay's Inlet FHA-012*.

# Hinchinbrook - FHA-028

## Wet Tropics



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pristine habitats surrounded by Hinchinbrook Island National Park</li> <li>• Large amounts of fisheries and habitat research</li> <li>• Strong partnerships with Traditional Owners</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1971, this 12 268 ha management A declared FHA includes tidal habitats within Hinchinbrook Channel.

The Hinchinbrook declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive stands of mangroves, seagrass beds, channel, shoals, sand and mud flats and complex estuarine systems.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species include barramundi, blue salmon, bream, grunter, mangrove jack, grey mackerel and prawns targeted. Tilapia has been recorded in the catchment.

This declared FHA falls within the GAC traditional lands and waters. Fisheries Queensland has long term partnerships with the Traditional Owners and is currently involved in numerous planning processes with GAC and other Queensland Government and Australian Government agencies,

including the development of a TUMRA and the proposed Giringun Indigenous Protected Area (GAC 2012).

A considerable amount of research has occurred over the last 20 years and there is ongoing fisheries and habitat research, including through the Fisheries Queensland *Marine Fish Habitat Honours Scholarship Program* (DAFF 2012b).

A small number of illegal structures were identified during the *Targeted collection of inventory data for wetlands fish barriers in the Great Barrier Reef catchment* (DPI&F 2009).

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Follow up on illegal structures (from Inventory project)
- Assessment of current JCU research and work with JCU in better communicating benefits of the declared FHA.

**Further resources**

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Hinchinbrook*

DPI 1999, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Hinchinbrook FHA-028.*



# Jumpinpin – Broadwater - FHA-021 (Revision 1)

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffered from development pressure by Coomera and Pimpama declared FHAs</li> <li>• Important fishing grounds and bream spawning area</li> <li>• Ongoing partnerships for land management issues</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1969, this 10 788 ha management A declared FHA includes waters west of South and North Stradbroke Islands from the Logan River to Runaway Bay on the Gold Coast. It is buffered to the west by the adjoining Coomera and Pimpama management B declared FHAs and the nearby Coombabah declared FHA.

The Jumpinpin – Broadwater declared FHA has a moderately diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangrove islands and deltas, seagrass and sandy shoals. There is an ongoing issue with groundsel bush infestation on non-tidal lands at Woongoolba within the declared FHA.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted. The Jumpinpin – Broadwater declared FHA is an important bream spawning area. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area, including resolving drainage and associated Casuarina dieback issues at Woongoolba. Integration into local and state planning processes is limited.

This is an important area for research and monitoring, including Fisheries Queensland Long-Term Monitoring sites.

There were no specific communication activities for this declared FHA in the last five years.

There have been no known unauthorised structures or activities in this declared FHA in the last five years.

### Management actions

- Continue partnerships, particularly for management of lands at Woongoolba
- Increase communication activities
- Improve integration into local and state planning processes.

**Further resources**

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Jumpinpin-Broadwater.*

DPI&F 2003, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Jumpinpin-Broadwater FHA-021.*

# Kauri Creek - FHA-055

## Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High diversity and connectivity of fish habitats, including coral</li> <li>• Partnership for the Great Sandy Strait Instream Structure Inventory</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1976, this 6435 ha management A declared FHA includes Kauri Creek and part of Tin Can Inlet.

The Kauri Creek declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangrove communities, saltmarshes and species rich seagrass meadows. Mosaics of mangrove, seagrass and coral reef provide excellent habitat connectivity for fish.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted. Tilapia has not been recorded in the catchment.

The research partnership between Burnett Mary Regional Group, DERM, Fraser Coast Regional Council, WetlandCare, OceanWatch, Butchulla People and the Department of Defence involved an inventory of in-stream structures in the Kauri Creek declared FHA (DAFF in prep).

During the inventory, 11 structures were identified, however, it is yet to be determined if any are unlawful.

Other research in the declared FHA includes the *State of the Mangroves Report 2008*, Seagrass Watch and Mangrove Watch monitoring. Feral pigs have been identified as a management issue (Mackenzie and Duke 2011).

There has been limited integration of the Kauri Creek declared FHA into planning processes.

There were no specific communication activities for the declared FHA in the last five years.

In 2008 the FHA was redeclared to cadastral boundaries to improve boundary definition and as a result was reduced in size by 65 ha.

### Management actions

- Determine if any of the identified structures are unlawful and take appropriate action
- Form partnerships to address feral pig management.

**Further resources**

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Kauri Creek.*

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Kauri Creek FHA-055.*

# Kinkuna - FHA-002

## Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership with OceanWatch to manage access</li> <li>• Vehicle hooning damaging the habitats is an issue</li> <li>• Due for amendment in 2012, planned size increase</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1998, this 774 ha management A declared FHA includes parts of Coonarr, Theodolite and Lagoon Creeks and the foreshore of Hervey Bay between these creeks.

The Kinkuna declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic fish habitats include mangrove forests, intertidal sand and gravel bars and sandy beach habitats.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a species such as barramundi, king salmon, flathead, bream, mangrove jack and whiting targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There have been partnerships with OceanWatch to undertake fencing and bollarding to manage access in the declared FHA.

The Kinkuna declared FHA (Theodolite Creek) was assessed in the *State of the Mangroves Report 2008*. Vehicle damage (hooing) was identified as a management issue (Mackenzie and Duke 2011).

There were no specific communication activities for the declared FHA in the last five years.

There are no known unauthorised structures in the Kinkuna declared FHA.

This declared FHA is due for amendment in 2012. The declared FHA will increase in size due to improved definition of the offshore boundary.

### Management actions

- Continue NRM group partnerships.

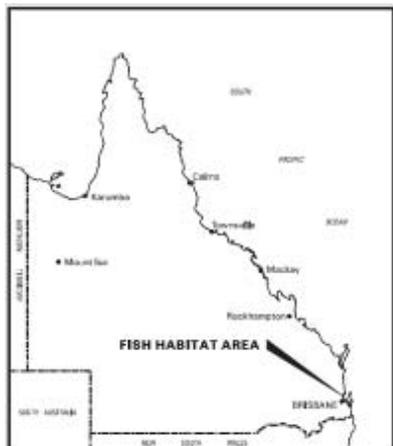
### Further resources

DPI 1998, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Kinkuna FHA-002*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Kinkuna*.

# Kippa-Ring - FHA-014

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships for vessel moorings management</li> <li>• No unlawful structures/activities</li> <li>• To be amended in 2012 to improve boundary definition</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1969, this 817 ha management A declared FHA includes the southern portion of Deception Bay.

The Kippa-Ring declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive sand / mud intertidal flats and shallow marine waters.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area, including for vessel moorings. Integration into other local and regional planning processes is limited.

There were no specific communication activities for this declared FHA in the last five years.

There have been no known unlawful structures or activities in the declared FHA over the last five years.

The Kippa-Ring declared FHA is to be revised in 2012 to improve seaward boundary definition.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Improve integration into local and state planning processes.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2012, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Kippa-Ring*.

DPI&F 1998, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Kippa-Ring FHA-014*.

# Kolan River - FHA-032

## Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the lowest ranked declared FHAs with low scores across a range of criteria</li> <li>• Issues with cattle trampling and vehicle use on fish habitats</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 1896 ha management B declared FHA includes the Kolan River, downstream of Avondale, north of Bundaberg.

The Kolan River declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangrove stands, channel islands and sand banks.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with species such as flathead, mangrove jack, grey mackerel and whiting targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are no ongoing partnerships with state and local governments or NRM groups to facilitate management of the area.

Kolan River declared FHA was assessed in the *State of the Mangroves Report 2008*. Management issues identified include cattle trampling, vehicle use on saltpans and bank erosion (Mackenzie and Duke 2011).

There were no specific communication activities for the declared FHA in the last five years.

There are no known unauthorised structures within the Kolan River declared FHA.

### Management actions

- Form partnerships to address management issues.

### Further resources

DPI&F 2001, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Kolan River FHA-032*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Kolan River*.

## Maaroom - FHA-056

### Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships for the Great Sandy Strait Instream Structure Inventory</li> <li>Seagrass Watch and mud crab research in the declared FHA</li> <li>Size increased in 2008</li> </ul>

#### Comments

Originally declared in 1976, this 23 669 ha management A declared FHA includes part of the Great Sandy Strait south of the mouth of the Mary River, near Maryborough.

The Maaroom declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangrove and saltmarsh communities, muddy shoals and highly diverse seagrass meadows.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted.

The research partnership for the Great Sandy Strait Instream Structure Inventory between Burnett Mary Regional Group, DERM, Fraser Coast Regional Council, WetlandCare, OceanWatch, Butchulla People and the Department of Defence involved an instream structure inventory of the Maaroom declared FHA (DAFF in prep).

Other research in the Maaroom declared FHA includes Seagrass Watch and Fisheries Queensland mud crab monitoring.

No specific communications activities were undertaken in the declared FHA in the last five years.

There have been several unauthorised activities in the declared FHA, the majority of which were addressed appropriately. The instream structure inventory recorded several other structures that require further investigation to determine if they are lawful.

In 2008 the declared FHA was increased in size by 669 ha.

#### Management actions

- Further investigation of structures identified in the instream structure inventory.

#### Further resources

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Maaroom FHA-056*.

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Maaroom*.

# Margaret Bay (Wuthathi) - FHA- 070 (Revision 1)

## Cape York



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very high fish habitat diversity including seagrass beds and coral reefs</li> <li>• Pristine condition; low development pressure</li> <li>• Lands owned by the Wuthathi Traditional Owners</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 2005, this 27 660 ha management A and B declared FHA includes the foreshore area from the Olive River, Cape Grenville, Home Island, Margaret Bay and part of Shelburne Bay.

The Margaret Bay (Wuthathi) declared FHA has a very diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangrove forests and estuaries, saltmarsh, seagrass meadows, coral reefs, island, rocky shores, adjacent freshwater wetlands and perched lakes.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species including barramundi, tarpon, threadfin salmon, grey mackerel, shark, mangrove jack and fingermark targeted.

There has been limited involvement with the Wuthathi Traditional Owners since declaration; however Traditional Owners are involved with a new seagrass monitoring project within Shelburne Bay.

Research in the area includes marine monitoring using Seagrass Watch methods (Reef Rescue Project 2012) which looks at nutrients, pesticides, herbicides and reproduction of seagrass.

The FHA was redeclared in 2008 to exclude non-tidal land incorrectly included in 2005.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities, including local signage
- Increase liaison and communication with Wuthathi Traditional Owners.

### Further resources

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Margaret Bay (Wuthathi) FHA-070*.

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Margaret Bay (Wuthathi)*.

Sheppard, R., Roelofs, A.E., Garrett, R and Helmke, S.A. 2002. *Margaret Bay and surrounds: Assessment of fisheries resources, August 2001*. DPI Information Series QI02003. Department of Primary Industries, Cairns.

# Maroochy - FHA-008

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partnerships / planning in the SCRC Waterways and Coastal Management Committee</li><li>• Unauthorised activities an issue</li></ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1974, this 719 ha management A and B declared FHA includes parts of the Maroochy River and Eudlo Creek north of Maroochydoore.

The Maroochy declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include scattered mangrove communities on the river banks, saltmarsh and small sparsely-vegetated sandbanks.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted. The declared FHA is an important recreational fishing area. Species such as Australian bass, bream, estuary cod, blue salmon, flathead, and mud crabs are commonly targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

Fisheries Queensland is part of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC) Waterways and Coastal Management Committee which addresses waterway and development issues, including in the Maroochy declared FHA.

SCRC recently undertook restoration works to stabilise banks near the Coolum Creek confluence in the declared FHA.

There have been a number of issues with unauthorised structures and activities during the last five years. Approximately half of these were resolved.

### Management actions

- Continue partnerships with the SCRC Waterways and Coastal Management Committee, in particular to address unauthorised activities.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Maroochy*.

DPI 1999, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Maroochy FHA-008*.

# Meunga Creek - FHA-040

## Wet Tropics



Declared FHA status 2012	<b>Medium priority for action</b>
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Popular creek for recreational fishing</li> <li>• Strong partnerships with Traditional Owners</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 440 ha management A declared FHA includes the tidal areas of Meunga Creek and coastal waters outside the mouth.

The Meunga Creek declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangrove communities, estuarine system, salt flats, intertidal flats, with adjacent Melaleuca forests.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species such as barramundi, bream, estuary cod, grunter, mangrove jack, mackerel and mud crabs targeted.

This declared FHA falls within the GAC traditional lands and waters. Fisheries Queensland has long term partnerships with the Traditional Owners and is currently involved in numerous planning processes with GAC and other Queensland Government and Australian Government agencies, including the development of a TUMRA and the proposed Giringun Indigenous Protected Area (GAC 2012).

There are no known unlawful structures.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities, including signage
- Increase partnerships with local council
- Increase involvement with Giringun Traditional Owners for resource assessment and monitoring of the declared FHA, which is close to the Giringun Rangers' base at Cardwell.

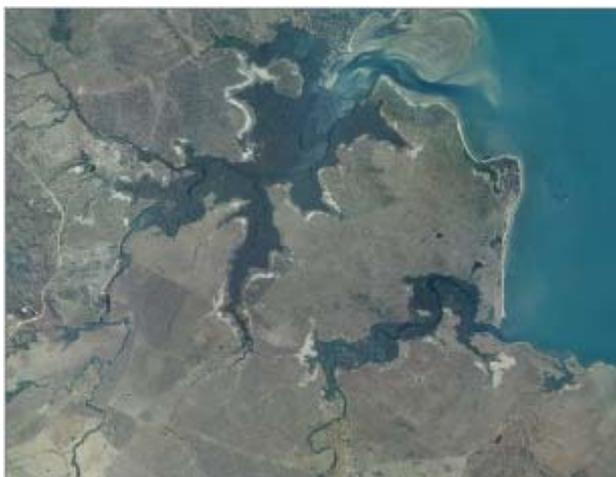
### Further resources

DPI&F 2001, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Meunga Creek FHA-040*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Meunga Creek*.

## Midge - FHA-001

### Mackay Whitsunday



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well integrated into planning processes</li> <li>Waterway barrier research with NRM groups</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1986, this 8199 ha management B declared FHA includes the coastal waters from Dewars Point to Midge Point, including Dempster and Hervey Creek, near Proserpine.

The Midge declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include closed mangrove forests, sandy foreshores, seagrass beds, inshore reefs and saltmarsh areas.

Recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted such as grunter, mangrove jack, queenfish, school mackerel, sweetlip, various emperor species, banana prawns.

The declared FHA is well integrated into planning processes, such as catchment management reports, the *Mackay, Isaac Whitsunday Regional Plan* and the *Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Mackay Whitsunday Region* (Drewry et al. 2008).

Waterway barrier research and prioritisation has occurred in the declared FHA, in collaboration with local NRM groups.

The Midge declared FHA was part of the Lucinda – Mackay FHA awareness communications program in 2006/7, which received good feedback.

There are no known unauthorised structures in the Midge declared FHA.

### Management actions

- Continue partnerships with NRM groups to address waterway barriers.

### Further resources

DPI 1998, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Midge FHA-001*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Midge*.

# Moreton Banks - FHA-015

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear water, marine fish habitats adjoining Moreton Island</li> <li>• Good partnerships</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1969, this 6318 ha management A declared FHA includes waters adjoining and west of Moreton Island, south of Tangalooma Point.

The Moreton Banks declared FHA has a moderately diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include seagrass, intertidal sand flats and sandy beaches. There is a 7 m deep hole within the otherwise shallow marine waters of this declared FHA.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted.

There are ongoing partnerships with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) for vessel moorings management and OceanWatch for their *Tide to Table* program to facilitate management and planning of the area. Integration into local and state planning processes is limited.

There were no specific communication activities for this declared FHA in the last five years.

Unauthorised structures and activities have been responded to appropriately.

The boundary of the Moreton Banks declared FHA is being considered for amendment from a depth contour to meets and bounds.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Improve integration into local and state planning processes.

### Further resources

DPI&F 1998, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Moreton Banks FHA-015*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Moreton Banks*.

# Morning Inlet – Bynoe River - FHA-062

## Southern Gulf



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important barramundi fishing and nursery area</li> <li>• Remote, relatively undisturbed area with little development pressure</li> <li>• Size increased in 2010</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1990, this 39 870 ha management A declared FHA includes Morning Inlet and the Bynoe River near Karumba in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria.

The Morning Inlet – Bynoe River declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangrove lined rivers and creeks adjoining extensive unvegetated salt pans.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with many highly sought after species targeted, especially barramundi.

There are ongoing partnerships with North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (seagrass monitoring) and Southern Gulf Catchments (fishway monitoring), but no partnerships with state and local governments. The Morning Inlet-Bynoe River declared FHA has not been integrated into local and regional planning processes.

There were no specific communication activities for this declared FHA in the last five years.

There have been no known unauthorised structures or activities in the Morning Inlet-Bynoe River declared FHA in the last five years.

The seaward boundary of the Morning Inlet – Bynoe River declared FHA was amended from low water mark to 4 km offshore in 2010 to improve boundary definition. This increased the size of the declared FHA.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Develop partnerships with local government, NRM groups and Traditional Owners
- Improve integration into local and state planning processes.

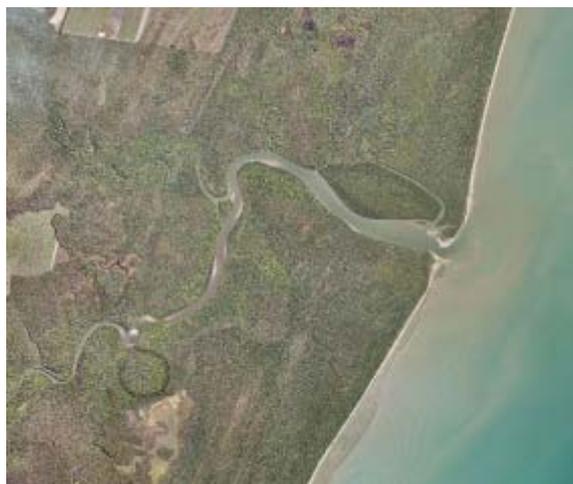
### Further resources

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Morning Inlet-Bynoe River FHA-062*.

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Morning inlet-Bynoe River*.

## Murray River - FHA-009

### Wet Tropics



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Few illegal structures or disturbances</li> <li>Strong partnerships with Traditional Owners</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 1579 ha management A declared FHA includes the tidal portions of the Murray River, near Tully.

The Murray River declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangrove communities, estuarine system, salt flats, intertidal flats and sandy foreshores, with adjacent Melaleuca forests.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species including barramundi, bream, mangrove jack, grunter, queenfish, tarpon, mackerel and mud crabs targeted.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area.

This declared FHA falls within the GAC traditional lands and waters. Fisheries Queensland has long term partnerships with the Traditional Owners and is currently involved in numerous planning processes with GAC and other Queensland Government and Australian Government agencies, including the development of a TUMRA and

the proposed Giringun Indigenous Protected Area (GAC 2012).

Unauthorised structures and activities were responded to appropriately.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Increase partnerships with local government.

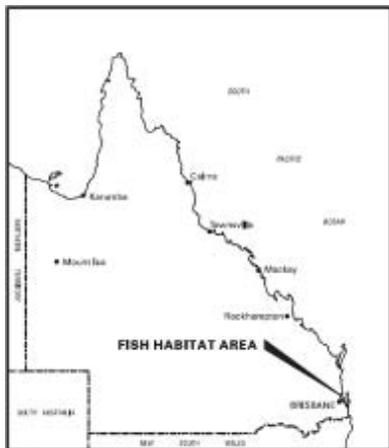
### Further resources

DPI 2001, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Murray River FHA-009*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Murray River*.

# Myora – Amity Banks - FHA-017

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong connectivity between marine plant, freshwater and coral communities</li> <li>• Good partnerships</li> <li>• High level of research activity</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1969, this 7151 ha management A declared FHA includes waters adjoining and west of North Stradbroke Island.

The Myora – Amity Banks declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats with strong connectivity. Characteristic habitats include extensive seagrass beds and sandy beaches. Freshwater habitats include constant direct freshwater input from Capembah Creek to the adjoining mangrove community. There is also a small area of coral.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted.

Partnerships to facilitate management and planning of the area include SEQ Catchments (erosion at Myora Springs) and QPWS (vessel moorings). Integration into local and state planning processes is limited.

There is a high level of research in this declared FHA, including for the Fisheries Queensland *Marine Fish Habitat Scholarship Program* (DAFF 2012b), with the University of Queensland Moreton Bay Research Station at nearby Dunwich.

There are no specific communication activities for this declared FHA.

No unauthorised structures and activities were recorded in the last five years.

The boundary of this declared FHA is being considered for amendment from a depth contour to meets and bounds.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Improve integration into local and state planning processes.

### Further resources

DPI&F 1999, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Myora-Amity Banks FHA-017*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Myora-Amity Banks*.

## Nassau River - FHA-059

### Northern Gulf



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important barramundi recreational fishing destination</li> <li>• Remote, relatively undisturbed area with little development pressure</li> <li>• Size increased in 2010</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1990, this 15 058 ha management A and B declared FHA includes the Nassau River and adjoining waterways.

The Nassau River declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangrove lined waterways adjoining extensive salt pans.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with many highly sought after species targeted. In particular, this is an important barramundi recreational fishing destination.

There are no ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area. There has been no integration of the Nassau River declared FHA into local or regional planning processes in the last five years.

There were no specific communication plan activities for this declared FHA in the last five years.

There have been no know unauthorised structures or activities in the Nassau River declared FHA over the last five years.

The seaward boundary of the Nassau River declared FHA was amended from low water mark to 4 km offshore in 2010 to improve boundary definition. This increased the size of the declared FHA.

### Management actions

- Develop partnerships with local government, NRM groups and Traditional Owners to facilitate management and planning
- Increase communication activities
- Integrate declared FHA into local and regional planning processes.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Nassau River FHA-059*.

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Nassau River*.

# Noosa River - FHA-051 (Revision 2)

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the highest ranked declared FHAs</li> <li>• High fish habitat diversity, including significant freshwater reaches</li> <li>• Strong partnerships and planning</li> <li>• Boundary revised in 2008 and increased in size</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1974, this 6074 ha management A and B declared FHA includes parts of Noosa River, Weyba Creek and associated lake systems, adjacent to Tewantin and Noosa.

The Noosa River declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive shallow estuarine lakes, a significant freshwater section and highly productive shallow sand flats.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area, primarily through the SCRC Waterways and Coastal Management Committee.

Mangrove Watch and Seagrass Watch monitoring occurs within the declared FHA.

No specific communication activities were undertaken in the Noosa River declared FHA in the last five years.

Unauthorised structures and activities have been responded to appropriately.

In 2008 the declared FHA was increased in size by three hectares. At this time, an amendment to the declared FHA facilitated a river bank rehabilitation project at John's Landing on the Noosa River.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities.

### Further resources

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Noosa River FHA-051, revision 2.*

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Noosa River.*

# Peel Island - FHA-010

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate fish habitat diversity with high habitat connectivity</li> <li>• Good partnerships</li> <li>• High level of research activity</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1971, this 1571 ha management A and B declared FHA includes the area around Peel, Bird and Goat Islands in Moreton Bay.

The Peel Island declared FHA has a moderately diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include fringing mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds in close proximity (high habitat connectivity).

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within and immediately adjacent to the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted.

Partnerships to facilitate management and planning of the area include OceanWatch (*Tide to Table* program) and QPWS (vessel moorings). Integration into local and state planning processes is limited.

There is a high level of research in this declared FHA, including for the Fisheries Queensland *Marine Fish Habitat Scholarship Program* (DAFF 2012b).

There were no specific communication activities for this declared FHA in the last five years.

No unauthorised structures and activities have been recorded in the last five years.

The boundary of the Peel Island declared FHA is currently being considered for amendment from a depth contour to meets and bounds.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Improve integration into local and state planning processes.

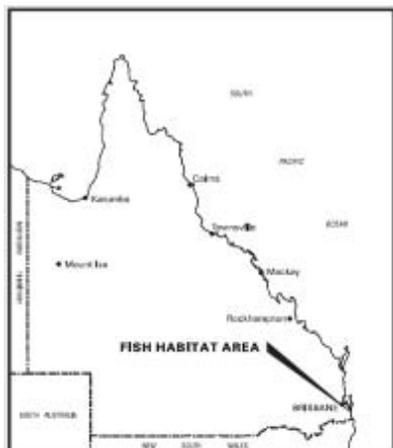
### Further resources

DPI&F 1998, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Peel Island FHA-010*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Peel Island*.

# Pimpama - FHA-022

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffers the Jumpinpin – Broadwater declared FHA from development pressure</li> <li>• Good partnerships</li> <li>• No unauthorised structures / activities</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1971, this 241 ha management B declared FHA includes part of the Pimpama River and McCoy’s Creek and buffers the adjoining Jumpinpin-Broadwater declared FHA.

The Pimpama declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangroves, saltmarsh and sandy shoals.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

Partnerships to facilitate management and planning of the area include OceanWatch (*Tide to Table* program) and QPWS (vessel moorings). Integration into local and state planning processes is limited.

There were no specific communication activities for this declared FHA in the last five years.

No unauthorised structures and activities were recorded in the last five years.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Improve integration into local and state planning processes.

### Further resources

DPI&F 1999, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Pimpama FHA-022*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Pimpama*.

# Pine River Bay - FHA-073

## Cape York



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The newest declared FHA in the network and one of the most highly rated</li> <li>• Very high fish habitat diversity</li> <li>• Important area for Traditional Owners</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 2011, this 25 573 ha management A and B declared FHA includes Pine River Bay and surrounds.

The Pine River Bay declared FHA has a very high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include seagrass meadows, inshore reefs, sandy and rocky shores and mangrove forests.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted.

Pine River Bay has both cultural and fisheries significance for the Thanakwith Anguthimiri and Thanakwith Thayngath people. A joint management arrangement with the traditional owners is being developed. Mining and port sectors also participated strongly in the declaration process. The Pine River Bay declared FHA has been integrated into port development plans.

There were significant communications activities during the declaration process for the declared FHA.

There have been no known unlawful structures or activities since declaration.

### Management actions

- Finalise joint management arrangements with Traditional Owners.

### Further resources

Baker, R & Sheppard, R 2006, *Fisheries Resources of Albatross Bay, Gulf of Carpentaria*, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Pine River Bay FHA-073*.

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Pine River Bay*.

## Princess Charlotte Bay - FHA-043

### Cape York



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some minor partnerships</li> <li>• Seagrass research/monitoring</li> <li>• Size increased in 2010</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 122 530 ha management A declared FHA includes Princess Charlotte Bay between Claremont Point and Bathurst Head and tidal parts of adjoining waterways.

The Princess Charlotte Bay declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangrove communities along tidal creeks, salt pans, coastal seagrass beds, tidal sand and mud flats.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with species such as barramundi, blue salmon, grey mackerel, grunter, mangrove jack and mud crabs targeted. The seaward boundary of the declared FHA aligns with the trawl closure to provide complementary protection of subtidal fish habitats.

There are no ongoing partnerships to facilitate management of the area. There have been some minor initiatives, including planning with the (former) Department of Environment and Resource Management for

Aboriginal lands and investigation of upstream areas for Wild River planning.

Research in the area includes Seagrass Watch monitoring (Reef Rescue project expansion field investigation), Australian Maritime Safety Authority Oil spill / shipping risk assessment surveys and 2012 seagrass surveys for the Reef Water Quality Protection Program.

Declared FHA signage was installed in 2009 as part of the Annie River boat ramp upgrade.

There are no known unauthorised structures or activities in the declared FHA.

In 2010 the declared FHA was increased in size.

### Management actions

- Increase communication, particularly with Traditional Owners.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Princess Charlotte Bay FHA-043*.

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Princess Charlotte Bay*.

# Pumicestone Channel - FHA-011 (Revision 1)

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many targeted fish species</li> <li>• Many unauthorised structures with little appropriate response</li> <li>• Amended in 2011 to exclude beach nourishment area</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1969, this 9520 ha management A and B declared FHA includes Pumicestone Passage and adjoining creeks and much of Bribie Island foreshore.

The Pumicestone Channel declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangroves, seagrass, sand / mud flats and surf beaches.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occur within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted. Pumicestone Channel within the declared FHA is a recreational and indigenous only fishing area. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area, although not all have been successful (see below). There has been some integration of the declared FHA into local planning processes.

There were some limited communication activities in the past five years.

There is a long history of unauthorised structures and activities in this declared FHA, including during the last five years. Few structures have had an appropriate management response, e.g. approved by other agencies without referral to Fisheries Queensland. Private revetments, jetties and ramps in residential areas (e.g. Elimbah Creek) are of concern. A coordinated government agency response to manage these structures has not been successful.

In 2011 the declared FHA was amended to exclude a significant beach nourishment area at Woorim and to show all excluded areas clearly on the FHA Plan.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Improve knowledge of and response to unauthorised structures and activities, with cooperative management for approval and compliance.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Pumicestone Channel FHA-011*.

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Pumicestone Channel*.

## Repulse - FHA-004

### Mackay Whitsunday



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good integration into planning processes</li><li>• Partnerships for waterway barrier management</li></ul>

#### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 69 496 ha management A declared FHA the coastal waters from Cape Conway to Seaford.

The Repulse declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats including mangrove-lined creeks, intertidal flats and seagrass beds around the mouth of Repulse Creek.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted.

The declared FHA is well integrated into planning processes, such as catchment management reports, the *Mackay, Isaac Whitsunday Regional Plan* and the *Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Mackay Whitsunday Region* (Drewry et al. 2008).

Waterway barrier research and prioritisation has occurred in the declared FHA, in collaboration with local NRM groups.

Seagrass Watch monitoring occurs in Repulse declared FHA.

The Repulse declared FHA was part of the Lucinda – Mackay FHA awareness communications program in 2006/7, which received good feedback.

There are no known unauthorised structures in the declared FHA.

#### Management actions

- Continue partnerships with NRM groups to address waterway barriers.

#### Further resources

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Repulse*.

DPI 1998, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Repulse FHA-004*.

## Rodds Harbour - FHA-036

### Fitzroy



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seagrass research</li> <li>• No partnerships; limited planning integration</li> </ul>

#### Comments

Originally declared in 1983 as Bustard, Rodds Harbour and Turkey declared FHAs, this 11 615 ha management A and B declared FHA includes Rodds Harbour, Turkey Beach and Pancake, Middle and Jenny Lind Creeks.

The Rodds Harbour declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangrove zones, samphire and claypan, and coral reefs.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted.

There are no ongoing partnerships to facilitate management of the area. There has been little integration of the declared FHA into planning processes.

Research in the area includes Seagrass Watch monitoring (at Turkey Beach) and the use of Rodds Bay as a control site for Gladstone Ports Corporation long-term seagrass monitoring.

The Rodds Harbour declared FHA was part of the Mackay – Seventeen Seventy declared FHA awareness communications campaign in 2007/8. There were no specific communications activities for the declared FHA.

There are no known unauthorised structures in the declared FHA.

#### Management actions

- Develop partnerships to facilitate management of the area.

#### Further resources

DPI 2003, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Rodds Harbour FHA-036*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Rodds Harbour*.

# Sand Bay - FHA-006 (Revision 1)

## Mackay Whitsunday



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest ranked declared FHA</li> <li>• Well integrated into planning processes</li> <li>• Partnerships for waterway barrier management</li> <li>• Increased in size in 2009</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1986, this 11 490 ha management A declared FHA includes Sand Bay and Nobbler, Constant and Reliance Creeks, north of Mackay.

The Sand Bay declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangrove-lined creeks, intertidal flats and seagrass areas.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted.

The declared FHA has been well integrated into planning processes such as the *Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday Regional Plan* and the *Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Mackay-Whitsunday Region* (Drewry et al. 2008) and catchment management reports.

Waterway barrier research and prioritisation has occurred in the declared FHA, in collaboration with local NRM groups.

There is interpretive signage and a boardwalk around Cape Hillsborough. The Sand Bay declared FHA was part of the Lucinda – Mackay FHA awareness communications program in 2006/7, which received good feedback.

There has been one unauthorised activity in the declared FHA that has been effectively addressed.

In 2009 the Sand Bay declared FHA was increased in size by 61 ha.

### Management actions

- Implementation of planning initiatives.

### Further resources

DPI 2009, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Sand Bay FHA-006 Revision 1*.

DPI 2009, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Sand Bay*.

## Seventeen Seventy – Round Hill - FHA-018

Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships for moorings management</li> <li>Limited integration into planning processes</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 1480 ha management A and B declared FHA includes Round Hill Creek at the Town of Seventeen Seventy.

The Seventeen Seventy – Round Hill declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats including estuarine mangrove stands, seagrass beds at the mouth of the creek, saltmarsh, clay pan, sand bars and banks.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with species such as barramundi, bream, estuary cod, flathead, garfish, mud crabs and mangrove jack targeted. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There has been a partnership with MSQ to create a DMA in the creek.

There has been little integration of the Seventeen Seventy – Round Hill declared FHA into planning processes.

This declared FHA was part of the Mackay – Seventeen Seventy declared FHA awareness communications campaign in 2007/8.

There are no known unauthorised structures or activities in the declared FHA.

### Management actions

- Inventory to identify unauthorised structures / activities.

### Further resources

DPI 1999, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Seventeen Seventy – Round Hill FHA-018*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Seventeen Seventy – Round Hill*.

# Silver Plains - FHA-057

## Cape York



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inshore coastal declared FHA with coral reef habitats</li> <li>No partnerships or planning integration</li> <li>Large size increase in 2010</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 52 125 ha management A and B declared FHA includes fish habitats between Cape Sidmouth and Claremont Point.

The original FHA declaration was supported by former Department of Primary Industries' survey stations at Cape Sidmouth, Nesbit River, Massy Creek and Claremont Point.

The Silver Plains declared FHA includes an inshore coastal area and has a moderate diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include sandy shorelines, seagrass meadows and coral reefs.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with species such as barramundi, grey mackerel and grunter targeted. The declared FHA aligns with the trawl closure boundary to protect juvenile prawn habitat.

There are no ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management of the area. There was no integration of the Silver Plains declared FHA into planning processes in the last five years.

There are no known unauthorised structures in the Silver Plains declared FHA.

In 2010 the declared FHA was increased in size by more than six times. This included matching the seaward boundary to the trawl closure to provide complementary protection of sub tidal fish habitats.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities, including local signage
- Develop partnerships with local council, NRM groups and Traditional Owners.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Silver Plains FHA-057*.

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Silver Plains*.

## Staaten – Gilbert - FHA-061

### Northern Gulf



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important fishing and fish nursery area</li> <li>• Remote, relatively undisturbed area with little development pressure</li> <li>• No partnerships or planning integration</li> <li>• Size increased in 2010</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1990, this 22 147 ha management A declared FHA includes the tidal parts of the Gilbert and Staaten Rivers.

The Staaten – Gilbert declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangrove-lined ricers and large adjoining areas of saltpan.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted. The Staaten – Gilbert declared FHA is an important barramundi and prawn nursery area.

There are no ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area. There was no integration of the Staaten – Gilbert declared FHA into planning processes in the last five years.

There are no specific communication activities for this declared FHA.

There were no known unlawful structures or activities in the last five years.

The seaward boundary of the Staaten – Gilbert declared FHA was amended from low water mark to 4 km offshore in 2010 to improve boundary definition. This increased the size of the declared FHA.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Develop partnerships with local government, state agencies and local NRM group
- Integrate into local and regional planning processes.

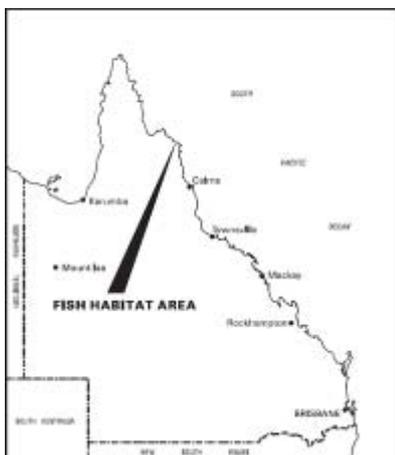
### Further resources

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Staaten-Gilbert FHA-061*.

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Staaten-Gilbert*.

## Starcke River (Ngulun) - FHA-068

### Cape York



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pristine habitat</li> <li>• Popular recreational, commercial and indigenous fishing area</li> <li>• Declared FHA objectives and policy well applied</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 2005, this 30 003 ha management A and B declared FHA includes the tidal portion of the Starcke River and coastal waters from Lookout Point to the Jeannie River.

The Starcke River (Ngulun) declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive and diverse mangrove communities, seagrass beds, salt pans and marsh, intertidal flats, rocky headlands and fringing coral reefs, with adjacent *Melaleuca* swamps.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species including mud crabs, barramundi, salmon, queenfish, trevally, grunter, mackerel and reef fish.

The Traditional Owners were involved in the declaration of the Starcke River (Ngulun) FHA, but there have been no partnerships since then. There has been some limited integration of this declared FHA into Cook Shire Council planning processes.

There were no specific communications for this declared FHA since declaration.

There are no known unlawful structures in the Starcke River (Ngulun) declared FHA.

Upgrade of a public boat ramp upgrade in 2009 included installation of declared FHA signage.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities, including local signage incorporating Traditional Owners (Ngulun people) traditions, stories and fisheries knowledge.

### Further resources

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Starcke River FHA-068*.

DPI 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Starcke River*.

Sheppard, R., Roelofs, A., Garrett, R., Helmke, S and Campey, M. 2001. *Starcke region: Assessment of Fisheries Resources May-June 2000*. DPI Information Series QI 01067.

## Susan River - FHA-054

Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership for the Great Sandy Strait Instream structure inventory</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1986, this 4 839 ha management A declared FHA includes the Susan River and parts of the Mary River's lower reaches, near Maryborough.

The Susan River declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangrove forests and shrub land, intertidal sand flats and claypan.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with species such as bream, flathead, sea mullet and mud crabs targeted.

The research partnership between Burnett Mary Regional Group, DERM, Fraser Coast Regional Council, WetlandCare, OceanWatch, Butchulla People and the Department of Defence involved an instream structure inventory of the Susan River declared FHA (DAFF in prep).

During the inventory, five waterway barrier structures and a number of other structures were identified. It is yet to be determined if any are unlawful.

Separately, within the last five years, a small number of unauthorised structures have been identified and the majority of these were responded to appropriately.

There has been limited integration of the Susan declared FHA into planning processes in the last five years.

In 2009 the FHA was redeclared to cadastral boundaries with an identified mooring area near River Heads excluded, and as a result reduced in size by 61 ha.

### Management actions

- Further investigation of structures identified in the instream structure inventory.

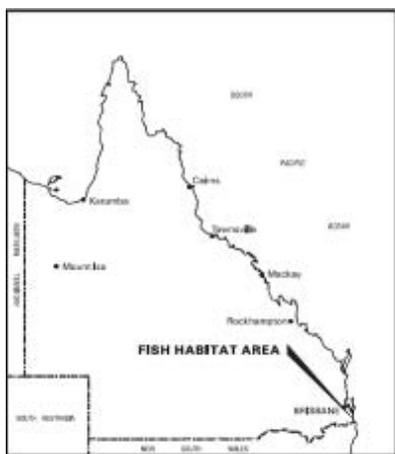
### Further resources

DPI&F 2009, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Susan River FHA-054*.

DPI&F 2009, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Susan River*.

# Tallebudgera Creek - FHA-019

## South East Queensland



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small declared FHA adjacent to urban residential development</li> <li>• Good boardwalk in declared FHA</li> <li>• Limited partnerships and planning integration</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1971, this 35 ha management B declared FHA includes part of Tallebudgera Creek and is adjacent to significant residential development on the Gold Coast.

The Tallebudgera Creek declared FHA has a moderately diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangroves, sand flats and saltmarsh. There is access to the declared FHA via a boardwalk from Tallebudgera Creek Environmental Park.

Recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a many highly sought after species targeted. There is a small amount of commercial fishing within the declared FHA. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are limited partnerships with Gold Coast City Council (e.g. adjacent fish habitat signage) to facilitate management and planning of the area. Integration into local and state planning processes is limited.

There were no specific communication activities for this declared FHA in the last five years.

There were no known unauthorised structures or activities in the last five years.

### Management actions

- Improve partnerships
- Increase integration into local and state planning processes.

### Further resources

DPI&F 1999, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Tallebudgera Creek FHA-019*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Tallebudgera Creek*.

# Temple Bay - FHA-058

## Cape York



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pristine habitats</li> <li>• No partnerships or planning integration</li> <li>• Increased in size in 2010</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 18 995 ha management A declared FHA includes fish habitats between the Olive River and Mosquito Point, Temple Bay, east Cape York Peninsula.

The Temple Bay declared FHA has high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangrove forests, salt pan and sparse seagrass beds.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA. The declared FHA protects commercial prawn and fish habitat (including barramundi habitat) and indigenous fishing grounds.

Former Department of Primary Industries fisheries survey stations in Glennie and Hunter Inlets supported the original FHA declaration. The seaward boundary of the declared FHA is aligned with trawl closure boundary.

There has been no integration of this declared FHA into planning processes in the last five years, nor ongoing partnerships to facilitate management of the area.

There were no specific communication activities undertaken within this declared FHA in the last five years.

There are no known unauthorised structures in the Temple Bay declared FHA.

In 2010 the declared FHA was increased in size by more than four times (from 4300 ha).

### Management actions

- Develop partnerships with local government, state agencies and NRM groups
- Integrate into local and regional planning processes.

### Further resources

DEEDI 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Temple Bay FHA-058*.

DPI&F 2010, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Temple Bay*.

# Tin Can Inlet - FHA-064

## Burnett Mary



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly diverse and connected fish habitats including coral reefs</li> <li>• Partnership for the Great Sandy Strait instream structure inventory</li> <li>• Increased in size in 2008</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1976, this 1516 ha management A declared FHA includes parts of the upper reaches of Tin Can Inlet, near Tin Can Bay.

The Tin Can Inlet declared FHA has a high diversity of fish habitats including intertidal flats, saltmarshes and mosaics of mangrove, seagrass and coral reefs which provide habitat connectivity for a high diversity of fish.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted.

There was no integration of the Tin Can Inlet declared FHA into planning processes in the last five years.

The research partnership between Burnett Mary Regional Group, DERM, Fraser Coast Regional Council, WetlandCare, OceanWatch, Butchulla People and the Department of Defence involved an inventory

of instream structures of the Tin Can Inlet declared FHA.

There were four structures identified during the inventory (DAFF in prep). It is yet to be determined if any are unlawful.

There were no specific communication activities undertaken within this declared FHA in the last five years.

In 2008 the declared FHA was increased in size by 406 ha.

### Management actions

- Further investigation of structures identified in the instream structure inventory.

### Further resources

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Tin Can Inlet FHA-064*.

DPI&F 2008, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Tin Can Inlet*.

## Trinity Inlet - FHA-003 (Revision 2)

### Wet Tropics



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the highest-ranked declared FHAs</li> <li>• Long history of fisheries and fish habitat research</li> <li>• Strong partnerships and planning integration</li> <li>• Declared FHA objectives and policy well applied</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1989, this 7212 ha management A and B declared FHA includes Trinity Inlet directly adjacent to the Cairns CBD.

The Trinity Inlet declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive estuarine mangroves, intertidal mud flats and seagrass beds.

Commercial, indigenous and in particular recreational fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted. The Trinity Inlet declared FHA is an important nursery for commercial prawns and fish such as barramundi. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

There are ongoing partnerships with state and local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area. Cooperative planning with Traditional Owners is also ongoing. The Trinity Inlet declared FHA is well integrated into local and regional planning processes.

There is a long history of fisheries and fish habitat research and monitoring in the Trinity Inlet declared FHA, particularly by Fisheries Queensland (e.g. Fairweather *et al.* 2011).

There were no specific communication activities in this declared FHA in the last five years.

Unauthorised structures (e.g. vessel moorings) and activities were responded to appropriately.

Declared FHA program objectives and policy have been well applied in the Trinity Inlet declared FHA including signage at public boat ramps.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities.

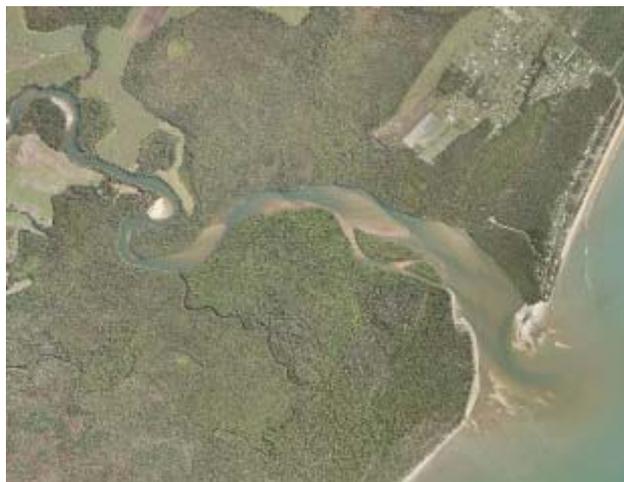
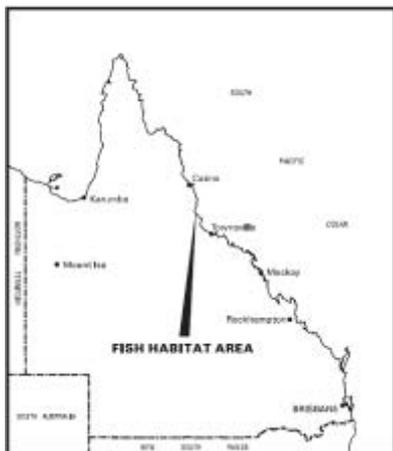
### Further resources

DEEDI 2011, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Trinity Inlet*.

DPI&F 2003, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Trinity Inlet FHA-003 Revision 2*.

## Tully River - FHA-045

### Wet Tropics



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjacent agricultural pressure</li> <li>• Strong partnerships with Traditional Owners and local government</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 652 ha management A declared FHA includes parts of the Tully River downstream of the junction with Lagoon Creek.

The Tully River declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangrove communities, large estuarine system, intertidal flats, salt flats and adjacent Melaleuca forests.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species including barramundi, salmon, bream, grunter, mangrove jack, sooty grunter and whiting.

This declared FHA falls within the GAC traditional lands and waters. Fisheries Queensland has long term partnerships with the Traditional Owners and is currently involved in numerous planning processes with GAC and other Queensland Government and Australian Government agencies, including the development of a TUMRA and the proposed Giringun Indigenous Protected Area (GAC 2012).

There are ongoing partnerships with local governments to facilitate management and planning of the area.

Unauthorised structures and activities were responded to appropriately.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities.

### Further resources

DPI 2001, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Tully River FHA-045*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Tully River*.

## West Hill - FHA-039

### Mackay Whitsunday



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very high diversity of fish habitats</li> <li>• Three declared FHAs combined into West Hill in 2009</li> <li>• Well integrated into planning processes</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1986 as three separate areas: Carmila, West Hill and Marion; this 17 546 ha management A and B declared FHA includes Yarrowonga Point / Marion Creek south to Flaggy Rock Creek including West Hill Island and the adjacent coastal waters.

The West Hill declared FHA has a very high diversity of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive intertidal flats, mangrove stands, saltmarshes, seagrasses and fringing inshore reef.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species targeted such as barramundi, mud crab, blue salmon, estuary cod and flathead.

The declared FHA is well integrated into planning processes, such as catchment management reports, the *Mackay, Isaac Whitsunday Regional Plan* and the *Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Mackay Whitsunday Region* (Drewry et al. 2008).

Waterway barrier research and prioritisation has occurred in the declared FHA, in collaboration with local NRM groups.

The West Hill declared FHA was part of the Lucinda – Mackay FHA awareness communications program in 2006/7, which received good feedback.

There are no known unauthorised structures within the declared FHA, however there are some issues with uncontrolled access around the northern end of the declared FHA (near Notch Point).

In 2009 the declared FHA was amended to include the three areas (Carmila, Marion and West Hill), which resulted in an increase of 8 196 ha.

### Management actions

- Develop partnership with NRM groups and / or government agencies to address uncontrolled access in the declared FHA.

### Further resources

DPI 2009, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – West Hill FHA-039*.

DPI&F 2009, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – West Hill*.

# Wreck Creek - FHA-041

## Wet Tropics



Declared FHA status 2012	Low priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intact upstream habitats, good water quality and riparian vegetation</li> <li>• Surrounded by the Edmund Kennedy National Park</li> <li>• Strong partnerships with Traditional Owners</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1983, this 1252 ha management A declared FHA includes the tidal portions of Wreck Creek and coastal waters outside the mouth.

The Wreck Creek declared FHA has a diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include extensive mangrove communities, intertidal flats and salt flats, with adjacent *Melaleuca* forests.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species including barramundi, estuary cod, grunter, mangrove jack, queenfish and whiting targeted. Tilapia has not been recorded in the catchment.

This declared FHA falls within the GAC traditional lands and waters. Fisheries Queensland has long term partnerships with the Traditional Owners and is currently involved in numerous planning processes with GAC and other Queensland Government

and Australian Government agencies, including the development of a TUMRA and the proposed Giringun Indigenous Protected Area (GAC 2012).

Unauthorised structures and activities have been responded to appropriately.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities.

### Further resources

DPI 2001, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Wreck Creek FHA-041*.

DPI&F, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Wreck Creek*.

# Yorkey's Creek - FHA-034 (Revision 1)

## Wet Tropics



Declared FHA status 2012	Medium priority for action
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well integrated into planning processes</li> <li>Declared FHA objectives and policy well applied</li> <li>Size of declared FHA increased in 2009</li> </ul>

### Comments

Originally declared in 1974, this 117 ha management B declared FHA includes the tidal areas of Yorkey's Creek, Cairns.

The Yorkey's Creek declared FHA has a moderately diverse range of fish habitats. Characteristic habitats include mangrove areas and a small estuarine creek.

Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing occurs within the declared FHA with a large number of highly sought after species including barramundi, bream, mangrove jack and whiting. Tilapia is present in the catchment.

Although there are limited partnerships to facilitate management of the Yorkey's Creek declared FHA, it is well integrated into local and regional planning processes.

There were no specific communication activities in the Yorkey's Creek declared FHA in the last five years.

There were no documented unauthorised structures or activities in the last five years.

Declared FHA program objectives and policy were well applied in the Yorkey's Creek declared FHA, including installation of a school boardwalk and signage (more than five years ago).

The boundary of the Yorkey's Creek declared FHA was amended in 2009 to include 50 ha of adjoining unallocated state land previously earmarked for development.

### Management actions

- Increase communication activities
- Improve partnerships with local and state government agencies for management and planning.

### Further resources

DPI 2009, *Declared Fish Habitat Area plan – Yorkey's Creek FHA-034*.

DPI&F 2009, *Declared Fish Habitat Area Summary – Yorkey's Creek*.

## Implementation

This report lists management issues for each declared FHA and identifies the highest priorities for action. Implementation of the management actions and priorities in this report will be influenced by:

- funding opportunities (e.g. availability of local development offset funds)
- level of risk (e.g. local / regional development pressure)
- resource availability in the area (e.g. staff) complementary activities of other agencies and groups (e.g. NRM activities / programs).

To implement the report findings, management efforts will be focused on two 'yellow' declared FHAs per year, for three years. These 'yellow' declared FHAs will be selected using the declared FHA assessment scores (the lowest scoring will be given the highest priority) and the implementation criteria above. Success of the response to the management actions will be reviewed annually and the outcomes over the three-year implementation period will be summarised in the next Declared FHA Network Assessment Report. Existing partnerships and initiatives in other declared FHAs will continue to ensure net benefits for the declared FHA Network.

## Recommendations for future assessments

Recommendation 1:

That the next declared FHA network assessment be undertaken in three years time (2015).

Recommendation 2:

That some modifications be made to the scoring system for future declared FHA assessments:

- consider incorporating a criterion for habitat connectivity (Aim 1)
- consider awarding lower points for areas with partial fisheries closures (Aim 1, criterion 2)
- reconsider the points awarded for number of targeted fish within 50km of declared FHA mouth (Aim 1, criterion 4), as a 50 km radius may be too large an area
- reconsider the points awarded for the number of commercial fisheries that occur within 50km radius of FHA mouth (Aim 1, criterion 5), as almost all declared FHAs received full points in the current assessment
- reduce the points awarded for absence of tilapia in the catchment (Aim 1, criterion 6).

Recommendation 3:

That targeted research and field visits be conducted to provide information on declared FHAs where local knowledge is limited or unrecorded.

## Acronyms

DAFF – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

DEEDI – Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

DERM – Department of Environment and Resource Management

DMA – Designated Mooring Area

DPI – Department of Primary Industries

DPI&F – Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

DTMR – Department of Transport and Main Roads

FHA – declared Fish Habitat Area

GAC – Girringun Aboriginal Corporation

JCU – James Cook University

MPA – Marine Protected Area

MSQ – Maritime Safety Queensland

NRM – Natural Resource Management (group)

QPWS – Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

SCRC – Sunshine Coast Regional Council

TMURA - Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement

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## Appendix 1 – Declared FHA assessment scoring proforma

### Weighting for each Aim

Aim 1 – 50%  
Aim 2 – 10%  
Aim 3 – 10%  
Aim 4 – 10%  
Aim 5 – 10%  
Aim 6 – 5%  
Aim 7 – 5%

Aims are taken from the *Declared Fish Habitat Area Network Strategy 2009-14*.

### Scores

For each Aim, score out of 10.

Score x weighting = total score (overall out of 1000)

Score greater than or equal to **700 = Green** (low priority for action)

Score between **699-500 = Yellow** (medium priority for action)

Score less than **500 = Red** (high priority for action)

Highest score possible is: 1000; Lowest score possible is: 0

**Declared FHA Name xxx – Total Score xx – Rating (Green / yellow / red)**

Criteria	Points	Comments	Total Points	Weighting	Score
<p><b>Consolidate the declared FHA network</b>  <b><u>Aim 1 Ensure a comprehensive, adequate and representative declared FHA network that effectively supports the state's fisheries</u></b></p>				50	
<p><b>1. Size of declared FHA (2 points)</b>                      Greater than 500 ha – 2 pts, 100-500 ha – 1 pt, less than 100 ha – 0.5 pts</p>					
<p><b>2. Fishing (commercial / recreational / indigenous) occurring within declared FHA (1 point)</b>                      2 or more types – 1 pt, 1 type – 0.5 pts, no fishing (includes closures) – 0 pts</p>					
<p><b>3. Percentage of habitat types in bioregion represented in declared FHA (2 points) (see DERM mapping for more information)</b>                      &gt; 50% - 2 pts, &gt; 30% - 1 pts, &lt; 30% - 0 pts</p>					
<p><b>4. Number of targeted fish species that occur within 50km radius of declared FHA mouth (2 points) (see reports for information)</b>                      More than 10 species – 2 pts, 7-10 species – 1.5 pts, 5-7 species – 1 pt, 0-5 species – 0.5 pts, 0 species – 0 pts</p>					
<p><b>5. Number of commercial fisheries that occur within 50km radius of declared FHA mouth (1 point) (i.e. crab, line, trawl, net)</b>                      4 or more fisheries – 1 pt, 1-3 fisheries – 0.5 pts, no fisheries (including closures) – 0 pts</p>					
<p><b>6. Pest fish (Tilapia) reported within declared FHA catchment (1 point)</b>                      (see pest fish database)                      No pest fish (Tilapia) reported within FHA catchment – 1 pt, pest fish reported in FHA catchment – 0 pts</p>					

<b>7. Freshwater fish habitats represented in declared FHA (1 point)</b> FW habitats in FHA – 1 pt, proposed increase FHA to include FW – 0.5 pt, no FHA – 0 pts					

Criteria	Points	Comments	Total Points	Weighting	Score
<b>Reinforce declared FHA management</b> <b><u>Aim 2 Form and enhance strategic partnerships for FHA declaration and management</u></b>				10	
<b>1. Documented partnerships with local groups, i.e. government departments, councils, NRM groups, fishing groups, landholders, community groups etc, in the last five years (4 points)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful major initiative(s) covering many issues with many groups – 4 pts (e.g. Trinity Inlet Management Plan)</li> <li>• Successful minor initiative (1 issue) with several (more than 1) groups – 3 pts (e.g. Woongoolba drainage with GCCC, DERM, GCMA)</li> <li>• Successful major or minor initiatives (2 or more issues) with 1 group – 3 pts</li> <li>• Successful minor initiative with 1 group – 2 pts (e.g. worked with council to get saltmarsh signs in local declared FHAs)</li> <li>• Limited / no success (for all of the above examples) – 1 pts (e.g. Elimbah Creek working group to address unlawful structures - unsuccessful)</li> <li>• No examples – 0 pts</li> </ul>					
<b>2. Research that has occurred / occurring in declared FHA in the last five years with application to management (3 points)</b> 2 examples & good outcomes – 3 pts, 2 examples & average outcomes – 1.5 pts, 1 example – 1 pt, no examples – 0 pts					
<b>3. Involvement with traditional owners/Indigenous groups in the last five years (3 points)</b> 1 example – 3 pts, 1 limited example – 1 pts, no examples – 0 pts					

Criteria	Points	Comments	Total Points	Weighting	Score
<b><u>Aim 3 Maintain an effective declared FHA communication strategy</u></b>				10	
<b>1. Development and endorsement of communication plan (2 points) (applies to all FHAs)</b> Endorsed communications plan – 2 pts, no plan – 0 pts.					
<b>2. Communication plan activities completed for declared FHA in the last five years and positive feedback from these activities (8 points)</b> 2 activities + positive feedback – 8 pts, 1 activity + positive feedback – 5 pts, 2 activities with negative or no feedback – 4 pts, 1 activity with negative or no feedback – 2 pts, No activities – 0 pts.					

Criteria	Points	Comments	Total Points	Weighting	Score
<b><u>Aim 4 Actively manage and respond to unlawful activities to prevent the degradation of individual declared FHAs and the declared FHA network</u></b>				10	
<b>1. Documented / known unlawful structures or works in declared FHA in the last five years (5 points)</b> No unlawful structures – 5 pts, 1-2 unlawful structures – 3 pts, 3 or more unlawful structures – 0 pts, unknown but likely – 0 pts, unknown but unlikely – 2 pts.  <b>Examples-</b> <i>Unapproved moorings, jetties/pontoons, vegetation damage, revetment</i>					
<b>2. Disturbances that have had management or compliance responses, i.e. restoration order, rehabilitation of site,</b>					

<p><b>compliance action, legal proceedings etc. (5 points)</b>  Response to all known structures – 5 pts  Response to more than 50% – 2.5 pts  No response/compliance etc – 0 pts  No disturbances (no response needed) – 5 pts</p> <p><b>Examples</b>  <i>QBFP have investigated, restoration notice issued, structure removed</i></p>					
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Criteria	Points	Comments	Total Points	Weighting	Score
<p><b>Strengthen declared FHA policy</b>  <u><b>Aim 5 Ensure legislation is appropriate to achieve the declared FHA network strategy aims</b></u></p>				10	
<p><b>1. Evidence of boundary amendment / boundary revision / boundary review (5 points)</b>  Boundary amendment / revision in last five yrs – 5 pts  Boundary planned for revision – 3 pts  No revision – 0 pts.  If not applicable (no boundary changes needed) – 5 pts.</p>					
<p><b>2. Size of declared FHA increased (5 points)</b>  Size of declared FHA increased in last five years – 5 pts  Size of declared FHA planned for increase within next five years – 3 pts  No size increase – 0 pts</p>					

Criteria	Points	Comments	Total Points	Weighting	Score
<b><u>Aim 6 Prepare and implement policies that clearly document the declared FHA program objectives</u></b>				5	
<p><b>1. Examples of where we have applied declared FHA objectives and policy, e.g. boardwalks, education facilities, public boat ramps) (10 points)</b></p> <p>2 examples – 10 pts  1 example – 5 pts  No examples – 0 pts</p> <p><b>Examples -</b>  <i>Boardwalk in declared FHA</i>  <i>Educational signage in or adjacent to declared FHA with references to declared FHA</i>  <i>Public boat ramps or other fishing facilities in declared FHA</i>  <i>School group participating in educational activities in declared FHA</i></p>					

Criteria	Points	Comments	Total Points	Weighting	Score
<b><u>Aim 7 Integrate the declared FHA network into planning processes</u></b>				5	
<p><b>1. Examples (minor or major) of planning processes where declared FHA network information and / or FHA plans were included and / or relevancy of declared FHA information / plans reviewed (e.g. regional plans, local government planning, NRM plans etc.) in the last five years (10 points)</b></p> <p>2 examples and integrated into plan – 10 pts  1 example and integrated in plan – 5 pts  Limited examples and limited integration – 2.5 pts  No examples – 0 pts</p> <p><b>Examples</b></p>					

<p><i>FNQ Plan – declared FHA information and plans in plan and information on declared FHAs and fisheries integrated in plan – 10 points</i></p> <p><i>SEQ Plan – only map of declared FHA in plan. No information or integration of declared FHAs or fisheries habitats information in plan – 2.5 pts.</i></p>					
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