



Review of Environmental Factors (REF) Pro-forma for Fishing Related Activities

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PART 5 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & ASSESSMENT ACT 1979 (EPA ACT)

This pro-forma is designed to assist you, as the proponent of an activity, to prepare a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for a proposed activity. Once completed, the REF should be submitted to NSW DPI for review and approval, in connection with your application for a permit.

If you require more space to address an issue, please include your response on a separate piece of paper and attach it to this form. Please indicate on this form that additional information is attached.

For activities where potential impacts are complex or detailed information or analysis is required to understand the impacts, a stand alone REF should be prepared instead.

For further information on preparing a REF (whether using this form or preparing a stand alone REF), please refer to NSW DPI Guidelines for Environmental Assessment of Fishing Related Activities. This pro-forma includes references to relevant parts of these guidelines for further information.

A PROPONENTS DETAILS

Refer Part 7.1 of the Guidelines for Environmental Assessment of Fishing Related Activities.

A1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

A2 Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

A3 Address (street and postal): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A4 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**B DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY**

*Refer Part 7.2 of the Guidelines for Environmental Assessment of Fishing Related Activities.*

B1 Describe the proposed activity (e.g. use eel traps in farm dams): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B2 Expected duration of activity (e.g. 1/1/10 – 1/1/11): \_\_\_\_\_

B3 Expected number of occasions activity will occur (e.g. total 5 days, intermittently): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B4 Purpose of the proposed activity (e.g. commercial harvest, research): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B5 Provide a justification for the proposed activity in terms of environmental, economic and social considerations. Discuss feasible alternatives, the reason for your preferred approach, and consequences of not carrying out the proposed activity:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B6 Describe any measures you proposed to take to minimise impacts on the environment (including any impacts identified while completing the remainder of this form):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Provide any additional information necessary to accurately explain the proposed activity in full, including where relevant diagrams, photos, and/or detailed descriptions of particular aspects of the activity, particularly those aspects that may contribute toward the activity having an impact on the environment.*

**C SITE IDENTIFICATION**

*Refer Part 7.3 of the Guidelines for Environmental Assessment of Fishing Related Activities*

C1 Name and maps of river, creek, lake, waterway, site: \_\_\_\_\_

C2 Is the activity expected to take place (in part or in full) in waters that are:

In a Marine Park yes  no

Any related issues/comment? \_\_\_\_\_

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In an Aquatic Reserve? yes  no

Any related issues/comment? \_\_\_\_\_

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In waters closed to the activity? yes  no

Any related issues/comment? \_\_\_\_\_

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In an important commercial fishing area? yes  no

Any related issues? \_\_\_\_\_

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In an important aquaculture area? yes  no

Any related issues? \_\_\_\_\_

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## D IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

*Refer Part 7.4 of the Guidelines for Environmental Assessment of Fishing Related Activities*

Identify potential environmental issues and assess the risk of potential impacts (direct and indirect) arising as a result of the proposed activity. In each case where the risk is assessed as being high or moderate, please provide information regarding the environmental consequences.

What is the risk that there will be:		High	Moderate	Low	Nil
D1	Any impacts on a community?  Identify species and impact. Also detail consequences if risk is high–moderate: _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D2	Any transformation of a locality?  Identify species and impact. Also detail consequences if risk is high–moderate: _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D3	Any environmental impact on the ecosystem of the locality?  Identify species and impact. Also detail consequences if risk is high–moderate for a species: _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D4	Any reduction of the aesthetic, recreational, scientific or other environmental quality or value of a locality?  Identify species and impact. Also detail consequences if risk is high–moderate: _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D5	Any effect on a locality, place or building having aesthetic, anthropological, archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific or social significance or other special value for present or future generations?  Identify species /disease and impact. Also detail consequences if risk is high–moderate: _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D6	Any impact on the habitat of protected fauna (within the meaning of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> )?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D7	Any endangering of any species of animal, plant or other form of life, whether living on land, in water or in the air?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS FOR FISHING ACTIVITIES**

**What is the risk that there will be:**

**High      Moderate      Low      Nil**

Identify species and impact. Also detail consequences if risk is high–moderate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

D8      Any long-term effects on the environment?                       

Identify species and impact. Also detail consequences if risk is high–moderate for a species: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

D9      Any risk to the safety of the environment?                       

Identify species and impact. Also detail consequences if risk is high–moderate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

D10      Any reduction in the range of beneficial uses of the environment?                       

Identify species /disease and impact. Also detail consequences if risk is high–moderate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

D11      Any pollution of the environment?                       

Identify species and impact. Also detail consequences if risk is high–moderate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

D12      Any environmental problems associated with the disposal of waste?                       

Identify species and impact. Also detail consequences if risk is high–moderate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

D13      Any increased demands on resources (natural or otherwise) that are, or are likely to become, in short supply?                       

Identify species and impact. Also detail consequences if risk is high–moderate for a species: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**E IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THREATENED SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS**

*Threatened species impact assessment is an integral part of environmental impact assessment in NSW. Refer Part 7.5 of the Guidelines for Environmental Assessment of Fishing Related Activities.*

E1 Are any **threatened species, populations or communities** of plant, mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian or fish likely to occupy, depend upon, pass through or use the waters or site where the activity is proposed to occur (i.e. are the waters or site likely to be habitat for a threatened species, population or ecological community)?

yes  no

If yes, please list species/populations/ communities: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

***If you answered yes to the question above, you will need to assess the significance of potential impacts by completing a Test of Significance (see next page) for each species, population and community.***

E2 Is the activity proposed to occur in declared **critical habitat** for a threatened species or population?

yes  no

If yes, please list the critical habitats: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

***If the activity is a proposed to take place in a critical habitat for a threatened species or ecological community a Species Impact Statement must be prepared. Alternatively you may modify your proposal. Requirements for the SIS must be obtained from NSW DPI or Office of Environment & Heritage depending upon the species concerned.***

E3 Is the activity one that could be categorised as a **key threatening process**, either wholly or partly?

yes  no

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

***If the activity is one that could be categorised as a key threatening process, either wholly or partly, an assessment of whether the activity is consistent with relevant priority action statements (previously threat abatement plans and recovery plans) is required. Alternatively you may modify your proposal.***

## Test of Significance (7 Part Test)

Only complete the Test of Significance if you answered "yes" to E1 on the previous page. A Test of Significance is required for each threatened species, population or ecological community identified as likely to occur in the waters or site where the activity is proposed to take place.

Factor	Yes	No
1 In the case of a threatened species, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment: _____ _____		
2 In the case of an endangered population, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment: _____ _____		
3 In the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed: i) is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or ii) is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment: _____ _____		
4 In relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community: i) the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and ii) whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and iii) the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment: _____ _____		
5 Whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment: _____ _____		
6 Whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment: _____ _____		
7 Whether the action proposed constitutes or is of a Key Threatening Process or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of, a Key Threatening Process:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment: _____ _____		

## REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS FOR FISHING ACTIVITIES

*If the Test of Significance indicates that impacts are likely to be significant for one or more of the seven (7) factors above, you have two choices;*

- (a) modify the proposal to eliminate or ameliorate the potential impacts. This may include redesigning the proposal, including additional ameliorative measures, including compensatory actions or offsets, rescheduling etc.*
- (b) prepare a Species Impact Statement and submit it with the application. Requirements for the SIS must be obtained from NSW DPI or Office of Environment & Heritage depending upon the species concerned.*



**F IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON MATTERS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*The Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) establishes a system of environmental assessment and approval by the Commonwealth for actions that significantly affect matters of national environmental significance. Matters of national environmental significance require consideration during development assessment and approval processes in NSW under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EPA Act). Refer Part 7.6 of the Guidelines for Environmental Assessment of Fishing Related Activities.*

F1 In accordance with the NSW Assessments Bilateral Agreement, please advise NSW DPI if the proposed activity is likely to have an impact upon any ‘Matter of National Environmental Significance’ under the EPBC Act, such as:

- (a) heritage values of World Heritage properties                               yes  no
- (b) listed National Heritage places    yes  no
- (c) wetlands of international importance (Ramsar Wetlands)                     yes  no
- (d) Commonwealth listed threatened species                                     yes  no
- (e) Commonwealth listed ecological communities                                 yes  no
- (f) listed migratory species    yes  no
- (g) Commonwealth marine environment    yes  no

*If you believe it will, you have an obligation under the EPBC Act to refer the proposal to the Commonwealth Environment Minister for a decision as to whether the action is a ‘controlled action’ and therefore requires assessment and approval.*

F2 If yes to any of the above, has the proposal been referred to the Commonwealth Environment Minister?

- yes  no  n/a

F3 If yes, what was the Commonwealth Environment Minister’s determination?

- Not a controlled action: no assessment required
- A controlled action: assessment required

**G DECLARATION**

G1 Person who prepared REF (if different from the proponent in Part A): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

G2 Qualifications of person who prepared the REF: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

G3 I declare that the information given in this REF is correct:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_