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**Letter to certify the Threatened, Endangered, and Protected Species (TEPS) handling and identification training of WREN FISHING PTY LTD crew and captains.**

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Wren Fishing PTY LTD employees (onboard crew and captains) who work on the FV Vixen II, FV Enterprise, FV Felix the Cat, FV Jodava and FV St Bernadette received formal TEPS handling and identification training from Richard Pillans, a TEPS-expert and researcher for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

This training and workshop was undertaken by Wren Fishing PTY LTD as part of their commitment to maximise the environmental, social, and economic outcomes of their fishing operations and is a key action item under their fishery improvement project.

This training included the delivery of identification instructions, and tips for all species assessed as high-risk under the Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fishery's (GOCIF) Level 2 Species of Conservation Concern Ecological Risk Assessment. This includes four sawfish species, six other batoid species, six marine turtle species, hammerhead sharks, spartooth shark, six cetacean species and dugongs. Additionally, several other species that are listed in the Threatened, Endangered, and Protected Species (TEPS) logbook were covered in this training. The purpose for providing identification training was to assist and aid the delivery of more accurate TEPS-logbook reporting.

Wren Fishing is committed to improving and maintaining a high quality of TEPS logbook reporting, which includes accurate species-level identification, including of cryptic species. Providing accurate, up-to-date, and timely logbook data to fishery management ensures TEPS interactions and the associated impact on these species can be managed effectively.

TEPS-training also included how to handle and release TEPS in a manner that maximises crew and animal safety, ensuring the best outcome, the successful release of an unharmed animal, is achieved. Best practice handling and release strategies were informed through consultation with industry, existing national and international guidelines and by world leading TEPS researchers. These best practice measures comply with both Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Australian Fisheries Management Authorities handbooks and guidelines. Specific handling and release techniques were taught so that Wren Fishing employees could safely and effectively manage all species covered in the Level 2 Species of Conservation Concern Ecological Risk Assessment or that have been reported by GOCIF TEPS-logbooks.

Wren Fishing has been and continues to be committed to ensuring minimal negative interactions occur due to their fishing operations. Wren Fishing recognises the significant role handling and release has when it comes to improving the outcome of any interaction. Taking the time to ensure crew are properly trained and equipped to handle and release TEPS safely, and understand the importance of minimising harm, is critical to the company's fishing operations and commitment to ensure a safe working environment for all.

Signed, 

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Director Wren Fishing PTY LTD Mr. David Wren

18/ 4 / 2024



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Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO Dr. Richard Pillans

18/04/2024

**WREN FISHING PTY LTD**



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