The Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF) is a trawl fishery located off Australia’s northern coast.

The fishery is managed using input controls by limiting the total amount of gear that can be used, and a series of seasonal, temporal and spatial closures. Under the NPF Management Plan, fishers are allocated a share of a total gear pool. The size of the pool can be adjusted in response to the stock status.

Operators are limited to a maximum of two nets. Permanent and seasonal closures are also used to protect sensitive habitats, such as seagrass beds, nursery areas and prevent overfishing of small prawns.

The fishery is open for two annual seasons, the Banana Prawn and Tiger Prawn seasons.

An important issue in this fishery is the management of bycatch. The use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) are compulsory in the NPF.

The fishery extends from the low water mark to the outer edge of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) in the area between Cape York in Queensland and Cape Londonderry in Western Australia.

Target species:
White & Red Legged Banana
Brown & Grooved Tiger
Blue & Red Endeavour