



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

2 June, 2008

Reference: F2008/0328

## Draft Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan 2008

Dear Stakeholder,

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), on behalf of the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA), is currently developing a management plan for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery (TSPF). As an overarching management strategy, the Plan aims to ensure the optimum utilisation of the resources of the fishery. This includes having regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development and the exercise of the precautionary principle. In the TSPF, the objective of optimum utilisation includes the promotion of economic efficiency in the utilisation of the fishery, while ensuring that the fishery's interaction with the marine environment including the incidental capture of non-target species and impacts on demersal habitats is sustainable.

The Plan seeks to give fishers greater surety in utilising their concessions while providing managers with the tools necessary to rapidly respond to resource utilization issues including effort levels and stock size fluctuations.

While there is no requirement under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* to conduct consultation in relation to PZJA managed fisheries, the PZJA's management philosophy involves a partnership approach to the management of marine resources under its jurisdiction. In addition, the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003* requires that before a legislative instrument is made, consultation on that instrument must be undertaken. As a result, the draft Plan has been developed through extensive consultation with industry members, PZJA consultative bodies, and key government agency personnel.

AFMA invites you to review and provide comments on the draft Plan. The objectives of the review are to:

- Seek stakeholder feedback on the draft Plan;
- Seek stakeholder support in implementing the Plan;
- Assess the effectiveness of the proposed Plan; and
- Consider how the Plan could be improved.

Your participation in the consultation process is vital to ensure the review of the Plan appropriately considers the interests and issues of all relevant stakeholders. Attached to this letter are an Explanatory Statement and the Plan itself for your review. Your written comments should be forwarded to Dr David Wilson (A/g Senior Manager, Torres Strait Fisheries) and can be returned either by email to [david.wilson@afma.gov.au](mailto:david.wilson@afma.gov.au), facsimile to (02) 6225-5500, or through the post to:

Dr David Wilson  
A/g Senior Manager, Torres Strait Fisheries  
Australian Fisheries Management Authority  
Box 7051, Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

All comments need to be received prior to 2 July, 2008.

For further information about the draft Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan, please contact Dr. David Wilson on (02) 6225-5402.

Thank you for your contribution to the development of a management plan for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Glenn Hurry  
Managing Director  
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

CC

Mr Grant Hall, Deputy Director General, Fisheries, QDPI&F.

Mr Robert Murphy, General Manager, Fisheries and Marine Environment, DAFF.

Attachments:

1. Plan Explanation – TSPF Management Plan 2008.
2. Draft Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan 2008.