

Torres Strait Fisheries Association (TSFA)

Recommendation for crayfish catch quotas for 2017 and 2018

The TSFA recommends that the crayfish catch quota (Australian TAC) be based on an average of the actual catch over the last 10 years.

The TSFA has a vision that by 2026 the TVH sector will be phased out of the Torres Strait cray fisheries and it will be up to Torres Strait Islanders to manage their fisheries in a sustainable manner that can be understood and respected by Torres Strait fishermen. This formula is easily understood and provides a safer and more conservative TAC figure than currently provided by the scientists. Furthermore we do not fully understand how the scientists are coming up with their recommendations. For example the scientists' TAC recommendation for 2015 was 894 tons whereas our proposed formula would have capped it at 680 tons.

Any quota management arrangement agreed to by the TSFA will be on the understanding that it is a stage in the phasing out of the TVH sector over 10 years and Torres Strait Islanders will have control of 100% of the Australian share of the catch.

Patrick Mills
Chairperson
Torres Strait Fishers Association

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