

Developmental Permit for Training Purposes (Training Permit) Policy Summary

This summary provides a simplified overview of the draft policy.

Please read the full policy on the PZJA website for more detailed information.

What is a Developmental Permit for Training Purposes?

Developmental Permits are issued under section 12 of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* (the Act). The Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) may grant Developmental Permits for training purposes that allow TIB licence holders to engage non-traditional inhabitant crew to provide advice or training on their vessel in relation to fishing techniques.

Why are we consulting?

In April 2019 the PZJA agreed to review the use of Developmental Permits for training purposes in Torres Strait fisheries and develop a new policy. It was agreed no new Developmental Permits for training purposes would be considered until a policy is agreed.

The draft policy is open for public comment until 29 February 2020. The TSRA would like to receive feedback:

- *Verbal* – give us a call to provide feedback or seek clarification on (07) 4060 0700
- *Written* – send us an email or letter to fisheries@tsra.gov.au

1. Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to provide guidelines on the process for the application and assessment on the granting of permits by the PZJA. The policy aims to provide a more transparent framework for all stakeholders.

2. Background

Currently TIB vessels are required to be crewed and operated by traditional inhabitants. The Act provides an exemption to the TIB crewing requirement, meaning a non-indigenous person may be engaged to provide training in relation to fishing techniques. In the past training has included catching, processing and handling of seafood product and the maintenance and operation of fishing vessels.

3. Scope

Training activities will only be approved for fishing activities currently approved by the PZJA. Training will not be approved for the trialling of unapproved fishing techniques or industries.

4. Objectives

The policy sets out three objectives, which state what the policy is aiming to achieve:

- Provide guidance on the process and key principles for the issuing permits.
- Increase the capacity of the TIB sector.
- Support economic development of the TIB sector and enable skills transfer from the non-Indigenous fishing sector.

5. Key Principles – (Applications must meet to be granted)

The following principles are what the PZJA will consider when assessing and granting a permit:

5.1 Skills gap has been clearly identified

- Has the applicant clearly identified the skills gap and provided supporting information?
- What effort has been made to employ suitably skilled traditional inhabitants?

5.2 Proposed activity seeks to increase capacity and skills of the TIB sector

- How will the training improve the skills gap identified in principle 5.1, both within the timeframe of the permit and after?
- The Training Plan should outline the training activities and their timeline.

5.3 Proposed activity aligns with relevant existing licensing and management arrangements

- The training is within the rules of current licence conditions and PZJA approved fisheries.

5.4 *Proposed activity does not unduly impact other TIB fishers*

- The PZJA will take into account potential impacts the training may have on the use of the fishery by other TIB fishers.
- The PZJA will consider the number of permits issued in a fishery at one time, the type of training proposed, the duration of the permit and the amount of catch required.

5.5 *The obligation is on the applicant*

- It is up to the applicant to provide enough information for the PZJA to make a decision.

6. Applying for a Permit

The application form must be used and submitted before the due date. Applicants are encouraged to speak with AFMA and/or the TSRA prior to submitting the application.

6.1 *Due dates*

- Proposed that there are two cut-off dates for applications per year. For example February and September.

6.2 *Permit Duration*

- Permits will generally be granted for one fishing season, however they may be granted for up to three years if the applicant is able to show the need or benefit.
- Multiyear permits will be reviewed after each season to ensure they are being used in line with the Training Permit Policy.
- Training Permits are not renewable or transferable.

6.3 *The Application*

- The applicant must supply all information required in the application form.

7. Assessment

Applications will be assessed against the key principles outlined in this policy. The flow chart on the last page provides a timeline of the assessment process:

Step 1

7.1 *Initial Assessment*

- AFMA will review applications to make sure they have provided the minimum information and hold the appropriate TIB licence and endorsements.
- AFMA will notify applicants who do not meet the baseline requirements within 3-4 weeks.

Step 2

7.2 *Consultation*

7.2.1 *Native title notification* - A future act notice will be provided to relevant native title bodies by AFMA.

7.2.2 *Identifying skills gaps (or training needs)* - PZJA agencies will seek the advice of industry and communities on current skill gaps and training needs. This will be done periodically to ensure the advice on skills gaps remains relevant.

Step 3

7.3 *Protected Zone Joint Authority agencies*

- PZJA agencies will review applications and recommend additional reporting requirements or conditions. These may include (but are not limited to):
 - Additional reporting of the type or frequency of catch reports.
 - Any relevant compliance measures (e.g. vessel monitoring system, pre-reporting requirements for departure and landing, etc.).
 - Limits on the take of certain species.
 - Restrictions on the times when an activity can be undertaken.
- AFMA will let the applicant know the additional requirements prior to the PZJA reviewing the application. The applicant may chose not to proceed with the application at this point.

Step 4

7.4 PZJA Decision

- PZJA agencies will provide their recommendations to the PZJA.
- The PZJA will be provided with advice on what the skills gaps are in each industry. This information is gained out of the consultation processes.
- The PZJA will assess if the application meets the objectives and principles of the Training Permits Policy.
- The PZJA will consider if the applicant has shown how the training will address the identified skill gap.
- The application will then be approved for denied by the PZJA.

8. Compliance and Monitoring

8.1 Permit Monitoring

- AFMA will monitor the compliance of licence holder with the permit conditions.

8.2 Performance Evaluation

- Permit holders need to complete the reporting requirements set out in their training plan and the permit conditions.

8.3 Amending or Revoking a Permit

- The PZJA has the right to review or revoke a permit at any time if conditions are not being met, training outcomes have not been achieved or if the training has had unforeseen resource or sustainability impacts.

9. Policy Review

The PZJA will review this policy within five years to ensure it is effective and efficient.

Application process timeline:

