

39th Protected Zone Joint Authority Meeting

Meeting Outcomes

Wednesday 8 December 2021

Teleconference

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the 39th meeting of the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) at 11:05 am AEDT with an Acknowledgment of Country. An attendance list is at **Attachment A**.

The Chair welcomed opportunity for the PZJA to meet virtually and acknowledged with regret that circumstances prevented the proposed face-to-face meeting taking place. The Chair remained hopeful the PZJA would meet face-to-face in the near future.

1. Draft Guidelines for authorising cross-endorsement in areas of Australian jurisdiction of the Torres Strait Protected Zone

- 1.1. The PZJA **AGREED** to release the draft Guidelines for authorising cross-endorsement in areas of the Australian jurisdiction of the Torres Strait Protected Zone (the draft Guidelines) for public consultation.
- 1.2. The draft Guidelines are to provide guidance on AFMA's consideration of nominations from the PNG Government for PNG boats to be cross endorsed to fish commercially in Australian waters.
- 1.3. The Guidelines will also assist the PNG Government and the fishing industry in preparing nominations for cross-endorsement.
- 1.4. The PZJA **NOTED** public consultation outcomes and final draft Guidelines will be tabled with the PZJA in 2022 for consideration.
- 1.5. The TSRA Member acknowledged good work undertaken by the PZJA agencies in developing the comprehensive framework of the Guidelines.

2. Guide to licensing arrangements in the Torres Strait

- 2.1. The PZJA **APPROVED** the '2021 Guide to Licensing Arrangements in the Torres Strait' to guide AFMA, as licensing delegate, in administering licensing on behalf of the PZJA.
- 2.2. The PZJA **APPROVED** the development of additional policy guidance to enhance the efficient and effective administration of licensing arrangements in the Torres Strait.
- 2.3. The PZJA **NOTED** that, from time to time, AFMA will update the guide and PZJA website to ensure they continue to reflect the decisions of the PZJA.
- 2.4. The 2021 Guide will deliver consistent application of decisions by AFMA, as PZJA's licensing delegate, and greater transparency for stakeholders on how licensing arrangements are being administered.

3. Community fishing without the use of a boat

- 3.1. The PZJA **AGREED IN PRINCIPLE** to amend *Community Fishing Notice No. 1* to allow the issue of licenses for community fishing without a boat.
- 3.2. This is in response to increasing inquiries from local fishers wanting to have access to fishery resources without the use of a fishing boat.

- 3.3. The PZJA **AGREED** for AFMA to consult with stakeholders on establishing licensing arrangements for community fishing undertaken without a boat.
- 3.4. The PZJA **NOTED** consultation outcomes together with further advice for establishing licensing arrangements for community fishing undertaken without a boat, will be tabled with the PZJA in 2022 for consideration.

4. Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) Annual Report 2019-20

- 4.1. The PZJA **APPROVED and ENDORSED** the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority Annual Report 2019-20 for tabling in the Australian Parliament in accordance with Section 41 of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*.
- 4.2. The Chair thanked the agencies for their work in preparing the Annual Report, which provides the public with a good overview of Torres Strait fisheries and the work we all do to keep these fisheries in good condition.
- 4.3. TSRA and Queensland Members thanked all PZJA agencies involved in the work. TSRA Member also thanked AFMA for the good collaboration and transparent partnerships with TSRA.

5. Other business

The Chair noted the next PZJA teleconference meeting was scheduled for early 2022. The Chair thanked PZJA agencies for all of their work and wished all a Happy Christmas.

PZJA Members congratulated Leilani Bin-Juda (TSRA CEO) for being appointed Deputy Head of Mission to the Australian Embassy in Mexico, with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and acknowledged her contribution to the PZJA and the Torres Strait region. PZJA Members also thanked Selina Stoute (Senior Manager, Torres Strait, AFMA) for her accomplishments over the past seven years and the significant legacy she leaves in progressing fisheries management in the region.

Close

The Chair closed the meeting at 11:30 am AEDT.

Meeting attendance

8 December 2021

PZJA members

Chair

- Senator the Hon. Jonathon Duniham, Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries and Assistant Minister for Industry Development

Members

- Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, Chair Torres Strait Regional Authority
- The Hon. Mark Furner MP, Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities

Government Delegations

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

- Anna Willock, Executive Manager, Fisheries Management Branch
- Steve Bolton, Senior Manager, Northern Fisheries
- Selina Stoute, Senior Manager, Thursday Island
- Saiful Marbun, Senior Management Officer
- Georgia Langdon, Senior Management Officer

Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

- Graeme Bolton, Deputy Director-General, Fisheries and Forestry

Torres Strait Regional Authority

- Mark Anderson, Manager, Fisheries Programme

Office of Senator the Hon. Jonathon Duniham

- Elysse Halliday, Assistant Adviser

Apologies

Government Delegations

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

- Wez Norris, Chief Executive Officer

Torres Strait Regional Authority

- Leilani Bin-Juda, Chief Executive Officer