



27 June 2016

To stakeholders

Dear Stakeholders

I am writing to advise that the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) has agreed to release the draft *Torres Strait Fishery (Quotas for Tropical Rock Lobster (Kaiar)) Management Plan 2016* (draft plan) for public comment and explain how you may comment on the draft plan and the additional elements sought by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA).

The draft plan sets out a quota management system for the Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery. In agreeing to release the draft plan the PZJA noted the TSRA will seek additional elements in the plan, these include:

- a) introducing an economic development contribution from the holders of transferable quota;
- b) the Traditional Inhabitant sector (TIB) to be given first right of refusal in sale of Transferable Vessel Holder (TVH) licences; and
- c) transfers only to be made between existing licence holders in pursuit of 100 per cent ownership by traditional owners.

The PZJA sees the release of the draft plan as a positive step towards the long-term sustainability of the fishery by capping catches and establishing a tool for increasing the Traditional Inhabitant share of the resource. A quota management system will provide an opportunity for the Traditional Inhabitant sector to generate revenue through quota leasing.

The PZJA continues to support the development of quota allocation approaches for the Traditional Inhabitant sector, but in the first instance decided that the catch allocation to Traditional Inhabitants would be at a sectoral level (in a single pool), held and managed by the TSRA.

The PZJA looks forward to hearing your views on the proposed draft plan. The Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery is the most valuable fishery in the Torres Strait and it is vital that stakeholders have their say in how the fishery is managed in the future.

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How to make a written submission

All written submissions on the draft plan must be submitted to AFMA by close of business on 26 September 2016. Submissions should be sent to:

AFMA
Torres Strait Office, 38 Victoria Parade
PO Box 376, Thursday Island, QLD 4875, Australia

Or faxed to 07 4069 1277

Or by email to trlinfo@afma.gov.au

Please note that **all written submissions will be made public** unless confidentiality is requested.

Public meetings

At the request of Prescribed Body Corporates (PBC's) Chairpersons, AFMA will attend each Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Community to explain the purpose and provisions of the draft plan. A further meeting will be held in Cairns, subject to stakeholder interest, at a date and venue to be determined. All meetings must be concluded by 26 September 2016.

AFMA has written to all PBC Chairpersons to arrange community meetings. Final meeting dates and locations will be advertised on the PZJA website and within each community as soon as details are finalised. If you are interested in meeting with AFMA in Cairns please register your interest with Dean Pease by phone on 07 4069 1990 or email at dean.pease@afma.gov.au.

A copy of the draft plan together with a copy of the Frequently Asked Questions about the draft plan is enclosed. Further copies of these documents may also be obtained from the PZJA's website (www.pzja.gov.au) or by contacting Dean Pease on 07 4069 1990 or email trlinfo@afma.gov.au.

If you wish to discuss the consultation process or enclosed documents please contact either Dean Pease, Senior Management Officer (trlinfo@afma.gov.au or 07 4069 1990) or myself.

Kind regards



Selina Stoute

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07 4069 1990

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Enclosed documents

1. Exposure draft *Torres Strait Fishery (Quotas for Tropical Rock Lobster (Kaiar)) Management Plan 2016*.
2. Frequently Asked Questions about the *Torres Strait Fishery (Quotas for Tropical Rock Lobster (Kaiar)) Management Plan 2016*.

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