



20 April 2023

Dear Torres Strait Fish Receiver Licence Holder,

Notification of variation of licence conditions to enable a black teatfish opening

I am writing to inform you that I, as a delegate of the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA), under section 22 of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*, have varied the conditions of your Fish Receiver Licence for the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery to enable an opening of fishing for black teatfish to commence on **15 May 2023**.

On 28 February 2023, the PZJA agreed to an annual opening of the fishery for black teatfish subject to a 20 tonnes Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and requirement of daily landing and daily reporting of catch through the mandatory fish receiver system. The commencement date for the opening will be 15 May 2023 and ending on the **TAC Date**. The **TAC Date** is the specific date and time that the PZJA or its delegate determines as the last day of fishing based on its reasonable belief that the TAC will be reached, in order to avoid an overcatch of the TAC.

Please note that black teatfish is listed in Appendix II of the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES) and is subject to a 20 tonnes catch and export limit imposed through the Wildlife Trade Operation approval for the fishery. An overcatch of the TAC would therefore have significant implications on the ability to export the species and, potentially, on future openings of the fishery.

The new conditions that will apply to your licence are enclosed and are as follows:

1. From **15 May 2023** until a Total Allowable Catch Date (**TAC Date**) for black teatfish (*Holothuria whitmaei*) is determined by the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) or its delegate, you must send AFMA electronically to **email: blackteatfish@afma.gov.au** or **SMS: 0437 825 291** or **fax: 07 4069 1277**, an image of the white original copy of the completed TDB02 Catch Disposal Record pages **within the same day** of receiving catches of black teatfish.

Note: the image of the white original copy can be sent to AFMA, using a smart phone or other electronic devices, as a photograph via the mobile number: 0437 825 291.

Alternatively, the image can be emailed to AFMA via email address:

blackteatfish@afma.gov.au or faxed to: 07 4069 1277.

2. A holder of a Fish Receiver Licence is not permitted to receive black teatfish past the **TAC Date**.

AFMA will notify you of the TAC Date. A holder of a Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) Licence is required to land catches of black teatfish to a licenced Fish Receiver within the same day those species are caught.

The new conditions are in addition to the existing conditions of your Fish Receiver Licence which you must continue to comply with.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie Couchman, Senior Management Officer, Torres Strait Fisheries, on 07 4069 1990 or by email at FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'B' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line extending to the right.

Brodie Macdonald

A/g Deputy Chief Executive Officer, PZJA Delegate

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Enc (1)

Enclosure 1 – Variation of Fish Receiver Licence conditions to add NEW conditions to enable a black teatfish opening commencing 15 May 2023

Completing TDB02 Catch Disposal Record (CDR) during the black teatfish opening in 2023

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