



28 March 2024

Licence Holder

Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery

Dear Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) Licence holder,

Notification of a variation of licence conditions to enable the 2024 black teatfish fishing season 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 TIB Licence for the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery (BDM Fishery) to enable an opening of fishing for black teatfish to commence on **29 April 2024** and ending on the Total Allowable Catch Date (**TAC Date**). The **TAC Date** is the specific date and time that the PZJA or its delegate determines as the last day of fishing for black teatfish based on its reasonable belief that the TAC will be reached, in order to avoid an overcatch of the TAC.

The PZJA has agreed the TAC for black teatfish for the 2024 fishing season will be 20 tonnes. 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 strict conditions imposed through the Wildlife Trade Operation approval for the BDM Fishery. An overcatch of the TAC may have significant implications on the ability to export the species and, potentially, on future openings of black teatfish.

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

1. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for black teatfish (*Holothuria whitmaei*) is varied from zero (0) tonnes to twenty (20) tonnes. This means the maximum of 20 tonnes may be taken by all Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) Licence holders with a beche-de-mer entry combined, commencing on **29 April 2024** 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 for black teatfish, based on its reasonable belief that the TAC will be reached, in order to avoid an overcatch of the TAC.
2. After the **TAC Date**, the TAC for black teatfish will revert to 0 tonnes and fishing for black teatfish will close.

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Thursday Island

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Lakes Entrance

PO Box 408
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P:0447 019 916

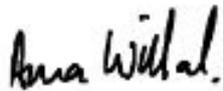
3. You must land all catches of black teatfish taken to a holder of a Fish Receiver Licence **within the same day** that it is taken.
4. Where the last day of fishing for black teatfish is not a full day, you must land all catches of black teatfish taken to a holder of a Fish Receiver Licence no later than the **exact time** that the PZJA or its delegate determines.

AFMA will notify you of the TAC Date (and, if applicable, the exact time as per condition 4 above) by mail, email and SMS.

These new conditions are in addition to the existing conditions of your TIB Licence, with which you must continue to comply.

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,



Anna Willock

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, PZJA Delegate

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Enc (1)

Enclosure 1 - Variation of Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery Traditional Inhabitant Boat Licence conditions to add NEW conditions to enable a 2024 black teatfish fishing season opening commencing 29 April 2024

Black teatfish total allowable catch for the 2024 fishing season

1. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for black teatfish (*Holothuria whitmaei*) is varied from zero (0) tonnes to twenty (20) tonnes. This means the maximum of 20 tonnes may be taken by all Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) Licence holders with a beche-de-mer entry combined, commencing on **29 April 2024** and ending on the **TAC Date**. The **TAC Date** is the specific date and time that the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) or its delegate determines as the last day of fishing for black teatfish based on its reasonable belief that the TAC will be reached, in order to avoid an overcatch of the TAC.

2. After the **TAC Date**, the TAC for black teatfish will revert to 0 tonnes and fishing for black teatfish will close.

Catch must be landed to a licenced Fish Receiver within the same day that it is taken

3. You must land all catches of black teatfish taken to a holder of a Fish Receiver Licence **within the same day** that it is taken.

4. Where the last day of fishing for black teatfish is not a full day, you must land all catches of black teatfish taken to a holder of a Fish Receiver Licence no later than the **exact time** that the PZJA or its delegate determines.