



28 March 2024

Licence Holder

Torres Strait Fish Receiver License Holder

Dear Torres Strait Fish Receiver 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* (the Act), have varied the conditions of your Fish Receiver 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. From **29 April 2024** until a Total Allowable Catch Date (**TAC Date**) for black teatfish (*Holothuria whitmaei*) is determined by the PZJA or its delegate, you must send AFMA electronically to **email: [blackteatfish@afma.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:blackteatfish@afma.gov.au) or faxed to: 07 4069 1277.*

2. Where the last day of fishing for black teatfish is a full day, a holder of a Fish Receiver

**Canberra**

PO Box 7051  
Canberra ACT 2610  
P 02 6225 5555  
F 02 6225 5500

**Darwin**

PO Box 131  
Darwin NT 0801  
P 08 8943 0333  
F 08 8942 2897

**Thursday Island**

PO Box 376  
Thursday Island QLD 4875  
P 07 4069 1990  
F 07 4069 1277

**Lakes Entrance**

PO Box 408  
Lakes Entrance VIC 3909  
P:0447 019 916

Licence is not permitted to receive black teatfish past 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.

3. Where the last day of fishing for black teatfish is not a full day, the holder of a Fish Receiver Licence is not permitted to receive black teatfish after 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 3 above) by mail, email and SMS.

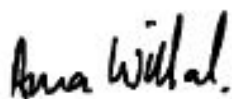
The new conditions noted above are in addition to the existing conditions of your Fish Receiver Licence, which you must continue to comply with at all times.

Please also note that it is an offence under the Act to receive, process or sell fish from a person who is not the holder of a current commercial fishing licence that has been endorsed for the catch that is landed. To verify that fish you receive is from the holder of a current commercial fishing licence, AFMA recommends that you can check the current publicly available register of Torres Strait commercial fishing licences, which is made available through the following link on the PZJA website: <https://www.pzja.gov.au/licences/torres-strait-licence-register>

If you have any concerns that any fish you have been asked to receive and process may not have been caught by the holder of a current appropriate commercial fishing licence, please contact AFMA to discuss your concerns as soon as possible.

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](mailto:FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



Anna Willock  
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 2024 black teatfish fishing season opening commencing 29 April 2024**

**Completing TDB02 Catch Disposal Record (CDR) during the 2024 black teatfish fishing season opening**

1. From **29 April 2024** 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](mailto: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](mailto:blackteatfish@afma.gov.au) or faxed to: 07 4069 1277.*

2. Where the last day of fishing for black teatfish is a full day, a holder of a Fish Receiver Licence is not permitted to receive black teatfish past 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.

3. Where the last day of fishing for black teatfish is not a full day, the holder of a Fish Receiver Licence is not permitted to receive black teatfish after the **exact time** that the PZJA or its delegate determines.

*Note: AFMA reminds Fish Receiver Licence holders that it is an offence under the Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984 to receive, process or sell fish from a person who is not the holder of a current commercial fishing licence which has been endorsed for the catch that is landed.*

*To verify that fish you receive is from the holder of a current commercial fishing licence, AFMA recommends that you can check the current publicly available register of Torres Strait commercial fishing licences, which is made available through the following link on the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority website: <https://www.pzja.gov.au/licences/torres-strait-licence-register>*

*If you have any concerns that any fish you have been asked to receive and process may not have been caught by the holder of a current appropriate commercial fishing licence, please contact AFMA to discuss your concerns as soon as possible.*