

Ref: NTN2023-02

31 May 2023

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Comment on a proposed management action in line with section 24HA(2) of the *Native Title Act 1993*

I am writing to you on behalf of the Secretariat of the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) regarding the proposed management action to remake the existing Fisheries Logbook Instrument for the Torres Strait. The proposed instrument has the same rules and requirements, with one suggested change related to the prawn fishery only (see Attachments A-B). This proposal will see the continuation of existing requirements for commercial fishers in the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster, Finfish, Hand Collectables and Prawn Fisheries (excluding Traditional Inhabitant Boat Licence Holders engaging in community fishing) to complete fishery catch logbooks.

Further details of the proposed action can be found in **Attachments A-C - Class Notification under the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993***.

Under section 24HA(7), the PZJA must give the recipient of this notice an opportunity to comment on the action within a period defined by this notice. Please provide any comments on the proposed management action by **close of business 30 June 2023**, in writing, to the addressee below:

Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Att: Lisa Cocking
PO Box 7051
Canberra BC, Canberra ACT, 2610

Email: FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au



Since 2019, AFMA has been publishing the native title notifications on the [PZJA website](#). With your agreement, AFMA is also seeking to publish any comments received in response to proposed management actions. Please let us know if you have any concerns with this.

If you have any additional questions regarding the proposed management action, please contact me by phone on 02 6225 5451 or email FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Cocking
On behalf of PZJA Secretariat
Senior Management Officer
Torres Strait Fisheries
AFMA

Attachments

A-C - Class Notification under the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*

Class Notification under the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*

Proposed remaking of Torres Strait Fisheries Logbook Instrument 2023 including additional of optional e-logs for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Date of Issue: 31 May 2023

SECTION OF NTA	Section 24HA (7) of the Commonwealth <i>Native Title Act 1993</i>
DEPARTMENT/AGENCY	Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) on behalf of the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA)
CONTACT NAME	Lisa Cocking
E-MAIL	FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au
TELEPHONE NO.	(02) 6225 5451 or TI Office (07) 4069 1990
REFERENCE NO.	NTN2023-02 – Proposed remaking of Torres Strait Fisheries Logbook Instrument 2023 including additional of optional e-logs for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

The Protected Zone Joint Authority intends to do the following act:

TYPE OF APPROVAL	Remaking of the Fisheries Logbook Instrument, which specifies the type of logbook required to be completed in the Finfish, Hand collectables, Finfish, lobster and Prawn fisheries.
NUMBER OF APPROVALS	1
UNDER WHAT ACT	<i>Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984</i>

The approvals, if granted, will permit the following activity to happen:

NATURE OF ACTIVITY	<p>The Instrument provides that the master of a boat licensed under section 19 of the Act or a boat in respect of which an endorsement under section 20 of the Act is in force, who uses that boat in the course of commercial fishing (other than for community fishing) to take the fish, in any area of Australian jurisdiction under the Act is required to furnish information as is required by the logbooks listed in section 5 of the Instrument.</p> <p>Further information on the proposed management action is provided in Attachment B.</p>
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The above activity will be located within:

LOCATION OF ACTIVITY	The proposed management action would apply to the areas of the BDM, TRL, Finfish and Prawn Fisheries. The extent of these fisheries are described in Item 1, Schedule 2 of the <i>Torres Strait Fisheries Regulations 1985</i> (the Regulations). The Regulations can be accessed online at: https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016C00633
MAPS/PLANS	Attachment C shows the area of these Fisheries, as described in Item 1, Schedule 2 of the Regulations.

NAME OF REGISTERED NATIVE TITLE CLAIMANT GROUP/S OR NAME OF REGISTERED NATIVE TITLE BODY CORPORATE	Torres Strait Regional Seas Claim Kaurareg People #1 Kaurareg People #2 North Eastern Peninsula Sea Claim Group (Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation) Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim (Malu Lamar (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation RNTBC) Northern Cape York Group #1 (Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC) Northern Cape York Group #3 (Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC) Torres Strait Regional Seas Claim (Seven Rivers Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC)
NAME OF NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY	Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Seven Rivers Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC Trustee body corporate Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC Trustee body corporate

If approved, after consideration of all comments, the management option will be implemented for the following period of time:

DURATION OF APPROVAL	It is expected that the proposed management action will occur in mid 2023.
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You are invited to comment upon the class of proposed future acts outlined above by close of business 30 June 2023.

Any comments must be **in writing**:

By email to: FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au

Or by mail addressed to:
 Australian Fisheries Management Authority
 Att: Lisa Cocking
 PO Box 7051
 Canberra BC, Canberra ACT, 2610

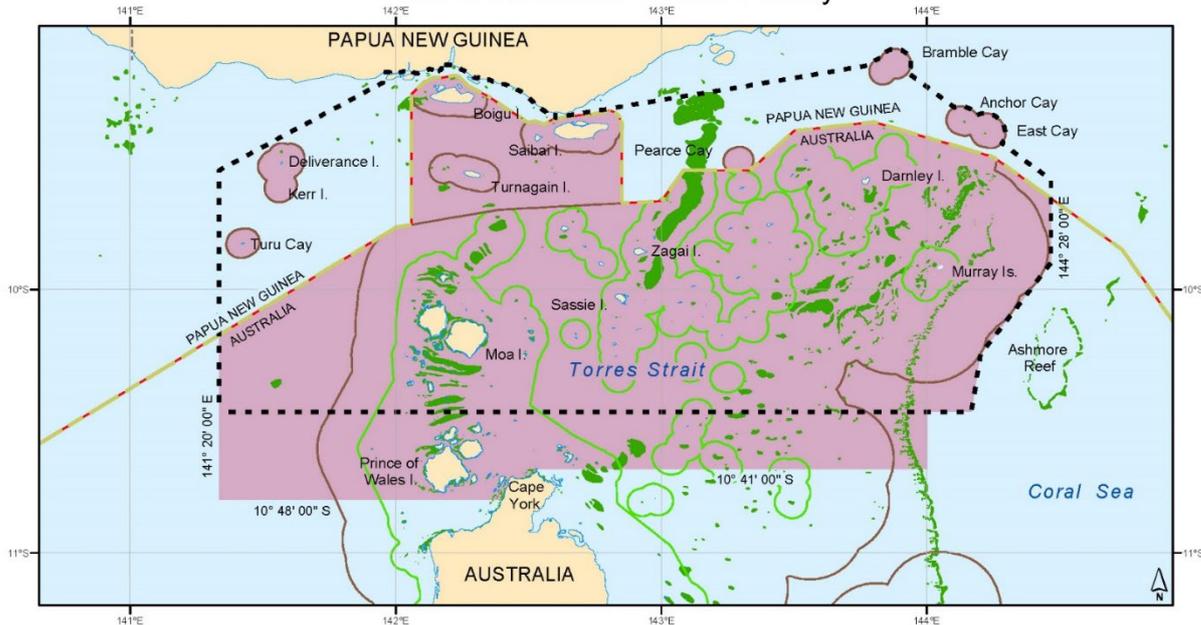
Background Information**What does this instrument do?**

This notice is related to the proposal to remake the existing Fisheries Logbook Instrument for the Torres Strait, with the same rules and requirements, with one suggested change related to the prawn fishery (see below). The instrument would have effect for another three year period, the maximum period for which the directions in a logbook instrument must be followed. This proposed instrument will continue to provide the legislative framework for requiring commercial fishers in the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster, Finfish, Hand Collectables and Prawn Fisheries (excluding Traditional Inhabitant Boat Licence Holders engaging in community fishing) to complete fishery catch logbooks.

What are the proposed changes to Fisheries Logbook Instrument

Only one change is recommended to the instrument, which affect Torres Strait Prawn Fishery fishers only. The proposed change will allow the use of electronic logbooks by Torres Strait Prawn Fishery licence holders, in addition to the existing paper logbooks. This gives Torres Strait Prawn Fishery licence holders the choice to use either paper or electronic logbooks, improving flexibility for licence holders. The electronic logbooks require the same information to be reported as the paper logbooks.

Torres Strait Fisheries Area of the Beche-de-mer Fishery



- Coastal Waters limit (3nm)
- Exclusive Economic Zone limit (200nm)
- Fisheries Jurisdiction line
- Protected Zone Boundary
- Territorial Sea limit (12nm)
- Low tide elevations and reefs

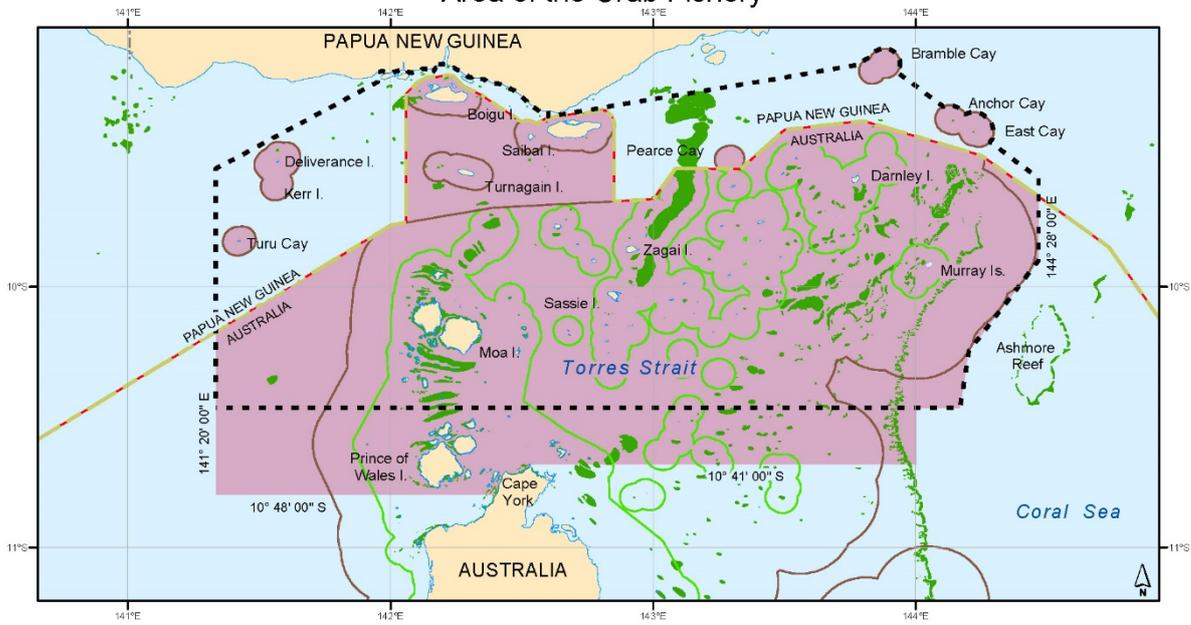
Australian Government
 Australian Fisheries Management Authority
 Produced by Geoscience Australia
 for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, August 2006

Geographic Datum: WGS84

NOTES:

1. The area of the Fishery is sourced from the Torres Strait Fisheries Regulations 1985
2. Within this fishery, arrangements exist between the Commonwealth and QLD, whereby the Coastal Waters of that State are deemed part of the AFZ
3. The Fisheries Jurisdiction Line and Protected Zone shown on this map are established under the Treaty between Australia and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. This Treaty entered into force on 15 February 1985

Torres Strait Fisheries Area of the Crab Fishery



- Coastal Waters limit (3nm)
- Exclusive Economic Zone limit (200nm)
- Fisheries Jurisdiction line
- Protected Zone Boundary
- Territorial Sea limit (12nm)
- Low tide elevations and reefs

Australian Government
 Australian Fisheries Management Authority
 Produced by Geoscience Australia
 for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, August 2006
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Geographic Datum: WGS84

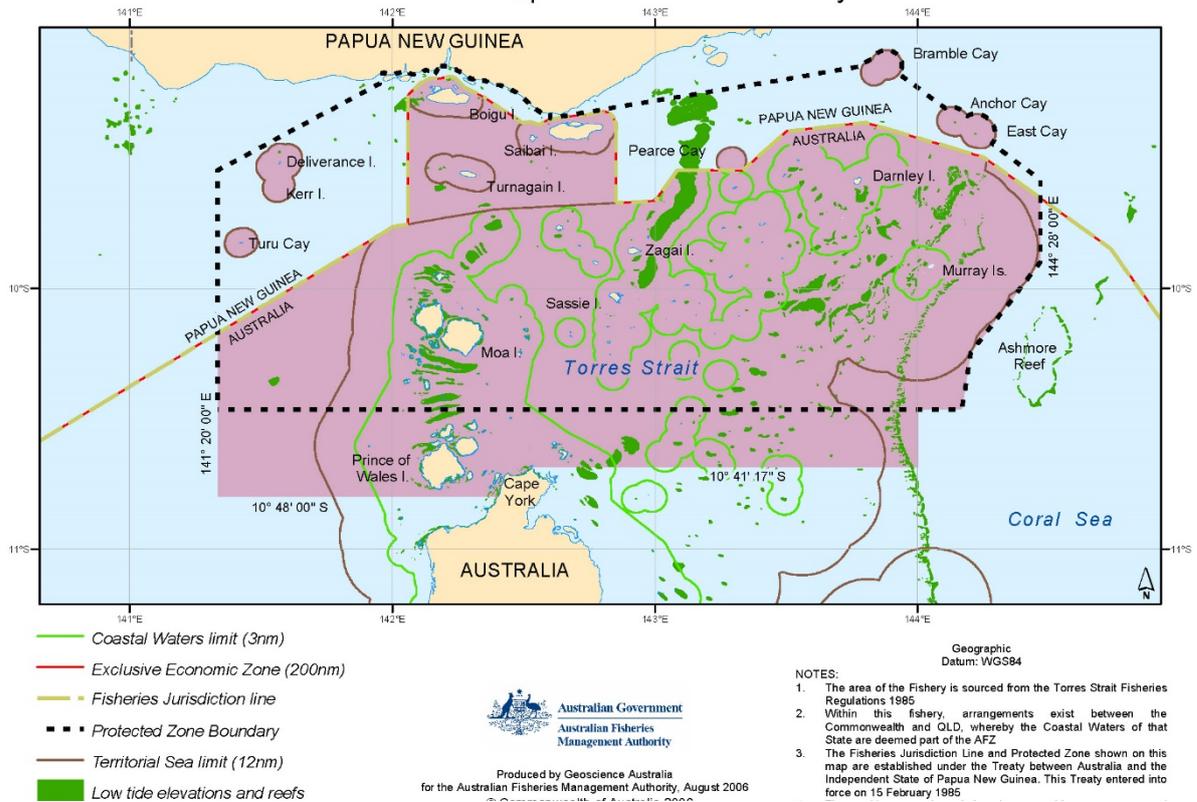
NOTES:

1. The area of the Fishery is sourced from the Torres Strait Fisheries Regulations 1985
2. Within this fishery, arrangements exist between the Commonwealth and QLD, whereby the Coastal Waters of that State are deemed part of the AFZ
3. The Fisheries Jurisdiction Line and Protected Zone shown on this map are established under the Treaty between Australia and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. This Treaty entered into force on 15 February 1985
4. The maritime zone boundaries shown on this map are sourced from the 'Australian Maritime Boundaries (AMB) v2.0'

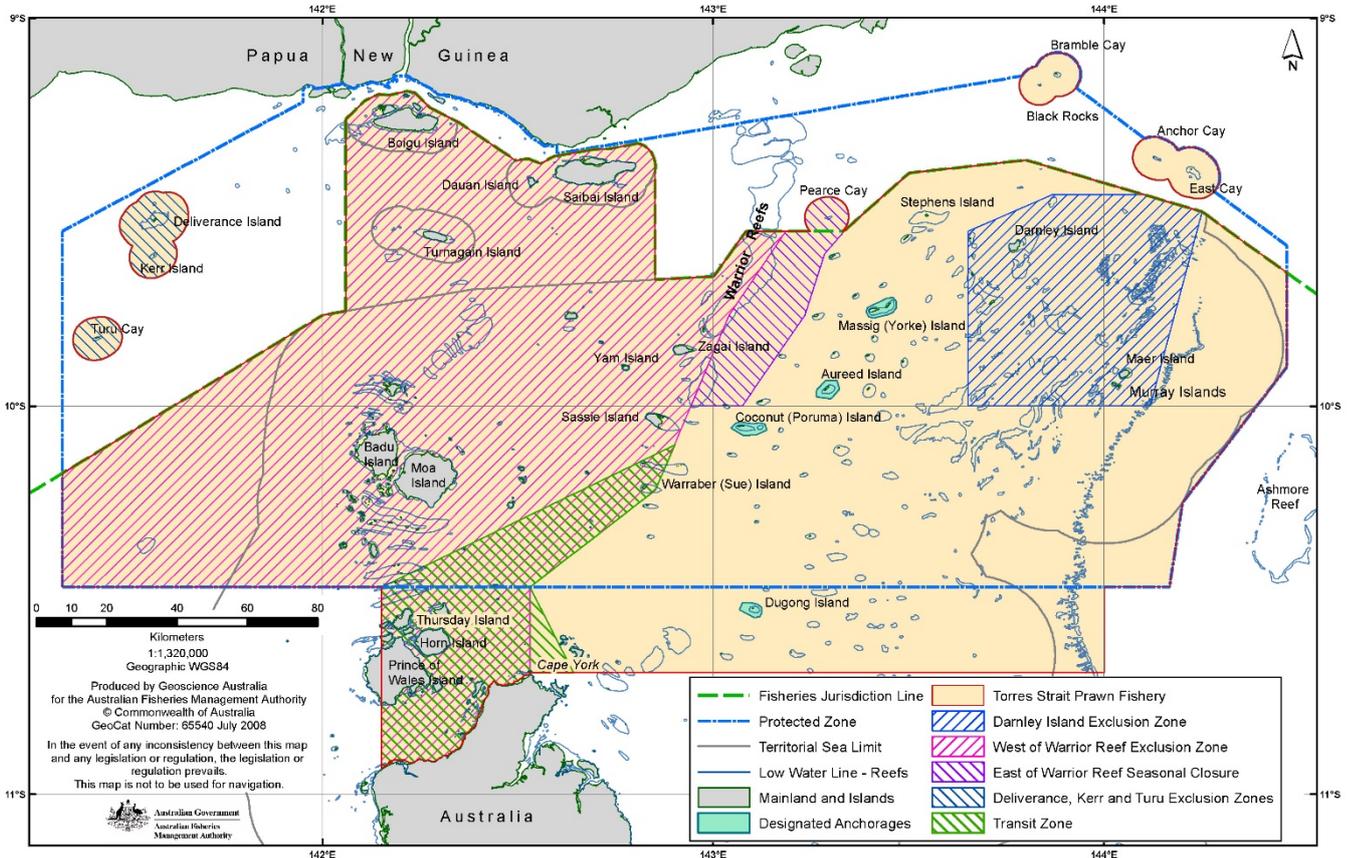
Torres Strait Fisheries
 Crab Fishery

GeoCat #: 64842

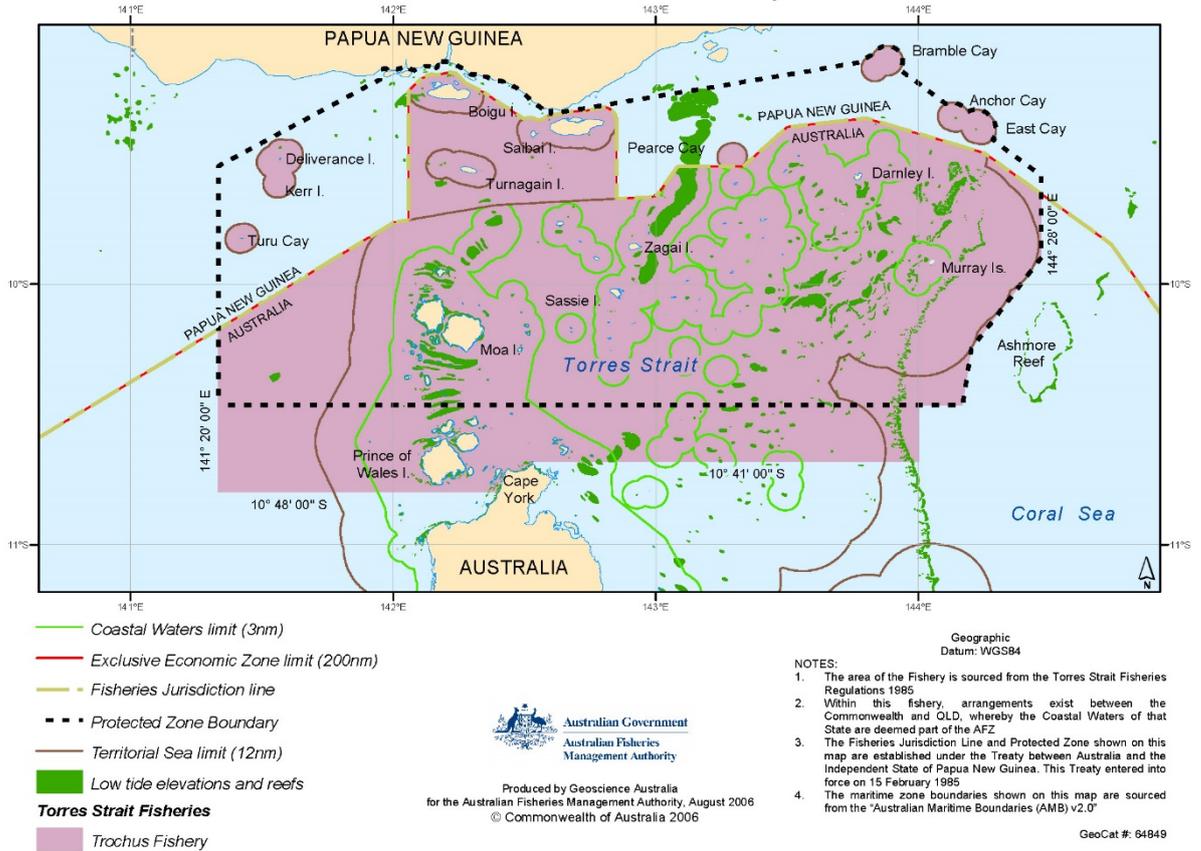
Torres Strait Fisheries Area of the Spanish Mackerel Fishery



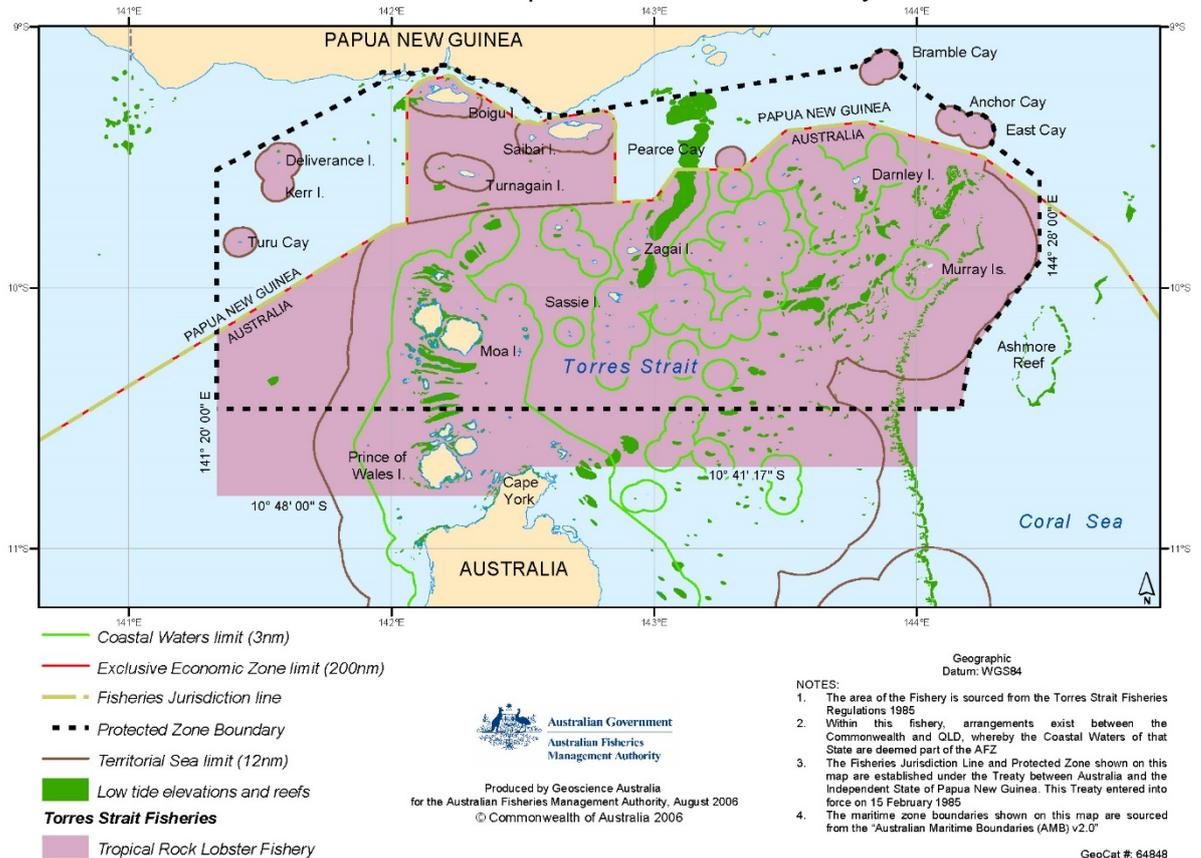
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery and Closures



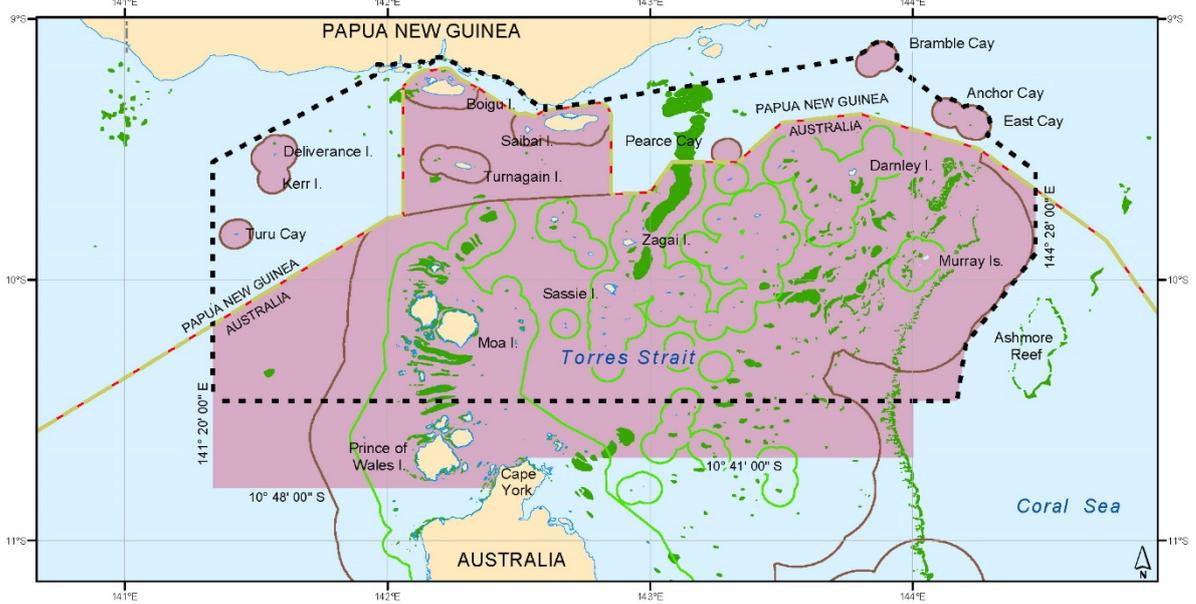
Torres Strait Fisheries Area of the Trochus Fishery



Torres Strait Fisheries Area of the Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery



Torres Strait Fisheries Area of the Finfish Fishery



- Coastal Waters limit (3nm)
- Exclusive Economic Zone limit (200nm)
- Fisheries Jurisdiction line
- Protected Zone Boundary
- Territorial Sea limit (12nm)
- Low tide elevations and reefs

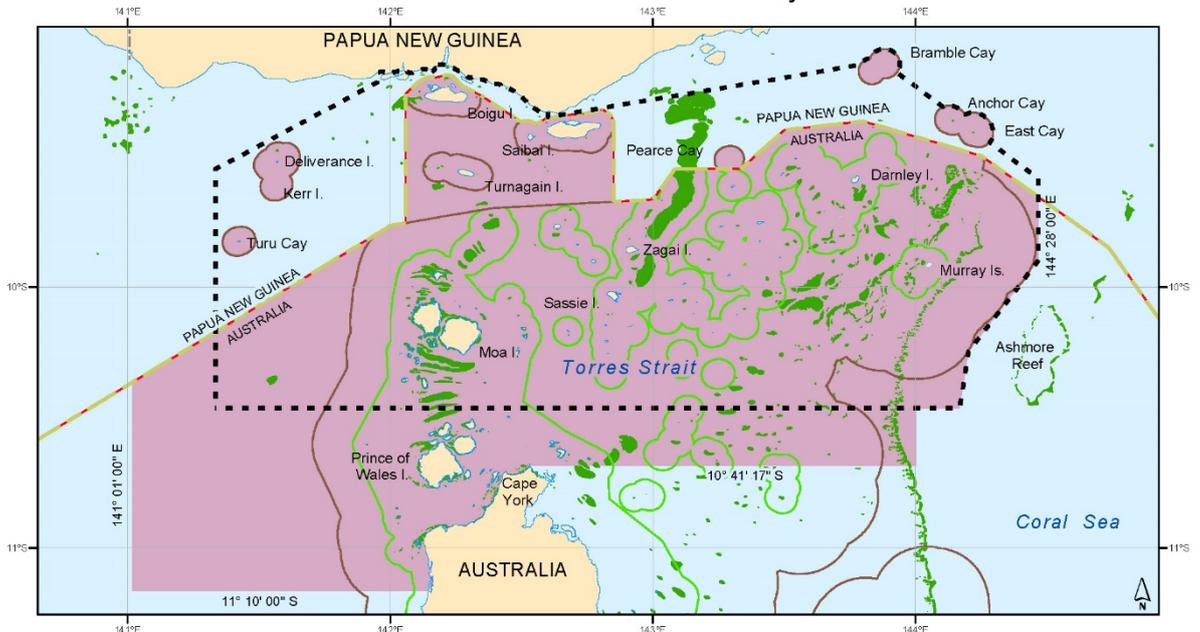
Torres Strait Fisheries
 Finfish Fishery


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- Geographic Datum: WGS84
- NOTES:
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GeoCat #: 64844

Torres Strait Fisheries Area of the Pearl Shell Fishery



- Coastal Waters limit (3nm)
- Exclusive Economic Zone limit (200nm)
- Fisheries Jurisdiction line
- Protected Zone Boundary
- Territorial Sea limit (12nm)
- Low tide elevations and reefs

Torres Strait Fisheries
 Pearl Shell Fishery


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 Australian Fisheries Management Authority
 Produced by Geoscience Australia
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- Geographic Datum: WGS84
- NOTES:
1. The area of the Fishery is sourced from the Torres Strait Fisheries Regulations 1985
 2. Within this fishery, arrangements exist between the Commonwealth and QLD, whereby the Coastal Waters of that State are deemed part of the AFZ
 3. The Fisheries Jurisdiction Line and Protected Zone shown on this map are established under the Treaty between Australia and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. This Treaty entered into force on 15 February 1985
 4. The maritime zone boundaries shown on this map are sourced from the 'Australian Maritime Boundaries (AMB) v2.0'

GeoCat #: 64846