



Notification of 2025 Kaiar Survey



Overview

Fishwell Pty Ltd, with funding from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and support from the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA), is undertaking the 2025 Kaiar (Tropical Rock Lobster) pre-season survey in the Torres Strait.

It is a continuation the long-standing survey previously conducted by CSIRO and uses the same survey methods. It provides critical fishery-independent data on the abundance of pre-recruits (age 0+), recruiting (1+) and mature (2+) Kaiar (*Panulirus ornatus*) lobsters. The data is collected by divers who count, measure and weigh lobsters along over seventy 500m transects. This information is critical for management of the resource and set a sustainable Recommended Biological Catch (RBC) for the upcoming fishing season.

Survey Period and Location

The survey will be conducted across numerous sites in the western and central Torres Strait, including some areas within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

It is scheduled to occur over approximately 10–12 days from 22 October 2025. The 7-person survey team will embark and disembark from the charter vessel *Cossack Pearl* at Horn Island (Nguruapai).

The vessel will be displaying a large “Research Vessel” sign to indicate it is conducting the survey under a research permit and not commercial fishing.

Contacts for any further information

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