



Torres Strait Fisheries Fish Receiver System

Call for funding applications from fishing industry related associations or organisations to support the implementation of the Torres Strait Fish Receiver System on 1 December 2017.

Purpose

The PZJA has agreed to implement a mandatory fish receiver system (FRS) for Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding Torres Prawn) on 1 December 2017. The FRS will replace the current voluntary TDB01 Torres Strait Seafood Buyers and Processors Docket Book System.

The FRS will make sure that catches are recorded and understood by fishers and government alike. This is crucial to support a sustainable fishery, support management decisions and support development of Torres Strait fisheries.

AFMA recognises that effective management of Torres Strait fisheries requires cooperation between industry and government both broadly and on specific initiatives. To ensure that a FRS can be implemented and function correctly AFMA acknowledges that there is a strong need for effective capacity building and communication with fishing industry associations and organisations.

Fishing industry related associations and organisations play an important role in providing expertise based input to support management of Torres Strait fisheries.

AFMA has committed to make up to \$40 000 in funding available to Torres Strait fishing industry related associations and organisations to support the implementation of the FRS. Funding is available to help associations support their local fishers and fish receivers in meeting the new FRS requirements.

Support activities that could be funded under this initiative could include (for example but are not limited to):

- conducting information sessions with your associations fishers;
- training your own officers available to liaise with industry; and
- buying equipment to support data collection such as measuring scales, printers, stationery etc..

Desired outcomes

Improved reliability and timeliness for catch data collected for Torres Strait Fisheries through the FRS.

- Local fishers and fish receivers are able to receive advice and support from their local fishing industry association or organisation to assist them in meeting the new FRS requirements; and
- Local fishing industry associations or organisations liaise with AFMA to ensure local fisher and fish receiver enquires are addressed in a timely manner.

Funding

A maximum of \$4 000 will be available for successful applications.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Organisation
Must be a legal entity and have full legal capacity to enter into a 'Project Agreement' with the AFMA. For example:
 - An Incorporated Association
 - Have an ABN and be registered for GST purposes where relevant
2. Must be based in the Torres Strait Protected Zone.

Assessment Criteria

1. Capacity
The organisation has, or can, provide support to the local fishing industry in understanding and complying with commercial fishing rules.
2. Effectiveness
The proposed approach has the potential to deliver the *Desired Outcomes* (above).

Assessment Process

1. Applications will be assessed against the Assessment Criteria (above) by AFMA.
2. AFMA will verify any claims within an application as necessary. AFMA may use a number of sources of information when assessing and verifying claims in the application.
3. AFMA may seek further information from an applicant in order to clarify issues relating to an application or assist with the assessment process.

Project Agreements

1. Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Project Agreement with AFMA before receiving any funding.
2. The Project Agreement will set out the terms and conditions on which funding will be provided.

Performance reporting

A performance report will be required at a specified time after funding has been granted. The performance report must detail the activities undertaken by the applicant using the funding to achieve the Desired Outcomes.

How to Apply

1. Download an application form from here: www.pzja.gov.au
2. Submit your application to AFMA at the address below by **30 October 2017**.

AFMA office
Torres Strait Office, 38 Victoria Parade
PO Box 376, Thursday Island, QLD 4875, Australia

More information

For more information contact Geoff Diver at Geoff.diver@afma.gov.au or on 07 4069 1990.