



8 April 2019

Dear Torres Strait licence holder

I am pleased to advise that the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) agreed at its meeting on 1 April 2019 to release draft harvest strategies for the Torres Strait Protected Zone Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) and Beche-de-mer (BDM) Fisheries for public comment. The PZJA also agreed to seek stakeholder views on removing the 'western line closure' in the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery.

The PZJA agreed to commence a review of how Developmental Permits are used for training purposes in all Torres Strait Fisheries. The TSRA will lead the review and it is expected this will be concluded by around September 2019. The PZJA agreed it will not consider any further applications for training under Developmental Permits until new arrangements are established, following the review. It is expected the review will lead to the creation of detailed criteria, against which any future applications for Developmental Permits will be assessed. The PZJA continues to acknowledge and support the aspirations of Traditional Inhabitants for 100 per cent ownership of access to commercial fisheries, and wants to be confident that the Developmental Permit arrangements are contributing to this goal. More details on the PZJA decision is enclosed.

Copies of the draft harvest strategies together with frequently asked questions (FAQs) about harvest strategies in general and brief overviews of each are enclosed. Also enclosed is information concerning the removal of the western line closure in the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery. Further copies of these documents may also be obtained from the PZJA website at www.pzja.gov.au or by contacting the AFMA Torres Strait Office on 07 4069 1990 or by email to FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au.

The PZJA looks forward to hearing from stakeholders on these proposed management initiatives. There are a number of ways you can provide your views to the PZJA. These are described below.

Public meetings

Subject to approval from Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) Chairpersons, AFMA is planning to attend each Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula community to explain the draft harvest strategies and the proposal to remove the western line closure. A further

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Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610
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PO Box 131
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Thursday Island
PO Box 376
Thursday Island QLD 4875
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meeting will be held in Cairns, subject to stakeholder interest, at a date and venue to be determined. All meetings will be concluded by 31 May 2019.

AFMA has written to all PBC Chairpersons to arrange these community meetings. Final meeting dates and locations will be advertised on the PZJA website and within each community as soon as details are finalised. If you are interested in meeting with AFMA in Cairns please register your interest with Georgia Langdon by phone on 07 4069 1990 or email at georgia.langdon@afma.gov.au.

Make a written submission

All written submissions need to be submitted to AFMA by close of business on 31 May 2019. Submissions can be sent to:

AFMA
Torres Strait Office
PO Box 376
Thursday Island, QLD, 4875
Australia

Or by fax to 07 4069 1277

Or by email to FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au

Please note that **all written submissions will be made public** unless confidentiality is requested.

Phone AFMA

If you wish to provide your views on the phone, please call the AFMA Torres Strait Office on 07 4069 1990.

Should you wish to discuss any of the matters contained in this letter, please contact the AFMA Torres Strait Office on 07 4069 1990 or by email to FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Anna Willock
Executive Manager, Fisheries

Enclosed documents

1. PZJA media release.
2. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about harvest strategies

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3. An overview, and copy of, the draft harvest strategy for the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery
4. An overview, and copy of, the draft harvest strategy for the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery
5. Information concerning the removal of the western line closure in the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery

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