



26 February 2021

Dear Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) Licence Holder,

Notification of a variation of licence conditions to enable a black teatfish 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* have varied the conditions of your TIB licence for the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery to enable a trial opening of fishing for black teatfish to commence on 30 April 2021.

On 27 August 2020, the PZJA agreed to a trial reopening of the fishery for black teatfish subject to a 20 tonne Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and requirement of daily landing and reporting of catch through the mandatory fish receiver system. Since that time AFMA has consulted stakeholders on the preferred timing for the opening. Having considered advice received, AFMA has set the commencement date for the opening to be 30 April 2021.

The new conditions that will apply to your licence are enclosed and as follows:

1. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for black teatfish (*Holothuria whitmaei*) is varied from zero (0) tonnes to twenty (20) tonnes. This means the maximum of 20 tonnes may be taken by all TIB licence holders with a beche-de-mer entry combined, commencing on **30 April 2021** and ending on the **TAC Date**. The **TAC Date** is the day that the PZJA or its delegate determines based on its reasonable belief that the TAC will be reached.
2. After the **TAC Date**, the TAC for black teatfish will revert to 0 tonnes and the fishery will close.
3. You must land all catches of black teatfish taken to a holder of a fish receiver licence within the same day that it is caught.

AFMA will notify you of the **TAC Date**. Please note that fish receivers will not be permitted to accept black teatfish past the **TAC Date**.

These new conditions are in addition to the existing conditions of your TIB fishing licence, with which you must continue to comply.

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

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Danait Ghebrezgabhier, Senior Management Officer, Torres Strait Fisheries, on 07 4069 1990 or by email at FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Willock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anna Willock
Executive Manager Fisheries, PZJA Delegate
Australian Fishery Management Authority

Enc (1)

Enclosure 1 – Variation of Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery Traditional Inhabitant Boat licence conditions to add NEW conditions to enable a black teatfish opening commencing 30 April 21.

Catch allowances

1. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for black teatfish (*Holothuria whitmaei*) is varied from zero (0) tonnes to twenty (20) tonnes. This means the maximum of 20 tonnes may be taken by all TIB licence holders with a beche-de-mer entry combined, commencing on **30 April 2021** and ending on the **TAC Date**. The **TAC Date** is the day that the PZJA or its delegate determines based on its reasonable belief that the TAC will be reached.
2. After the **TAC Date**, the TAC for black teatfish will revert to 0 tonnes and the fishery will close.

Fish landed to a licenced Fish Receiver within the same day that it is taken

3. You must land all catches of black teatfish taken to a holder of a fish receiver licence within the same day that it is taken.