



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 9 May 2022.

On 11 February 2022, the PZJA agreed to another trial opening of the fishery for black teatfish on 9 May 2022 subject to a 20 tonnes Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and requirement of daily landing and daily reporting of catch through the mandatory fish receiver system. The PZJA has set the commencement date for the opening to be 9 May 2022 and ending on the **TAC Date**. The **TAC Date** is the day that the PZJA or its delegate determines as the last day of fishing based on its reasonable belief that the TAC will be reached, in order to avoid an overcatch of the TAC.

Please note that black teatfish is listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and is subject to a 20 tonnes catch and export limit imposed through the Wildlife Trade Operation approval for the fishery. An overcatch of the TAC would therefore have significant implications on the ability to export the species and, potentially, on future openings of the fishery.

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) tonne 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 9 May 2022 and ending on the **TAC Date**. The **TAC Date** is the day that the PZJA or its delegate determines as the last day of fishing based on its reasonable belief that the TAC will be reached, in order to avoid an overcatch of the TAC.
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.



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

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

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Danait Ghebrezgabhier, A/g Manager, 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'.

19 April 2022

Anna Willock

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, PZJA Delegate

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

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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 9 May 2022.

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 **9 May 2022** and ending on the **TAC Date**. The **TAC Date** is the day that the PZJA or its delegate determines as the last day of fishing based on its reasonable belief that the TAC will be reached, in order to avoid an overcatch of the TAC.

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.