



6 September 2021

Dear Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery licence holder

Management Arrangements for the 2021-22 Fishing Season

The 2021-22 fishing season for the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery (TRL Fishery) will commence on 1 December 2021. This letter details some key management arrangements that will apply this season.

Total Allowable Catch

On 31 August 2021, Senator the Hon. Jonathon Duniam determined a total allowable catch (TAC) of 200,000 kilograms of tropical rock lobster (TRL) in the Australian waters of the TRL Fishery for the 2021-22 fishing season. This TAC was agreed by the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) at its meeting on 17 August 2021 and will apply for the fishing season commencing on 1 December 2021. It is expected that the TAC will be increased once the outcomes of the scientific assessment processes and the catch sharing arrangements under the Torres Strait Treaty between Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) have been considered. Any increase in the TAC is expected to be determined by the end of February 2022.

Under this TAC, the value of each quota unit and available catch for each TRL Fishery sector is outlined in the table below. All weights are provided in unprocessed weight in kilograms.

TRL Fishery Sector	TAC (kilograms)	Number of quota units	Value of each quota unit (kilograms)	Available catch per sector (kilograms)
Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) licence holders	200,000	662,016*	0.200000	132,403.597
Transferrable Vessel Holder (TVH) licence holders		337,981		67,596.403

* Held by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)

A further explanation of how TACs are determined for the TRL Fishery, how catch is shared between Australia and PNG, and how each sector's catches will be managed for the 2021-22 fishing season, is provided in the enclosed TRL Management Arrangements Booklet 2021-22.

Moontide Hookah Closures

For the purpose of subsection 13(2) of the *Torres Strait Fisheries (Tropical Rock Lobster) Management Instrument 2018*, I provide notice that the use, possession or control, on a boat, of hookah gear to take, process or carry TRL will not be permitted during the 2021-22 fishing season during the moontide hookah closure periods shown in the calendar provided in **Enclosure A** to this letter. The first scheduled moontide hookah closure period starts on 1 February 2022.

These moontide hookah closures are in addition to the hookah closure period from 1 December and 31 January each fishing season. Free-diving, lamp fishing and traditional fishing are permitted during all hookah closure periods.

Review of management controls

Since the introduction of quota management in the TRL Fishery, TRL licence holders have expressed a desire to see a review of management controls currently applied to the Fishery. A review is now being progressed through the TRL Working Group and on 26-27 July 2021, AFMA convened a TRL industry workshop with a broader group of industry stakeholders to seek additional industry views on a suite of proposals to change certain management controls in the Fishery. The proposals that were discussed were originally tabled by TRL Working Group Industry members in December 2020. A copy of the final industry workshop summary report is provided in **Enclosure B**. The outcomes of the Industry workshop and next steps for progressing the review will be discussed during the next round of AFMA community visits in early 2022.

Should you have any questions concerning the matters covered in this letter, please contact the AFMA Thursday Island office on 07 4069 1990 or FisheriesTI@afma.gov.au. If you would also like to receive future management updates by email or SMS please contact the AFMA Thursday Island office to update your contact details.

Yours sincerely



Wez Norris

Chief Executive Officer

Enclosures

- A TRL Fishery moontide hookah closure calendar for the 2021-22 fishing season
- B Summary report and outcomes from the TRL Industry Workshop on reviewing management controls