



05 February 2021

Dear Torres Strait Finfish Fishery Licence Holder,

Fishery licence catch limits for 2021-22 season

I am writing to advise you of the agreed Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limits for commercial fishing in the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery (the Fishery) for the 2021-22 season.

At its 28 January 2021 meeting the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) agreed that the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery Spanish mackerel TAC will be 74 tonnes and the coral trout TAC will remain unchanged at 135 tonnes for the 2021-22 fishing season, which commences on 1 July 2021.

In making its decision the PZJA considered advice from both the Finfish Resource Assessment Group (FFRAG) and Finfish Working Group (FFWG). Meeting records of the FFRAG and FFWG are available on the PZJA website (www.pzja.gov.au).

Spanish mackerel is a species for which catch-sharing arrangements are agreed with Papua New Guinea (PNG) under the Torres Strait Treaty. On 26 November 2020 AFMA and the PNG National Fisheries Authority met and agreed that no catch sharing arrangements for Spanish mackerel for 2021 (or for the prawn or pearl shell fisheries) would be made for the 2021-22 fishing season.

Access to the Fishery is reserved for Traditional Inhabitants who hold a Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) licence and fishers that lease annual sunset licences (the sunset sector) from the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA). Sunset licences may be held by non-traditional inhabitants and allow for a certain amount of catch to be taken. TSRA lease sunset licences and catch allowances on behalf of Traditional Inhabitants. The leasing process for 2021-22 is expected to be completed before the start of the 2021-22 fishing season. AFMA will further advise licence holders on the outcomes of this leasing process including the number of sunset licences issued and total catch leased to these licences.

AFMA will provide catch watch reports throughout the season to advise licence holders on reported catches against the TACs.

Please note that all catch taken in the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery must be weighed and recorded by a licenced fish receiver at the first point of landing. A list of licenced fish receivers who can receive your catch is available on the public register of concession holders available from the PZJA website (<https://www.pzja.gov.au/notices-and-announcements/notices-and-announcements/torres-strait-licence-register-now-available>). The public register also contains details of all commercially licenced fishers in Torres Strait including sunset licence holders.

Canberra
PO Box 7051
Canberra Business Centre 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

If you would like further information about the recommended commercial catch limits or any other matter relating to the Finfish Fishery please do not hesitate to contact the AFMA Office on Thursday Island on (07) 4069 1990.

Yours sincerely,



Selina Stoute
Senior Manager
Torres Strait Fisheries

Canberra

PO Box 7051
Canberra Business Centre 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