



TRADITIONAL INHABITANT BOAT (TIB) LICENCE

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a TIB licence?

A traditional inhabitant boat (TIB) licence is a commercial fishing licence that allows a verified traditional inhabitant to catch fish commercially from a boat within the Torres Strait Protected Zone and outside but near areas. Commercial fishing means you will be selling the fish you catch. You do not need a commercial fishing licence for traditional fishing.

How do I get a TIB licence?

Before you apply for a TIB licence for the first time, you must provide a completed Traditional Inhabitant Identification Form (ID form) to AFMA to verify your traditional inhabitant status. The ID form must be signed by a relevant Councillor and Mayor of the same Council. Additional information to support verification of your traditional inhabitant status as defined under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*, *Torres Strait Treaty* and decisions of the PZJA may also be required.

Traditional inhabitants may apply for a TIB licence by completing an “*Application for Grant or Variation of a Traditional Inhabitant Fishing Boat Licence*” form. Completed forms must be submitted to AFMA who will issue the licence to eligible applicants on behalf of the PZJA.

How much does a TIB licence cost?

The base fee for a TIB licence is \$100. On top of this, there is a fee per fishery entry (e.g. tropical rock lobster or beche-de-mer) which is added to the base fee. The fee per fishery entry is determined by the size of your boat – see below. A TIB licence is valid for 12 months.

Boat Size	Fee per fishery entry
Up to 5.99m long	\$10
6m up to 9.9m long	\$20
10m up to 14.99m long	\$40
15m or longer	\$80

For example: a dinghy 5m long with fishery entries for tropical rock lobster, and Spanish mackerel would cost \$120 for 12 months.

How can I pay for my TIB licence?

Once a completed TIB Licence Application or renewal form has been submitted to AFMA, you can pay for your licence in a variety of ways:

- ✓ Over the phone by calling **1300 723 621** or **(02) 6225 5555**
- ✓ Cheque or money order in the mail
- ✓ Direct deposit into the AFMA bank account
- ✓ Fill in the credit card authorisation on the back of the form

Unfortunately, the AFMA Thursday Island Office cannot accept cash or process credit card payments on the spot.



How do I renew my TIB licence?

AFMA will notify you that your TIB licence is due to expire, one month before by sending you a renewal form in the mail. To renew, you must complete the renewal form, return it to AFMA and pay the relevant fee. You also need to confirm that you still live in the Protected Zone. You do not need to complete an ID form if you are simply renewing your TIB licence.

Can I change the fishery entries on my licence?

You can add or remove any fishery entries to or from your licence at any time by ticking the 'making an entry' box on the "Application for Grant or Variation of a Traditional Inhabitant Fishing Boat Licence" form. The fee for a new entry will depend on the size of your boat (see the table over the page).

Can I transfer my TIB licence over to another boat?

You can transfer a licence or from one boat to another owned by the same person at any time by ticking the 'variation' box on the *Application for Grant or Variation of a Traditional Inhabitant Fishing Boat Licence* form. There is a \$10 fee to transfer a licence to another boat owned by the same person.

Can I transfer my TIB licence to someone else?

TIB licences are transferable. This means that a licence may be temporarily (i.e. leased) or permanently transferred to another verified traditional inhabitant. Both the transferor and the transferee must sign an "Application for Temporary Transfer of a Fishing Boat Licence" form. If you are the new licence holder, you must also be the owner of the boat recorded on the licence.

What if someone else wants to use my boat?

Another person can use your boat however; if they want to use your boat to fish commercially, they will be doing so under your TIB licence. They must also be a verified traditional inhabitant. If they want to unload their commercial catch to a licenced fish receiver without you, they must be nominated as an authorised agent under your TIB licence.

What is an authorised agent?

An authorised agent is someone that you, as a TIB licence holder, can nominate to fill in and sign licensing and Catch Disposal Record (CDR) forms on your behalf. To nominate an authorised agent, both the TIB licence holder and the person to be nominated as an agent must complete and sign an Authorised Agent Nomination (RA) form. There is no fee for nominating authorised agents.

For all licensing queries, contact AFMA

Thursday Island Office		AFMA Licensing	
Phone:	(07) 4069 1990	Phone	1300 723 621
Email:	tistaff@afma.gov.au	Phone:	(02) 6225 5555
Website:	www.pzja.gov.au/licences	Email:	licensing@afma.gov.au

Last updated September 2020