



Ref: NT 2025-01

06 January 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Comment on a proposed management action in line with section 24HA(7) of the *Native Title Act 1993***

I am writing to you as the Secretariat of the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) regarding the proposed management action to introduce a new licence condition for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery from the 2025 Fishing season. Further details of the proposed action can be found in **Attachments A-B - Class Notification under the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993***.

Under section 24HA(7), the PZJA must give the recipient of this notice an opportunity to comment on the action within a period defined by this notice. Please provide any comments on the proposed management action **by 5 February 2025**, in writing, to the addressee below:

Australian Fisheries Management Authority  
Att: Lisa Cocking  
PZJA Secretariat  
PO Box 7051  
Canberra Business Centre  
CANBERRA ACT 2610  
Email: [lisa.cocking@afma.gov.au](mailto:lisa.cocking@afma.gov.au)

Please contact me by phone on 02 6225 5555 or email [lisa.cocking@afma.gov.au](mailto:lisa.cocking@afma.gov.au) if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Cocking  
Senior Management Officer, Torres Strait Prawn Fishery  
AFMA

**Attachments**

A-B Notification under the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993*.

## Class Notification under the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*

### Licence condition variation for Torres Strait licences

Date of Issue: 16 January 2025

<b>SECTION OF NTA</b>	Subsection 24HA(2) of the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth).
<b>DEPARTMENT/AGENCY</b>	Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) on behalf of the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA).
<b>CONTACT NAME</b>	Lisa Cocking
<b>E-MAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:lisa.cocking@afma.gov.au">lisa.cocking@afma.gov.au</a>
<b>TELEPHONE NO.</b>	02 6225 5451
<b>REFERENCE NO.</b>	NT2025-01 – Torres Strait Prawn Fishery licence condition variation.

The Protected Zone Joint Authority intends to do the following act:

<b>TYPE OF APPROVAL</b>	Variation of licence conditions applicable to commercial fishing in the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery within the Protected Zone and adjacent waters.
<b>NUMBER OF APPROVALS</b>	All fishing boat licences within the Torres Strait Prawn fishery (60 licences).
<b>UNDER WHAT ACT</b>	The <i>Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984</i> (the Act).

The approvals, if granted, will permit the following activity to happen:

<b>NATURE OF ACTIVITY</b>	<p>Under subsection 22(1) of the Act a licence granted under section 19 is subject to conditions specified on the licence. Subsection 22(2) allows the Minister (or a delegate) to vary or revoke the conditions of the licence or specify further conditions to which the licence is subject to.</p> <p>The proposed management action would vary the licence conditions for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery licence holders. The only change is to clarify that licence holders can only fish for species they are authorised to fish for as indicated by the symbols noted on their licence. This change was implemented for all other Torres Strait fisheries in late 2022.</p> <p>Further information on the proposed management action is provided in <b>Attachment B</b>.</p>
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The above activity will be located within:

<b>LOCATION OF ACTIVITY</b>	The proposed management action would apply to the area of the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery, as described in Item 6, Schedule 2 to the <i>Torres Strait Fisheries Regulations 1985</i> (the Regulations). The Regulations can be accessed online at: <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016C00633">https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016C00633</a> .
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<b>MAPS/PLANS</b>	<b>Attachment C</b> shows the area of the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery, as described in Item 6, of schedule 2 of the <i>Torres Strait Fisheries Regulations 1985</i> .
<b>NAME OF REGISTERED NATIVE TITLE CLAIMANT GROUP/S</b> <b>NAME OF REGISTERED NATIVE TITLE BODY CORPORATE</b>	Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation Kaurareg People #1 Kaurareg People #2 Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC Malu Lamar (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation RNTBC Seven Rivers Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC Gudang Yadhaykenu Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC Badu Ar Mua Migi Lagal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC Malu Lamar (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation RNTBC Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC Northern Cape and Torres Strait United Indigenous Corporation RNTBC
<b>NAME OF NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY</b>	Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council

If approved, after consideration of all comments, the management action will be implemented for the following period of time:

<b>DURATION OF APPROVAL</b>	Applicable from 10 February 2025 onwards
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**You are invited to comment upon the class of proposed future act outlined above by close of business Wednesday 5 February 2025. If you would like to extend the response period, please contact AFMA by 28 January 2025.**

Any comments must be **in writing** to:

By mail addressed to:

Australian Fisheries Management Authority  
Att: Lisa Cocking  
PO Box 7051  
Canberra BC  
CANBERRA ACT 2610

Or by email to: [lisa.cocking@afma.gov.au](mailto:lisa.cocking@afma.gov.au)

### **Background Information**

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) provides licensing functions on behalf of the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA). The licences that AFMA issues are subject to conditions under section 22 of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*. Current licence conditions have been developed over many years and therefore it is appropriate that AFMA periodically review the management arrangements and licence conditions that apply to a fishery to ensure they are fit for purpose, meet the legislative objectives of the fishery, achieve the policy intent and remain enforceable.

AFMA proposes to vary one licence condition applicable to the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery, to clarify that licence holders can only take, process or carry species they are authorised to as indicated by the symbols noted on their licence.

The varied condition is expected to help ensure that all requirements of a licence are clear to TSPF licence holders. This condition was introduced for all other Torres Strait fisheries and licence holders (including Traditional Inhabitant Boat Licence and IB and carrier boat licences) in late 2022. Further consultation was required with the TSPF before bringing the same licence condition into this fishery.

#### ***What are the proposed condition changes?***

This condition change seeks to clarify that a licence holder can only take, process or carry certain fish in a certain area of fishery waters (as indicated by a fishery symbol on the licence e.g. PR for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery). Licence holders should already be familiar with what the fishery symbols on their licences mean. This condition variation merely provides greater clarity and seeks to remove any possible ambiguity in language.

#### ***What impact will the conditions have on Traditional Inhabitants?***

This change will not directly affect Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) licence holders, as there are no TIB licences with TSPF PR symbols.

# Attachment C

## Torres Strait Prawn Fishery and Closures

