

Indigenous fishing bulletin



NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE TRIBUNAL INDIGENOUS FISHING BULLETIN

JANUARY 2009

Indigenous fishing in the news

January 2009

NT: Tiwi Land Council to regulate access to waterways 10/01/09

The waterways around the Tiwi Islands north of Darwin will be the first to be regulated by traditional owners in the wake of the Blue Mud Bay ruling in July last year.

Tiwi Land Council executive manager Andrew Tipungwuti said the Tiwis will implement their own management plans by August.

“The Land Council feels it’s now time to take responsibility for our own waterways and come up with a management strategy with advice and comment from the relevant parties of the commercial industry and the recreational fishers.”

“For the NT Government to go out and negotiate with all the adjacent communities and the traditional owners, it’s going to take a long haul and I don’t think it’s going to take 12 months. To be honest it’ll probably take two to three years.”

Mr Tipungwuti said that commercial and recreational fishermen will still be able to apply for access.

Sources:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/01/07/2461115.htm?site=indigenous&topic=latest>

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24881996-5006790,00.html>

Further reading: The Weekend Australian, p10 10/01/2009

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Welcome to the National Native Title Tribunal's fishing bulletin.

The Tribunal invites all subscribers to submit any relevant fishing news or useful web links to fishing@nntt.gov.au. We will contact you about including your submission in the next edition of the bulletin.

Please pass the bulletin on to people you think might be interested. If you have received the bulletin from a friend or colleague and would like to subscribe, please visit our [subscription centre](#) and follow the instructions.

The bulletin is a collation of documents taken from the media and from other sources. It does not contain information provided by the National Native Title Tribunal, unless indicated.

December 2008

QLD: Tourists view turtle hunt 13/12/08

Tourism operators in the Great Barrier Reef are concerned by allegations that turtles were killed by Indigenous hunters in front of tourists at Low Isles near Port Douglas.

A spokeswoman from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park said that as long as the traditional hunters were from the area, it was not against the law to take marine animals.

“Under the Native Title Act they are allowed to hunt what are generally protected species.”

“It has been an ongoing issue in places like the Low Isles,” she said.

Source: The Weekend Post, p9 13/12/08

November 2008

NT: Extension to fishing arrangements in Aboriginal waters 27/11/08

Commercial and recreational fishing arrangements in the Northern Territory affected by the Blue Mud Bay decision will continue until the end of 2009.

A High Court ruling over Blue Mud Bay in July last year returned control of coastal waters along 80 per cent of the Northern Territory’s coastline to the traditional Indigenous owners.

The Northern Land Council extended the interim licensing and permit system that was due to expire in July 2009.

Chris Makepeace from the Amateur Fishermen’s Association said his group would pursue long term access through a permit system beneficial to all parties.

“What we’re looking towards is a win-win situation with Indigenous water owners where we’re able to access particular areas where you need land access and they will be able to benefit from payments for that land access and perhaps from running individual enterprises in those areas which support recreational fishing.”

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/11/27/2431042.htm>

November 2008

QLD: Ngaro People to claim Native Title over marina location 04/11/08

The Ngaro People who claim to be the traditional landowners of the Whitsunday islands plan to make a Native Title claim to prevent the construction of a marina in Shute Harbour, Queensland.

Ngaro Elder Irene Butterworth said she was angry at being left out of discussions on the development and would discuss submitting a Native Title Claim over the area with the North Queensland Land Council.

In an Environmental Impact Statement released by Shute Harbour Marina Development, it was stated that the developers had the “proven support of the traditional owners” and had signed a Cultural Heritage Management Plan with them.

Ms Butterworth said that the people who signed the agreement with the developers were not in her opinion the traditional owners of the area in question.

“We are not against the development but with this we have been left out of the equation,” Ms Butterworth said.

Sources: Daily Mercury, p7 04/11/08
Morning Bulletin, p8 04/11/08

October 2008

QLD: Indigenous hunters to create fishing lobby group 28/10/08

A group of Indigenous hunters from Southern Queensland have formed a working group to set up a state lobby group.

The decision was made at a meeting in Bundaberg to resist a State Government extension of fishing restrictions to include traditional fishing at 14 sites in Queensland.

Gubi Gubi elder Anthony Beezley said the group was not exclusively comprised of traditional owners.

“We’re just calling it a hunters and gathers group, with the view of hopefully linking up the other communities up and down the coast to see what they wish to offer with regards to negotiations and discussions with the legislation as it sits now,” he said.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/28/2403065.htm?site=indigenous&topic=latest>

October 2008

QLD: Indigenous fishing laws amended in Fisheries Act 07/10/08

Changes to Queensland’s Fisheries Act concerning traditional Indigenous fishing practices came into effect on 6 October last year.

The new regulations were passed to ensure that traditional and customary fishing can only be conducted for personal, domestic and non commercial communal purposes.

The Queensland Government made the changes after consultation with traditional owner groups, individuals and Land Councils at State and National level.

Primary Industries and Fisheries Minister Tim Mulherin said: “The changes strike a balance between protecting fish stocks and breeding areas for future generations and recognising the significance of fishing to our Indigenous communities.”

“While the vast majority of Indigenous people do the right thing a small number of individuals have exploited the system.”

Source: <http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=60668>

Other useful links

Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority: <http://www.afma.gov.au/>

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/>

Australian Institute of Marine Science: <http://www.aims.gov.au/>

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry: <http://www.daff.gov.au/>

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts: <http://www.environment.gov.au/>

Indigenous Business Australia: <http://www.iba.gov.au/>

National Native Title Tribunal: <http://www.nntt.gov.au/>

Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority: <http://www.pzja.gov.au/>

Wet Tropics World Heritage Area: <http://wettropics.gov.au/>

State and Territory Government

Department of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia: <http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/home>

Department of Primary Industries and Water Tasmania:

<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Home/1?Open>

Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries:

http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xsl/home_ENA_HTML.htm

Northern Territory Fisheries: <http://www.fisheries.nt.gov.au/>

NSW Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries: <http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/>

Victoria Department of Primary Industries: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/index.htm>

WA Department of Fisheries: <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/>

Native Title Representative Bodies

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement: <http://www.alrm.org.au/>

Cape York Land Council: <http://www.cylc.org.au/>

Central Land Council: <http://www.clc.org.au/>

Goldfields Land and Sea Council: <http://www.glc.com.au/>

Queensland South Native Title Services: <http://www.qsnts.com.au/>

Kimberley Land Council: <http://www.klc.org.au/>

Native Title Representative Bodies: <http://www.ntrb.net/>

Native Title Services Victoria: <http://www.nts.vic.gov.au/>

Northern Land Council: <http://www.nlc.org.au/>

South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council: <http://www.noongar.org.au/>

Online publications

Hi ika - Indigenous fisheries magazine issued in New Zealand: <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Publications/Hi+Ika+newsletter/default.htm>

Kantri Laif (coun-try li-fe) - twice-yearly newsletter produced by NAILSMA:
http://savanna.ntu.edu.au/publications/kantri_laif.html

CRC Reef Newsletter: <http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/news/>

Education

Australian Maritime College: <http://www.amc.edu.au/>

Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (ANU): <http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/index.php>

Desert Knowledge: <http://www.desertknowledge.com.au/>

Marine Education Society of Australasia: <http://www.mesa.edu.au/>

Reef Ed: <http://www.reefed.edu.au/>

Torres News: <http://www.torresnews.com.au/>

International

Fisheries and Oceans Canada: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/index-eng.htm>

New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries: <http://www.fish.govt.nz/>

