



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.

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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.

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Indigenous fishing in the news

August 2007

WA: Traditional Owners not consulted about reef blast 23/08/2007

The Yamatji Land and Sea Council have spoken out against the Department for Planning and Infrastructure's lack of consultation with traditional owners about plans to blast a reef at the mouth of the Murchison River.

Plans to blast the reef, which holds sacred significance for the Nhanda people, were put in place to create a wider channel for fishermen and tourist charter boats.

However, the plans have been put on hold because the project has proved too costly.

"The drill and blast option is expensive so we are exploring alternatives," a DPI spokesman said.

Sources: *Mid-West Times* p 5, 23 August 2007

QLD: Agreement to protect turtle and dugong populations 14/08/2007

Acting State Environment Minister, Rod Welford has welcomed the re-signing of an agreement which will protect the turtle and dugong populations in the Pine River Management Area, north of Weipa in Queensland.

Mr Welford said traditional owners, Angumathimaree Paynerenhnama, had re-endorsed an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency which prohibited the taking of turtle and dugong except by those people recognised as traditional owners in the area.

Source: *The Western Cape Bulletin*, 14 August 2007

NT: Permit warnings for recreational fishermen 05/08/2007

A warning will be given to recreational fishermen who are caught throwing a line in Aboriginal waters without a permit.

New laws recently came into effect requiring people to apply to the Northern Land Council for a permit to fish recreationally in around 80 per cent of the Northern Territory's coastline.

Territory Police Media Manager, Hayley Dwyer said a failure to have a permit will mean that the person concerned is trespassing on Aboriginal land and committing an offence under section four of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

"The permits are, in effect, permission under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act to go to certain places on Aboriginal land, the intertidal zones and rivers where the riverbed is Aboriginal land," she said.

Source: *Sunday Territorian*, p2, 5 August 2007.

July 2007

QLD: Torres Strait turtle and dugong project 25/07/2007

Eight Torres Strait Island communities will be working on a turtle and dugong project to develop community based management plans.

The project gives these communities opportunities to determine management needs and actions for dugong and turtle in their traditional sea country.

Under the project, Badu, Mabuiag, Iama, Boigu, Erub, Mer and Ngurupai Islands currently employ officers to assist their communities to develop plans to assist catch monitoring.

Among other things, the plan identifies the need for specific butchering facilities and training.

"My people are concerned about the depletion of dugong and turtle stocks as well as hunter safety with more new hunters not knowing what they are doing," Project Officer, Horace Nona said.

He said the Badu community especially felt there was a need for the management plan because dugong and turtle were culturally significant to the people of Badu and Mabuiag.

Source: *Torres News*, p24, 25 -31 July 2007

NT: Fisherman beer privileges backed by NT Government 24/07/2007

The Federal Government's planned alcohol bans in the Northern Territory could prevent fishermen from having a beer on rivers adjoining Aboriginal land. Territory Licensing Minister Chris Burns was disappointed when he received advice that rivers would be affected by the bans. He and Chief Minister Clare Martin have faxed a letter to the Prime Minister on the issue.

"We want to stand up for the rights of Territorians, particularly when it comes to fishing," Mr Burns said.

Source: *ABC Message Stick*, 24 July 2007

NATIONAL: Sea-Net Salvagers receive Environmental Honours

The Carpentaria Ghost Net Program has been nominated for two Banksia Awards. "The Banksia Awards is recognised as one of the most prestigious environmental awards in Australia," Carpentaria Ghost Net Program Coordinator, Riki Gunn said. Sea rangers and volunteers from 18 different Indigenous communities throughout Queensland and the Northern Territory participate in the program, which is dedicated to cleaning up discarded sea nets from local shores.

Source: *ABC Message Stick*, 20 July 2007

NATIONAL: New database helps share maritime history 09/07/2007

Australia's first online database showing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connections to the Great Barrier Reef was launched on 9 July 2007 as part of NAIDOC Week.

Story Place is the name of the database, which contains around 1000 annotated references on books, reports and electronic resources produced on topics relevant to Traditional Owner groups over the last 100 years.

The database was developed by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) as references on the connection Indigenous groups have to the Great Barrier Reef.

GBRMPA Chairman Virginia Chadwick said the resource celebrated how Traditional Owners used their sea country.

"The aim is to share information and knowledge about Traditional Owners and their relationships with land and sea country in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park," she said.

Source: www.gbrmpa.gov.au

June 2007

NT: Northern Territory Seafood Industry Awards 2007 09/06/2007

The Anindilyakwa Sea Rangers won the 2007 Northern Territory Seafood Industry Environment Award.

Their work patrolling the water around Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island for marine debris and illegal fishing earned them the award.

Since they began this work in 1997 they have also made major contributions to the collection of discarded fishing nets (ghost nets) and the recording of relevant data. Through this data they have found that the majority of marine debris comes from foreign fishing vessels.

The Anindilyakwa Sea Rangers will go on to represent the Territory in the National Seafood Industry Awards to be held on 1 November 2007 in Hobart.

Source: www.ntsc.com.au

Issues in brief

New WA Regional Coordinator for MCCN

Kate Rogulskyj is the new WA Regional Coordinator for the Marine and Coastal Community Network.

As well as settling into the WA office and distributing MCCN's monthly State E-Bulletins, she said she was in the process of developing strategies to help build community, industry and government support for the conservation of marine biodiversity.

Source: www.mccn.org.au

Seafood Directions conference 2007

This year's Seafood Directions conference will be held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart from 31 October to 2 November.

An Indigenous Address has been scheduled for 8.30am on Wednesday 31 October as part of the conference opening.

Tribunal Member, Bardy McFarlane will also be speaking in a session regarding Co-Management on Wednesday 31 October from 11am to 11.20am and again from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

The provisional program can be viewed at this link:

http://www.cdesign.com.au/seafooddirections/pages/pdf_provisional_program.pdf

Other useful links

Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority: <http://www.afma/default.php>

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.dpie.gov.au/>

Department of Environment and Heritage: <http://www.deh.gov.au/index.html>

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation: <http://www.frdc.com.au/index.htm>

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority: <http://www.gbmpa.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/>

Torres Strait Regional Authority: <http://www.tsra.gov.au/www/index.cfm>

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/index.shtml>

Department of Primary Industries Tasmania:

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

Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries:

<http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/home/default.html>

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.ntsv.com.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/customary/hi_ika/

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>

Centre for Indigenous Natural and Cultural Resource Management:

<http://www.ntu.edu.au/cincrm/>

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

James Cook University Native Title Studies Centre:

<http://www.jcu.edu.au/app/law/ntsc/index.cfm>

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

Reef Ed: http://www.reefed.edu.au/explorer/traditional_owners/index.html

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

International

Fisheries and Oceans Canada: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/home-accueil_e.htm

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