



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 any people that you think might be interested. If you have received the bulletin from a friend or colleague and would like to subscribe, please send your name, organisation and email address to fishing@nntt.gov.au. If you would like to unsubscribe please send an email to fishing@nntt.gov.au with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

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Indigenous fishing in the news

March 2007

NT: Native title appeal decision handed down over Blue Mud Bay 03/03/2007

Traditional owners have had their exclusive native title rights recognised over the inter-tidal zones of Blue Mud Bay on the coast of the Northern Territory.

The decision will affect commercial licences for barramundi, mud crab and trepang fishing.

However, members of the Barramundi Licensee Committee feel confident negotiations will allow for agreements to be made between traditional owners and commercial licensees.

The Northern Territory Government announced that it would appeal this decision to the High Court.

Sources: Townsville Bulletin p 10 03/03/2007 general news, Adelaide Advertiser p7 03/03/2007 editorial changes, Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin p2 03/03/2007 general news, Illawarra Mercury p8 03/03/2007 general news, Border Mail p29 03/03/2007 general news, Weekend Australian 03/03/2007 general news, <http://abc.net.au/news/items/200703/1862234.htm?nt>

NATIONAL: March deadline for MCCN's Waves magazine.

The deadline for the Marine and Coastal Community Network's (MCCN) *Waves* magazine is Monday 26 March 2007.

MCCN is seeking marine and coastal material with an Indigenous focus. Article copy should be from 400 to 800 words in length. Accompanying graphics and photos are also welcome.

Select, limited advertising in the magazine is also available.

Please email nat-off@mccn.org.au or call 1800 815 332 to submit an article or receive a media kit and advertising rates card.

February 2007

QLD: Concerns raised regarding traditional fishing techniques in Rockhampton area 28/02/2007

Concerns have been raised by Aboriginal elders that certain fishing rights granted to Indigenous groups under last year's Yasso court ruling have been abused.

The ruling states that Indigenous people can catch fish by using traditional methods. However, according to Darumbal elder, Lester Adams, some member of the Indigenous community are abusing the system by using oversized nets.

Mr Adams said these people were 'raping' Fitzroy River and surrounding creeks and causeways.

"From a traditional owner's point of view, what is happening is disrespectful," he said.
"Maybe there needs to be amendments made to the Native Title law so only Darumbal people can fish this way."

Source: Morning Bulletin 28/02/2007p6 general news, p20 editorials. Also reported on 4RO Radio Rockhampton Fishing Program 09/02/2007 6am

SA: Fishers meet in Port Lincoln to discuss native title issues 20/02/2007

Commercial fishers met in Port Lincoln to discuss native title matters affecting commercial fishers and the aquaculture industry on 19 February this year.

Such matters are topical within the fishing and aquaculture industry around Port Lincoln as industry stakeholders, the Nauo and Barngarla people and the State Government have been negotiating native title along the coast and waters from Elliston to 10 kilometres north of Cowell.

Source: Port Lincoln Times 22/02/2007 p9 general news

NT: A new executive director for the Northern Territory fisheries 13/02/2007

Heather Brayford took up the position of Executive Director of Fisheries in the Northern Territory on 12 February this year.

Ms Brayford has made a name for herself with 21 years' experience in the WA Department of Fisheries, which she was a senior officer.

She was involved in the development, implementation and review of several fisheries management plans in WA, including pearling and aquaculture and was recently Manager Strategic Planning and Policy at the WA department.

"I am looking forward particularly to working in the Indigenous economic development area," she said.

Source: http://www.nt.gov.au/dpifm/Fisheries/news_media_archive_article.cfm?newsid=191&ws=1

NSW: Agreement signed over Stockton Bight 10/02/2007

An agreement signed between the New South Wales government and the Worimi people will allow joint management of 4000-hectares of Crown Land in Stockton Bight.

The area will be managed by a board comprising Aboriginal owners, Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Port Stephens Council representatives.

The State Government committed a funding package of \$5 million over the next three years to support the co-management program.

Under the agreement the general public will still be able to use the area for popular activities such as four-wheel-driving, fishing and walking dogs.

Source: Newcastle Herald 10/02/2007 p11 general news and Koori Mail p33 28/02/2007 general news.

QLD: Stage three of Major Infrastructure Program benefits Torres Strait community 05/02/2007

An assessment of the Torres Strait's Major Infrastructure Program has shown that it has improved the standard of community facilities and environmental health in remote communities.

The program, which is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments via the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (DLGPS&R), has delivered over 33 projects including water services, reticulated sewerage systems, subdivisions and essential services since its inception nine years ago.

A private firm, Stamfords Advisors and Consultants, reviewed the program towards the end of last year. The consultants' report identified that a major strength of the program was that it was delivered through the TSRA, which provided linkages at a community level. It has also provided a better understanding of the needs and issues of island communities.

Source: <http://www.tsra.gov.au/www/index.cfm?pageID=725>

January 2007

WA: Boost for coast protection scheme in the Kimberley 23/01/2007

Nearly \$200,000 in Western Australian Government funding will be given to a coastal protection program operated by traditional owners.

The Coastwest program allocates funds to the Saltwater Country Project, which preserves coastal sites near Indigenous communities.

Those involved in the project assess the impact of tourism and illegal fishing on wildlife, including the effects on trochus stocks on the Buccaneer Archipelago.

Local Member for the Kimberley, Carol Martin said the funding will primarily be used to develop protection plans.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200701/s1832130.htm>

QLD: Survey taken to better manage Torres Strait fisheries 15/01/2007

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resources Economics (ABARE) surveyed fishers from late January to early February this year to gain economic performance information about Indigenous commercial fisheries.

The bureau gathered information about catch, methods, income, locations of fishing operations and costs for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 financial years.

Surveys took place on Thursday Island, Badu Island, Yam Island, Murray Islands, Yorke Island and Darnley Island.

The results will be used to benefit commercial indigenous fishers in the Torres Strait by identifying ways they can achieve a higher profit, monitoring the economic performance to improve profits and analysing information to improve management of commercial Indigenous fishing.

Source: http://www.abareconomics.com/corporate/media/2007_releases/15jan_07.html

National: Government funding boost to the Indigenous Protected Area Program 09/01/2007

The Government will increase funding to the Indigenous Protected Area Program (IPA) after an independent evaluation hailed the program as the nation's most successful innovation in Indigenous conservation.

Through the decade long program, Indigenous people are paid as park rangers to care for the environment.

Federal Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Greg Hunt said the programs provide hands-on involvement of Indigenous communities.

"It's practical environmental work such as collecting driftnets off the beaches in the Gulf of Carpentaria, turtle and dugong recovery programs, species recovery, weed management, feral pig management, fire management – helping to prepare them, plan them, operate them," he said.

The evaluation found that due to the program 95 per cent of IPA communities reported economic benefits, 85 per cent reported improved early school engagement, 74 per cent reported a reduction in substance abuse, 74 per cent reported improved family relationships and 60 per cent reported positive outcomes for early childhood development.

Source: <http://www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/publications/ipa-evaluation.html>

See also: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,21030619-2702,00.html>
<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2007/s1823790.htm>

December 2006

QLD: Fishing resources reallocation plan revised in the Torres Strait 20/12/2007

A reallocation plan of fisheries resources in the Torres Strait will give Islanders greater access to opportunities in the industry.

The move has been welcomed by Torres Strait Regional Authority Chairman Mr Toshie Kris, who said the region's fisheries were the only primary resource that locals could use to build a strong economy as well as maintain their strong cultural and traditional seafaring links.

See <http://www.tsra.gov.au/www/index.cfm?pageID=722>

National: Gunboat to patrol Australia's northern fishing zone 11/12/2007

A patrol boat capable of detaining 30 illegal fishermen will begin patrolling Australia's northern fishing zone at the beginning of 2007.

The 98m trimaran will be armed with twin machineguns. It will be deployed in a 12-month trial costing \$17 million.

Source: West Australian, p4 general news 11/12/2006

See: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/recent-news/fishing-and-aquaculture/hunter-fishway>

QLD: Traditional owners plan to use entry fee to combat anti-social behaviour in Kalpower Station 08/12/2006

The traditional owners of Kalpower Station are drawing up plans to charge an entry fee in order to curb reoccurring destruction and anti-social behaviour on the property.

This means popular access areas to local fishing spots on the property will also be covered by the entry fee.

As part of the new control system, traditional owners will also replace fishing shacks with two designated camping sites.

Cape York Land Council Chairman Michael Ross said the entry fee system should be in place by the end of April to early May.

Source: Cairns Post, p4 general news 08/12/2007

SA: Indigenous Land Use Agreement negotiations concluded 07/12/2006

The fourth meeting between the Barnjarla and Nauo-Barnjarla native title claimants, the South Australian Fishing Industry Council, the Seafood Council of SA, the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement and the State Government concluded in Port Lincoln on 1 December 2006.

The aim of the meetings was to provide recognition of traditional fishing rights of the claimants over the Eyre Peninsula and if applicable, agreement on how to implement those rights.

Source: West Coast Sentinel p 3 general news 07/02/2006

Issues in brief

Australia and France sign illegal fishing treaty

Australia and France have signed a cooperative treaty to protect South Ocean fisheries resources.

The treaty signed in Paris by Australian Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, Senator Eric Abetz and French Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, M. Dominique Bussereau.

It applies in the exclusive economic zones of Australian and French Southern Ocean territories and formalises cooperative enforcement by joint patrols in this region against uillegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessels.

Source: <http://www.mffc.gov.au/releases/2007/07003a.html>

New regulations in force under New Zealand's Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act

Regulations under New Zealand's Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act came into force on 15 December 2006.

To read the regulations guide, use this link:

<http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Customary/Te+Arawa+Lakes/default.htm>

Seafood Directions conference 2007

The Tasmanian Fishing Industry will be holding this year's Seafood Directions conference at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart from 31 October to 2 November.

Project Officer, Shane Fava said the program had not been finalised yet and invited people to make comment on the provisional program.

The program can be viewed at this link:

<http://www.cdesign.com.au/seafooddirections/pages/program.pdf>

Canada modernises its fisheries act

Changes to Canada's 138-year Fisheries Act were tabled by Fisheries and Oceans Minister Loyola Hearn in December last year.

The new act will modernise the way fisheries are managed and improve conservation measures to ensure long-term sustainable fisheries for Canadian commercial, Aboriginal and recreational fishers.

Source: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/newsrel/2006/hq-ac46_e.htm

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.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/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/>