



Welcome to the National Native Title Tribunal's fishing 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

May 2007

NATIONAL: New environmental jobs for Indigenous Australians 08/05/2007

The Australian Government will provide \$47.6 million over the next four years to contract Indigenous Australians to deliver environmental services in remote and regional Australia, the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull, announced today.

"Indigenous Australians will be engaged through the new initiative to work on the Government's environment priorities – from protection of threatened species, control of feral pests and weeds and protection of wetlands and sea country, to conservation of national heritage sites," the minister said.

Sources: <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/env/2007/pubs/mr08may807.pdf>

WA: Indigenous patrol program helps stop illegal foreign fishing 02/05/2007

Efforts to combat illegal foreign fishing off Australia's northwest coast have been strengthened through an innovative patrol program involving the Bardi Jawi people and State and Federal agencies.

The Bardi Jawi pilot indigenous fisheries surveillance program is the first of three such initiatives being undertaken in Western Australia, the Northern Territory (Maningrida) and Queensland (Arakun).

In WA, the program is run by the Bardi Jawi People – the traditional landowners of this country in the Kimberley region," Senator Johnston said.

"Since the Australian Government stepped up its efforts to fight illegal foreign fishing last year, sightings and apprehensions in Australian waters have dramatically reduced," Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator David Johnston said.

Source: <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=446>

April 2007

NSW: Nambucca kids swap fishing stories 26/04/2007

A group of 30 Aboriginal students aged eight to 14 years, from the Nambucca Heads area, will be given the chance to swap fishing stories and learn about responsible fishing during a special fishing workshop on Tuesday 1 May 2007.

"This workshop will help ensure that recreational fishing remains a sustainable and enjoyable pastime in the future and also provide a great opportunity to share with the local Aboriginal community their knowledge of local cultural fishing and stories," Aboriginal Educator with NSW Department of Primary Industries, John Blair said.

Sources: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/recent-news/fishing-and-aquaculture/nambucca-kids-fish>

QLD: Indigenous groups have nothing to fear about Wild Rivers legislation 12/04/2007

Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Water, Craig Wallace said Indigenous communities in the Gulf of Cape York had nothing to fear from the Wild Rivers legislation and concerns it would prevent traditional owners from hunting and fishing were unfounded.

The legislation will declare the State's first six wild rivers - Settlement Creek, Morning Inlet, the Gregory River and Staaten River in the Gulf and rivers on Hinchinbrook and Fraser Islands.

The legislation and amendment bill will ensure any future development in these rivers preserves their unique natural values.

Cape York Land Council chairman Mike Ross said the legislation would, "stop economic development for Aboriginal people and cattlemen".

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/qld/content/2006/s1882886.htm>

<http://wildrivers.org.au/updates/australias-first-wild-rivers-protected-1/>

See also: *The Australian* 08/02/2007 page 6, *Protesters to swoop on Premier over river bill*

March 2007

NT: Blue Mud Bay appeal decision 03/2007

Traditional owners of Arnhem Land's Blue Mud Bay region have a stake in the local fishing industry because of a recent decision made by the Full Federal Court.

On 2 March 2007, in the Blue Mud Bay case, the Federal Court held on appeal that the licensing system under the Fisheries Act (NT) does not apply in tidal waters overlying Aboriginal freehold land under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

Chief Executive for the Northern Land Council, Norman Fry, said the decision gave the traditional owners an opportunity to work with the Northern Territory's fishing community.

"The traditional owners' aim is to become a stakeholder in the fishing industry and ensure that it prospers, not close down," he said.

The NT government is seeking leave to appeal to the High Court against the Full Federal Court's decision.

In the meantime, an interim agreement for fishing licence procedures has been reached between all native title parties.

See more: *Talking Native Title*, Issue No. 23, page six, *Traditional owners gain fishing controls over Blue Mud Bay*

http://www.nntt.gov.au/metacard/files/TNT23/TNT_24may07.pdf

See also: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200704/s1904843.htm>

Sources: <http://www.fishing.nt.gov.au/background/>

<http://www.nt.gov.au/dcm/ocm/media/index.cfm?fuseaction=viewRelease&id=2279&d=5>

QLD: Torres Strait ready for sponge farm 13/03/2007

If regulatory approval is received, a pilot sponge farm could be established in Torres Strait.

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), in collaboration with CRC Torres Strait, the Torres Strait Regional Authority, and the Yorke Island Community Council, has completed a two year study on the feasibility of and best practice methods for farming sponges at Masig (Yorke) Island.

"The community has been involved in this project every step of the way and there is a lot of support to develop a commercial operation," Yorke Island Community Council chairman, Don Mosby said.

Sources: <http://www.aims.gov.au/news/pages/media-release-20070313.html>

SA: New Fisheries Act for South Australia 18/03/2007

The South Australian Fisheries Management Act 2007 (replacing the Fisheries Act 1982) will commence from 1 September 2007.

A co-management approach will continue under this Act with the establishment of a new Fisheries Council to provide advice to the Minister on the management of fisheries for commercial use, recreational use or Aboriginal traditional fishing purposes.

Source: http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pages/fisheries/rec_fishing/new_fisheries_legislation.htm:sectID=266&tempID=1

Issues in brief

Annual Maori Fisheries Conference 2007

The second Annual Maori Fisheries Conference was held in Napier from 1 April to 3 April 2007. It was hosted by the Treaty Tribes Coalition to bring together all sectors of the fishing industry for discussion and debate about the future of Maori fishing interests, but also the changing nature of the fishing industry worldwide. This year's theme was "Kanohi ki te Kanohi" – Face to Face.

National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) Conference 2007

February 2007 update on the next NMEA conference in Portland, Maine. The conference dates are July 23 to 27, 2007 and the call for papers deadline is fast approaching. You only have until 1 March to submit a presentation.

Source: gommea.org/downeast2007/

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. An Indigenous Address has been scheduled for 8.30am on Wednesday 31 October this year.

The provisional program can be viewed at this link:

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

Canadian Fisheries and Oceans Minister invests \$50,000.00 to document offshore traditional ecological knowledge

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Loyola Hearn today announced a \$50,000 cooperative effort between Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW) union to document offshore Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Source: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/newsrel/2007/nl-tn14_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/>