

## Summary of proposed changes in the consultation paper

This paper summarises the proposed management changes in the draft management framework for the Coastal Line Fishery detailed within the document titled '*Consultation paper on a draft framework to manage the Coastal Line Fishery*'.

The draft framework is intended to form a fisheries Policy that contains all the necessary components required to manage the Coastal Line Fishery (CLF) in accordance with best practice national standards. It has been developed as part of a comprehensive review process based on advice provided by the Coastal Line Fishery Management Advisory Committee and the Coastal Line Advisory Group. In areas where advice was disparate and the groups could not reach consensus, the Department has included an option within the draft framework to facilitate stakeholder input

The points below highlight and provide reference to the proposed management changes detailed within the consultation paper:

- Recovery of costs from sectors that derive private benefit from administration of the fishery (p. 4).
- The implementation of long-term fishery goals to guide how the management of the CLF is carried out to the benefit of all resource users and the community (pp. 17-22).
- Establishment of management areas to improve management of Black Jewfish aggregations at Channel Point, Point Stuart (Sampan) and Mitchell Point (p. 26). These include annual commercial catch limits to reduce fishing pressure by CLF licences (p. 33).
- Establishment of a management area to provide spatial separation between amateur and commercial fishing sectors inside the Greater Darwin Region (p. 27).
- Establishment of a management area around the McArthur River and Vanderlin Islands to improve management of fish stocks in this heavily accessed area of the Eastern Zone (p. 28).
- An allocation of catch shares in the Western Zone and Eastern Zone to provide certainty regarding the distribution of resources between users groups (pp. 29-30).
- Establishment of a total allowable catch (TAC) for each management zone to control the amount of catch that can be sustainably taken each year by user groups (pp. 32-33). This includes an inshore and offshore TAC in the Eastern Zone to provide certainty and security for sectors regarding development within this zone.
- A Harvest Strategy to integrate monitoring and management of fish stocks and other ecological impacts into a single framework for decision making (p. 34-44). This includes:
  - Defining management regions and performance indicators to monitor fish stocks and other ecological impacts (pp. 25, 35-36);
  - Conducting annual stock assessments to monitor the biomass of Black Jewfish and Golden Snapper in the Greater Darwin Region and decision rules to manage stocks within sustainable levels that apply to all relevant user groups (p. 39);
  - Quarterly monitoring of Black Jewfish abundance at key aggregations (management areas) and decision rules to manage stocks within sustainable levels that apply to all relevant user groups (p. 40).
  - Annual analysis of total mortality of Grass Emperor and Stripey Snapper and decision rules to manage catch rates within sustainable levels that apply to all relevant user groups (pp. 40-41).
  - Quarterly monitoring of total catch within the Western, Arnhem and Gulf Regions and decision rules to manage catches within sustainable levels that apply to all relevant user groups (p. 41).

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- Bi-annual SAFE assessment to monitor the risk of overfishing of other reef fish species and decision rules to reduce risk ratings that apply to all relevant user groups (p. 42).
- An ecological risk assessment conducted every five years to monitor and manage the risk of fishing impact on by-catch, TEPS, habitat structure & function and ecological processes (pp. 42-43).
- A monitoring and research plan to utilise the best available assessment and monitoring tools to underpin the Harvest Strategy and to improve research and monitoring of key species (pp. 45-53). This includes designating the amount of observer coverage required to validate reported catch and effort data from CLF and FTO licences.
- A compliance plan to maximise voluntary compliance by all sectors with fisheries legislation and provide effective deterrence and strong enforcement to breaching fisheries legislation (pp. 54-56). This includes:
  - AFMA undertaking compliance for CLF licences on a fee for service arrangement (p. 55)
  - Annual compliance risk assessments to identify compliance risks in the fishery and enable the prioritisation and planning of compliance actions to mitigate the risks (p. 55).
  - The requirement for VMS to be installed on FTO vessels that target reef fish and have the capacity to carry more than seven persons (pp. 55-56).
  - Attributing the funding costs for compliance and monitoring of fishing activity (p. 56).
- An education plan to ensure key educational messages regarding reef fishing remain relevant and are being disseminated to target audiences (pp. 57-60).
- Establishment of an Advisory Group to provide advice regarding the performance of the fishery in accordance with the Framework (p. 61).
- Regulatory arrangements for the management of the fishery (pp. 62-71). Notable proposed changes include:
  - The implementation of individual transferable quota (ITQ) and minimum quota holdings for CLF licences in the Eastern Zone of the fishery (pp. 65).
  - The introduction of new reporting requirements for CLF licences operating in the Eastern Zone under the ITQ system (p. 64).
  - The introduction of a prior landing notice which replaces the existing pre-departure notice for CLF licences (p. 64).
  - The introduction of overcatch provisions for the individual transferable quota system in the both zones of the fishery (p. 66).
- The provision to undertake a review to determine whether the draft Framework should be amended, replaced, or reinstated without amendment, after 5 years or earlier if required (p. 72).