

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 6:04 PM  
**To:** HOWLETT Claire  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** URGENT CLEARANCE - FISHERIES BRIEFING FOR SNOWDEN [DLM=Sensitive:Legal]  
**Attachments:** Fisheries Briefing for Snowden.docx

This material contains information that may be subject to legal professional privilege.

Dear Claire

Please find attached brief for clearance.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Assistant Director  
Indian Ocean Territories Policy Section  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development  
GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

[REDACTED] w [www.infrastructure.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au)



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## Australian Government

### Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development

## PROPOSED CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS FISHERIES ORDINANCES

### **The need for the Fisheries Ordinances**

At present, Christmas Island (CI) and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) do not have island-specific restrictions for recreational fishing. While Western Australian (WA) Fisheries legislation is applied, it does not meet the needs of the islands. The Fisheries Division of the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (WA Fisheries) advises that the absence of island-specific restrictions has adversely impacted the local marine environment and that current levels of recreational fishing are not sustainable.

- WA Fisheries is responsible for fisheries management through a Service Delivery Arrangement with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development (the Department).

WA Fisheries recommends a conservative management approach as the marine habitat and associated fish stocks on the CKI and CI are limited, with relatively low species diversity and abundance. The islands' isolation and limited opportunities for stock recruitment from neighboring reef systems result in fish stocks being highly vulnerable to overexploitation. Overfishing may result in fish stocks' inability to reproduce and sustain a viable population.

- The majority of demersal fish stocks likely rely primarily on local recruitment. However, pelagic species (such as tuna and wahoo) are more resilient to fishing pressure as they are part of a larger mobile population of fish which move throughout the Indian Ocean. The permitted species are those with some resilience to fishing pressure.

WA Fisheries consulted extensively with local communities in the development of the new arrangements (refer **Attachment A**).

### **The Ordinances contain restrictions**

The absence of any on-island restrictions on recreational fishing in the long-term could result in the depletion of fish stocks and cause significant damage to the marine ecosystem. This would impact cultural and recreational enjoyment, and tourism. The proposed Ordinances address environmental concerns and place restrictions on recreational fishing by creating bag limits, identifying protected species, controlling the use of certain fishing gear and packaging practices, and restricting the export of fish from the islands.

### **Extensive consultation and the proposed exemptions**

WA Fisheries has worked extensively with the CI and the CKI communities from 2005 to 2018 to develop the proposed Ordinances. Consultation included visits to CI and CKI to meet with key stakeholders, host public meetings and disseminate

information. In consultation with the CKI community, cultural exemptions to the new arrangements were agreed.

- The first exemption permits Cocos Malay residents to fish over the bag limits to cater for significant religious commemorations such as Muhammad's birthday and Islamic New Year and community events such as weddings, births and funerals.
- The second exemption will allow designated Cocos Malay artisan fishers to sell recreationally caught fish. There is a long-standing historical reliance on fish on the CKI, including the sale of small quantities of recreationally caught fish within the community.
- Consultation with the CI community found that no cultural exemptions were required.
- A separate exemption relaxes the current total prohibition on coral trout to allow a bag limit of two per person per day for the CKI. The Ordinance provides that coral trout are 'totally protected fish' and may not be caught. This is due to the low historical numbers of coral trout on the CKI. However, WA Fisheries has recommended a daily bag limit of two coral trout per person as a sustainable limit that gives consideration to uncertainty around population size and resilience.
  - The bag limit for coral trout will be implemented via an Instrument of Exemption, rather than in the Ordinance, to enable a rapid response to any change in stock conditions.

### **Recent consultation on the Exposure Drafts**

Consistent with the requirements of the Senate Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances, the Department released the draft released Exposure Drafts of the *Christmas Island Applied Laws Amendment (Fish Resources Management) Ordinance 2019* and the *Cocos (Keeling) Islands Applied Laws Amendment (Fish Resources Management) Ordinance 2019* for public consultation (6 August 2019). The formal public consultation period ended on 1 September 2019.

The Department received 23 submissions from individuals and organisations.

- Many of the submissions support, or at least acknowledge, the need for sustainable fishing legislation.
- The Cocos Malay community provided a detailed submission. It is envisaged that the specific Cocos Malay exemptions will deal with many of its concerns.
- A community petition was also received from CI includes a proposal for a community fishing group to have stewardship over the island fish resources.
- Seven comments questioned the total prohibition on coral trout. The exemption allows two coral trout to be caught per person per day.
- A number of submissions requested the scientific data used to underpin the Ordinances' approach.
- Three university professors provided detailed comments on the Ordinances questioning the protection classification of rays and sharks.
- Other submissions agreed with the approach but suggested that: more species be allowed to be exported from the island; called for an increase in the total prohibited fishing area; and suggested that Government not be involved in the issue.

**Next steps**

The Department and WA Fisheries are holding information sessions on the CKI on 18 and 19 September 2019. All comments are being reviewed by the Department, with WA Fisheries providing expert advice. This review process will guide the implementation of the Ordinances.

17 September 2019



## Attachment A

Christmas Island	
Date	Consultation Method and audience
2004 - 2006	Initial assessment of recreational fishing practices on island and species at risk of over-exploitation
Apr-07	Release of Fisheries Management Paper 223 "A Sustainable future for fishing on Christmas Island - a draft 5 year strategy for managing commercial, recreational and Charter fishing"; open for public comment. Questionnaire provided for feedback submissions.
May-07	Public Meetings held at Malay Club, Poon Saan Club and Tourism Association to present the draft strategy and seek community feedback. Meetings held with key stakeholders including Shire President and staff, Shorefire (Commercial fisher and tackle store owner); Administrator, Dive Operator etc.
Jul-07	Meetings with Chinese Literary Association, Shire staff, commercial licence holders and Malay Club
Mar-08	Meetings with AFP to discuss fisheries compliance and consultation with Parks Australia
Apr-08	Presentation on fisheries management initiatives for the Territories at Indian Ocean Seabird Conference. Meetings with Shire president.
Aug-08	Public meetings and presentation on recreational fishing arrangements held at Recreation Centre. Meeting with Parks Australia.

Sep-08	Meeting with Shire President and CEO. Public meetings and presentations held at Poon Saan Club, Malay Club, Christmas Island Tourism Association and Chinese Literary Association.
Oct 08	Correspondence with Director of National Parks (Parks Australia) regarding recreational fishing arrangements
Mar-10	Meeting on island with key stakeholders ( Parks, tackle shop owner and commercial fisher (Shorefire)). Public meeting at Poon San Hall. Public Meeting at Malay Club.
Nov-10	Stakeholder consultation (tackle shop owner, AFP, Parks Australia, Shire CEO, IOT's Administrator, and Port Manager) and public information sessions held at the Malay Club, Recreation Centre and Chinese Literary Association (CLA cancelled due to poor attendance) Release of brochure " <i>Future Island-Specific Recreational Fishing Rules - Christmas Island</i> "
Dec-11	Public Information Sessions held at Malay Club and Recreation Centre by management staff and research scientists presenting latest research findings. Stakeholder meeting held with Shorefire (commercial fisher and tackle shop owner)
May-12	Meetings with key stakeholders; AFP discussion regarding fisheries legislation and compliance, Parks Australia, commercial fishers and Customs
Aug-13	Meetings with key stakeholders; IOT's Administrator, Director Regional Australia, AFP and Parks Australia
May-14	Meeting with Director, Regional Australia (Christmas Island)
Jun-15	Meeting with key stakeholders, Director - Department of Infrastructure, Parks Australia, AFP, commercial fishers and tackle store owner and Volunteer Marine Rescue.

Sep-16	Meeting with restaurant owners, Christmas Island Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting, commercial fishers, AFP.
Oct-17	Meetings with key stakeholders including; IOT Administration, Parks Australia, TOLL, CI Ports, CI Shire, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, AFP, Commercial fishing operators
Jun-18	Meetings with key stakeholders including; Parks Australia, TOLL, CI Shire, AFP, Commercial fishing operators, Regina Anderson (CI Womens Association and Island Care member)
Feb-19	Open public presentation at the community centre. Meetings with key stakeholders including; IOT Administration, CI Tourism, CI Shire, AFP, Commercial fishing operators

Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Date	Consultation Method and audience
2003 - 2004	Initial assessment of recreational fishing practices on island and species at risk of over-exploitation
Mar-05	Release of Draft recreational Fishing Strategy for Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Draft strategy open for public comment for 3 months; copy sent to all island residents along with feedback questionnaire.
Dec-06	Release of <i>Recreational Fishing Guide - Cocos (Keeling) Islands</i> (brochure). Community meetings held.
May-07	Meetings with key organisations including Shire staff, Cocos Congress, Cocos Dive, Tourism Association and Cocos Youth Council

Jun-07	Meetings with key organisations including Shire staff, Cocos Congress, Cocos Malay Seniors, Parks Australia and Cocos Youth Council to discuss recreational fishing proposals
Mar-08	Meetings with AFP re fisheries compliance, meeting with Shire staff re recreational fishing arrangements, consultation with Parks Australia, Tourism Association & Cocos Co-Operative
Aug-08	Public meetings and presentation on recreational fishing arrangements held at West Island and Home Island. Stakeholder meetings held with AFP, Port Manager, Parks Australia and Cocos Malay fishers.
Sep-08	Meetings held with Cocos Youth Council. Presentation made to Cocos Congress. Meeting with [REDACTED] Meeting with Home Island Seniors Group. Meetings with Shire President. Public Meeting held at West Island. Meeting with Younger fishers, Home Island.
Oct-08	Written feedback from Cocos Congress on recreational fishing rules received.
Mar-10	Meeting with key stakeholders (Parks Australia, charter operators, shire employees, AFP).
Aug-10	Public Information session held at Home Island and West Island, to update community on services and activities undertaken by the Department of Fisheries
Nov-10	Release of brochure " <i>Future Island-Specific Recreational Fishing Rules - Cocos (Keeling) Islands</i> "  Stakeholder consultation (Shire CEO, Cocos Congress, Cocos Youth Council, Cocos Malay keen fishers group, AFP, Port manager) and public information sessions held at Home Island and West Island regarding recreational fishing arrangements
Dec-11	Public Information Sessions held by management staff and research scientists presenting latest findings. Meetings held at West Island, Home Island, and targeted meeting with Cocos Malay Seniors. Stakeholder meetings with Parks Australia, AFP and Shire CEO.

May-12	Meetings with key stakeholders; AFP to discuss fisheries compliance, presentation to Cocos Shire Council, Port manager and Parks Australia
Aug-13	Meetings with key stakeholders; Shire CEO, Cocos Congress, AFP and Parks Australia
Oct-13	Meeting with Cocos Malay Senior group to discuss education program and recreational fishing rules
Jun-14	Meeting with Shire CEO, Shire President and Cocos Malay Senior's group
Jun-15	Meetings with key stakeholders including Shire CEO, Cocos Congress, Cocos Co-operative, Parks Australia and AFP. Public information session held at West Island. Meeting held with Cocos Malay Seniors.
Jun -15 Feb-16 Mar-16 May-16 Jun-16 Apr-17 Oct -17	Please refer to attachment for more information pertaining to cultural allowance consultation
Oct-17	Meetings were also held with [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Jun-18	[REDACTED] met with the Cocos Malay Senior's Group to provide an update on the proposed recreational fishing rules. Meetings were also held with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] CKI stakeholders.
Feb-19	[REDACTED] held two open community presentations to the CKI community; one on Home Island at the at the Cocos Malay Senior's Centre and the other on West Island at the Community Resource Centre.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 6:10 PM  
**To:** HOWLETT Claire  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT CLEARANCE - FISHERIES BRIEFING FOR SNOWDEN  
[DLM=Sensitive:Legal]  
**Attachments:** Consultation summary - Cultural fishing arrangements.docx

This material contains information that may be subject to legal professional privilege.

Claire – for completeness this is the WA Fisheries attachment referred to in Attachment A of the brief – it just contains greater detail of the listed meetings of 2016/17.

Regards  
[REDACTED]

This material contains information that may be subject to legal professional privilege.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 6:04 PM  
**To:** HOWLETT Claire <Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** URGENT CLEARANCE - FISHERIES BRIEFING FOR SNOWDEN [DLM=Sensitive:Legal]

This material contains information that may be subject to legal professional privilege.

Dear Claire

Please find attached brief for clearance.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Assistant Director  
Indian Ocean Territories Policy Section  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development  
GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

[www.infrastructure.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au)



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**From:** HOWLETT Claire  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 7:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: IOT Fish rules - community consultation [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** IOT Consultation summary.xlsx; Consultation summary - Cultural fishing arrangements.docx

**Importance:** High

Please attach the excel doc to the brief.

Thx c

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 11:56 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** HOWLETT Claire <Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** IOT Fish rules - community consultation [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Importance:** High

Dear [REDACTED]

An initial assessment of fish species at risk of over exploitation and recreational fishing practices in the IOT commenced in 2003-4. In March 2005 a draft Recreational Fishing Strategy (CKI) was open for public comment and sent to all island residents together with a feedback questionnaire. Community meetings were held in December 2006 to discuss the key elements of the *Recreational Fishing Guide - Cocos (Keeling) Islands* and included bag limits, clams as protected species, minimum size limits for some species, closed areas to fishing, restrictions on nets used and ban on spearfishing whilst on scuba.

Fisheries met annually with key organisations between May 2007 and February 2019. The most recent community consultation occurred between 18 and 19 September 2019 to provide community feedback following the release of draft Fisheries Ordinances (CKI).

Regards

**Indian Ocean Territories | Perth Office**

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development  
 Post: PO Box Z5048 PERTH WA 6831 | Address: 226 Adelaide Terrace PERTH WA 6000

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 August 2019 9:54 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: DPIRD-Fisheries / Consultation Process chronology, Malay Fisheries notes - and overarching statement of clarification. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Importance:** High



FYI.

Contract Manager | Infrastructure

From

Sent: Tuesday, 27 August 2019 3:26 PM

To:

**Subject:** DPIRD-Fisheries / Consultation Process chronology, Malay Fisheries notes - and overarching statement of clarification. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Importance:** High

Hi

of DPIRD-Fisheries has pulled together the attached IOT Consultation Summary, Notes on the proposed Cocos Malay fisheries arrangements, and provided the comments below to summarise the overarching intent of the consultation, education and processes undertaken.

RE: DPIRD-Fisheries IOT Community Consultation – Fisheries Management, 2003 – Present:

Attachments:

- IOT Consultation, and
- Cocos Specific Consultation – ‘Cultural Fishing arrangements’.

these documents should be considered within the context of the other community engagement programs and activities delivered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Department). Since 2008, the research teams have regularly held community presentations and released publications on the IOT research and priorities. These provide context on the data gathered and how that may influence management decisions.

The formal schools and community education program was initiated in 2010. This has included public presentations, curriculum-linked school education programs and a number of interactive and engaging activities and community events. Messaging was targeted at promoting sustainable fishing practices and marine stewardship. Programs have highlighted components of the proposed recreational rules such as bag limits or protected species to demonstrate the importance of these fisheries management tools to ensure sustainable fisheries.

In June 2015, the compliance awareness program was initiated with the first IOT specific Fisheries and Marine Officer (FMO) ahead of the predicted 2016 implementation of the recreational rules. Introducing the FMO at this stage was part planning to not only assist in planning the training process of airport staff, but to engage with the community and promote the awareness and understanding of the proposed recreational rules before they are in force and enforced.

The Department does not consider each of the outlined programs as separate consultation, but integral parts of the holistic approach to engage with the various community members on both islands.

If you need anything else please let me know.

Kind regards

Contract Manager | Infrastructure

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 August 2019 3:05 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: CCC Letter to Minister of 22.8.2019 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Importance:** High

Hi [REDACTED]

As requested, please see the attached documents outlining the consultation chronology the undertaken with the IOT communities regarding the proposed recreational fishing rules.

It is really important that these documents are considered within the context of the other community engagement programs and activities delivered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Department). Since 2008, the research teams have regularly held community presentations and released publications on the IOT research and priorities. These provide context on the data gathered and how that may influence management decisions.

The formal schools and community education program was initiated in 2010. This has included public presentations, curriculum-linked school education programs and a number of interactive and engaging activities and community events. Messaging was targeted at promoting sustainable fishing practices and marine stewardship. Programs have highlighted components of the proposed recreational rules such as bag limits or protected species to demonstrate the importance of these fisheries management tools to ensure sustainable fisheries.

In June 2015, the compliance awareness program was initiated with the first IOT specific Fisheries and Marine Officer (FMO) ahead of the predicted 2016 implementation of the recreational rules. Introducing the FMO at this stage was part planning to not only assist in planning the training process of airport staff, but to engage with the community and promote the awareness and understanding of the proposed recreational rules before they are in force and enforced.

The Department does not consider each of the outlined programs as separate consultation, but integral parts of the holistic approach to engage with the various community members on both islands.

Please let me know if you would like me to expand on any of the information provided.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2019 8:40 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** URGENT ADVICE: Fisheries [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Additional text Feb 16 v2.docx; FW: Dept of Fisheries - Request for Ministerial Delegation of Powers [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

H [REDACTED]

I have been going back through my emails on the fishing rules and found the one below....can you please talk to the WA Department and get the scientific information/evidence referenced below (and in the attached document). Would be good if I could get it by 10.15am for a meeting with Warren Snowden at 11am.

At the Cocos (Keeling) Islands fragility of fish stocks is evidenced by the significant depletions or extinctions of two species of giant clams and large fluctuations in populations of coral trout, as recorded by the Western Australian Department of Fisheries since service delivery (on behalf of the Australian Government) commenced. Based on the scientific information gathered in relation to the available habitat, status of fish stocks and historical fishing practices at the Indian Ocean Territories, the current levels of recreational fishing pressure may not be sustainable.

Thanks [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 February 2016 1:12 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Fisheries [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and I had a conversation with [REDACTED] last week about the Recreational Fishing Rules. Essentially [REDACTED] advised that for the Recreational Fishing Rules to be considered, we would need to build a strong case about the need for them. [REDACTED] advised that someone in your team would be putting together a policy brief for the Minister on this issue. During the conversation we also advised Karly that there is currently a brief with [REDACTED] for the Minister to issue an exemption to JCR for Giant Clam harvesting (breeding stock for his aquaculture) this brief is time critical as his current exemption expired last year.

[REDACTED] advised that the Minister likes to batch similar issues where possible so it would be preferential to batch the Rec Fishing Rules with the Giant Clam Exemption. However she did state that it would be preferential to put delegations to the Minister that cover the Giant Clam exemption rather than the exemption itself.

Following our conversation with [REDACTED] we have:

- Sought a compiled a list of delegations from WA Fisheries they would like considered, and [REDACTED] sent this to you last week (attached).
- Asked WA Fisheries to put together some words to (word doc attached, but it will need some finessing):
  - o Confirm that Recreational Fishing Rules exist everywhere else in Australia (and WA)
  - o Highlight the absolute importance of introducing the fishing rules and the work that has gone into them (science based if possible)
  - o Summaries the Fishing Legislation, what it covers (commercial, recreational and Aquaculture) and how this currently applies (or not) to the IOTs

I'm wondering if there is anyone in your team who has been assigned this brief so I can contact them and provide all the info I have and any assistance they might need.

Cheers,

Assistant Director  
IOT Government Arrangements

Please note I work part time and am available TUES, WED & THURS

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 February 2016 11:54 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Fisheries [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Please find additional text attached as requested.

Please let me know if you require anything further. We are looking forward to hearing back from the Minister on this one.

Kind regards,

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 February 2016 3:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Fisheries [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, can you please help me with:

- a. Confirmation that Recreational Fishing Rules exist everywhere else in Australia (and WA)
- b. Two paras on the absolute importance of introducing the fishing rules and the work that has gone into them (science based if possible)
- c. One para that summaries the Fishing Legislation, what it covers (commercial, recreational and Aquaculture) and how this currently applies (or not) to the IOTs

Also, I understand that you already have a consolidated list of the delegations you would like to put to our Minister, if you could send those through that would be marvellous!

(please note that I have copied [REDACTED] in as I will be out of the office until Tuesday so if you could copy her into your reply that would be helpful)

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

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# Summary of Proposed Ministerial Delegations to offices of the WA Department of Fisheries under the *Fish Resource Management Act 1994 (WA) (CI) (CKI)*

Powers and duties under <i>FRMA 1994 (WA)/(CKI/CI)</i> (the 'Applied Act')	Summary	Power currently held by	Proposed delegate within WA Department of Fisheries for power
Section 7(1)	<p><b><i>Exemptions from Act, grant of by Minister</i></b></p> <p>The Minister may, by instrument in writing, exempt a specified person or specified class of persons from all or any of the provisions of this Act.</p>		
Section 7(2)	<p>The Minister may only grant an exemption under subsection (1) for one or more of these purposes –</p> <p>(a) research;</p> <p>(b) environmental protection;</p> <p>(c) public safety;</p> <p>(d) public health;</p>	Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development	<p>Director General Deputy Director General Executive Director, Research Director Aquatic Management</p> <p>Director General Deputy Director General Executive Director, Regional Services Director Aquatic Management</p> <p>Director General Deputy Director General Executive Director, Regional Services Director Aquatic Management</p> <p>Director General Deputy Director General Executive Director, Regional Services Director Aquatic Management</p>

**Summary of Proposed Ministerial Delegations to offices of the WA Department of Fisheries under the *Fish Resource Management Act 1994 (WA) (CI) (CKI)***

	(e) commercial purposes;		Director General Deputy Director General Executive Director, Regional Services Director Aquatic Management
	(f) community education about and compliance with this Act;		
	g) enforcement of this Act.		
Section 7(6)	<p>The Minister may, if he or she thinks fit, by further instrument in writing –</p> <p>(a) vary or revoke an exemption; or</p> <p>(b) delete, vary or add to any conditions imposed in relation to that exemption.</p>	Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development	Director General Deputy Director General Executive Director, Research Executive Director, Regional Services Director Aquatic Management
Section 100	<p><b>Termination of (an aquaculture) lease</b></p> <p>(1) The Minister may, by notice in writing given to a lease, terminate the lease if, in the Minister’s opinion, the leased area –</p> <p>(a) Is no longer being used for the purposes for which the lease was granted; or</p> <p>(b) Is being used for purposes other than the purposes for which the lease was granted.</p> <p>(2) A lease may be terminated on any other grounds provided in the lease and in the manner provided in</p>	Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development	Director General

**Summary of Proposed Ministerial Delegations to offices of the WA Department of Fisheries under the *Fish Resource Management Act 1994 (WA) (CI) (CI)* (CKI)**

	<p>the lease.</p> <p>(3) If –</p> <p>(a) A lease is terminated or expires; and</p> <p>(b) Any structure, equipment or fish has not been removed from the leased area within 3 months from the day on which the lease was terminated or expired, the structure, equipment or fish is, by virtue of this section, forfeited to the Crown.</p>		
Section 118	<p><b><i>Notice of proposal to create fish habitat protection area.</i></b></p> <p>(1) Not less than 2 months before making an order under section 115 the Minister must cause a notice to be prepared and published in –</p> <p>(a) A newspaper circulating generally in the State; and</p> <p>(b) A newspaper circulating, as far as practicable, near the area of the proposed fish habitat protection area.</p> <p>(2) The notice referred to in subsection (1) must –</p> <p>(a) state that it is proposed that an area be set aside under section 115 as a fish habitat protection area; and</p>	Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development	Director General



**Summary of Proposed Ministerial Delegations to offices of the WA Department of Fisheries under the *Fish Resource Management Act 1994 (WA) (CI) (CI) (CKI)***

	<p>(b) identify the area; and</p> <p>(c) specify the purpose or purposes for which the area is to be set aside; and</p> <p>(d) advise that a draft plan for the area has been approved and specify the places at which a copy of the plan may be obtained; and</p> <p>(e) invite persons who wish to comment on the proposal to make representations in writing to the Minister.</p> <p>(3) A person may within 30 days after notice published under subsection (1) make representations in writing to the Minister concerning the proposal.</p> <p>(4) The Minister is to consider any representations made under subsection (3).</p>		
Section 213(2)	<p><b><i>Species of fish etc., evidence as to</i></b></p> <p>(2) The Minister may by notice published in the Gazette declare a person to be an authorised persons for the purposes of this section.</p>	Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development	Director General

## Summary of Proposed Ministerial Delegations to offices of the WA Department of Fisheries under the *Fish Resource Management Regulations 1995 (WA) (CI) (CKI)*

Powers and duties under <i>FRMR 1995 (WA)/(CKI/CI)</i> (the 'Applied Regulations')	Summary	Power currently held by	Proposed delegate within WA Department of Fisheries for power
Regulation 67	<b><i>Aquaculture leases, application for</i></b>  (1) An application for the grant or renewal of an aquaculture lease must be—	Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development	N/A
	(a) made to the Minister in a form approved for that purpose by the CEO; and		
	(b) accompanied by the fee set out in item 10 of Part 2 of Schedule 1; and		
	(c) accompanied by any information that the Minister reasonably requires for a proper consideration of the application.		
	2) An applicant must provide the Minister with any further information that the Minister by notice in writing requires the applicant to provide in respect of an application.	Deputy Director General Manager, Aquaculture Manager, Licensing Services	Deputy Director General Manager, Aquaculture Manager, Licensing Services
	(2) An applicant must, if required to do so by the Minister, verify by statutory declaration any information contained in, or given in connection with, an application.		

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 February 2016 1:00 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Dept of Fisheries - Request for Ministerial Delegation of Powers [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Summary table delegations for Cth FINAL.docx

[REDACTED]

Director | Indian Ocean Territories Government Arrangements and Contracts  
Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development | Level 1 45 Francis St NORTHBRIDGE WA 6003

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 February 2016 12:06 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Dept of Fisheries - Request for Ministerial Delegation of Powers [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Tried calling to explain the reason for sending this through. Will call you on Monday to discuss the broader fisheries conversation you had with [REDACTED] and the link to an exemption (Tycraft clam broodstock exemption – MS16-000109 assigned to me).

Am tied up with PRL mine lease issues – and down on staff (Andrew is also away until Tuesday and likely that Glen will be away into March).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Director | Territories Office Perth | Local Government & Territories  
Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development | Level 1 45 Francis St NORTHBRIDGE WA 6003

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 February 2016 7:02 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Dept of Fisheries - Request for Ministerial Delegation of Powers

Hi [REDACTED]

Please find below and attached information previously prepared in relation to the issue of fisheries delegations for the Indian Ocean Territories.

The attachment identifies the powers which are delegated in WA, and that we had originally proposed be delegated to officers within the WA Department of Fisheries.

For consideration.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Senior Regional Fisheries Management Officer  
Department of Fisheries

**Please note I work part time and am available WED / THURS / FRIDAY**

Broome Regional Office  
PO Box 71  
BROOME WA 6725

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 February 2014 8:34 AM

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Dept of Fisheries - Request for Ministerial Delegation of Powers

Hi [REDACTED]

Further to [REDACTED] email below, the Department of Fisheries is seeking consent from the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, and the Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development; for a suite of Ministerial Delegations under the applied *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (WA) (CI) (CKI)* ('the Applied Act') and the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 (WA) (CI) (CKI)* ('the Applied Regulations').

Please find a table attached that summarises the relevant sections of the Applied Act, Applied Regulations and the proposed delegated officers within the WA Department of Fisheries.

I understand that under the Service Delivery Arrangement it is a Commonwealth responsibility to consider and draft an appropriate Instrument of Delegation under the powers provided in section 8G of the *Christmas Island Act 1958* and *Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955*, subject to the consent of the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development.

The proposed delegations for the Indian Ocean Territories mirror exactly the delegations that we have in place in Western Australia, from the WA Minister for Fisheries to officers within the Department. I can provide you with copies of the WA Instruments of Delegation if you would like.

Having delegations in place will assist with the efficient management of fisheries matters for the Indian Ocean Territories, and will be particularly useful for resolving Applications for Exemption, for example for aquaculture broodstock collection and fisheries research activities.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Shane O'Donoghue.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Senior Regional Fisheries Management Officer  
Department of Fisheries

Broome Regional Office  
PO Box 71  
BROOME WA 6725

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 November 2013 10:36 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Dept of Fisheries - Delegation of Powers

Hi [REDACTED]

As you are aware, in August 2013 the Administrator questioned why certain powers under the applied *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (WA) (CI) (CKI)* (FRMA) are not delegated to officers in the Dept of Fisheries (see string of emails below). Since 2010 when amendments were made to s8G of the CI & CKI Acts, the majority of powers required to deliver SDA services are automatically delegated through s8G(5). It is only where the powers under an applied law are normally vested in a Minister of WA, the Governor of WA or the Governor-in-Council of WA that a vesting instrument signed by the Cth Minister, to delegate those powers, is still required under s8G(3).

In order for the Dept of Fisheries to operate in the IOTs in the same way as in WA, the Cth Minister would need to delegate powers that are vested in 'a Minister of WA', under the applied FRMA, to certain persons who normally hold those delegated powers in WA. Pia and I have discussed the process that needs to be followed to enable the Dept of Fisheries officers to obtain the required delegated powers.

The SDA (clause 21) requires the Cth to issue necessary vesting orders delegating powers to enable the services to be delivered. The normal procedure, which has been followed for all previous SDAs, is:

- 1) the State Agency provides the Cth with details of the delegated powers it requires to deliver the agreed services, these are usually equivalent to the powers normally delegated in WA;
- 2) using the information at 1) the Cth (through your legal area in Canberra) drafts the vesting instrument and supporting documentation for the Cth Minister's signature; and,
- 3) once signed, the Cth provides the State Agency with a copy of the signed vesting instrument.

The State Agency would normally provide the information required at 1) in a table format which lists the relevant sections of the Act, the powers each section refers to, who the powers are currently vested in (e.g. the Minister) and the position to which those powers need to be delegated (i.e. the person to whom the powers are normally delegated in WA).

■ is in the process of drafting a table of information, which she will provide to you to send to your legal team, so that the vesting instrument can be drafted. ■ will confirm that the relevant Ministerial powers are normally delegated in WA, so that your Minister can be assured that this is the usual process employed in WA. If there is any other information you require can you let ■ know and cc. to me also.

Regards

■  
■  
**State Coordinator, Indian Ocean Territories**  
**Department of the Premier and Cabinet**  
Dumas House  
Level 4, 2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

---

**From:** ■  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 September 2013 3:50 PM  
**To:** Pia Dobson  
**Cc:** ■ ([lesley.walker@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:lesley.walker@dpc.wa.gov.au))  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks for the advice ■. No conflicting advice or concerns. Perhaps this is something we can revisit after the dust settles post election. I'll keep it on the agenda though.

Thanks for the prompt response.

■  

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**From:** ■  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 September 2013 09:30  
**To:** ■  
**Cc:** ■  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi ■

I have now read through the previous advice on our files relating to the changes to delegations that came into effect after the introduction of the *Territories Law Reform Act 2010* (the Act) .

According to the advice provided by Lesley and our internal legal officers in 2011, the changes that occurred with the Act resulted in the CEO of Fisheries being able to do all the things he is empowered to do under the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA) in the state, within the IOT's, subject to the SDA, without the need for a delegation from the Commonwealth Minister.

However, the powers and functions that are excisable only by the Minister under our Act are powers that can only be exercised in the IOT's by the Commonwealth Minister (i.e. including Ministerial exemptions). It is possible for the Commonwealth Minister to delegate these powers to our CEO, if she was of a mind to do so. This would involve signing off on an Instrument of Delegation made under the Applied Act by the Commonwealth Minister.

Please let me know if you have any conflicting advice or concerns, otherwise I will re-instate the process which Rachel had started to prepare draft Instruments of Exemption for the Commonwealth Minister to consider.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Senior Regional Fisheries Management Officer  
Department of Fisheries

Broome Regional Office  
PO Box 71  
BROOME WA 6725

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 August 2013 9:22 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Lesley Walker ([lesley.walker@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:lesley.walker@dpc.wa.gov.au))  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

I actually thought the legislation was amended in 2011 which vested the delegation power with the Minister? The legislation itself in section 7 states that the Minister has the delegation. Is there a separate delegation instrument that sits behind the Act?

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 August 2013 09:14  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

H [REDACTED]

I'm not sure on the history on why a delegation hasn't been in place in the past. I know it is something that [REDACTED] had started to work on, and it's something that Shane and I had identified recently as a task I needed to progress.

In mainland WA the powers to issue Exemptions has been delegated from the State Minister for Fisheries to the Director General and Deputy Director General of the Department of Fisheries, and for some specific purposes the powers have also been delegated down to the Department's Director of Aquatic Management and Executive Director of Research. It would certainly be administratively more efficient if we could get similar delegations in place under the Applied Act.

If this is something that you think your Department and Minister would be comfortable with, I will progress advice to you along with some proposed Instruments of Delegation, following the election.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Senior Regional Fisheries Management Officer  
Department of Fisheries

Broome Regional Office  
PO Box 71  
BROOME WA 6725

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 August 2013 3:55 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Visit 16 August - Cocos [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Just wanted to let you know that the email trail below had been forwarded on to me by the Administrator. He has some initial questions for us regarding why the authority isn't delegated to a Department level and I'm wondering if you can shed any light on why the WA legislation delegation sits with the Minister. I just wanted to have an understanding of the State's justification for maintaining a ministerial delegation.

Thanks in advance and happy to discuss. Also, thanks for your ongoing correspondence with John on this matter!

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 August 2013 12:27  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos

Hello again [REDACTED]

I can designate an area for quarantine I am sure. But do not feel that returning clams to the wild would be economic, as it would take half a day of diving and involve correspondence and fees. If there are any infrastructure improvements or modifications, these cannot be carried out in the current financial situation that I find myself (due



to no fault of my own). So unlikely to be carried out any time soon, as priorities for new blowers, spare pump, shade structure and material all out prioritise such a thing. If the zone would allow the introduction of new biological such as macrobranchium then it might be economically justifiable. If your "keenness" does not extend as far as exemption from permit costs I would not be in the mind to even discuss it.

I have also had discussions with WTO and it appears we are in the clear. Last years breedings have come through (as you saw) and should be ready for sale around Dec/Feb.

I have read your "A summary of the Department of Fisheries WA Invertebrate Research at Cocos (Keeling) Islands 2006-2011" and have referred it for scientific review. Initial comments do not hold it in high regard. I will press for a written review, but at this stage my advice is that it is rather poor science to base restrictions on. If you have any review documents available I would gladly read them.

There was a clam hatchery that was in WA for a while. It came up in my review discussions a few years back. What happened to that?..Why did they stop trading?

There is a great need to diversify my business. Coral would slot in very nicely. Much of my business is reliant on not only Commonwealth policies but International government policies too. These can change at any time as we have found out to our cost. I understand that your department has issues with coral collection, if you could at least outline them for me I could respond to them. To me coral is a renewable local resource. I would like mostly wild harvest of coral, but would like to do some aquaculture too, I think there are some value adds available in this sector that have not been explored yet. So yes I am interested. 100 kilo would be a good start.

All the best [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 August 2013 9:00 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos

H [REDACTED]

Sorry we didn't get the chance to meet on my recent trip. I did get to meet [REDACTED] and they permitted us to stop in at your site and have a quick look at the clams and your set up, so that was valuable.

#### Clam Broodstock Application

Regarding your Application for Exemption to collect clam broodstock, I have spoken to staff at the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport who have confirmed that the application won't be able to be considered by the Minister until after the federal election, due to the caretaker conventions. I'm still hopeful that a new exemption will be in place by November, which is when I understand you next wish to collect broodstock.

I also wanted to let you know that it is likely that the number of clams that will be permitted to be collected under a new exemption will be less than you have requested. There were a number of factors considered in forming our advice to the Minister for Regional Australia, Local Government and Territories, with primary consideration given to the research report "A summary of the Department of Fisheries WA Invertebrate Research at Cocos (Keeling) Islands 2006-2011" (available on our website), the time that will have elapsed since the last clam survey (2011) and the expiry date of a new exemption, and the lack of a fisheries compliance officer for the Indian Ocean Territories at present. We were also in discussion with staff from the Dept. of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities regarding the exemption application to ensure it would not cause issues for your WTO and export permit applications.

The Department is keen to see you develop a quarantine area of your hatchery which satisfies our Fish Health staff and which could be used to hold broodstock (only), so that you may be granted approval to return spent broodstock to a reef area, rather than destroying them after spawning (which I understand is your current practice). Steve Nel has offered to discuss the establishment of a quarantine area with you further, if this would be of assistance to you.

#### Coral

Your email below mentions exporting coral – I assume you are referring to wild harvest of coral rather than aquaculture? I understand you have made enquires regarding this proposal in the past and in September 2011 the

Director Aquatic Management advised that we were not of a mind to approve applications for the collection of coral and live rock at that time. However, if you are interested in revisiting this issue please provide me with further details of your request and I can advise further.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Senior Regional Fisheries Management Officer  
Department of Fisheries

Broome Regional Office  
PO Box 71  
BROOME WA 6725

---

**From** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 17 August 2013 1:05 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos

Hello again.

Back home now, came in on the plane you left on! Was a bit rushed in town. I'm afraid I will not be able to get in to your offices.

Might have to settle for a phone call.

I have strong interest in coral from the states. This was something applied for a while back, and think died in application. I would like to revisit this as it is a natural adjunct to my current fishing licence, and business.

All the best [REDACTED]

---

**From** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 August 2013 1:25 PM  
**To** [REDACTED]  
**Cc** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos

H [REDACTED]

If you are still in Perth on the 21 August and don't have family commitments would you like to meet with myself and staff from our Aquaculture branch? I thought that we could discuss your concerns with your Aquaculture Licence conditions, as well as provide you with an update on your broodstock exemption application.

Would 3 pm on Wednesday 21 August at the Department's Head office (168-170 St George's Terrace) suit? Please let me know so I can organize a meeting room.

Kind regards,

Senior Regional Fisheries Management Officer  
Department of Fisheries

Broome Regional Office  
PO Box 71  
BROOME WA 6725

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 06, 2013 3:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos

I'd be guessing the caretaker mode will kybosh it.  
I can catch up in perth if that is helpful.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 August 2013 12:36 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos

H [REDACTED]

I'm really sorry to hear that.

Thanks for letting me know, hopefully we can meet on another trip.

I'll provide you with an update on your exemption application via email after my meeting with Regional Australia on the 21 August.

Kind regards,

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 August 2013 1:48 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos

Hey guys sorry to relate, but my mum just died. Will be in perth for a while, not sure when I'll be back.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 August 2013 6:44 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos

H [REDACTED]

Thanks for getting back to me.

I'll make contact once I'm at Cocos and to see what day / time suits.

Kind regards,

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2013 6:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Visit 16 August - Cocos

Gday [REDACTED]  
yes been out a bit. Email is generally the best way to contact me.  
I have no specific plans for the days that you indicate., but that is not to say something won't come up. I am flexible in day or hour. Friday mornings can be taken up by packing clams and fish to be freighted out.  
All the bes [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2013 12:06 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Visit 16 August - Cocos

Hi [REDACTED]

Just tried to call you but couldn't get through, so sending you an email instead.

I have recently taken over from [REDACTED] as the co-ordinator of the Department's Indian Ocean Territories projects, and will be visiting Cocos in mid August to meet with on-island stakeholders. [REDACTED] will also be accompanying me to show me the ropes.

We will be at Cocos from Tuesday 13 – Friday 16 August, and I was hoping to tee up a time to meet you and have a look at your aquaculture operation. I can also provide you with an update regarding your exemption application.

Could we come and visit you sometime in the morning on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>?

I look forward to meeting you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Senior Regional Fisheries Management Officer  
Department of Fisheries

Broome Regional Office  
PO Box 71  
BROOME WA 6725

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While every care is taken, it is recommended that you scan any attachments for viruses.

Please consider the environment before printing out this email.

All States and Territories of mainland Australia have statutory rules in place to manage recreational fishing, in order to help keep fish resources sustainable. Statutory rules relating to recreational fishing apply in all areas of Western Australia, without exception.

Under the *Christmas Island Act 1958* and the *Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955* Western Australian fisheries legislation, the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (WA)(CKI)(CI)* (‘the Applied Act’) has been applied to the Indian Ocean Territories. The Applied Act provides for the management of fish resources, including the development and management of commercial and recreational fisheries, management of aquaculture and the conservation of fish and other aquatic resources and their habitats. The objects of the Applied Act are to develop and manage fisheries and aquaculture in a sustainable way, and to share and conserve fish resources and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations. The Applied Act provides for a range of management tools for recreational fishing, including species specific daily catch limits.

Given the different fish species found at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and mainland Western Australia, there is the need for ‘island-specific’ recreational fishing rules.

Fish stocks at the Indian Ocean Territories are limited with relatively low species diversity and abundance. The isolated nature of the Islands, and limited opportunities for stock recruitment from neighboring reef systems, means that the fish stocks are highly vulnerable to overexploitation. At the Cocos (Keeling) Islands fragility of fish stocks is evidenced by the significant depletions or extinctions of two species of giant clams and large fluctuations in populations of coral trout, as recorded by the Western Australian Department of Fisheries since service delivery (on behalf of the Australian Government) commenced. Based on the scientific information gathered in relation to the available habitat, status of fish stocks and historical fishing practices at the Indian Ocean Territories, the current levels of recreational fishing pressure may not be sustainable. Statutory management arrangements specifically tailored to the Indian Ocean Territories are required to provide a framework aimed at ensuring that marine resources remain ecologically sustainable and available to future generations of Territory residents.

The Western Australian Department of Fisheries has worked closely with on island communities since 2006 to develop proposed recreational fishing management arrangements that are aimed at being socially acceptable and provide protection for the key resident fish and shellfish stocks that the island communities depend on.

The Western Australian Department of Fisheries has prepared an adaptive implementation of Western Australian law to recognise the cultural, geographic and fisheries biology issues of the islands, to be achieved via an Ordinance for each Island.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 September 2019 8:49 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks, although [REDACTED] email below indicates she has a copy of the presentation (in yellow)?

We are also after copies of presentations given by WA in February 2019, per the following sentence from the Communication overview document (Excel Spreadsheet, sent by [REDACTED]) "Presentations were an overview of what has been learned about the CKI stocks so far and why bag limits on certain species were more stringent than others." If there is no data, we will need something on the risk-based approach (methodology, rationale for concerns) to provide to [REDACTED]

k

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 September 2019 8:31 AM  
 [REDACTED]; HOWLETT Claire  
 <Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au>; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi [REDACTED]

I will get a copy from Fisheries this morning.

The evidence to support the rules is risk based so there is no definitive data. The communities both home and west understand that collecting data on fish is not like counting trees.

Fisheries advised that as more data and information on fish stocks are collected then amendments to the bag limits could occur. Similar to what happens in WA.

Regards

UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Monday, 23 September 2019 at 6:26:33 am  
 [REDACTED]  
 "HOWLETT Claire"  
 <Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au>, [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Everyone

Could we please have a copy of the powerpoint presentation which WA prepared. Does it include the evidence supporting the proposed rules.

We have been preparing briefing here, so it would have been useful to have had a copy of the presentation.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 5:57 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] HOWLETT Claire  
<[Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks [REDACTED]

We got the number 2 from the PowerPoint fisheries was taking to this week's info sessions – they may have updated it now.

I understand you have checked the WA Act which says 3 and [REDACTED] has agreed, [REDACTED] and I have also checked WA Fisheries website and it says 3.  
We have made the change.

[REDACTED]  
Communications and Media Officer  
Indian Ocean Territories Branch | Territories Division  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development  
Territories Office Perth

[www.infrastructure.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au)

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**Great Cities. Strong Regions. Connecting Australians.**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 3:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] HOWLETT Claire  
<[Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]



Dear [REDACTED]

I think the highlighted segment below should be WA 3

## How does this compare to Western Australian rules?

CKI rules would be more generous than in WA, for example:

- Demersal species: CKI mixed bag limit 16, compared to West Coast WA 2
- Pelagic species: CKI mixed bag limit 4, compared to WA 2

(I had spoken to [REDACTED] about the FAQ document in general)

Regards  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 20 September 2019 4:49 PM

To: HOWLETT Claire <[Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]

Subject: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear all,

Please find attached on behalf of [REDACTED] draft of proposed fact sheet.

We will fact check with [REDACTED] when he gets off plane.

Please advise ASAP if any major factual issues or missed questions?

Kindest regards,

[REDACTED]  
Communications and Media Officer  
Indian Ocean Territories Branch | Territories Division  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development  
Territories Office Perth  
[REDACTED]

w [www.infrastructure.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 September 2019 11:37 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] HOWLETT Claire; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Fisheries Management - CKI SEPT 2019 1.0.pdf  
**Importance:** High

Morning all

Please find attached a copy of the presentation from last week for reference. February presentation to come.

[REDACTED] you sought advice regarding the statement "Presentations were an overview of what has been learned about the CKI stocks so far and why bag limits on certain species were more stringent than others." If there is no data, we will need something on the risk-based approach (methodology, rationale for concerns) to provide to [REDACTED]

Advice from Fisheries is that "Formal fisheries management is, compared to the mainland, new to the IOT. Due to the remoteness of the islands and the limited information available, most of the management decisions are based on a risk based approach. That is, fish that are generally considered at higher risk (due to its biology, movement or targeting) will have a more precautionary daily bag limit."

I am in a quarterly management meeting with Toll, please call me on my mobile if the matter is urgent [REDACTED]

Regards

[REDACTED]  
 A/ing Director | Indian Ocean Government Arrangements  
 Indian Ocean Territories | Territories  
 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional  
 Development  
 GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

w [www.infrastructure.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au)

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**Australian Government**

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Cities and Regional Development**

**Great Cities. Strong Regions.  
Connecting Australians.**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 September 2019 6:49 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HOWLETT Claire

<Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au>; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]>  
C [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks, although [REDACTED]'s email below indicates she has a copy of the presentation (in yellow)?

We are also after copies of presentations given by WA in February 2019, per the following sentence from the Communication overview document (Excel Spreadsheet, sent by Chris) "Presentations were an overview of what has been learned about the CKI stocks so far and why bag limits on certain species were more stringent than others." If there is no data, we will need something on the risk-based approach (methodology, rationale for concerns) to provide to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, 23 September 2019 8:31 AM

[REDACTED]; HOWLETT Claire

<Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi [REDACTED]

I will get a copy from Fisheries this morning.

The evidence to support the rules is risk based so there is no definitive data. The communities both home and west understand that collecting data on fish is not like counting trees.

Fisheries advised that as more data and information on fish stocks are collected then amendments to the bag limits could occur. Similar to what happens in WA.

Regards  
[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Monday, 23 September 2019 at 6:26:33 am

[REDACTED]  
<[REDACTED]> "HOWLETT Claire"

<Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Everyone

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From [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 20 September 2019 5:57 PM  
[REDACTED]; HOWLETT Claire  
<[Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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We have made the change.

[REDACTED]  
Communications and Media Officer  
Indian Ocean Territories Branch | Territories Division  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development  
Territories Office Perth  
[REDACTED]

[www.infrastructure.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au)

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From [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 20 September 2019 3:42 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; HOWLETT Claire  
<[Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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- Pelagic species: CKI mixed bag limit 4, compared to WA 2

(I had spoken to [REDACTED] about the FAQ document in general)

Regards  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 20 September 2019 4:49 PM

To: HOWLETT Claire <[Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au)> [REDACTED]

Subject: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear all,

Please find attached on behalf of [REDACTED] draft of proposed fact sheet.  
We will fact check with [REDACTED] when he gets off plane.  
Please advise ASAP if any major factual issues or missed questions?

Kindest regards,

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**Australian Government**

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development**

# Fisheries Management on CKI

– Department of Infrastructure,  
Transport, Cities and Regional Development

– Department of Primary  
Industries and Regional Development

# Purpose

Provide community feedback following the release of Fisheries Ordinance for public comment, including:

- Management review process
- Summary of submissions received
- The fisheries management approach to CKI
- Next steps



# Management Review Process

In 2002, the Department of Fisheries (DPIRD) commenced fisheries management services on the IOT on behalf of the Australian Government.

Since then, DPIRD has:

- engaged with the community to understand the values and fishing practices on CKI;
- established monitoring programs and gained a baseline understanding of fish populations on CKI;
- developed a strong education program;
- draft fishing rules that were released initially in 2005; and
- worked with Australian Government to draft Ordinance.





# Fisheries management approach to CKI

The primary focus for fish stocks around CKI are managed in a sustainable way for those that **reside on CKI**.

- Fishing is important to those residing on CKI as a food source
- Fishing is a popular recreational activity across CKI
- Some fish stocks around CKI are more vulnerable than others and require careful management
- Cultural significance



# Community influence on proposed rules to date

- Sharks
  - initial - total protection for dive industry
  - current – removal of protection
- Artisanal fishing arrangements
- Cultural allowances
- Airport limits



# Summary of submissions received

## Key issues raised:

- concerns over coral trout protection (7 submissions);
- request for data to support the new rules;
- support for 5kg export limit but would like more species included;
- support for prohibition on spearfishing on compressed air;
- prohibit fishing in more areas – e.g. Port areas, expanded area around DI;
- empower the community to have greater involvement in fisheries management;
- concern over the protection of sharks and rays; and
- no management is necessary.

# Coral trout - *Plectropomus areolatus*

- Population very low until 2016
- Recruitment event with different age classes
- Unknown where they came from, likely outer reef slope off CKI
- Genetically connected to Maldives - however assumed to be totally reliant on local recruitment.
- Higher risk species

**DPIRD is proposing a small bag limit.**



## **Fisheries data**

- DPIRD began researching and monitoring fish on CKI since 2006.
- Due to limited resources along with the isolated nature of CKI, traditional stock assessments are not possible.
- Studies have included:
  - Underwater Visual Surveys
  - Baited Remote Underwater Video Surveys
  - Environmental surveys
  - Biological sampling and catch composition
  - Satellite receivers
  - eDNA
- Risk based approach needed





# What can contribute to the risk status of a species?

- Is it only found in CKI?
- Is it linked to external populations?
- Where does it live?
- How long do they live?
- Breeding rate?
- Fishing pressure
- Value to the community



# **Develop recreational fishing rules that are appropriate for CKI**

Fisheries management on CKI is very different to WA.

- In general, higher risk stock
- Isolated and limited habitat
- Cannot rely on the same research techniques
- Unique cultural context

**Because of the unique nature of CKI, unique fishing rules have been created that are more appropriate to the islands and it's community.**



# Comparing WA rules with CKI

Important to note that what has been proposed for fishing on CKI is more generous than in WA. For example:

Rule	WA	CKI
Demersal species mixed bag limit	2 (West Coast)	16
Pelagic species mixed bag limit	2	4
Recreational fishing licences	5 categories	0
Application of size limits	Yes	No

Under the proposed rules a total of **60 finfish** and **36 invertebrates** can be caught **per person, per day**.



## Adaptive management approach required

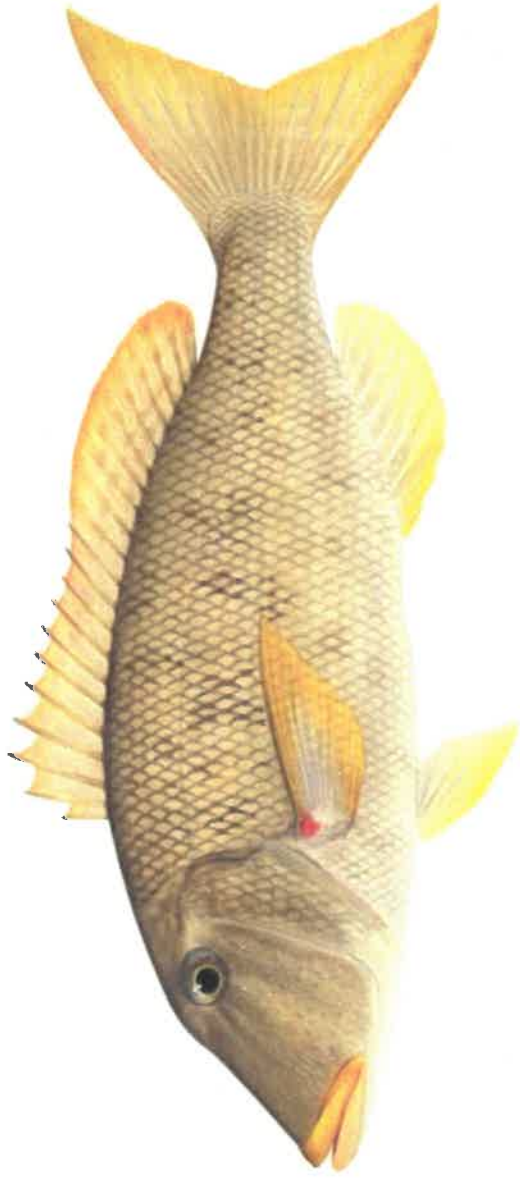
Community values, environmental conditions and fish stocks may change over time. With these changes, the management approach will need to adapt.

The primary focus remains that CKI fish stocks are managed in a sustainable way **for those that reside on CKI.**

DPIRD will continue to work with the community into the future.



**QUESTIONS?**





**Thank you**  
**Visit [dpird.wa.gov.au](http://dpird.wa.gov.au)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 September 2019 8:54 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]; HOWLETT Claire; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi [REDACTED]

I will get copies of the Feb 2019 presentations ASAP.

Regards

UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Monday, 23 September 2019 at 6:48:39 am  
 [REDACTED]  
 "HOWLETT Claire" <[Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au)>,  
 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks, although [REDACTED] email below indicates she has a copy of the presentation (in yellow)?

We are also after copies of presentations given by WA in February 2019, per the following sentence from the Communication overview document (Excel Spreadsheet, sent by Chris) "Presentations were an overview of what has been learned about the CKI stocks so far and why bag limits on certain species were more stringent than others." If there is no data, we will need something on the risk-based approach (methodology, rationale for concerns) to provide to [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 September 2019 8:31 AM  
 [REDACTED] HOWLETT Claire  
 <[Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: First draft fishing rules FAQ [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi [REDACTED]

I will get a copy from Fisheries this morning.

The evidence to support the rules is risk based so there is no definitive data. The communities both home and west understand that collecting data on fish is not like counting trees.

Fisheries advised that as more data and information on fish stocks are collected then amendments to the bag limits could occur. Similar to what happens in WA.

Regards

UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Monday, 23 September 2019 at 6:26:33 am

[REDACTED], "HOWLETT Claire"

<[Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au)>

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<[Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au)>

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## Great Cities. Strong Regions. Connecting Australians.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 3:42 PM  
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<[Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Claire.HOWLETT@infrastructure.gov.au)>;  
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[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 September 2019 12:20 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: February 2019 presentation [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Fisheries Management - CKI FEB 2019.pdf

UNCLASSIFIED

All

Feb 2019 Fisheries presentation.

Regards

UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Monday, 23 September 2019 at 10:15:25 am  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: February 2019 presentation [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Attached is the presentation given in February to both Home and West Island in February.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 September 2019 7:00 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** February 2019 presentation [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi [REDACTED]

Could I please get a copy of your Feb 2019 presentation which I believe identifies why some fish species are more in need of protection than others on CKI.

Also, do you have a couple of paragraphs that explains the "risk based approach" that Fisheries take when there is limited data availability.

Thanks

UNCLASSIFIED

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Department of  
Primary Industries and  
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# Fisheries Management Cocos (Keeling) Islands





Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

## Purpose

Provide an overview of what we have learnt about CKI over the last 15 years with regard to:

- Research
- Management
- Compliance and education

Outline future priorities

# What happened to the Department of Fisheries?

As of 1 July 2017:

- Department of Fisheries
- + Department of Agriculture
- + Department of Regional Development
- + Regional Development Commissions

= **Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)**



Department of  
**Primary Industries and  
Regional Development**

## What does this mean for Cocos (Keeling) Islands?

Apart from the name/brand change, not much. Fisheries services will continue as normal.

## Overview

- Historically, there has been no fisheries management on CKI
- In 2002, the Department of Fisheries commenced fisheries management services on the IOT on behalf of the Commonwealth.
- Different approach to management and research required - why
  - How do we monitor stock status
  - what are the key species at risk
  - different cultural values
  - What management strategies are appropriate
  - Remoteness of CKI
  - community support is essential

## First steps

1. Engage with the community – increase community awareness and support for fisheries management.
2. Establish a baseline understanding of fish populations on CKI.
3. Establish effective monitoring techniques.
4. Develop recreational fishing rules that are appropriate for CKI.
5. Continue to foster a culture of marine stewardship through education





## 1. Establish a baseline understanding of fish populations on CKI

Due to limited resources along with the isolated nature of CKI, research and monitoring priorities are determined on a risk based framework.

### What can contribute to the risk status of a species?

- Endemism
  - is it only found in CKI?
- Recruitment
  - does the species rely only on local population external populations?
- Habitat
  - where does it live?
- Biology
  - how long do they live? Breeding capability?
- Fishing pressure
  - is the fish popular? What is the survival rate once released?
- Value of species
  - to community and ecosystem





## Research on CKI

Fisheries research has been underway since 2006 on CKI. Research methods on have included:

- Underwater Visual Surveys
  - Dive based assessments
- Baited Remote Underwater Video Surveys
  - Non invasive monitoring through cameras and bait
- Environmental surveys
  - Temperature, salinity
- Biological sampling and catch composition
  - What is being caught and
- Satellite receivers
  - Tracking movements
- eDNA
  - Sampling water for genetic traces of fish



## **Pelagic Fish**

There are three general types of pelagic fish.

### **Migratory**

- Yellowfin tuna and dolphin fish highly migratory oceanic species.
- Catch around CI is unlikely to impact on overall abundance - lower risk

### **Semi residential**

- Wahoo are thought to be semi-residential, once they recruit as juveniles they are likely to stay
- Wahoo mature at around 1m (12 -18 month old)

### **Residential**

- GT's form residential populations.
- May get some top up from larval recruitment – but likely to be a self supporting population – higher risk



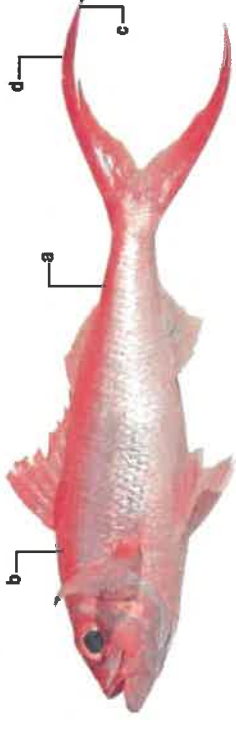
## Demersal fish on CKI

- Deeper water fish along the slopes of CKI
  - Cod
  - Snappers
  - Red fish
  - Trevally
- Generally long lived and slow growing
- Limited survival rate post release
- Most species self sustaining populations

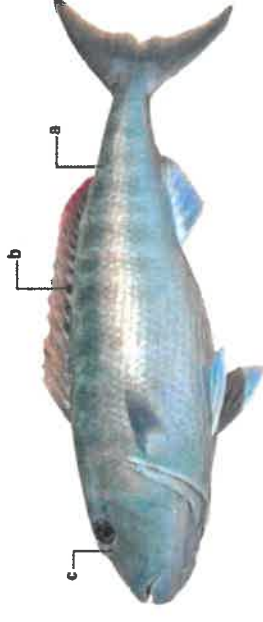
## Exception

Rosy snapper - have stronger connectivity to external sources

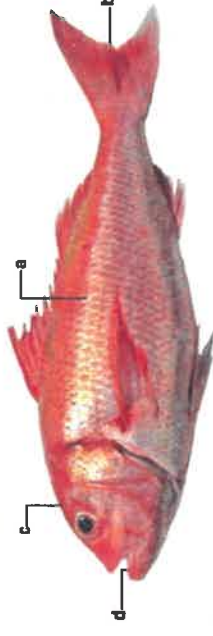
Flame snapper *Etells coruscans*



Green jobfish *Aprion virescens*



Ruby snapper *Etells carbunculus*



## **Coral trout**

Traditionally there were 3 species of Coral trout on CKI

- Thought to be due to overfishing
- Now only passionfruit coral trout (*Plectropomus areolatus*)

## **Passionfruit coral trout**

- Population very low until 2016
- Recruitment event with different age classes
- Unknown where they came from, likely outer reef slope off CKI
- Genetically connected to Maldives - however assumed to be totally reliant on local recruitment.
- Higher risk species



## Gong gong

- Very popular on CKI and considered highly susceptible to overfishing
- Research on gong gong has included:
  - Abundance studies
  - Tagging studies for movement
- Relatively sedentary - do not seem to move very far
- By 2014 population declined by 94%
- Recruitment event evident in 2017
  - Reason for mass recruitment is still unknown
- Despite the recovery, numbers are significantly lower than historical

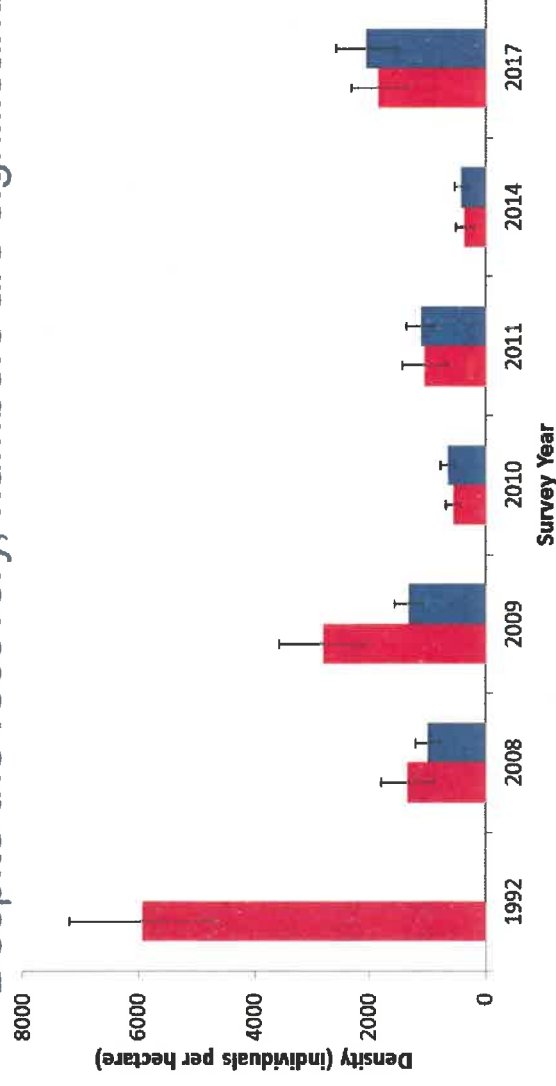
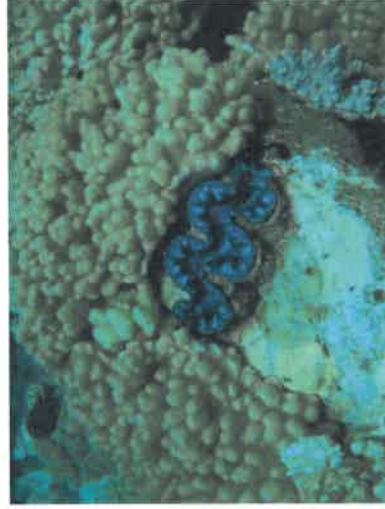


Illustration © R. Swainston/animalia.net.au

## Giant Clams

- Three species known to CKI
  - *Tridacna maxima*
  - Giant clam (*T. gigas*) **extreme risk**
  - smooth giant clam (*T. derasa*) **extreme risk**
- Live in shallow water (up to 20m)
- Slow growing, low reproductive success
- Highly susceptible to overfishing and environmental stress



## Sea Cucumbers (Beche-de-mer)

- 14 species found on CKI
- Not targeted recreationally
- 2006 study identified over 97% were of low commercial viability
- Unlikely to be a viable commercial fishery





## Coral reefs

Important habitat to many species and a good indicator of the health of an ecosystem

- CKI has mainly hard and soft coral
- Several species are unique to CKI
- Highly unlikely that populations are linked to Christmas Island.
- Outer reefs have greater diversity of hard coral and are more resilient.
- Coral reefs in the lagoon are spatially separated and are more vulnerable to declines.
- Global coral bleaching event in 2016 had little to no impact on CKI reefs.



## **Shark depredation**

Recently, concerns have been raised from different community members on the increase of shark interactions while fishing.

- Is not a new issue to CKI
- Occurs all over the world
- Is a competitive learned behavior
  - Sharks have learned to associate boats/fishing with easier food

### **What can I do to reduce shark depredation?**

- Avoid areas known to have high depredation rates
- Stop fishing or move
- Use equipment that minimizes landing time

### **What is DPIRD going to do to about shark depredation?**

- Research – behavior monitoring
- Community engagement

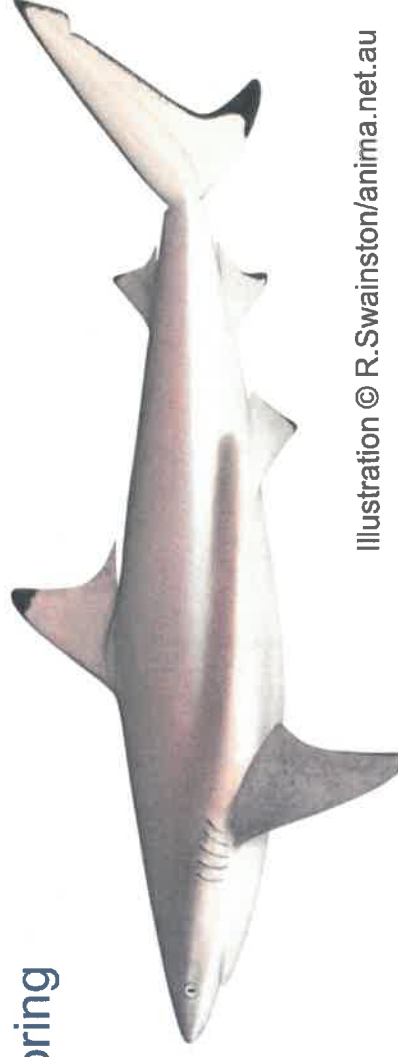


Illustration © R.Swainston/anima.net.au



## CKI Community

- Fishing is important to those residing on CKI
  - Fish are an important protein
  - Cultural significance for celebrations on Home Island
- Fishing is a popular recreational activity across CKI
- The community values in being actively involved in and informed of decisions
- The community has an increased understanding of the importance of sustainable fisheries management
- Fly fishing has become more popular in recent years



## **Fisheries management tools**

Fisheries can be sustainably managed through a variety of management tools such as:

- bag limits
- size limits
- seasons
- spatial restrictions
- licences
- gear restrictions
- protected species
- Not all management tools are always needed or appropriate
- Goal is for minimum effective regulation
- Can be adjusted if required



## **2. Develop recreational fishing rules that are appropriate for CKI**

Fisheries management on CKI is very different to WA.

- Isolated and limited habitat
  - Not all areas within CKI are easily accessible
- Cannot rely on the same research techniques
  - Very limited commercial catch data
  - Limited biological sampling
  - Accessibility to areas
- Unique cultural context
  - Fishing rules haven't been applied on CKI previously
  - Limited access to fresh produce
  - Community's strong cultural values

**Because of the unique nature of CKI, unique fishing rules have been created that are more appropriate to the islands and it's community.**

## Challenges to fisheries management on CKI

- **Higher risk stock**
- **Staff not on island**
  - Need to provide clear messaging and open communication
  - Rely on community stewardship
- **Increased fishing pressure**
  - Population
  - Fishing techniques/technologies
- **Environmental changes**
  - Cyclones
  - Climate change
- **Biosecurity**
  - Ocean-going vessels
- **Unknown fishing pressure**
- **Government processes**
  - Commonwealth and State legislation



### **3. Foster a culture of marine stewardship through education**

Helping the CKI community understand the importance of sustainable management is a key priority.

- Curriculum linked school education programs

- Classroom

- Outdoor activities e.g. Snorkeling, clean ups

- Compliance officer

- engaging with community before rules are in

- Community events e.g. Pulu Kelapa Festival

- Interactive stalls

- Fishing activities

- Articles and community presentations

- Research

- Management

- Education



## **Future priorities for CKI fisheries management**

- **Maintain broad scale research programs**
  - Focus on lagoon and slope species (higher risk)
  - Specific research projects as needed e.g. shark monitoring
- **Community education and compliance**
  - Continue to build on awareness and understanding of future rules
  - Schools education program
  - Support community events
- **Implement the proposed fishing rules**
  - Bag limits
  - Area closures
  - Restricted export of fish products
- **Support growth of commercial industry**
  - Charters/fly fishing
  - Food supply
  - Create licencing framework





## **Future priorities for CKI fisheries management**

To meet the local demand for sale of edible fresh fish, DPIRD intends to introduce commercial fishing licences in the future.

**Fish resources should be primarily managed as a food source for the on-island community, not for export.**

### **1. Cocos Malay community fishers**

- Recognises historic and current low volume trade
- Up to 8 identified Cocos Malay community fishers
- Restricted to recreational bag and gear limits
- Primarily lagoon species
- Submit catch and sale records to DPIRD



### **2. Commercial net and line fishing**

- Likely to be restricted to one boat licence and two shore based fishers
- Focus on low risk fish e.g. tuna and wahoo, silveries, and yellowlip emperor.
- Focus primarily on pelagic species, taken outside of the lagoon.
- Any applications will be assessed with a precautionary approach

### **3. Considering charter fishing licence framework**

**Thank you**  
Visit [dpird.wa.gov.au](http://dpird.wa.gov.au)

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