



NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

NOTICE

PNG BÊCHE-DE-MER FISHERY

CALL FOR LICENCE APPLICATIONS

The National Fisheries Authority is pleased to announce that the National Fisheries Authority Board has approved the National Bêche-de-mer Management Plan. The Board has also approved under the Plan for the Bêche-de-mer fishery to be opened from the 1st of April and close on the 30th September each year.

Under the Plan, the fishery will be managed at the provincial level through an annual limit on the Total Allowable Catch (TAC). The TAC for the province determines the number of Export Licences for that province.

Applications for Bêche-de-mer Fishery Licences are now open and parties intending to participate in the Bêche-de-mer fishery are required to submit your applications to the attention of each of your respective Provincial Management Advisory Committee Chairman (through the Provincial Fisheries Office). Applications will close on the **2nd March 2017** and note that late applications will not be considered. The Provincial Management Advisory Committees and LLG Management Advisory Committees will review and endorse the applications for final approval by the National Fisheries Authority Board. Interested persons or entities are advised to visit the NFA website (www.fisheries.gov.pg) for a gazetted copy of the Bêche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan. Copies can also be obtained from either NFA or the provincial fisheries offices. All applicants are encouraged to read and understand Section 8 of the plan which outlines the Licence Types, Licensing Conditions, Licence Eligibility and the Licence Requirements so that you properly fill and submit your completed application.

Important licence requirements to take note of are outlined below.

LICENSING

All previous licences are no longer applicable and are redundant. All applications will be assessed as new applications under the new licensing criteria as set out in Schedule 1 on the conditions under the Management Plan which are as follows:

i. Licence Types

Depending on the activity, the following licences may be required for participation in the sea cucumber fishery and bêche-de-mer trade:

- a) Exporter, buyer and storage facility licences; with buyer's licence holders to be employed only by a respective exporter and must buy only in that respective Province that the exporter licence is valid for.
- b) Collector vessel licence for exporters using vessels as part of their operations must only operate in the respective Province that the exporter licence is valid for.
- c) Processing licence for downstream or value-adding activities.
- d) Aquaculture licence for hatchery production, pond farming or sea ranching.

ii. **Licensing Conditions**

- a) There shall be a limit to the number of export and buyers licences for all Maritime Provinces as set by the NFA on the advice and recommendation by NMAC.
- b) All licence applications will be screened using the licensing criteria as set out in Schedule 1 of the Management Plan.
- c) Licences will be valid for five (5) years and renewed each year (annually) subject to a performance review and compliance with all reporting criteria and conditions of the licence.
- d) All licences will be issued to start on the 1st of April each year.
- e) All licences will become non-operational when the fishery is closed, either when a Provincial TAC has been reached, or by the compulsory seasonal closure, whichever is reached first.
- f) All approved export licensees will pay a compliance bond fee of K 50,000.00 which will be held as security by the National Fisheries Authority.
- g) In the instance where there is no infringement, the compliance bond will be rolled over to the next year and held as security for that year.
- h) In the instance whereby the compliance bond is forfeited by the licensee for an infringement, the compliance bond will be forfeited to NFA for further management purposes.
- i) In the instance whereby the fishery is closed by the National Fisheries Authority for any reasons outside of the annual closed period, the compliance bond will be refunded to the licensees.

iii. **Licence Eligibility**

- a) Licences to participate in the bêche-de-mer trade are reserved for PNG citizens only.
- b) Trade of bêche-de-mer or bêche-de-mer products are restricted to licensed operators only.

iv. **Licence Requirements**

- a) Licensed exporters will be required to provide all purchasing data every week, using the form as set out in Schedule 2 of this Management Plan, along with their advertised buying prices, also weekly; and export prices when an export has occurred to the respective Provincial Fisheries Administrations and the National Fisheries Authority.
- b) Licences will only be issued or renewed if the NFA Board is satisfied that the company has met all licensing conditions, and will comply, or has complied with the conditions of the Management Plan.
- c) Licences will immediately be suspended once an investigation is commenced for any infringement with regards to the conditions of the Management Plan or licensee is involved in any illegal activity.
- d) Licences will be terminated if the licensee is found guilty of any offence related to the conditions of the Management Plan or any provisions of the Fisheries Management Act 1998.
- e) Licences which are terminated are not eligible for reapplication.

Additional licensing requirements that must be met and be provided with your applications are as follows;

1. Applicants for the Exporters Licence are required to include a Bank Statement as proof of funds in the bank particularly as a guarantee to NFA that the licensee will meet the bond fee of K50,000.00 upon granting of the export licence.
2. Request a licence application invoice from NFA and provide proof of payment, making reference to the type of licence, applicant name and copies provided to NFA. Note that personal, company cheques and cash payments will not be accepted.

NOTE:

1. Application payments without NFA Invoices will not be accepted.
2. Applications will not be assessed if the payments are not received with the applications.

All queries with regards to this announcement are to be directed to Mr. Vakuru Bola (acting Executive Manager for Licensing and Data Management Division) and Mr. Augustine Galuwa (Licensing Officer) on telephone 3090444, fax 3202061 or email vbola@fisheries.gov.pg or agaluwa@fisheries.gov.pg.

Authorised by the Managing Director



JOHN E. KASU