



National Fisheries Authority

Papua New Guinea

P.O. Box 2016, PORT MORESBY, NCD, 121 Papua New Guinea
11th Floor, Kina Bank House, Douglas Street, Port Moresby
Tel: (675) 309 0444 Fax: (675) 320 2061
Email: nfa@fisheries.gov.pg Website: www.fisheries.gov.pg

MEDIA STATEMENT

15 August 2024

National Fisheries Authority Finalizing New Revised National Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan

PORT MORESBY: The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) today announced it is finalising and ratifying a new revised National Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan to effectively manage and support beche-de-mer fishery farmers and investors across all maritime provinces in Papua New Guinea.

NFA Managing Director, Mr. Justin Ilakini said: “The decision to close the beche-de-mer fishery is intended to allow stocks to fully recover and to provide sufficient time to review and update the National Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan, to ensure it reflects the evolving dynamics of the fishery and the ecosystems that support its viability.”

The revised management plan will continue to promote sustainable harvests of the stocks and to ensure long-term benefits for the livelihoods of coastal and island communities. We appreciate the understanding and cooperation of all stakeholders.”

Mr. Ilakini emphasized that the closure is essential for the finalisation and ratifying a new revised management plan by the NFA Board. This strategic modernisation plan aims to incorporate a holistic approach to the beche-de-mer fishery is incorporated, safeguarding the interests of both present and future stakeholders while promoting

economic prosperity for our local communities without compromising the biological sustainability of the beche-de-mer stocks.

“Furthermore, he added, “these revisions will support the implementation of initiatives such as community-based sandfish farming, commercial hatchery development, enhanced monitoring and reporting, and improved harvest strategies to enable longer open seasons for the fishery.”

“The NFA is conducting a nationwide biological assessment to update the status of the beche-de-mer stocks”. Mr. Ilakini continued. “We expect to complete these efforts by the end of the year, after which a decision on reopening the fishery will be made.”

The NFA seeks the support of island and coastal communities to assist the technical team in expediting the review of the management plan. This will help ensure that a management decision is made promptly, and the public is informed in a timely manner.

Mr. Ilakini also reminded the coastal and island communities to be cautious of companies or individuals claiming to have valid licenses or permits, as this could lead to illegal beche-de-mer harvesting.

“Companies and individuals engaging in such illegal activities should cease immediately, as the penalties are severe,” warned Mr. Ilakini. “The public will be informed of any reopening of the beche-de-mer fishery through the mainstream media by the National Fisheries Authority, once all requirements are met.”

The NFA remains committed to promoting sustainable, responsible fishing practices and ensuring the preservation of marine resources for future generations.



Mr. Justin Ilakini
Managing Director