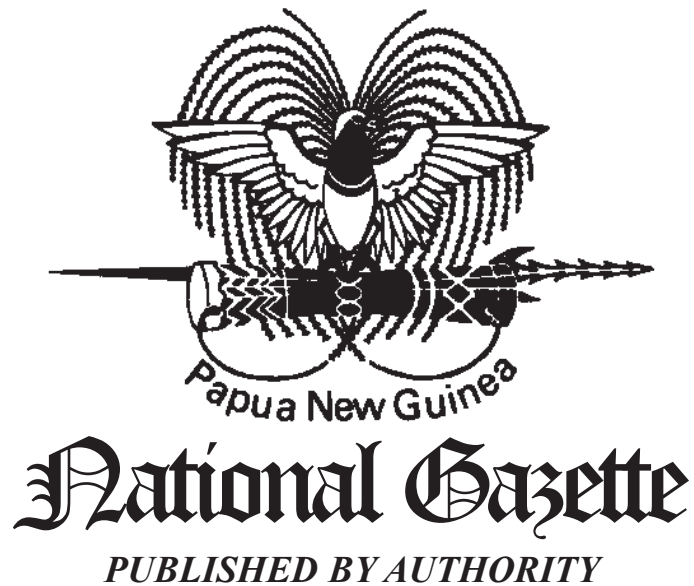




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No. G898]

PORT MORESBY, MONDAY, 8th SEPTEMBER

[2025



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Fisheries Management Act 1998, as amended

**WESTERN PROVINCE AND TORRES STRAIT TROPICAL ROCK
LOBSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Fisheries Management Act 1998 as amended

**THE WESTERN PROVINCE AND TORRES STRAIT TROPICAL ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

I, Jelta Wong, the Honourable Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, by virtue of the powers conferred by Section 28 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1998*, and Section 4(1) of the *Fisheries (Torres Strait Protected Zone) Act 1984*, Chapter 411 and all other powers enabling me, hereby give notice of my approval of the Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan. This plan supersedes the previous plan of 2002 (Gazetted on *National Gazette* No. G57 and takes effect from the date of notification in the *National Gazette* No. G898.

Dated this 28th of July, 2025.

Hon. J. Wong,
Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources.

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Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***Background****Description of the fishery**

Most commercial fishing for tropical rock lobster (*Panulirus ornatus*) occurs on the northern Warrior Reefs (Silver, Wapa & Kokopi Reefs) of Torres Strait Protected Zone. The lobster fishery forms part of the same stock shared with Australia. The fishery provides a major source of income for inhabitants of Daru and the surrounding coastal villages.

More than 90 % of the fishing occurs at these three main big reefs: Silver, Wapa and Kokopi, with some fishing at Gimini, Parama and the fringing reefs of Daru. Divers operate all year round with no significant seasonal cycle to effort.

The main facility of operation for the licensed companies is on Daru Island, Western Province. Licensed operators are obligated to follow specific license conditions including regulations set out in the Management Plan.

Currently, the fishery operates on a competitive Total Allowable Catch (TAC) that is set through collaborative assessment and effort by PNG (NFA) and Australian Management agencies (Australian Fisheries Management Authority and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization). The tropical rock lobster fishery will be managed nationally, and will include Articles 22, 23 and 25 of the TSPZ Treaty Arrangement between PNG and Australia. Under Articles 22 and 23 of the TSPZ Treaty, a catch sharing agreement with Australia allows PNG licensed vessels to catch 25% share from Australian side and 75% from PNG side. Australian vessels are allowed similar arrangement under the above Catch Sharing Arrangement (25% share from PNG side and 75% from Australian side). Furthermore, if PNG does not wish to access its apportionment in Australian waters through a cross-endorsement as stipulated in Article 25 of the Treaty, then the preferential entitlement provisions under this Article will apply in which PNG's apportioned catch share of 25% in Australian waters will be taken up by Australia.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued*

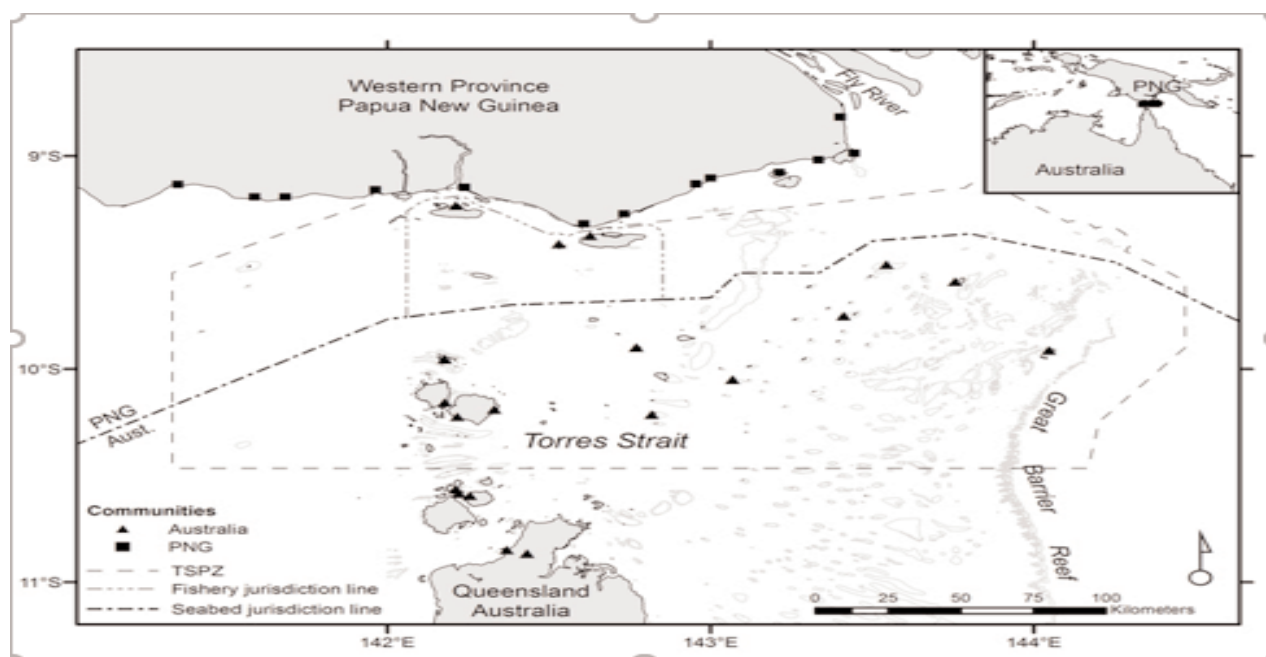


Figure 1. Map of fishery area of the Tropical Rock Lobster and the TSPZ.

Target Species description

The fishery is mainly a single species fishery targeting *Panulirus ornatus*, and some rare occurrence of *Panulirus versicolour* also commonly known as Painted Rock Lobster. *Panulirus ornatus* is commonly known as the tropical rock lobster (TRL), and also by various other names as ornate rock lobster, ornate spiny lobster, and ornate tropical rock lobster.

The tropical rock lobster (*P. ornatus*) is a large species with a blue-green carapace/head. It is characterized by its large frontal horns, as well as distinct patterning with stripes and spots of various colours throughout its body. Its walking legs have intricate stripe patterns, making its appearance similar to a spider. *Panulirus ornatus* are usually found in shallow waters (less than 20meters) under rocks and coral reefs. The ornate rock lobsters are mostly active after dark and are carnivorous scavengers, feeding on bottom-dwelling invertebrates. They are the largest and main commercial species of the family Palinuridae. They grow to size ranges of 30-50cm and weigh around 150grams – 1.5Kilograms. Schedule D of this plan gives specie identification and description.

Panulirus ornatus migrates annually from the Torres Strait to across the Gulf of Papua and to Yule Island in the Central Province to breed. Migration begins in mid to late August with larval release occurring when the *Panulirus ornatus* population ends migration and arrives on the reefs of the eastern seaboard of the Gulf of Papua. The breeding season for *Panulirus ornatus* starts from November to April. After migration to the Gulf of Papua, the sexes segregate by water depth. Males enter shallower water and females enter deeper water until the eggs have hatched. Female *Panulirus ornatus* produce up to three broods with a reduction in size of each subsequent brood. Most breeding adults are three years old. Mating males tend to be larger than females, with carapace lengths ranging from 100–150 mm, and that of females ranging from 90–120 mm. After breeding, there is high mortality in breeding adults.

There is no return migration of breeding adults. Reproductive migration across the Gulf of Papua occurs in order to disperse larvae in oceanic currents that favour their distribution near the Torres Strait. Dispersed throughout the eastern coast of Australia. *Panulirus ornatus* larvae must migrate as juveniles to the adult habitat in the northern Torres Strait. From there, they remain in specific reef complex for 1–2 years until they are of breeding age and undertake the annual mass migration to breed.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—continued**1. INTERPRETATION**

In this Management Plan, unless the contrary intention appears –

“Act” means the *Fisheries Management Act* 1998 as amended and includes the Regulations.

“AFMA” means the Australian Fisheries Management Authority.

“Authority” means the National Fisheries Authority.

“Aquaculture” means the cultivation, propagation or farming of fish, whether from eggs, spawn, spat or seed, including rearing fish lawfully taken from the wild or lawfully imported into the country, or by other similar process.

“Berried female” means female lobster with eggs attached to the setae/ underside.

“Board” means the National Fisheries Board appointed by the National Executive Council.

“Catch-Sharing Arrangement” means management arrangements defined under Articles 22 and 23 of the Torres Strait Treaty.

“CEO” means Chief Executive Officer, the person in charge of over-all running of an Authority, Government agency or company.

“Citizen” means a natural person who is a citizen of Papua New Guinea, and “non-citizen” has a corresponding meaning.

“Customary fishing” means fishing by indigenous inhabitants, in waters where they are entitled by custom to fish, where –

- (a) the fish are taken in a manner that, as regards the boat, the equipment and the method used, is substantially in accordance with their customary traditions; and
- (b) the fish are taken for household consumption, barter or customary social or ceremonial purposes.

“Export” means to -

- (a) send or take out of Papua New Guinea; or
- (b) attempt to send or take out of Papua New Guinea; or
- (a) receive on account or consignment for the purposes of Paragraph (a) or
- (b) ; or
- (d) carry or transport anything for the purposes of Paragraph (a) or (b);

“Fishery” means the tropical rock lobster fishery targeting the lobster species *Panulirus ornatus* from the waters of the Torres Strait and Western Province of PNG.

“Fishing vessel” means any boat, ship or other craft which is used for, equipped to be used for or of a type normally used for fishing or related activities.

“Fishing vessel licence” means a licence issued under Section 3 of the Act in respect of a vessel authorizing the use of the vessel to take fish, or to receive fish on board that have been purchased from persons engaged in artisanal fishing, and to store, package, transport and process, according to the terms of the licence, the fish so taken or received.

“Free diving” means diving without the aid of an underwater breathing apparatus or hookah gear.

“Hookah Gear” means dinghy (surface) operated underwater breathing apparatus attached to a compressor on the dinghy (surface).

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***1. Interpretation—*continued***

“Home Reefs” means the traditional ownership rights to the reefs and fished exclusively by the traditional inhabitants.

“Licence” means a licence or other form of authorization required under the Act, and “license”, “licensed” and “licensee” have corresponding meanings.

“Managing Director” means the Managing Director of the Authority.

“Operator” means any person who is in charge of, responsible for the operations of, directs or controls a vessel, including the owner, charterer and master and includes the beneficiary of the economic or financial benefit of the vessel’s operations;

“Panulirus ornatus” is the scientific name of the target species, commonly called the tropical rock lobster (TRL) and is also locally known by various names such as the ornate rock lobster, ornate spiny lobster, and ornate tropical rock lobster.

“PNG owned and Registered Vessel” means operation of vessel that is based in PNG and that is wholly owned by a PNG citizen or by a company incorporated in PNG.

“Precautionary approach”, also known as the precautionary principle, is a strategy that emphasizes caution and taking preventative measures when there is a perceived threat of harm, even if scientific evidence is either unavailable or inconclusive.

“Protected Zone” means the zone established under Article 10 of the Torres Strait Treaty and includes the area the boundaries of which are described in Annex 9 of the Treaty.

“SCUBA Gear” means Self Contain Under Water Breathing Apparatus.

“Stun gun” means battery operated electric rod used to temporarily stun lobster during diving and capture.

“Torres Strait” means a waterway bounded to the north and south by the Papua New Guinean and Australian mainlands, respectively.

“Torres Strait Treaty” means the Treaty between the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and Australia concerning Sovereignty and Maritime Boundaries in the area between the two countries, including Torres Strait.

“Traditional Inhabitants” means persons who live in or near the Protected Zone and belonging to the established treaty villages.

“Traditional Resource Owners” means families with fishermen or single fisherman who have fished for lobsters and finfish in Western Province and Torres Strait waters and are recognised by their people as having traditional ownership rights to the lobster and finfish resources.

“Trial fishing” means carrying out fishing trials, and investigations for the purpose of testing the commercial viability of new fishing methods, developing new stocks of fish or fishing in previously unexploited waters.

“TRLMAC” means the Tropical Rock Lobster Management Advisory Committee.

“Total Allowable Catch (TAC)” means a total amount of catch considered to be at a sustainable level of exploitation from the fishery.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—continued**2. APPLICATION**

- (a) The Torres Strait and Western Province tropical rock lobster fishery management plan has been prepared in accordance with, the Act and *The Fisheries (Torres Strait Protected Zone) Act* 1984, Chapter 411.
- (b) This tropical rock lobster fishery management plan is cited as “the plan” and “the management plan”.
- (c) This plan applies to the lobster specie scientifically known as *Panulirus ornatus* and commonly called tropical rock lobster (TRL) including any other species of the Palinuridae family which may occur from time to time.
- (d) This plan applies to the tropical rock lobster fishery in the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) under the jurisdiction of the State of Papua New Guinea, Western Province and the Gulf of Papua and other areas within the migratory corridor as shown in Schedule F to this plan. The plan provides for the harvesting, handling, buying, selling, and exporting of tropical rock lobster, including fishing and activities associated with the catching, transshipping, processing including storage of products.
- (e) The schedules and appendices attached to this plan form part of this plan and shall be read together.

3. REVIEW

- (a) This management plan shall be reviewed by the Authority after every two (2) years or at such earlier time as the NFA managing director or the Board shall direct based on the best available scientific advice.
- (b) Any review of the management plan shall be made public by NFA through appropriate stakeholder consultation and holistic approach.

4. OBJECTIVES

- (a) To ensure the long-term sustainability of the tropical rock lobster stocks so that the size is maintained at a level that is safely below the maximum sustainable yield.
- (b) To manage the fishery by ensuring that the fishery operates at a level that will give the maximum economic yield
- (c) To maximise the socio- economic benefits derived from the tropical rock lobster fishery for the traditional resource owners and inhabitants of the TSPZ.
- (d) To maximise the opportunities for traditional resource owners and inhabitants to participate in the fishery by implementing policies for the management of the tropical rock lobster as a dive fishery.
- (e) To manage the fishery with precautionary approach by ensuring the fishery continues to operate within management measures that promote sustainable catch levels and ecosystem health.

5. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT

In view of the importance of the Torres Strait and Western Province lobster fishery, the Authority will encourage the formation of the Tropical Rock Lobster Management Advisory Committee (TRLMAC).

- (a) The TRLMAC composition of members will include:
 - i. One (1) representative from the provincial administration;
 - ii. One (1) district administrator or its nominee;
 - iii. Three (3) customary fisher representatives from the treaty area;

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***5. Management Arrangement—*continued***

- iv. One (1) local fishing industry and one Fishing Industry Association representatives;
 - v. Two (2) NFA representatives, one (1) from Fisheries Management Business Group and one (1) from Monitoring Control and Surveillance Business Group respectively;
 - vi. A provincial fisheries officer;
 - vii. A district Fisheries Officer; and
 - viii. One (1) representative from a non-government organization whose objectives include conservation of the marine environment and its resources.
- (b) The TRLMAC and its members will operate in accordance with the specified TOR set out in Schedule H and such other procedures and standards as may be set by the Board with:
- i. the Chair of the TRLMAC will be a representative from NFA and from the FMBG
 - ii. a quorum requires any six members and must include one customary fisher representative, and the Chair and an Officer from the Authority; and
 - iii. the TRLMAC will meet as required, but, no less than twice a year.
- (c) A TRLMAC must not include any elected political office holders from the national or provincial government or person nominated for such office.
- (d) The TRLMAC may be consulted on other fisheries or fisheries related matter when required

6. COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

The Authority recognises the value of collaborative partnership in facilitating responsible fishing practices and supporting licensed operators to meet Marine Stewardship Council Certification requirements as part and parcel of this Management Plan.

- (a) The Authority may, at its discretion and subject to the availability of resources assist industry initiatives relating to compliance, capacity building, awareness and responsible operations.
- (b) The potential areas of collaboration are outlined in Schedule [I] of this Plan.
- (c) The provision of such support shall not be interpreted as an obligation of the Authority, nor shall it absolve licensed operators of their responsibilities under this Plan and the Act.

7. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The following measures set out in this Plan, the Act shall be complied forthwith by all operators.

7.1 Types of Licenses

- (a) Under the Torres Strait and Western Province Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery individuals or companies who are interested in fishing will need to apply and acquire all the following licences;
 - i) The Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) Licence
 - a. Fishing Licence
 - b. Fish Factory Licence
 - c. Cross-border endorsements (optional)

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***7. Management Measures—*continued*****7.1 Types of Licenses—*continued***

- ii) Western Province
 - a. Fishing Vessel Licence
 - b. Fish Factory Licence
 - c. Fish Buyers Licence
 - d. Fish Export Licence

(b) Under this plan no new licenses shall be issued to non-citizen companies, individuals or foreign joint venture arrangements. All licenses holders must be based in Daru. The types of licenses and description include but not limited to;

- i) TSPZ Fishing Licence
- ii) TSPZ Fish Factory Licence
- iii) Western Province Fishing Vessel License

This license is issued to a seaworthy vessel that is specifically used for the purpose of fishing, and storage of TRL. It must be 20m or less in length, satisfied all conditions stipulated in the Act and Regulations, and other relevant government agencies' requirements. Licensed vessels are required to have only seven (7) dinghies or tenders, seven (7) hookah divers and seven (7) crews, one for each dinghy or tender to support fishing operation. Under this license, vessels are eligible for cross-endorsement application.

- iv) Western Province Fish Factory License

Companies intending to process lobsters require a fish factory license for purpose of processing, grading, packing and export and satisfactory meet facility structure and processing requirements of the PNG Standard for Fish and Fishery Products (Food Safety and Trade Requirements)

- v) Western Province Fish Buyer's license

Any person or individual buying lobster from the divers or fishermen, is required to have a TRL buyers' license. The buyer's license allows the licensee to buy directly from the fishermen.

- vi) Western Province Export Facility License

Companies intending to export Lobster require an Export Facility Licence as specified under the Fisheries Management Regulations 2000 as amended. An Export Facility Licence will only be issued to a company that holds a Fish Factory Licence, and satisfactory meet facility, processing and the export requirements of the PNG Standard for Fish and Fishery Products (Food Safety and Trade Requirements) with a minimum of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Certification and including other Catch Certification requirements deemed necessary.

(c) Under this plan, Tropical Rock Lobster will be licensed as a separate commercial fishery of its own specific to Western Province and the TSPZ catch areas.

(d) Other types of licences such as the Aquaculture Facility Licence and trial license may be considered through NFA's Licensing Advisory Committee (LAC) process with prior consultation from the TRLMAC for appropriate screening, assessment and recommendations to be made to the Board for decisions.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***7. Management Measures—*continued*****7.1 Types of Licenses—*continued***

- (e) Fishing and Aquaculture license is reserved for Treaty inhabitants either as a single applicant or through a documented and existing joint venture arrangement with other non-treaty interested party.
- (f) All licences are issued for a one-year period and is valid on the date of issuance. Licensees are required to re-apply for a new license every year at the date of expiration of the licence.
- (g) All tropical rock lobster licensed fishing vessels operating in the fishery must be PNG owned and registered and must operate out of Daru.
- (h) There shall be only seven licensed tropical rock lobster fishing vessel allowed in the fishery. There shall be no more than seven (7) registered dinghies attached to each Licensed Fishing Vessel.
- (i) Each company is restricted to two (2) support vessels with appropriate registration or license which will not include fishing.
- (j) Licensed operators are eligible for a maximum of three (3) fishing vessels which will also serve as eligible vessels for cross-endorsement in Australian waters.
- (k) There shall be no more than 27 registered dinghies for cross-border endorsement. The 27 dinghies will be installed with VMS – NEMO and distributed among the licensed vessels. The dinghies shall display clearly on the bow the registration number of the licensed vessel. This will be marked in the sequence “Call sign” and dingy number starting from “01”.
- (l) The TRLMAC may endorse or recommend all new licenses for the vessels and dinghies before submitting to the Authority’s LAC.
- (m) Operators are required to give priority to Traditional inhabitants for dinghy allocation.
- (n) All lobster harvested shall be exported out from Western Province or trans-shipped to Port Moresby.
- (o) All licensed operators must have a shore-based facilities in Daru, which will serve as the storage, refuelling, provisioning, packaging, and exporting facility.
- (p) Where there is no commercial air and sea freighting services out from Daru direct to export destinations, the process of inter-port transfer shall be complied with and data collected as product originating from Daru catch area for compliance with traceability requirements. No product shall be exported without clearance from the Authority.

7.2 Licensing Requirements

- (a) Individuals or operators applying for a new licence must be a PNG registered company in compliance with all relevant Papua New Guinea regulations, laws and legislations.
- (b) All new license applications must be accompanied by a TRLMAC endorsement before submission to NFA’s licensing process.
- (c) Licenses are restricted to traditional inhabitants of the Torres Strait Protected Zone only. A joint venture will require a 51/49 percent share between the traditional inhabitants and a non-indigenous PNG citizen, respectively with the traditional inhabitant owning 51 percent or more of the share as the majority shareholder.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***7. Management Measures—*continued*****7.2 Licensing Requirements—*continued***

- (d) Licensed exporters shall provide weekly purchasing data using the prescribed form in Schedule B, in the Management Plan, including copies of their advertised buying and export price.
- (e) All Lobster species collected and purchased from areas in a particular province and will be reported as being from that specific province. Companies who transfer or sell their lobster products to another company located in another province must apply for inter-port transfer form using the form in Schedule C of the management plan.
- (f) The inter-port transfer must be approved by the Managing Director before any trade or transfer takes place.
- (g) Licenses may be suspended once an investigation is commenced for any infringements with regards to the license conditions, the management plan, the Act and Regulation or if the license holder is involved in any other illegal activities.
- (h) Licences which are terminated are not eligible for re-application.

7.3 Size Limits and Restriction on Egg-bearing Females

- (a) Tropical rock lobster with a tail length of less than 115mm or carapace length of 90mm shall not be caught or harvested and exported.
- (b) Berried (egg-bearing) female tropical rock lobster shall not be taken at any time.

7.4 Personal Consumption

Only a bag limit of 10 kg can be transported to Port Moresby or overseas for personal consumption with a prescribed fee, and requires authorisation from the NFA Managing Director using Certificate for Personal Consumption of Fish and Fishery Products issued by NFA.

7.5 Gear Restrictions and Closure

- (a) The use of hookah gear for fishing of tropical rock lobster is prohibited from 1st December to 31st March each fishing season.
- (b) The Hookah Ban or closure period duration is also subject to the Managing Directors discretion based on best science advice and appropriate consultation.
- (c) A total of 49 hookah gears will be allowed to fish inside the PNG side of the TSPZ and Western Province tropical rock lobster fishery. Each licensed vessel will be allowed to have on board a maximum of seven (7) hookah gears per year.
- (d) Fishing for tropical rock lobster is only allowed by free and hookah diving and traditional methods including surface lights.

7.6 Prohibition

- (a) Fishing by SCUBA gear, stun gun, bottom trawling and underwater lights is strictly prohibited under this Plan, consistent with the Act and Regulations.
- (b) Taking of turtles, dugongs or any other endangered, threatened or protected (ETP) species by licensed vessels and dinghies while fishing for tropical rock lobster or other related activities is prohibited.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***7. Management Measures—*continued*****7.6 Prohibition—*continued***

- (c) Fishing of turtles, dugongs, or other endangered species during TRL fishing is prohibited
- (d) Only licensed fishing vessels and dinghies or tenders shall be given approval for cross-endorsement and shall be allowed to fish in Australian waters within the TSPZ.
- (e) Fishing by licensed operators near or within home reefs identified in the plan are prohibited.
- (f) Fishing within or near a Marine Protected Area is also prohibited.
- (g) All licensed operators, vessels and dinghies are prohibited from any activity that is deemed as contributing to marine litter and must not discard trash, waste (non- biodegradable) or any pollutants during operations.
- (h) Minors under the age of 18 are prohibited to participate in this fishery.
- (i) Export, possession, and sale of undersized tropical rock lobster, including the export of meat from undersized lobster is prohibited and offenders will be prosecuted.

7.7 Open Season

Fishing occurs all year round with free diving. Hookah season opens every 1st of April and closes on the 01st of December.

7.8 Home Reefs

Home reefs and other fringing reefs are reserved for traditional, and subsistence uses only. Licensed commercial vessels shall not be allowed to fish within or near these fringing reefs. The home reefs are: Otamabu, Potomaza, Wamero, Gimini and Parama.

7.9 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Management Strategy

- (a) The TAC will be based on the Catch Sharing Arrangement between Papua New Guinea and Australia. This will be further determined by NFA and AFMA through CEO to CEO agreement.
- (b) When the TAC for the fishery is reached the fishery will scale down to free diving only, considering the Global TAC is still under fished. If not the fishery will go into full closure for all commercial operations.
- (c) The Managing Director has the discretion to extend Hooker diving considering the Global TAC is under fished and based on appropriate consultation, science and best practice.
- (d) As an optional Management approach, the Authority shall develop and implement a Quota Management System (QMS) to give effect to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Papua New Guinea. The PNG share of the TAC from its jurisdiction of the TSPZ will be allocated in a manner that recognizes and includes licensed vessel operators as well as traditional inhabitants and resource owners of the TSPZ area. The QMS will serve as a mechanism to enhance the effectiveness of TAC-based controls, improve accountability, and promote the long-term sustainability of the fishery. The operational rules, allocation criteria and processes and administrative arrangements for the QMS shall be documented and included as an annex to this Management Plan.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***8. MONITORING AND REPORTING**

- a)* The licensed operators must submit catch and effort data to NFA on the standard lobster logbook provided or the operators' records including the daily purchase record. The data should include weight in kilograms, number of days fished per diver and any other information that NFA may deem necessary per the forms attached in Schedules A, B and C.
- b)* Catch reports containing the information set out in Clause (a) must be submitted to NFA every 21st day of each month.
- c)* Failure to submit the required reports within fourteen (14) days after the required 21st day of each month or submitting incorrect data may result in the application of relevant penalties.

8.1 Non-compliance and penalty

A breach of any provision of this plan is a breach of the license conditions and shall attract appropriate penalties under the Act and Regulations.

9. EXPORT

- a)* The harvesting, possession, sale, and export of undersized tropical rock lobster, including the export of meat from undersized lobster is prohibited and offenders will be prosecuted.
- b)* Operator must submit export remittance from the last export to the Authority in order to be issued an export approval.
- c)* Commercial export of TRL shall comply with Part 2 of PNG Standard of Fish and Fishery Product (Food Safety and Trade).

9.1 Food Safety Standards

- a)* All operators must have a Good Management Practice guideline or plan.
- b)* Operators are required to comply with the Good Manufacturing Practices and the PNG standards for Fish and Fishery Products 2019.

10. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- a)* NFA will support research and development collaborations not limited to resource surveys and assessments with relevant stakeholders and research institutions for purpose of contributing to a revised and improved plan.
- b)* NFA will also conduct necessary research and development with relevant partners and agencies to develop, test and trial new approaches to fishery improvement or enhancement.

11. TRIAL LICENSE

A trial license shall only be issued to a PNG citizen. There shall be only one trial license for Mariculture and Aquaculture for a period within the set time frame and conditions consistent with the trial policy as approved by the Managing Director. Information and data from the trial will be used to determine the status or the future application of Mariculture and Aquaculture in this fishery.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***12. CUSTOMARY RIGHTS**

This plan recognises existing customary and community management measures, laws or regulations in place which are consistent with this plan and other relevant national legislation and international instruments.

13. AMENDMENTS

- (a) This plan shall be reviewed after 2 years from the date of Gazettal or as deemed necessary from time to time as directed by the Managing Director or as new information becomes available following best available scientific advice.
 - (b) Any amendment to this Management Plan shall be endorsed by the Board and submitted to the Minister for approval and notified in the *National Gazette*.
-

Endorsed by the Fisheries Board this 25th day of July, 2025.

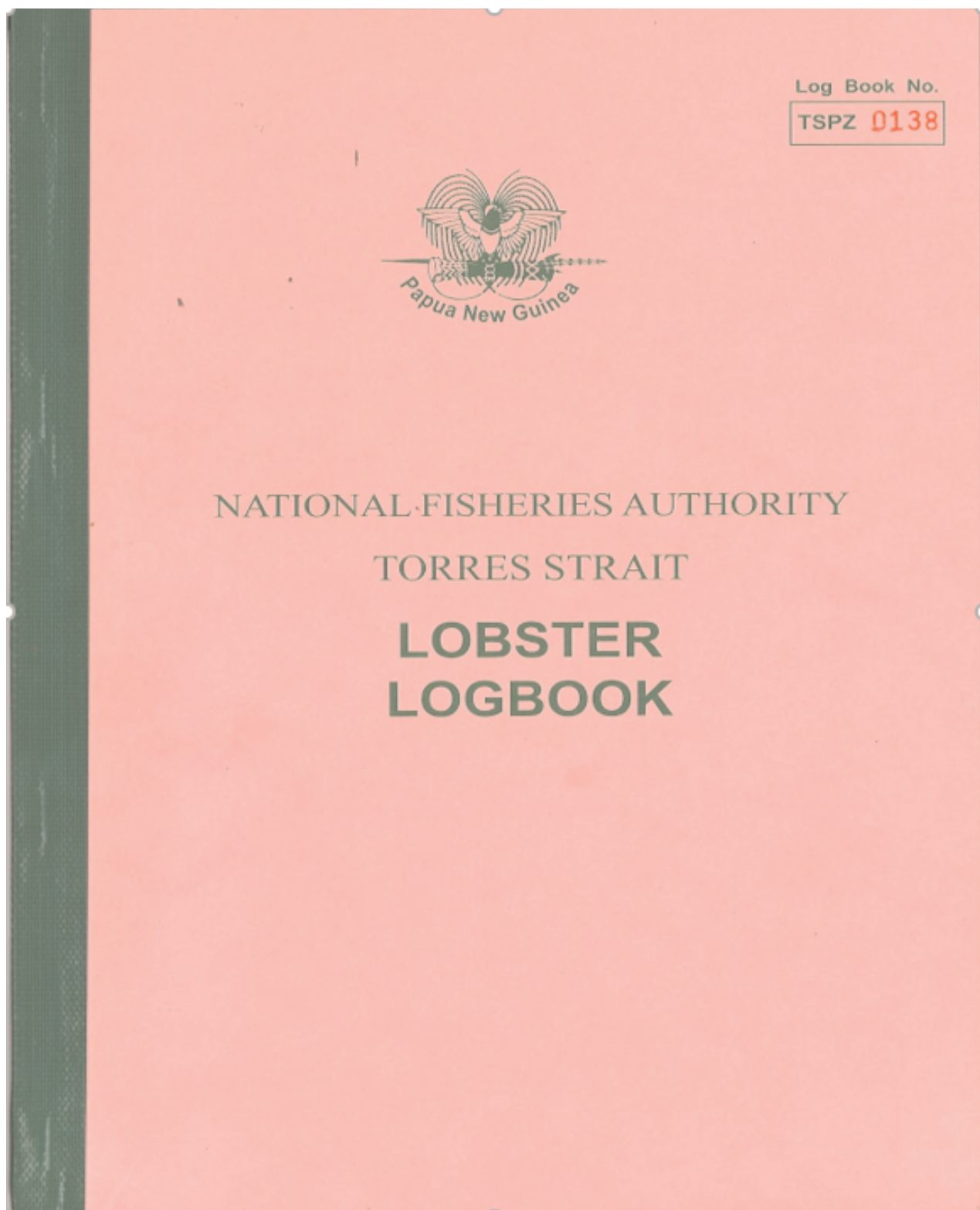
Chairman,
National Fisheries Board.

Approved by the Minister this 28th day of July, 2025.

Minister,
Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—continued**SCHEDULE A. STANDARD TORRES STRAIT LOBSTER LOGBOOK**

This is the standard logbook that all licensed fishing vessels shall have on-board. It is to be logged and submitted as prescribed in Section 7, subsection 7.10 of the plan.



Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—continued**Schedule A. Standard Torres Strait Lobster Logbook—continued****LOGBOOK REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS**

- Section 1.** Complete this section for each **Fishing** day and **Non-Fishing** day. See notes 1 & 2 below.
- Section 2.** Complete this section for each fishing day. Refer to notes 3 through 8 below.
- Section 3.** This section is optional and may be filled out for your own convenience or left blank. Please note what units you report petrol and other consumables in.
- Section 4.** Complete this section for each day the boat is not fishing. **All days between issue and expiry of the licence must be accounted for in Sections 1, 2 and 4.**

More specific notes:

1. Anchorage: State place or reef name where boat is anchored.
2. Trip Number: Record the year and the 'trip' or 'voyage' number. For example, the second trip made in 1987 would be recorded 87-02.
3. Indicate whether the dinghy is attached to the operations of the boat. By this we mean that the dinghy normally leaves port with the boat, the crew of the dinghy live and eat on the boat or boat/barge towed by or associated with the boat. Circle either yes or no to the question "Part of Crew" as appropriate.
4. If the dinghy is licenced, record the licence number.
5. Head diver's name should be that of the fisherman actively controlling the fishing activities of the dinghy or canoe. The number of divers includes the dinghy or canoe driver, i.e. **the total number of fishermen in the dinghy or canoe.**
6. Reef(s) fished: You should use the accepted local name or names shown on charts of Torres Strait to indicate where the dinghies were fishing. This information is important since catches made in the area of the Torres Strait Protected Zone under Australian jurisdiction must be reported to the Australian Authorities. Catches will be reported in an aggregate form so as not to jeopardize the confidentiality.
7. Number and weight (reported in kilograms) of tails can be recorded for up to three separate landings for each dinghy. You may record the daily subtotals for each dinghy but this is not compulsory.
8. Method: Record whether lobsters were caught by diving (D) or by lamp fishing (L), by circling the appropriate response.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued*Schedule A. Standard Torres Strait Lobster Logbook—*continued*

TSPZ 0138	TORRES STRAIT LOBSTER LOG BOOK	06851
Log Book No.		Page No.

1	Name of fishing vessel: _____ Licence No. _____ Date: ____/____/____ Anchorage: _____ Trip No.: _____	
	Dinghy 1: Part of Crew? ☐ YES ☐ NO Licence No.: _____ Species _____ No. Lobsters _____ Tail (KG) _____ Whole (KG) _____ Method ☐ D ☐ L Head Diver's Name: _____ No. Divers: _____ Reef (s) fished: _____ Hookah ☐ YES ☐ NO Hour _____ Subtotal _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
	Dinghy 2: Part of Crew? ☐ YES ☐ NO Licence No.: _____ Species _____ No. Lobsters _____ Tail (KG) _____ Whole (KG) _____ Method ☐ D ☐ L Head Diver's Name: _____ No. Divers: _____ Reef (s) fished: _____ Hookah ☐ YES ☐ NO Hour _____ Subtotal _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
	Dinghy 3: Part of Crew? ☐ YES ☐ NO Licence No.: _____ Species _____ No. Lobsters _____ Tail (KG) _____ Whole (KG) _____ Method ☐ D ☐ L Head Diver's Name: _____ No. Divers: _____ Reef (s) fished: _____ Hookah ☐ YES ☐ NO Hour _____ Subtotal _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
2	Reef (s) fished: _____ Hookah ☐ YES ☐ NO Hour _____ Subtotal _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
	Dinghy 4: Part of Crew? ☐ YES ☐ NO Licence No.: _____ Species _____ No. Lobsters _____ Tail (KG) _____ Whole (KG) _____ Method ☐ D ☐ L Head Diver's Name: _____ No. Divers: _____ Reef (s) fished: _____ Hookah ☐ YES ☐ NO Hour _____ Subtotal _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
	Dinghy 5: Part of Crew? ☐ YES ☐ NO Licence No.: _____ Species _____ No. Lobsters _____ Tail (KG) _____ Whole (KG) _____ Method ☐ D ☐ L Head Diver's Name: _____ No. Divers: _____ Reef (s) fished: _____ Hookah ☐ YES ☐ NO Hour _____ Subtotal _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
	Dinghy 6: Part of Crew? ☐ YES ☐ NO Licence No.: _____ Species _____ No. Lobsters _____ Tail (KG) _____ Whole (KG) _____ Method ☐ D ☐ L Head Diver's Name: _____ No. Divers: _____ Reef (s) fished: _____ Hookah ☐ YES ☐ NO Hour _____ Subtotal _____	_____ _____ _____ _____
	Daily Totals	No. Lobsters _____

3	This section must be completed if the boat is not fishing for an extended period (eg. Between reaps) The boat was tied up or not fishing From / / Until / /	Species Code * NUR - Tropical Ornate Lobster (Panulirus Ornatus) * NUV - Painted Rock Lobster (Panulirus Versicolor) Signature of Master: _____ Go to the next page when you start fishing again.
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SCHEDULE B. STANDARD TRL FISHERY DAILY PURCHASE RECORD FOR BUYERS

This form shall be issued to licensed buyers, licensed factories, and licensed fishing vessels. They will record all purchases of tropical rock lobster daily and will submit together with the logbook (for fishing companies) in Schedule A according in compliance with Section 7, subsection 7.11.

[illegible]

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—continued

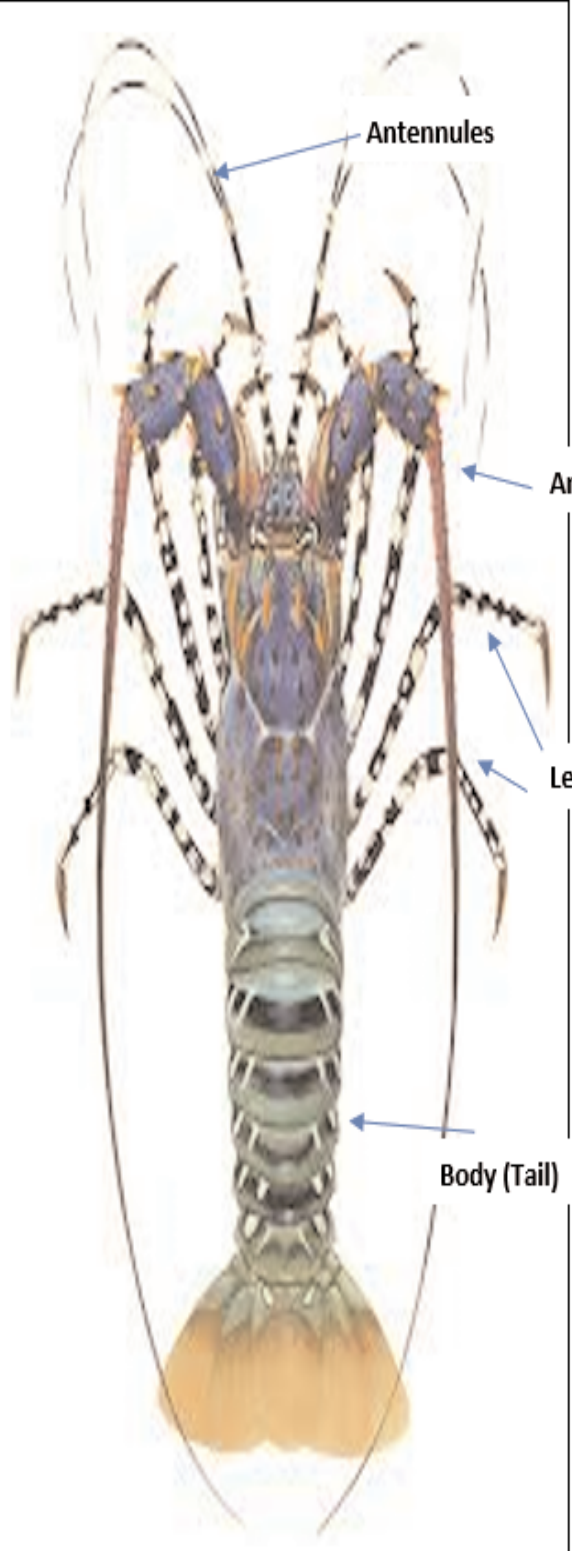
SCHEDULE C. STANDARD INTERPORT TRANSFER FORM

This form shall be filled by all licensed companies and submitted together with other relevant documents and requirements for approval by the Managing Director or an appointee before transporting lobster products out of Daru Port to other Ports for selling or exporting.

[illegible]

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued*

SCHEDULE D. SPECIES IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION

Main Target Species	
Scientific Name: <i>Panulirus ornatus</i> Common Names: Ornate Tropical Rock Lobster, Crayfish, Kaiar Description, Habitat and Harvest Information Available wild-caught, these marine crustaceans predominately occur in the southern part of PNG, from Abau District down to Yule Island in the Central province, Gulf Province, and the Western Province, found from usually shallow water (less than 20m) on the rock and coral reefs, although they can be found at over 100m. their body color varies but is often brightly patterned (esp. on the legs). Their antennae are extremely long and the flagella on the long antennules between the antennae are also long and forked. Ornate Rock Lobsters are the main commercial Tropical Rock lobster and the largest, they are often found in sand or mud. Rock lobsters are mostly active after dark and are carnivorous scavengers, feeding on bottom dwelling invertebrates. Season: Mainly available from March to October Size and Weight: Commonly 350g – 1.5kg and 30cm-50cm	 The illustration shows a top-down view of a rock lobster. It has a long, segmented body with a patterned appearance. The legs are long and jointed, with some segments showing a dark and light pattern. The antennae are very long and thin, extending far beyond the head. The tail fan at the bottom is broad and yellowish-orange.

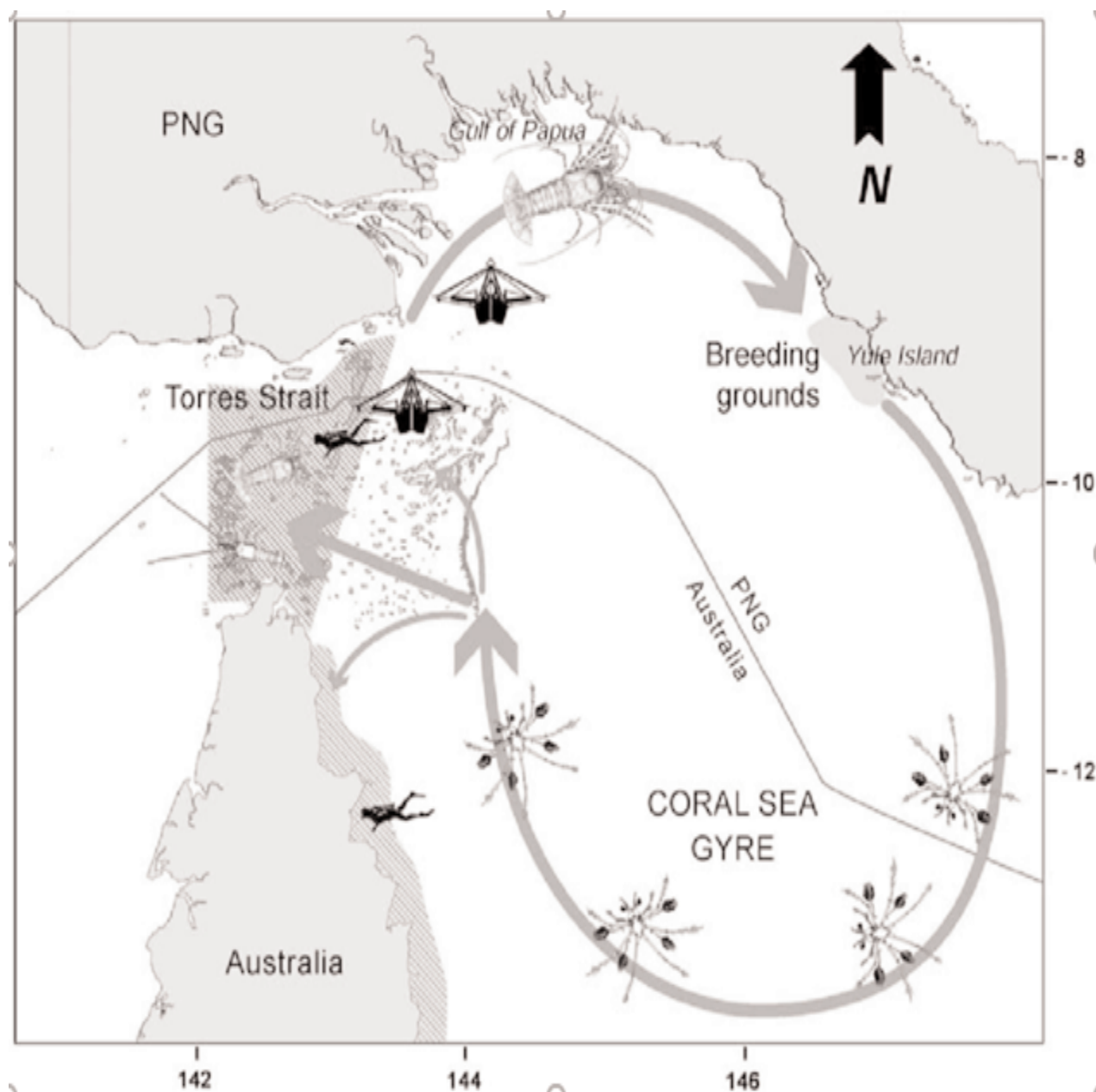
Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued*

SHEDULE E. CATCH CERTIFICATE

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CATCH CERTIFICATE (FOR FISH & FISHERY PRODUCTS)					
CERTIFICATE NUMBER: PGNFA20250001					
Wild Catch ☐ Farming ☐					
Section 1.0. Harvest Vessel Identity					
Name of Harvest Vessel		Flag State	License No.	Fishing License Validity	Vessel Registration No.
Gear Type	Port of Unloading	Date of Unloading	WCPFC ID No.	Vessel IRCS	Vessel IMO No.
Export Approval No. (EAN)			Batch No./ Lot No.		
Section 2.0. Establishment/ Enterprise Details (Wild Catch & Farming)					
Licensed Establishment/ Enterprise			License No.		
Area of Operation (Location of licensed establishment)			License Validity		
Export Approval No. (EAN)			Batch No./ Lot No.		
Section 3.0. Harvest Dates & Zones					
Zone(s)			Period (from-to)		
Section 4.0. Description of Products					
Line No.	Product Type	Species (Scientific Name)	Area of Harvest (if different from area of operation)	Customs Code (HS Code)	Product Weight (Kg)
1					
2					

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—continued**Schedule E. Catch Certificate—continued**

3					
4					
Totals					
Section 5.0. Transport Details					
Port/ Airport/ Other Place of Departure					
Vessel Name & Flag					
Flight No./ Airway Bill No.					
Truck Nationality & Registration No.					
Other Transport Document					
Container Number(s)					
Section 6.0. Name & Address of Exporter		Signature	Date	Seal (Stamp)	
Section 7.0. Flag State Authority Validation					
Name/Title		Signature	Validation Date	Seal (Stamp)	
IUU Compliance and Traceability Declaration					
We confirm that: The fish and fishery products listed herein were harvested in full compliance of Papua New Guinea fisheries laws and regulations and in accordance with applicable regional and international conservation and management measures.					

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***SCHEDULE F. THIS PLAN APPLIES TO THE TRL MIGRATORY CORRIDOR**

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—continued

SCHEDULE G LICENCE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

SG1. FISHING VESSEL LICENCE CHECKLIST

		NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY LICENSING AND DATA MANAGEMENT BUSINESS GROUP LICENSING SECTION PO Box 2016, Port Moresby, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea Telephone: 309 0444, Facsimile: 320 2069, Email: nfa@fisheries.gov.pg
COMPANY/BUSINESS NAME	:	_____
CONTACT PERSON	:	_____
JOB TITLE	:	_____
BUSINESS POSTAL ADDRESS	:	_____ _____
BUSINESS PHONE NUMBER	:	_____
BUSINESS FAX NUMBER	:	_____
BUSINESS E-MAIL ADDRESS	:	_____
DATE	:	_____
CHECKLIST FOR NEW DOMESTIC FISHING BOAT LICENCE		
Please check that you attach the following to your application form:-		
☐	Proposal/Business plan	☐ Management Agreement
☐	IPA Incorporation Certificate	☐ Most recent Company Extract provided by IPA
☐	Completed Application Form You must - fill in all fields - initial any changes that you wish to make - sign and date the application form	
☐	NFA Data Sheet	
☐	Department of Transport Certificate of Vessel Registration	
☐	Department of Transport Certificate of Survey/Inspection	
☐	Colour Photograph of vessel, clearly showing radio call sign and vessel name	
☐	Certificate of Deletion from previous country of registry	
☐	Plan and Specification of the Fishing Vessel	
☐	Bill of Sale/Purchase	
☐	Declaration of Ownership	
☐	IRC Stamped Duty for the Remittance of Payment to the vessel owner	
☐	Contract of Sale Agreement between Purchaser and Owner of vessel	
☐	Proof of installation and registration of ALC on board the vessel (Provide by PANGTEL or Aerial Communication)	
☐	Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate	
☐	Bank Cheque for application fee (<i>Application fee is K200.00 per application – non refundable</i>)	

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—continued**Schedule G: Licence Application Checklist—continued****SG2. NEW SHOREBASED LICENCE APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY
LICENSING AND DATA MANAGEMENT GROUP
LICENSING SECTION

PO Box 2016, Port Moresby, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea
 Telephone: 309 0444, Facsimile: 320 2069, Email: nfa@fisheries.gov.pg

COMPANY/BUSINESS NAME	:	_____
CONTACT PERSON	:	_____
CONTACT PERSON'S JOB TITLE	:	_____
BUSINESS POSTAL ADDRESS	:	_____

BUSINESS LOCATION (SPECIFIC AREA OF OPERATION)	:	_____

BUSINESS PHONE NUMBER	:	_____
BUSINESS FAX NUMBER	:	_____
BUSINESS E-MAIL ADDRESS	:	_____
DATE OF LODGEMENT	:	_____

CHECKLIST**NEW SHOREBASED LICENCE (BUYER, FACTORY, STORAGE, EXPORT AND AQUACULTURE)**

PRE-REQUISITES (The following documents are pre-requisites to accepting your applications. Note that acceptance of applications is not a guarantee to granting licences);

- ☐ **PROPOSAL/BUSINESS PLAN**
(Enclosed is a Module to assist in writing your proposal/plan)
- ☐ **Proof of registration with the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA)**
 - Attach Incorporation Certificate or Business Name Certificate
 - Attach the most recent Company Extract (History) supplied by IPA
- ☐ **Bank Reference**
- ☐ **Proof of registration with the Internal Revenue Commission (IRC)**
 - Attach Company or Business Certificate of Tax Identification Number (TIN)
- ☐ **Provincial Government Endorsement from PEC or Appointee**
- ☐ **Inspection Report from the authorized Provincial Fishery Officer (Dry Products only) or Audit Report from NFA Audit & Certification Officer (Wet products)**
- ☐ **Lease/Rental Agreement for lease of facility**
- ☐ **Plan and Specification of the holding/processing facility**
- ☐ **Completed Application Form**
 - All fields are filled in
 - All changes are initialed thereafter
 - Application form is dated and signed
- ☐ **NFA Information Sheet**
- ☐ **2x passport sized photographs of the intended buyer (attached to the Fish Buyers Application Form)**
 - Write the name of the intended buyer at the back of the photograph
- ☐ **Bank Cheque** for application fee (Application fee is K200.00 per application Form and it is non refundable)

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued*

Schedule G: Licence Application Checklist—*continued*

SG3. RENEWAL OF SHOREBASED LICENCE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

	NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY LICENSING AND DATA MANAGEMENT GROUP LICENSING SECTION PO Box 2016, Port Moresby, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea Telephone: 309 0444, Facsimile: 320 2069, Email: nfa@fisheries.gov.pg																
COMPANY/BUSINESS NAME : _____ CONTACT PERSON : _____ JOB TITLE : _____ BUSINESS POSTAL ADDRESS : _____ _____ BUSINESS LOCATION ADDRESS : _____ _____ BUSINESS PHONE NUMBER : _____ BUSINESS FAX NUMBER : _____ BUSINESS E-MAIL ADDRESS : _____																	
CHECKLIST FOR RENEWAL OF SHOREBASED LICENCE Please check that you attach the following to your application form:- (Note: Provide documents for ticked boxes only) ☐ Completed Application Form You must - fill in all fields - initial any changes that you wish to make - sign and date the application form ☐ Inspection Report (Dry Products only). Attached is an Inspection Checklist. Pass it to your Provincial Fisheries Officer to inspect your facility ☐ Audit Report (Wet products only) Please arrange the Team Leader, Audit and Certification Unit on telephone 309 0444 or fax 320 2061 if your facility has not been audited in the past three (3) months. ☐ Monthly Buying Reports (MBRs) Outstanding MBRs for the current licensing period and the past 3 years licensing periods. [Contact the Data Management Unit on telephone 309 0444 on your reporting status] ☐ Final Export Documents Outstanding export documentation for the current licensing period and the past 3 years licensing periods. [Contact the Data Management Unit or the Audit & Certification Unit on telephone 309 0444 on your export reporting status] ☐ 2x passport size photographs of the fish buyer attached to the Buyer(s) Application Form. ☐ Most recent Company Extract provided by Investment Promotion Authority ☐ Proof of Registry – Internal Revenue Commission – Certificate of Tax Identification Number (TIN) ☐ Proof of payment of license fee License fees can be made in either the Bank Cheque to the National Fisheries Authority or deposited into one of the following NFA Accounts. (Note: Application fee is non refundable) NFA Accounts Details: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Beneficiary:</td> <td>Department of Finance – National Fisheries Authority Revenue Account</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Account Number:</td> <td>7012972860</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Account Currency:</td> <td>PGK</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank Address:</td> <td>BSP Building, Corner of Musgrave & Douglas St, Port Moresby, PNG</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BSB Number:</td> <td>088 294</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Swift Code:</td> <td>BOSPPGPM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank Name:</td> <td>Bank of South Pacific Limited (BSP)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Branch:</td> <td>Port Moresby</td> </tr> </table>		Beneficiary:	Department of Finance – National Fisheries Authority Revenue Account	Account Number:	7012972860	Account Currency:	PGK	Bank Address:	BSP Building, Corner of Musgrave & Douglas St, Port Moresby, PNG	BSB Number:	088 294	Swift Code:	BOSPPGPM	Bank Name:	Bank of South Pacific Limited (BSP)	Branch:	Port Moresby
Beneficiary:	Department of Finance – National Fisheries Authority Revenue Account																
Account Number:	7012972860																
Account Currency:	PGK																
Bank Address:	BSP Building, Corner of Musgrave & Douglas St, Port Moresby, PNG																
BSB Number:	088 294																
Swift Code:	BOSPPGPM																
Bank Name:	Bank of South Pacific Limited (BSP)																
Branch:	Port Moresby																

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—continued**SCHEDULE H: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TRLMAC****NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY****PO Box 2016, Port Moresby, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea****Telephone: (675) 3212643, Facsimile: (675) 3202069, Email: nfa@fisheries.gov.pg****TORRES STRAIT AND WESTERN PROVINCE TROPICAL ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
TROPICAL ROCK LOBSTER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

TERMS OF REFERENCE**Background**

The Torres Strait and Western Province Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery is a gazetted fishery which is co-managed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and the National Fisheries Authority pursuant to Section 28 of the Fisheries Management Act 1998 as amended and by Section 4 (1) of The Fisheries (Torres Strait Protected Zone) Act 1984, Chapter 411, respectively. This management plan is solely responsible for protecting and maintaining the traditional way of life for the people, provide an avenue for wealth creation and generation through sustainable fishing, promote good governance and robust management practices through its implementation.

Commonly known as the tropical rock lobster in PNG and kaiar in the Torres Strait Islands of Australia, it is the largest and most valuable specie in the Palinuridae family and is mainly found in reef habitats or under boulders at depths of 8m to 100m throughout the Southern Region of PNG towards the Torres Straits and Indonesian borders. Its scientific name is *Panulirus ornatus*, a colorful species with blue/green shades and it is a carnivorous specie feeding mainly on small fish and shells.

The fishery is one of the first and oldest coastal fishery in PNG and it started in the 1960's. Tropical rock lobsters migrate during spawning from Daru through the Gulf of Papua to Yule Island in the Central province during which they are susceptible to prawn trawlers. It is a semi-commercial fishery supporting mainly artisanal fishers in the fore coast of South Fly district.

Tropical rock lobsters are caught using hand, scoops or nets by free diving or using of the hookah gear. Divers store them in floating cages before selling to the industry for processing and exporting. In the past, only frozen tails were exported, but developments in the fishery has indicated that there is a high demand in live products, hence causing an increase in live exports to date.

Effective implementation of the management plan requires collaboration with key stakeholders at all levels including the resource owners in the coastal communities. Therefore, the Tropical Rock Lobster Management Advisory Committee (TRLMAC) is established to enable inclusive governance of the implementation of the management plan and other relevant fisheries laws or policies .

This document provides guidance and recommendations for the establishment and operation of the Torres Strait and Western Province Tropical Rock Lobster Management Plan Management Advisory Committee (TRLMAC) as required under Section 5 the Torres Strait and Western Province Fishery

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***Terms of Reference—*continued*****Objectives of the TRLMAC**

- i. The TRLMAC will provide policy and operational guidance on implementation, monitoring and review of progress of the Torres Strait and Western Province Tropical Rock Lobster management plan implementation.
- ii. It will serve as a central mechanism for developing and implementing a coordinated approach across different stakeholder groups for the implementation of the management plan.
- iii. The TRLMAC will also promote synergies and linkages in implementing the management plan and other plans addressing national, provincial and district priorities concerning marine and coastal and fisheries management.

Suggested Membership and Structure of the TRLMAC

The TRLMAC membership will comprise of all stakeholders from the government agency, provincial and local level government representatives, industry and non-governmental organizations involved in conservation work as stipulated in Section 5, paragraph (d).

- (i) One representative from provincial administration;
- (ii) One district administrator or its nominee
- (iii) Three customary fisher representatives from the treaty area;
- (iv) One local fishing industry and one Fishing Industry Association representative;
- (v) Two NFA representatives, 1 from FMBG and 1 from MCSBG;
- (vi) Provincial fisheries officer
- (vii) District Fisheries Officer; and
- (viii) One representative from a non-government organization whose objectives include conservation of the marine environment and resources.

The TRLMAC may invite other stakeholders to attend meetings on a needs basis to address specific issues.

Eligibility

- i. Elected political office holders are ineligible for membership of the TRLMAC. Should a TRLMAC member be elected to political office during their term he or she must resign their membership. Persons who nominate for provincial or national election must stand down.
- ii. The two representatives from the National Fisheries Authority will serve as permanent members. Other members to the TRLMAC will serve for three-year terms.

The NFA Managing Director will confirm the appointment of the TRLMAC members through a letter confirming their membership and the period of membership to the TRLMAC. Determination of allowances for TRLMAC member (excluding ex-officio) shall be based on a rate as set by the National Fisheries Authority and approved by the National Fisheries Board (NFB).

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***Terms of Reference—*continued*****Eligibility—*continued***

The TRLMAC chair will be a representative from the Authority as stipulated in the management plan. The Deputy Chair will chair the TRLMAC meeting in the absence of the Chair. If both the Chair and the Deputy Chairperson are not available, the members present shall elect a chairperson for the meeting before proceeding with the meeting.

The TRLMAC will be reporting to the:

1. Managing Director of the National Fisheries Authority;
2. National Fisheries Board.

The operation of the TRLMAC will be coordinated by Lobster and TSPZ Fishery subunit of NFA's Fisheries Management Business Group as the Secretariat of the Committee.

The TRLMAC will support the implementation of the Torres Strait and Western Province Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan

Roles and Responsibilities of the TRLMAC

The TRLMAC shall have the following roles and responsibilities:

- i. Review and provide advice on all license applications for the lobster fishery.
- ii. Ensure that the management measures are complied with and issues arising be addressed amicably
- iii. Review licensing guidelines and criteria for exporters as recommended by the National Fisheries Authority.
- iv. Review any Maritime Provincial Government and Maritime LLG specific management strategies.
- v. Review closed seasons, reporting, restrictions, trade, and any other relevant issues that the NFA Managing Director or the NFB may request from time to time.
- vi. Advise on the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management as part of the Management Plan.
- vii. Review MSC requirements for the fishery and advice management accordingly

Governance of the TRLMAC

The TRLMAC and its members will serve a three (3) year term and may be reappointed. They will operate in accordance with the following procedures and such other procedures and standards as may be set by the NFB:

- i. A quorum requires two-thirds (2/3) of all members and must include one National Fisheries Authority representative.
- ii. The NFA Managing Director shall, with the endorsement of the NFB lay down operational procedures for the TRLMAC, including place and dates for meeting and the TRLMAC shall meet twice a year or as needed.
- iii. Prior to taking up membership, representatives will be required to disclose any direct or indirect personal or pecuniary interests in the tropical rock lobster fishery or trade, otherwise than as a member of, and in common with the other members of, an incorporated company consisting of not less than 25 persons. The nature of his or her interest shall be disclosed immediately to the TRLMAC. Such a disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the TRLMAC and submitted to the NFA Managing Director. The TRLMAC and the NFA Managing Director must be advised of any substantive changes in such interests, or new such interests, during the course of membership. The NFA Managing Director will determine if a change in interests will affect that member's term.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***Terms of Reference—*continued*****Governance of the TRLMAC—*continued***

- iv. Where a member who has an interest and has not made a disclosure in accordance with that declaration form provided for by the NFA, his or her vote shall be null and void retrospectively from the time such interest is considered and determined by the NFA Managing Director and the NFA Managing Director shall terminate the appointment of such a member.

Funding for TRLMAC

The TRLMAC will be supported by funds from the NFA budget, and other available sources, including Provincial Fisheries. Sustainable financing of TRLMAC operation will be included in the operations of the NFA.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***Annex 1: Roles and Responsibilities of the TRLMAC Secretariat/Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery**

The TRLMAC Secretariat/Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery will undertake the following activities to support the implementation of the Torres Strait and Western Province Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan:

1. Provide secretariat support to the TRLMAC, including organization of meetings and preparation of meeting documents, and overseeing the implementation of TRLMAC decisions.
2. Raise awareness and build support for tropical rock lobster fishery management plan implementation among government agencies, non-government sectors, and potential donors and partners.
3. Coordinate with concerned agencies and various partners on mainstreaming of priority actions in support of the tropical rock lobster fishery management plan into their work programs and budget plans. Organize collaborative meetings or workshops as may be needed.
4. Engage in regular consultation and communication and foster cooperation and partnership with other related programs and initiatives such as Provincial Fisheries, LLGs and NGOs.
5. Identify opportunities for funding and coordinate with relevant stakeholders on the preparation of funding applications for initiatives that support the tropical rock lobster fishery management plan.
6. Identify opportunities for capacity building in support of tropical rock lobster fishery management plan implementation and coordinate the participation of representatives from relevant stakeholders.
7. Consolidate documents and knowledge products on the tropical rock lobster fishery management plan implementation and other coastal fisheries management including organization of knowledge sharing events.
8. Coordinate with the stakeholders in monitoring and reporting of tropical rock lobster fishery management plan implementation, preparation of annual report for submission to the PMAC.
9. Coordinate periodic review and updating of the tropical rock lobster fishery management plan, considering changing conditions, emerging issues and other related factors.

Western Province and Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan—*continued***SCHEDULE I: COLLABORATIVE PARTNESHIP**

The Authority may, under the discretion and approval of the Managing Director and/or the Board provide technical support and assistance in the following capacity, but not limited to;

1. Technical support for post-harvest handling or product quality improvement for purpose of enhancing trade locally or for commercial exports.
2. On-board vessels and licensed premises infographics and posters and necessary visual aids to guide licensed operators and make awareness on good fishing practises and management arrangements.
3. Data collection forms including training for data collection and management
4. Support diver safety and awareness training to ensure safety and proper equipment usage as a minimum requirement. And also where necessary the procurement of dive equipment in collaboration and partnership with license operators and relevant agencies.
5. Under the directive of the Managing Director, NFA will place authorised fisheries officers and or observers on licensed vessels from time to time when needed. Licensed operators shall comply with directive issued and assist the fisheries officers or observers.
6. The Authority and licensed operators will make every effort to support the divers' health and safety trainings. This may include but not limited to having hookah divers trained to dive and authorized by a certified diving instructor. Diver safety awareness is a compulsory requirement for a vessel license.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2025.

Hon. J. WONG,
Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources.