2012

NORTHERN PRAWN FISHERY

Second season directions and closures

Photo credit: Andy Prendergast, Austral Fisheries
AFMA Northern Fisheries

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### Second Season Dates 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>1630 1 August 2012</td>
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### Ready Reckoner for Conversion of UTC to EST, CST & WST

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<thead>
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<th>UTC Greenwich Time</th>
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<th>NT Time Central Standard</th>
<th>WA Time Western Standard</th>
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* Note that these times are for the previous day (ie 15:00 UTC on 1 January 2012 is the same as 01:00 Eastern Standard Time on 2 January 2012).
Important Notices

This booklet is to be used in conjunction with the 2012 Northern Prawn Fishery Operational Information booklet distributed prior to the commencement of the banana prawn season. This contains the gear determination and directions that remain in force for both fishing seasons. These include:

Ongoing Northern Prawn Fishery Determination and Directions

<table>
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<th>Determination</th>
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<td>Gear Determination</td>
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Directions

<table>
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<td>Byproduct Limits and Prohibited Species</td>
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<td>Gear Requirements</td>
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New second season direction

Second Season Closures 160

All NPF Directions are available on the Comlaw website: www.comlaw.gov.au


If you require a hardcopy of this booklet please contact Brodie Macdonald, Senior Management Officer on 02 6225 5368 or email brodie.macdonald@afma.gov.au

SFR Conditions

Statutory fishing right (SFR) Holders and Operators are reminded they are required to adhere to all conditions on their SFR. This specifically includes the requirement that:

- the SFR certificate, or a true copy must remain on board the vessel at all times
- an AFMA approved vessel monitoring system (VMS) is fitted and operational at all times; and
- all nets comply with the specific conditions of the SFR, including the use of AFMA approved bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) and turtle exclusion devices (TEDs).
There are also several SFR conditions that holders or those operating on behalf of a holder must comply with, these are:

- **Direction Obligations** – The holder must comply with any Direction that fishing is not to be engaged in the fishery, or a particular part of the fishery or during a particular period or periods.
- **Landing/disposal Obligations** – All bugs of the species *Thenus parindicus* and *Thenus australiensis* retained on board the nominated boat must be kept whole.

**Navigation rules for transiting closed areas**

The *Fisheries Management Regulations* 1992 now provide for fishers to transit closures provided certain navigation conditions are met (as determined by VMS). If a vessel navigates through a closure and doesn’t meet the prescribed navigation rules, it will be considered a strict liability offence, i.e. AFMA does not need to prove an offence (25 penalty units).

In exceptional circumstances, such as vessel breakdown, distress, medical emergency, cyclone or weather warning, AFMA may give approval for a boat to be navigated in a closed zone without requiring that the boat meet the navigation rules. To apply for an exemption, please call the AFMA Darwin Duty Officer on 0428 196 114.

For copies of the *Fisheries Management Regulations* 1992 please visit [www.comlaw.gov.au](http://www.comlaw.gov.au) or contact the NPF Manager on 02 6225 5371 or email fiona.hill@afma.gov.au

**Co-management: E-logs, Data Management and Crew Member Observer Program Enquiries**

As part of the current co-management trial in the NPF, e-logs, data management and Crew Member Observer Program enquiries are to be directed to NPF Industry Pty Ltd. For any enquiries relating to these matters, including data requests or issues with e-logs, please contact Matt Barwick on 0422 752 789 or m.barwick@npfindustry.com.au

**Decision rule for early closure of the tiger prawn fishing season**

The 2012 tiger prawn season will extend from 1 August 2012 until 30 November 2012 unless the following decision rule is triggered:

1. if the average prawn catch per boat (fishing in the NPF) per night is **less** than 350kg for the 12th and 13th week of the season; then
2. the fishery will close at the end of the 16th fishing week (2230 UTC 20 November 2012).

To facilitate the assessment of whether an early closure should be applied, a “representative sample” of the catch rates for the season across the fleet is required. This decision rule is applied only if all catch data (kg/day, or total catch and total days) for the whole fleet (or >95% of NORMAC members and advisors) is supplied for the period of the 12th and 13th (17th – 30th October) week of the season by 3 days after the end of week 13 (2nd November). The NPF Industry Pty Ltd will be responsible for applying the decision rule and advising AFMA of the outcomes.
DIRECTION NOT TO ENGAGE IN FISHING

Fisheries Management Act 1991
Subsection 41A(2)

NORTHERN PRAWN FISHERY (Closures) DIRECTION No. 160

1. NICK RAYNS, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, as delegate under delegation No. 1 of 2011 made on 28th January 2011 from the Commission, make the following Direction under subsection 41A(2) of the Fisheries Management Act 1991.

Dated: 12 July 2012

Nick Rayns
Acting Chief Executive Officer,
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Citation
1. This Direction may be cited as Northern Prawn Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 160.

Commencement
2. This Direction commences the day after it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.

Cessation
3. This Direction ceases to have effect as if repealed at 2200 hours UTC on 31 July 2013.

Interpretation
4.1 In this Direction:

"boat" means a boat that is nominated to statutory fishing rights for the Northern Prawn Fishery;

"gear trial" means a test, or a series of short tests, of equipment on or towed by a boat and carried out under the following conditions:
(a) the test is conducted in such a way as to avoid the capture of fish, primarily by keeping the cod end of nets fully open at all times; and
(b) fish that are captured in the equipment during the test are returned to the
sea as soon as practicable after it becomes apparent that the fish have
been captured.

"equipment" means equipment for fishing;

"UTC" means Coordinated Universal Time, the time scale based on the second
(SI), maintained by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. For the
purposes of this Direction UTC is equivalent to mean solar time at the prime
meridian (0 degrees longitude), formerly expressed in Greenwich Mean Time
(GMT).

4.2 Terms used in this Direction that are defined for the purposes of the Northern Prawn
Fishery Management Plan 1995 have the same meanings in this Direction as they have
in that Plan.

Notes: 1. Terms defined in the Fisheries Management Act 1991 have the same
meanings in this Direction.

4.3 This Direction is to be read consistently with other Directions made under the Fisheries

4.4 The origin of geographical coordinates used in this Direction is the Australian Geodetic
Datum 1966 (AGD66).

To whom this Direction applies

5. This Direction applies to a holder of a fishing concession in the Northern Prawn Fishery
and to a person acting on behalf of the holder.

Direction not to engage in fishing

6.1 Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 1 before
0830 hours UTC 1 August 2012.

6.2 Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 2 before
0830 hours UTC 1 August 2012.

6.3 Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 3 between
2200 hours UTC 30 September 2012 and 2200 hours UTC 30 November 2012.

6.4 Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 4 between
2230 hours UTC 30 September 2012 and 2230 hours UTC 30 November 2012.

6.5 Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 5 between
2230 hours UTC 30 September 2012 and 2230 hours UTC 30 November 2012.

6.6 Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 6 between
2200 hours UTC 30 September 2012 and 2200 hours UTC 30 November 2012.

6.7 Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 7 between
2230 hours UTC 30 September 2012 and 2230 hours UTC 30 November 2012.

6.8 Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 8 between
0830 hours UTC 1 August 2012 and 2200 hours UTC 29 August 2012.

6.9 Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 9 between
2200 hours UTC 30 November 2012 and 2200 hours UTC 31 July 2013.
6.10 Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 10 between 2230 hours UTC 30 November 2012 and 2200 hours UTC 31 July 2013.

6.11 Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 11 and Schedule 12 which is west of the meridian of Longitude 138° E, between the times of 2230 hours UTC and 0830 hours UTC each day, during the period commencing at 0830 hours UTC on 1 August 2012 and ending at 2230 hours UTC on 30 November 2012.

6.12 Fishing is not to be engaged in in the area of the fishery defined in Schedule 12 which is east of the meridian of Longitude 138° E, between the times of 2200 hours UTC and 0800 hours UTC each day, during the period commencing at 0800 hours UTC on 1 August 2012 and ending at 2200 hours UTC on 30 November 2012.

Exemption to the prohibition in clauses 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3

7.1 The prohibition in clauses 6.1 and 6.2 do not apply to a person who is conducting a gear trial in an area of the fishery defined in Schedules 13, 14 or 15.

7.2 The prohibition in clause 6.3 does not apply to a person if the person:
   1. is within an area defined in Schedule 16; and
   2. either carries the equipment out of the water; or
   3. if any part of the equipment is in the water, then:
      (a) that part is drawn up to the boat; and
      (b) that part is visible from a nearby aircraft or boat; and
      (c) if the equipment includes cod ends - the cod ends are open; and
      (d) if the equipment includes lazy lines and blocks - the lazy lines are on the blocks.

Revocation

8. This Direction revokes Northern Prawn Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 159 with effect from the commencement date of this Direction.
SCHEDULE 1

Mid Season Closure

The area bounded by the line:

(a) commencing at the intersection of the meridian of longitude 138° East and the mainland of Australia at the low water mark; and
(b) then running north along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11° 47’ South; and
(c) then east along the geodesic to the intersection of the parallel of Latitude 11°47’ South with the northern shore of the mainland at low-water mark, in the vicinity of the Skardon River, on the eastern side of the Gulf of Carpentaria; and
(d) then generally southerly and then generally westerly along that shore at low-water to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 2

Mid Season Closure

The area bounded by the line:

(a) commencing at the intersection of the north-western shore of the mainland of Australia at low-water with the meridian of Longitude 126°58’ East;
(b) then running north along that longitude to the intersection with latitude 13°28’;
(c) then north easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 13°21.4’ South, Longitude 129°30.9’ East;
(d) then south westerly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 13°45’ South, Longitude 129°12’ East;
(e) then west along the parallel to the intersection with the mainland at low-water mark;
(f) then generally north easterly along the shore at low-water mark to the parallel of latitude 13°10’ South;
(g) then westerly along the parallel to the point of Latitude 13°10’ South, Longitude 129°40’ East;
(h) then north along the meridian of Longitude 129°40’ East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 10°30’ South;
(i) then east along that parallel to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 133°16’ East;
(j) then south along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11°00’ South;
(k) then south-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11°25’ South, Longitude 134°15’ East;
(l) then east along the parallel of Latitude 11°25’ South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 135°35’ East;
(m) then north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11°05’ South, Longitude 136°10’ East;
(n) then north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 10°30’ South, Longitude 136°40’ East;
(o) then south-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11°00’ South, Longitude 137°05’ East;
(p) then south along the meridian of Longitude 137°05' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11°47' South;
(q) then north easterly along the geodesic to the point of intersection of the parallel of Latitude 11° 29.16' South with the meridian of Longitude 138° East;
(r) then south along that meridian to its intersection with the mainland at low water mark;
(g) then generally westerly along the shore at low water mark to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 3

Tarrant Point - Mornington Island - Bynoe River

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the intersection of the northern shore of the mainland of Australia at low-water, in the vicinity of Tarrant Point, with the meridian of Longitude 139°25' East;
(b) then running north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 17°05.45' South, Longitude 139°34.4' East, in the vicinity of Raft Point on Bentinck Island;
(c) then north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16°31.5' South, Longitude 139°42.66' East, in the vicinity of Cape Van Diemen on Mornington Island;
(d) then north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16°29.5' South, Longitude 139°49.0' East, in the vicinity of Pisonia Island;
(e) then south-easterly along the geodesic to the intersection of the meridian of Longitude 140°43' East with the northern shore of the mainland at low-water, in the vicinity of Bynoe Inlet;
(f) then generally westerly along that shore at low-water to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 4

Sir Edward Pellew Group

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the intersection of the northern shore of the mainland of Australia at low-water with the meridian of Longitude 137°10' East;
(b) running then north along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 15°38.3' South;
(c) then west along that parallel to its intersection with the northern shore of Vanderlin Island in the vicinity of Three Hummock Point;
(d) then generally northerly, westerly, southerly along that shore to the intersection with the parallel of Latitude 15°38.3' South, Longitude 136°57' East in the vicinity of Kedge Point;
(e) then north along that meridian to Latitude 15°15' South;
(f) then west along the parallel of 15°15' South to the intersection of the northern shore of Australia;
(g) then generally south-easterly along that shore at low-water to the point of commencement.
SCHEDULE 5

North East Vanderlin Island 8½ Patch

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the intersection of Latitude 15°30' South, Longitude 137°20' East;
(b) then north along the meridian to Latitude 15°10' South;
(c) then east along the parallel to Longitude 137°40' East;
(d) then south along the meridian to Latitude 15°30' South; and
(e) then west along the parallel to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 6

Weipa

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the point on the mainland of Australia at high water at Latitude 12° S;
(b) then running west along that parallel to the intersection of Longitude 141° 46'E;
(c) then south westerly along the geodesic to the intersection of Latitude 12° 34'S
   Longitude 141° 30.5'E;
(d) then south easterly to the point on the mainland at 12° 59.6S Longitude 141° 31.5'E;
(e) then south along the meridian of Longitude 141° 31.5'E to Latitude 13° 15'S;
(f) then east along the parallel to the high water mark on mainland Australia.

SCHEDULE 7

Cambridge Gulf

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the intersection of the northern shore of the mainland of Australia and
   Longitude 128° 45'East;
(b) then running north along the meridian to the intersection with Latitude 14° 06'East;
(c) then running west to its intersection with Longitude 128° 06.5' East;
(d) then running south to the intersection with Latitude 14° 09'South;
(e) then running west to the intersection with Longitude 127° 46.5'East;
(f) then running north to the intersection with Latitude 14° 06'East;
(g) then running west to the intersection with the mainland;
(h) then generally south easterly, southerly, easterly and northerly along that shore at low-
   water to the point of commencement.
SCHEDULE 8

Native Point

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the intersection of Latitude 12° 36' South, Longitude 130° 09' East;
(b) then running east along the parallel to the intersection with Longitude 130° 14' East;
(c) then running south along the meridian to the intersection with Latitude 12° 40' South;
(d) then running west along the meridian to the intersection with Longitude 130° 09' East;
(e) then running north along the meridian to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 9

End of Season Closure

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the intersection of the meridian of longitude 138° East and the mainland of Australia at the low water mark; and
(b) then running north along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11° 47' South; and
(c) then east along the geodesic to the intersection of the parallel of Latitude 11° 47' South with the northern shore of the mainland at low water mark, in the vicinity of the Skardon River, on the eastern side of the Gulf of Carpentaria; and
(d) then generally southerly and then generally westerly along that shore at low-water to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 10

End of Season Closure

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the intersection of the north-western shore of the mainland of Australia at low-water with the meridian of Longitude 126° 58' East;
(b) then running north along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 13° 28' South;
(c) then east along the parallel of Latitude 13° 28' South to the meridian of Longitude 127° 42' East;
(d) then north easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 12° 45' South, Longitude 129° 40' East;
(e) then north along the meridian of Longitude 129° 40' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 10° 30' South;
(f) then east along that parallel to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 133° 16' East;
(g) then south along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11° 00' South;
(h) then south-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11°25' South, Longitude 134°15' East;
(i) then east along the parallel of Latitude 11°25' South to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 135°35' East;
(j) then north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11°05' South, Longitude 136°10' East;
(k) then north-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 10°30' South, Longitude 136°40' East;
(l) then south-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11°00' South, Longitude 137°05' East;
(m) then south along the meridian of Longitude 137°05' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11°47' South;
(n) then north easterly along the geodesic to the point of intersection of the parallel of Latitude 11° 29.16' South with the meridian of Longitude 138° East;
(o) then south along that meridian to its intersection with the mainland at low water mark;
(p) then generally westerly along the shore at low water mark to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 11

Goulburn Islands

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the intersection of the northern shore of the mainland of Australia at low-water with the meridian of Longitude 132°57.7' East;
(b) then running north along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11°10.5' South; and
(c) then east along that parallel to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 133°31' East;
(d) then south along that meridian to the northern shore of the mainland of Australia at low-water;
(e) then west along that shore at low water mark to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 12

Gulf of Carpentaria

The area bounded at the line:
(a) commencing at the intersection of the northern shore of the mainland of Australia at low-water with the meridian of Longitude 135°56.5' East;
(b) then north-easterly along the geodesic to the southern most point of Alger Island;
(c) then north-easterly along the eastern coastline of Alger Island, that is along the low-water line on the coast to the northern most point of Alger Island;
(d) then along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 11°45.8' South, Longitude 136°00.2' East, being the southern most point of Cunningham Island;
(e) then north-easterly across all islands to the Wessel Island Group, that is along the low-water line on the coast to Cape Wessel;
then generally easterly to the point of Latitude 11°00' South, Longitude 137°05' East;
(g) then south along the meridian of Longitude 137°05' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 11°47' South;
(h) then generally easterly to the intersection of the parallel of Latitude 11°00' South with the northern shore of the mainland of Australia at low-water, in the vicinity of Crab Island, on the eastern side of the Gulf of Carpentaria; and
(i) then generally southerly, north-westerly, northerly, westerly and south-westerly along that shore at low-water to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 13

Karumba southern gear trial area

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the point of Latitude 17°20' South, Longitude 140°35' East;
(b) then running north along the meridian of Longitude 140°35' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 17°15' South;
(c) then east along that parallel to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 140°45' East;
(d) then south along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 17°20' South; and
(e) then west along that parallel to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 14

Karumba northern gear trial area

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the point of Latitude 16°35' South, Longitude 140°25' East;
(b) running then north along the meridian of Longitude 140°25' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 16°30' South;
(c) then east along that parallel to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude 140°30' East;
(d) then south along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 16°35' South; and
(e) then west along that parallel to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 15

Darwin gear trial area

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the point of Latitude 12°20' South and Longitude 130°36' East,
(b) then running north along that meridian of Longitude 130°36' East to its intersection with the parallel of Latitude 12°15' South;
(c) then east along that parallel to its intersection with the meridian Longitude 130°41’
East;
(d) then south along that meridian to the intersection with the parallel of Latitude 12°20’
South, and
(c) then west along that parallel to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 16

Tarrant Point - Mornington Island - Bynoe River Transit Corridor

The area bounded by the line:
(a) commencing at the point of Latitude 16°52.5’ South, Longitude 139°37.83’ East;
(b) then running east along that parallel to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude
140°09.5’ East;
(c) then generally south along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 16°56’ South,
Longitude 140°12.5’ East;
(d) then west along that parallel to its intersection with the meridian of Longitude
139°37.08’ East; and
(e) then generally north to the point of commencement.
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<tr>
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<td>Schedule 6</td>
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<td>Area – schedule from <em>NPF Direction No.160</em> (above)</td>
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SEASONAL CLOSURE
TARRANT POINT -
MORNINGTON ISLAND -
BYNOE RIVER

Map is indicative only

2200 hours UTC 30 September 2012 and 2200 hours UTC 30 November 2012
SEASONAL CLOSURE
SIR EDWARD PELLEW GROUP

Second Season

Map is indicative only

2230 hours UTC 30 September 2012 and 2230 hours UTC 30 November 2012

MAP 34
SEASONAL CLOSURE
NORTH EAST VANDERLIN ISLAND
MAP 35
Second Season
8-3 PATCH

Map is indicative only
2230 hours UTC 30 September 2012 and 2230 hours UTC 30 November 2012
SEASONAL CLOSURE
CAMBRIDGE GULF

Map is indicative only
2230 hours UTC 30 September 2012 and 2230 hours UTC 30 November 2012

Second Season

Map 37
SEASONAL CLOSURE
NATIVE POINT

Second Season

Map is indicative only

0800 hours UTC 1 August 2012 and 2200 hours UTC 29 August 2012

MAP 38
END OF SEASON CLOSURE

End of Second Season - Start of First Season

Map is indicative only

Map 40
GEAR TRIAL AREAS
DARWIN

MAP IS INDICATIVE ONLY
From the day this direction is registered

Map 43