



# Northern Prawn Fishery

## Target species:

White & Red Legged Banana  
Brown & Grooved Tiger  
Blue & Red Endeavour

The Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF) is a trawl fishery located off Australia's northern coast.

The fishery is managed using input controls by limiting the total amount of gear that can be used, and a series of seasonal, temporal and spatial closures. Under the NPF Management Plan, fishers are allocated a share of a total gear pool. The size of the pool can be adjusted in response to the stock status.

Operators are limited to a maximum of two nets. Permanent and seasonal closures are also used to protect sensitive habitats, such as seagrass beds, nursery areas and prevent overfishing of small prawns.

The fishery is open for two annual seasons, the Banana Prawn and Tiger Prawn seasons.

An important issue in this fishery is the management of bycatch. The use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) are compulsory in the NPF.

The fishery extends from the low water mark to the outer edge of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) in the area between Cape York in Queensland and Cape Londonderry in Western Australia.

Area of the Northern Prawn Fishery



**LEGEND**  
■ Northern Prawn Fishery  
■ Land and coastline  
— Limit of Coastal Waters (3nm)  
— Treaty / Median line

**NOTES:**  
 1. The area of the Fishery is sourced from the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995 (17 October 2000 - amendments up to Northern Prawn Fishery Management Amendment Plan 2002 (No NPF 04)).  
 2. Within this fishery, arrangements exist between the Commonwealth and WA, NT and QLD, whereby the Coastal Waters of these States are deemed part of the AFZ.  
 3. The maritime zone boundaries shown on this map are sourced from AMES 2001 (v1.1) (October 2001).

Australian Government  
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

© Commonwealth of Australia 2005  
Produced by the National Mapping Division of Geoscience Australia, for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, April 2005.  
MP 050457 34.11

→ Map of the Northern Prawn Fishery