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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1998

MANUS PROVINCE BECHE-DE-MER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY, by virtue of the power conferred by Section 28 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1998* and all powers it enabling, hereunder provide the following fisheries management plan to supercede previous plans on gazettal G1 in 1997 under the *Fisheries Act 1994*, to take effect on and from the date of approval by the Minister.

1. CITATIONS

This Management Plan shall be cited as 'The Manus Province Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan' (Management Plan).

2. INTERPRETATION

This Management Plan, unless the contrary intention applies,

"Maximum sustainable yield" means the highest possible catch of beche-de-mer that may be taken from the management area with minimum effect on the ability of the stock to continue to replenish itself.

"Precautionary Approach" means setting down restrictions to control harvesting in absence of adequate scientific data. These restrictions include setting of TAC, seasonal and area closure and control fishing efforts.

"Total Allowable Catch (TAC)" means the set amount of catch that is allowed to be taken out of the fishery in any one year or season. The TAC is set at a safe level based on the average annual production or on stock assessment work.

"Traditional Management Practices" means method for conservation of marine and coastal resources practiced by traditional ingenious of the Manus Province, that have been passed down from generation to generations and which are not usually formally recorded.

3. SCOPE OF THE MANUS BECHE-DE-MER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

(a) This Management Plan area shall comprise all waters within the provincial boundary of Manus.

(b) The Management Plan shall include all species of beche-de-mer of the genus *Holothuria*, *Thelenota*, *Actinopyga* and *Bhadschia*.

4. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The broad objects of this management plan is to give effect to the Fisheries Management Principles set out in the *Fisheries Management Act 1998*, and specially;

- (a) To manage the beche-de-mer fishery so that the size of the stock is moving towards the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and to maintain the fishery at an economically sustainable level.
- (b) To safeguard the beche-de-mer fishery in the Management Area as a source of income for resource owners and for the people of Manus.
- (c) To promote management practices in Manus Province and to promote the beche-de-mer fishery as sustainable fishery.
- (d) To encourage self-regulation through sustainable traditional management practices.
- (e) To manage the fishery at a precautionary approach.

5. PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH TO BECHE-DE-MER MANAGEMENT

In accordance with UNCLOS management principles, precautionary shall apply in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) in the absence of adequate scientific data, NFA shall take into account the uncertainties and set the management measures to be applied.
- (b) The Research and Management Branch in collaboration with the Manus Province shall develop systems to collect data, and to undertake research into conservation of the stock and the protection of habitats.

6. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The following management measures are to take effect immediately:-

(a) Licensing arrangements

(i) All beche-de-mer collected from Manus Province shall be exported from Manus Province. No product shall be moved to another province for sale without clearance from the Provincial Fisheries Authority.

(ii) Exporting and buying of beche-de-mer are restricted activities in Papua New Guinea. The issuing of licences shall be carried out with due consideration of the Manus Provincial Government.

(iii) All buyers licensed shall be endorsed for the buying of beche-de-mer throughout Manus Province with due regard to the resources owners.

(iv) Export facility and storage licenses and buyers licenses shall be issued only for the specific handling of sedentary resources.

(v) In the future, each applicant for a buyer's licence shall be required to complete compulsory certified training to be sanctioned by the National Fisheries Authority. The content of the course will consist of the following:-

- (a) Beche-de-mer processing procedures;

- (b) Quality control;
- (c) Basic beche-de-mer biology;
- (d) Beche-de-mer fishery management; and
- (e) Beche-de-mer marketing.

- (vi) The licensees shall be required to carry out extension services in the Province to ensure production of quality product and proper implementation of the fishery plan.
- (vii) The number of exporters shall be limited to a maximum of four (4) exporters. The current six (6) exporters will be reduced over time, in consultation with the Manus Beche-de-mer Committee.
- (viii) The number of buyers endorsed to each exporter shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) endorsed to each exporter.
- (ix) A buyers licence shall be issued to the person who physically buys products from the fishermen. A buyers licence is not transferable.
- (x) All licences shall be endorsed by the Manus Provincial Government before submission to the National Fisheries Board for approval.
- (xi) All licence holders shall have their licence automatically terminated if they breach licence conditions, Fisheries Regulations and provisions of the Manus Province Beche-de-mer Management plan.
- (xii) All exporters shall export a minimum of 8 tonnes per year of beche-de-mer. Failure to do so may result in the non-renewal of the licence.
- (xiii) Resource owners may apply for a buyers licence to buy beche-de-mer from within traditional boundaries. The number of buyers will be determined after consultation with the resource owners. Biological and economical factors may be considered, if the need arises, to limit the number of buyer in the traditional boundaries.

(b) Size Limits

- (i) Specific to the Manus Beche-de-mer Management Plan, the new size restrictions for Manus are listed in Table 1. These size limits will only apply to beche-de-mer in Manus Province.
- (ii) Purchase and handling of undersized products shall result in the automatic termination of the buyers licence, the exporters licence, and fish storage licence upon successful prosecution.

Table 1. Minimum Size Restriction in Live Length and Dry length for Manus Province

Common name	Scientific name	Minimum size dried (cm)	Equivalent minimum Live size (cm)
Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	10	22
Black teatfish	<i>Holothuria nobilis</i>	11	22
White teatfish	<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	17	34

Prickly redfish	<i>Thelenota ananas</i>	12	25
Elephant trunkfish	<i>Holothuria fuscopuntata</i>	12	24
Blackfish	<i>Actinopyga echinites</i>	8	15
Deep water redfish	<i>Actinophyga miliaris</i>	8	16
Stonefish	<i>Actinophyga lecanora</i>	8	15
Curryfish	<i>Sticopus variegatus</i>	11	23
Greenfish	<i>Sticopus chloronotus</i>	9	20
Brown sandfish	<i>Bohadschia marmorata</i>	11	23
Lollyfish	<i>Holothuria atra</i>	8	15
Amberfish	<i>Thelenota anax</i>	12	25

(c) Gear Restrictions

- (i) Underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA and Höokah) are banned from being used in the waters around Manus, for the purpose of fishing for any sea cucumber species for processing into beche-de-mer production.
- (ii) Underwater or surface lights at night are banned in waters around Manus, for the purpose of fishing for sea cucumber species for the production of beche-de-mer product.

(d) Species Restriction

A species harvest restriction shall apply based on price. Species to ban from harvest shall be determined by the Manus Provincial Government yearly, based on current market price.

(e) Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

- (i) An annual TAC of 54 metric tonnes (mt) shall be set for Manus in 1997. The TAC for each year will be based upon the estimated maximum sustainable yield and will be variable according to the estimated recruitment and the level of exploitation. A notice to notify of the TAC for the year will be served by the Minister for Fisheries through the National Gazette.
- (ii) Fishing will cease as soon as the TAC has been reached. Fishing will recommence on 1st February the following year.

(f) Closed Season

A compulsory closure will occur each year for 1st October to 31st January. All buying, selling and storage of beche-de-mer shall cease at the beginning of the closed season or a declared closed after the TAC has been reached. No product will be kept in storage after one (1) week after the commencement of closure.

(g) Marketing

- (i) All products from Manus Province shall be exported from Manus. Companies who fail to export from Manus shall automatically lose their Export Licence.

(ii) To maintain the best quality, all products will be properly boiled and dried following the guidelines at the Provincial fisheries office.

(iii) All products packed for export will be graded by species, size and quality. Table 2 provides the standard common trade names to be used and sizes; and table 3 provides a guideline on the quality based on odour and water content.

(iv) All products will be packed in standard weights of 40 kg using poly bags or copra bags. The bags will be labeled with the following standard labels; Product of Papua New Guinea, Name of Importer, and Name of Exporter, Species Name and Grade. Where the products are shipped by air a poly bag should be used and where the product is shipped by sea a copra bag should be used, in order to maintain quality.

Table 2: Common trade names corresponding to the scientific name and the grading sizes to be used (where grades/size are missing, these will be added, as data becomes available).

Common name	Scientific name	Grade	Size (cm)
White teat fish	<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	A	22
White teatfish	<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	B	18
Black teatfish	<i>Holothuria nobilis</i>	A	
Black teatfish	<i>Holothuria nobilis</i>	B	
Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	SUPER	15
Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	B	12
Prickly redfish	<i>Thelenota ananas</i>	A	
Prickly redfish	<i>Thelenota ananas</i>	B	
Elephant trunkfish	<i>Holothuria fuscopunctata</i>		
Pinkfish	<i>Holothuria edulis</i>		
Snakefish	<i>Holothuria leucospilota</i>		
Lollyfish	<i>Holothuria atra</i>		
Amberfish	<i>Thelenota anax</i>		
Green Prickly	<i>Sticopus chloronotus</i>		
Curryfish	<i>Sticopus variegatus</i>		
Blackfish	<i>Actinopyga miliaris</i>		

Table 3: Guide for determining quality based on appearance, odour, moisture and stage of spoilage.

Appearance: A smooth and natural surface should be the normal shape of a good quality product. An uneven shrunken product will result in the product being down graded to a lower grade.

Odour: A pleasing fishy smell is considered good quality. An annoying decomposed smell will result in the product being rejected and discarded.

Moisture content: A hard and dry product with moisture content of ten to thirty percent is considered good quality. A soft product requires further drying otherwise the product should be rejected.

Spoilage: All products in the high grades, which are spoiled or do not have the natural shape, shall be down graded to a lower grade. Any product that has any chemical spoilage will be rejected.

7. MONITORING

(a) Provision of fisheries data

- (i) In accordance with the *Fisheries Management Act 1998* licensed buyers obligated to submit data on catch and effort as well as marketing, for the purpose of this management plan.
- (ii) Licensed buyers shall record all beche-de-mer bought from the fishermen, in a triplicate receipt form that will include the name of the fisherman, village of the fisherman (if he was fishing within the vicinity of the village) or the fishing area (if he was fishing outside of his village), species, grade, weight and price. Where possible the hours or days fishing for the products being sold will be recorded.
- (iii) The duplicate copy of the invoice/receipt shall be sent to the local Fisheries Officer for entry into a computer database once every month.
- (iv) The receipt-book for catch monitoring established by the NFA for the National and Provincial Data Collection Project shall be used to monitor the catch and implement the TAC.

8. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR THE TRADITIONAL RESOURCE OWNERS

- (a) Special consideration shall be given to the need to avoid adverse impact on traditional and small-scale fisheries. Where possible, traditional management measures shall be documented and submitted for gazettal notice by the National Minister for Fisheries after consultation with the traditional resource owners and the Manus Provincial Government.
- (b) Any traditional management areas which feature closed and open season and closed area may be submitted to the Manus Provincial Government for screening. The community may recommend appropriate gazette notices for existing traditional management areas. This shall consist of a gazette notice of the closed and open seasons and the definition of the area to be affected.

- (c) All traditional open season will cease in the event of a province wide closed season imposed by a notice by the Minister for Fisheries.

9. AMENDMENTS

The Minister shall from time to time give notice of any amendments as new information are obtained to enhance the objectives of this management plan.

Endorsed this

24th day of September

1999.

[Signature]

Chairman

NATIONAL FISHERIES BOARD

Approved this

24th day of September

1999.

[Signature]

Ron Ganarafa

MINISTER FOR FISHERIES

It is the policy of the Government to ensure that the fisheries resources of the State are managed in a sustainable manner and that the interests of the fishing community are protected. The Minister for Fisheries is pleased to announce that the National Fisheries Board has approved the proposed management plan for the fishery in New Ireland Province, New Ireland, for the period 1999 to 2001. The plan provides for the sustainable management of the fishery and the protection of the fishing community. The plan includes measures to improve the efficiency of the fishery and to ensure that the fishery is managed in a sustainable manner. The plan also includes measures to improve the safety of the fishing community and to ensure that the fishery is managed in a sustainable manner. The plan is a key component of the Government's fisheries policy and is a significant step towards the sustainable management of the fishery in New Ireland Province.

SCOPE OF THE NEW IRELAND BECH-DE-MER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

- (a) This Management Plan shall comprise all waters within the provincial boundary of New Ireland Province.
- (b) The Management Plan shall include all species of bech-de-mer of the genus *Actinopyga* and *Rhadschia*.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1998**NEW IRELAND PROVINCE BECHE-DE-MER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY, by virtue of the power conferred by Section 28 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1998* and all powers it enabling, hereunder provide the following fisheries management plan to supercede previous plans on gazettal G1 in 1997 under the *Fisheries Act 1994*, to take effect on and from the date of approval by the Minister.

1. CITATIONS

This Management Plan shall be cited as 'New Ireland Province Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan' (Management Plan).

2. INTERPRETATION

This Management Plan, unless the contrary intention applies;

"Beche-de-mer" means all species of the class Holothuroidea which are processed through boiling, sun drying or smoke drying and are sold in the open market as a food product;

"Maximum sustainable yield" means the highest possible catch of beche-de-mer that may be taken from the management area with minimum effect on the ability of the stock to continue to replenish itself.

"Precautionary Approach" means setting down restrictions to control harvesting in absence of adequate scientific data. These restrictions include setting of TAC, seasonal and area closure and control fishing efforts.

"Sea cucumber" means all species in the class Holothuroidea.

"Total Allowable Catch (TAC)" means the set amount of catch that is allowed to be taken out of the fishery in any one-year or season. The TAC is set at a safe level based on the average annual production or on stock assessment work.

"Traditional Management Practices" means methods for conservation of marine and coastal resources practiced by traditional indigenous of the New Ireland Province, that have been passed down from generations to generations and which are not usually formally recorded.

3. SCOPE OF THE NEW IRELAND BECHE-DE-MER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

- (a) This Management Plan area shall comprise all waters within the provincial boundary of New Ireland Province.
- (b) The Management Plan shall include all species of beche-de-mer of the genus *Holothuria*, *Thelenota*, *Actinopyga* and *Bhadschia*.

4. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- (a) To manage the beche-de-mer fishery so that the size of the stock is moving towards the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and to maintain the fishery at an economically sustainable level.
- (b) To safeguard the beche-de-mer fishery in the Management Area as a source of income for resource owners and for the people of New Ireland.
- (c) To promote management practices in New Ireland Province and to promote the beche-de-mer fishery as sustainable fishery.
- (d) To encourage self-regulation through sustainable traditional management practices.
- (e) To manage the fishery at a precautionary approach.

5. PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH TO BECHE-DE-MER MANAGEMENT

In accordance with UNCLOS management principles, precautionary shall apply in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) in the absence of adequate scientific data, NFA shall take into account the uncertainties and set the management measures to be applied.
- (b) The Research and Management Branch in collaboration with the New Ireland Province shall develop systems to collect data, and to undertake research into conservation of the stock and the protection of habitats.

6. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The following management measures are to take effect immediately:-

(a). Licensing arrangements

- (i) All beche-de-mer collected from New Ireland Province shall be exported from New Ireland Province. No product shall be moved to another province for sale without clearance from the Provincial Fisheries Authority.
- (ii) Exporting and buying of beche-de-mer are restricted activities in Papua New Guinea. The issuing of licences shall be carried out with due consideration of the New Ireland Provincial Government.
- (iii) All buyers licensed shall be endorsed for the buying of beche-de-mer throughout New Ireland Province with due regard to the resources' owners.
- (iv) Export facility and storage licenses and buyers licenses shall be issued only for the specific handling of sedentary resources.
- (v) In the future, each applicant for a buyer's licence shall be required to complete compulsory certified training to be sanctioned by the National Fisheries Authority. The content of the course will consist of the following:-
 - (a) Beche-de-mer processing procedures;
 - (b) Quality control;
 - (c) Basic beche-de-mer biology;
 - (d) Beche-de-mer fishery management; and
 - (e) Beche-de-mer marketing.

- (vi) The licensees shall be required to carry out extension services in the Province to ensure production of quality product and proper implementation of the fishery plan.
- (vii) The number of exporters shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) exporters.
- (viii) The number of buyers endorsed to each exporter shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) endorsed to each exporter.
- (ix) A buyers licence shall be issued to the person who physically buys products from the fishermen. A buyers licence is not transferable.
- (x) All licences shall be endorsed by the New Ireland Provincial Government before submission to the National Fisheries Board for approval.
- (xi) All licence holders shall have their licence automatically terminated if they breach licence conditions, Fisheries Regulations and provisions of this New Ireland Province Beche-de-mer Management plan.

(b) Size Limits

- (i) Beche-de-mer sizes smaller than those specified in table 1 shall not be taken (live size) or exported (dry size)
- (ii) Purchase and handling of undersized products shall result in the automatic termination of the buyers licence, the exporters licence, and fish storage licence upon successful prosecution.

Table 1. Schedule for legal minimum dried sizes of beche-de-mer in PNG

Common name	Scientific name	Minimum size dried (cm)	Equivalent minimum Live size (cm)
Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	8	18
Black teatfish	<i>Holothuria nobilis</i>	11	22
White teatfish	<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	17	34
Prickly redfish	<i>Thelenota ananas</i>	11	22
Blackfish	<i>Actinopyga miliaris</i>	7	13
Deepwater redfish	<i>Actinopyga echinites</i>	5	10
Elephant trunkfish	<i>Holothuria fuscopuntata</i>	12	24

(c) Gear Restrictions

- (i) Underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA and Hookah) are banned from being used in the waters around New Ireland, for the purpose of fishing for any sea cucumber species for processing into beche-de-mer production.
- (ii) Underwater or surface lights at the night are banned in waters around New Ireland, for the purpose of fishing for sea cucumber species for the production of beche-de-mer product.

(d) Species Restriction

A species harvest restriction shall apply based on price. Species to ban from harvest shall be determined by the New Ireland Provincial Government yearly, based on current market price.

(e) Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

- (i) An annual TAC of 80 metric tonnes (mt) shall be set for New Ireland in 1997. The TAC for each year will be based upon the estimated maximum sustainable yield (msy) and will be variable according to the estimated recruitment and the level of exploitation. A notice to notify of the TAC for the year will be served by the Minister for Fisheries through the *National Gazette*.
- (ii) Fishing will cease as soon as the TAC has been reached. Fishing will recommence on 1st February the following year.

(f) Closed Season

A compulsory closure will occur in each year from 1st October to 31st January. All buying, selling and storage of beche-de-mer will cease at the beginning of the closed season declared closed after the TAC for the year is reached. No product will be kept in storage after one (1) week after the commencement of closure.

(g) Marketing

- (i) All products from New Ireland Province shall be exported from New Ireland. Companies who fail to export from New Ireland shall automatically lose their Export Licence.
- (ii) To maintain the best quality all products will be properly boiled and dried following the guidelines at the Provincial fisheries office.
- (iii) All products packed for export will be graded by species, size and quality. Table 2 provides the standard common trade names to be used and sizes; and table 3 provides a guideline on the quality based on odour and water content.
- (iv) All products will be packed in standard weights of 40 kg using poly bags or copra bags. The bags will be labeled with the following standard labels; Product of Papua New Guinea, Name of Importer, and Name of Exporter, Species Name and Grade. Where the products are shipped by air a poly bag should be used, and where the product is shipped by sea a copra bag should be used, in order to maintain quality.

Table 2: Common trade names corresponding to the scientific name and the grading sizes to be used (where grades/size are missing, these will be added as data becomes available)

Common name	Scientific name	Grade	Size (cm)
White teat fish	<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	A	22
White teatfish	<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	B	18
Black teatfish	<i>Holothuria nobilis</i>	A	
Black teatfish	<i>Holothuria nobilis</i>	B	

Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	SUPER	15
Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	B	12
Prickly redfish	<i>Thelenota ananas</i>	A	
Prickly redfish	<i>Thelenota ananas</i>	B	
Elephant trunkfish	<i>Holothuria fuscopunctata</i>		
Pinkfish	<i>Holothuria edulis</i>		
Snakefish	<i>Holothuria leucospilota</i>		
Lollyfish	<i>Holothuria atra</i>		
Amberfish	<i>Thelenota anax</i>		
Green Prickly	<i>Sticopus chloronotus</i>		
Curryfish	<i>Sticopus variegatus</i>		
Blackfish	<i>Actinopyga miliaris</i>		

Table 3: Guide for determining quality based on appearance, odour, moisture and stage of spoilage.

Appearance: A smooth and natural surface should be the normal shape of a good quality product. An uneven shrunken product will result in the product being down graded to a lower grade.

Odour: A pleasing fishy smell is considered good quality. An annoying decomposed smell will result in the product being rejected and discarded.

Moisture content: A hard and dry product with moisture content of ten to thirty percent is considered good quality. A soft product requires further drying otherwise the product should be rejected.

Spoilage: All products in the high grades, which are spoiled or do not have the natural shape, shall be down graded to a lower grade. Any product that has any chemical spoilage will be rejected.

7. MONITORING

Provision of fisheries data

- (i) In accordance with the *Fisheries Management Act 1998* licensed buyers obligated to submit data on catch and effort as well as marketing, for the purpose of this management plan.
- (ii) Licensed buyers shall record all beche-de-mer bought from the fishermen, in a triplicate receipt form that will include the name of the fisherman, village of the fisherman (if he was fishing within the vicinity of the village) or the fishing area (if he was fishing outside of his village), species, grade, weight and price. Where possible the hours or days fishing for the products being sold will be recorded.
- (iii) The duplicate copy of the invoice/receipt shall sent to the local Fisheries Officer for entry into a computer database once every month.

- (iv) The receipt-book for catch monitoring established by the NFA for the National and Provincial Data Collection Project shall be used to monitor the catch and implement the TAC.

8. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR THE TRADITIONAL RESOURCE OWNERS

- (a) Special consideration shall be given to the need to avoid adverse impact on traditional and small-scale fisheries. Where possible, traditional management measures shall be documented and submitted for gazettal notice by the National Minister for Fisheries after consultation with the traditional resource owners and the New Ireland Provincial Government.
- (b) Any traditional management areas which feature closed and open season and closed area may be submitted to the New Ireland Provincial Government for screening. The community may recommend appropriate gazette notices for existing traditional management areas. This shall consist of a gazette notice of the closed and open seasons and the definition of the area to be affected.
- (c) All traditional open season will cease in the event of a province wide closed season imposed by a notice by the Minister for Fisheries.

9. AMENDMENTS

Any amendment to this Management Plan may be given in Notice through the National Gazette, on recommendation by the National Fisheries Board, when new information are obtained to enhance the objectives in paragraph 4.

Endorsed this 24th day of September 1999.

[Signature]
Chairman

NATIONAL FISHERIES BOARD

Approved this 24th day of September 1999.

[Signature]
Ron Ganarafa
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1998**THE NATIONAL LOBSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY, by virtue of the power conferred by Section 28 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1998* and all powers it enabling, hereunder provide the following fisheries management plan to supercede previous plan gazetted in 1998 on gazettal number G47 under the *Fisheries Act 1994*, to take effect on and from the date of approval by the Minister.

1. CITATIONS

This Management Plan shall be cited as 'The National Lobster Fishery Management Plan' (Management Plan).

2. INTERPRETATION

This management Plan, unless the contrary intention appears-

"Authority" means the National Fisheries Authority;

"berried female" means female lobster with eggs attached to the setae

"Board" means the National Fisheries Board;

"Convention" means the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10th December 1982

"mm" means millimetre;

"minimum size limit" means the smallest size which may be captured legally;

"Minister" means the National Minister for Fisheries;

"non citizen company" means company other than owned by Papua New Guinea citizen with 100% equity;

"traditional resource owners" means families with fishermen or single fisherman who have traditionally fished for lobster in near-shore coastal waters and are recognised by their people as having traditional ownership rights to lobster resources within those waters.

3. SCOPE

The managing Plan shall-

(a) Apply to all fisheries waters of Papua New Guinea where tropical lobsters are harvested for commercial purposes; and

(b) Apply to all species of the family Palinuridae, and Scyllidae specifically the following;

- (i) the double-spined lobster *Panulirus penicillatus*;
- (ii) the painted lobster *Panulirus versicolor*;
- (iii) the long legged lobster *Panulirus longipes*;
- (iv) the scalloped lobster *Panulirus homarus*;
- (v) the ornate or tropical rock lobster *Panulirus ornatus*;

(vi) the slipper lobster or bugs *Thenus orientalis*.

(c) Shall cover fishing for lobster by the following methods;

- (i) Free diving;
- (ii) Hookah;
- (iii) SCUBA;
- (iv) Day or night (in the light of a torch or any other sources of light) and catching by hand, scoop net and spear.

4. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this management plan is to-

- (a) Manage the fishery so that the stock sizes move annually towards that which will give maximum sustainable yield; and
- (b) provide sustainable economic benefit;
- (c) promote sustainable fisheries development practices; and
- (d) manage the fishery with a precautionary approach.

5. PRECAUTIONARY APPROACHES TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Consistent with regional and international agreements and arrangements including the Convention's management principles, precautionary approaches of management shall apply in the management of the species specified in this management plan in the following manner;

(a) In the absence of adequate scientific data, the National Fisheries Authority shall take into account any uncertainties with respect to the size and productivity of the stock, of the management reference points such as maximum sustainable yield, the level and distribution of fishing mortality, and the impact of fishing activities on associated and dependent species, and including climatic, oceanic, environmental and socio-economic conditions.

(b) The absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take measures to protect the target and non-target species in the lobster fishery.

(c) The precautionary approach shall be, based on the best scientific information available, including all appropriate techniques and aimed at setting stock-specific minimum standards for conservation and management.

(d) The recommended total allowable catch for each province specified are a precautionary measures to be based upon past records of lobster catch and preliminary biological information on the stock for the specific province or fishery.

(e) In managing the fishery, the Authority shall consider the associated ecosystems in specific provinces or fishery. The Authority shall develop data collection and research projects to assess the impact of fishing on non-target species and

their environment, adopt plans as necessary to ensure the conservation of non-target species and consider the protection of habitats of special concern.

6. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The following management measures shall be set for each province or fishery to realise the objectives in Section 5, and shall include the following:

(a). Licensing

- (i) Licences shall not be issued to non-citizen companies or individuals.
- (ii) There shall be a maximum number of exporters and buyers licences set for each province. This number shall be set by the Minister upon recommendation by the Board.
- (iii) All licences shall be endorsed by the respective provincial authorities before submission to the Board for consideration and approval.
- (iv) All licence holders however, shall have their licence automatically terminated if they breach licence conditions or breach Fisheries Regulations or breach the provisions of this Management Plan.
- (v) All lobster collected in a particular province shall be exported from that province. No product shall be moved to another province for sale without clearance from the respective Provincial Fisheries Authorities.

(b). Size Limits

- (i) All species of spiny rock lobster with a minimum tail length of 100mm to total length (midsection between the eyes to tail) of 175mm shall not be harvested and exported.
- (ii) Slipper lobster with minimum carapace length (midsection between the eyes to the base of the carapace cover) of 52mm shall not be harvested and exported.
- (iii) All species of spiny rock lobster with a minimum of 169gram tail weight and 409 gram total weight shall not be harvested and exported.

(c). Restriction on Egg-bearing females

Berried (egg-bearing) female lobster shall not be taken at any time, to protect and increase the number of recruitment of lobster.

(d). Gear restriction

Specific gear restriction may apply to specific provinces and fishery in accordance with specific fishery plans for the province or fishery and in accordance with restrictions already in existence under the Fisheries Regulation.

(e). Species Restrictions

There shall be restriction on the species of lobster caught in accordance with specific licence conditions.

(f). Total Allowable catch

Total allowable catch (TAC) shall be set for each province or fishery based on the estimated maximum sustainable yield as qualified by relevant economic or environmental factors, fishing patterns and related factors. A notice notifying of

the TAC for each fishery will be published in the *National Gazette* by the Minister upon the recommendation of the Authority.

(g). **Closed Season and Closed Areas**

Whenever required, closed season and closed areas shall be set by the Minister upon the recommendation by the Authority.

(h). **Market Standards**

Marketing standards shall be based on the standards established by the relevant authorities and marketing requirement.

7. **MONITORING**

Provision of fisheries data

(i) In accordance with the Act, licensed buyers shall submit data on catch and effort, as well as marketing data, for the purpose of this management plan.

(ii) Licensed lobster buyers shall be required to keep receipts for lobster (number of individuals and their total weight) and the area where the lobsters were caught, number of fishermen, date of receipt and price paid.

(iii) Licensed lobster buyer shall send the completed receipt books and sales report to the Information Registry of the National Fisheries Authority on a monthly basis.

(iv) The Authority and the Provincial Fisheries Divisions shall work towards the estimation of the sustainable harvest in each province or fishery.

8. **RESEARCH PLAN**

There shall be a research plan with research programmes jointly developed with provinces to monitor lobster fisheries and to make recommendations for any relevant changes for improvement of this Management Plan.

9. **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR TRADITIONAL RESOURCE OWNERS**

(i) Special consideration shall be given to the traditional resource owners in order to avoid adverse impact on traditional and small-scale fisheries. Where possible, traditional management measures shall be documented and submitted to the Authority for gazettal by the Minister after consultation with the traditional resource owners and the Provincial Government.

(ii) Where possible, effort shall be made to document and promote traditional management measures, in order to enhance the conservation and management practices of the fisheries resources within the traditional waters and reef areas.

(iii) Development and documentation of traditional management measures shall be consistent with the management plan.

10. AMENDMENTS

- (i) This management plan shall be kept under review by the Authority as new information is obtained so as to meet its objectives.
- (ii) Any amendment to this management plan shall be endorsed by the board; submitted to the Minister for approval and notified in the National Gazette.

Endorsed this 27th day of September 1999.


Chairman
National Fisheries Board.

Approved this 24th day of September 1999.


Ron Ganarato
Minister for Fisheries.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1998

WESTERN PROVINCE AND PNG TORRES STRAIT PROTECTED ZONE BECHE-DE-MER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY, by virtue of the powers conferred by Section 28 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1998*, and all other powers it enabling, hereunder provides the following Fisheries Management Plan to supercede pervious plans on Gazettal G1 in 1996 under Fisheries Act 1994, to take effect on and from the date approved by the Minister.

1. CITATION

This plan shall be cited as the Western Province and PNG Torres Strait Protection Zone Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan 1995 (the Fishery plan).

2. THE WESTERN PROVINCE AND PNG TORRES STRAIT PROTECTED ZONE BECHE-DE-MER FISHERY MANAGEMENT AREA

The Western Province and PNG Torres Strait Protected Zone Area comprises all that area of waters in the Western Province and the waters of the Papua New Guinea jurisdiction of the Torres Strait Protected (the Fishery Area).

3. (MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES)

The objectives of the Fishery Plan are

- (a) Maximise and maintain economic return to the traditional users of reefs in Western Province and the PNG jurisdiction of the Torres Strait Protected Zone;
- (b) Maintain stocks at biological sustainable levels; and
- (c) Localise marketing and exporting.

4. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The following measures are to take effect immediately.

(a) Licensing arrangement:

- (i) A licensing system for the purchase of sedentary resources, which include beche-de-mer and trochus, shall be forced. The number of licences issued shall be reviewed as required. An initial number of three (3) storage facilities licences, one for each company will be issued along with 3 export licences (1 per company). Only companies with a 100% equity-owned by the local fishers will be qualified to apply for buying and exporting of beche-de-mer and trochus excepted by the screening committee.

(ii) Processing and buying of beche-de-mer should be based in the village specified under the Torres Strait Treaty Area.

(iii) To limit and control the effort, a numbering system for dinghies and canoe fishing for beche-de-mer will be established.

The permits will be issued by National Fisheries Authority base on these criteria;

(a) Dinghies and canoes are 100% owned by Western Province citizens of the Torres Strait Treaty Area (TSPZ) or adjacent areas;

(b) Dinghies measure not more than 8m in length;

(c) Only canoes of traditional design.

(iv) Currently regulations banning the use of large vessels throughout PNG will continue to apply in the Fishery Area as per National Gazette No.G71 of 3rd August, 1995. The dinghies and canoes shall display the permit number on both sides while fishing. The permit number shall be reported to the beche-de-mer buyer when selling the catch.

(b) Closed and Open Season

(i) A compulsory closed season for fishing from 1 November to 31 March the following year for the Western Province and the PNG Torres Strait Protected Zone Management Area shall be enforced to maximise the reproductive output.

(ii) The open season for fishing would be during the wet season of the coastal mainland in association with the southeast trade winds (Monsoon winds) from April to October. The fishery becomes closed as soon as the Total Allowable Catch is harvested as specified in this plan.

(c) Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

(i) A total allowable catch (TAC) at a level to be determined and reviewed each year will apply. TAC shall be determined by direct visual census method using appropriate transects or quadrat method. The methods used will not have a precision of the estimate not more than 20%.

(ii) The initial TAC is set at 30 tonnes for sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*) and 10 tonnes for other species present on the reef flat within the management area

(d) Size Limit

(i) A minimum size limits consistent with the current enforced minimum size limits as gazetted in National Gazette No.G71 of 3rd August, 1995 under the Fisheries Act 1994 will be enforced. The minimum size limit applies to both live specimens and dried products. Dried products means dried product ready for export for which about 90% water has been lost and 50% shrinkage has occurred during processing. The minimum size limits to the live specimen

refers to the size of the animal when it is stationary and has been touched in its natural environment. This information will be submitted to the Fisheries Research Office and maintained in the database to be maintained by the office.

(ii) The minimum size limits will be observed by the fishermen, buyers and exporters. All fishermen shall carry with them and use at all times an approved measuring instrument in every permit dinghy and on canoes. The buyers and exporters will be responsible for buying sizes within a legal size limit. Deliberate buying of under size product may result in the termination of the license.

(iii) Specified minimum sizes for Western Province will apply as soon as more biological information is available.

(e) Quality Control

(i) Quality standard and control will be maintained by the fishermen and exporters. To maintain high quality products the processing method will be as outlined in the booklet titled 'Beche-de-mer Processing and Marketing in Papua New Guinea' by Lokani and Kubohojam (undated). Exporters shall be responsible for educating and advising the fishermen on the processing method for achieving the highest quality. The processing methods will be reviewed and improved as the need arises.

(ii) Quality grading will involve a simple criteria based on appearance, odour and moisture. The appearance of the dried product will maintain the natural shape of the live specimen as much possible, as outline in schedule 3. The odour of the final dried product will be a fresh fishy with no odour associated with the decomposition. Product ready for export will be dried with about 90% of the moisture lost through boiling and drying. The quality standard will include a grading criteria base on species and size as outlined in table 1.

Table 1 Grading of dried products ready for export based on Species and size.

Species	Grade	Size	Remarks
Sandfish	Super	15.2cm	6 pieces/kg
	A	12.7cm	8 pieces/kg
	B	10.2cm	15 pieces/kg
	D	7.6cm	30 pieces/kg
White & Black teatfish	A	22.9cm	
	A	17.8cm	

(f) Fishery Monitoring

(i) Exporters buying direct from the fisherman will maintain records in a designated receipt form approved by the National Fisheries Authority. The receipts will be submitted to the Officer In-Charge of Fisheries Research Daru for entry into the database to be maintained by Fisheries Research Office. The information will be used to monitor the fishery. Falsifying information may result in prosecution.

(ii) Records on exports will be maintained by the Fisheries Inspection office in Daru. This information will be submitted quarterly to the OIC Research Office Daru for entry into the database to be maintained by the office.

(iii) Exporters buying directly from the fisherman shall be responsible for the accurate recording of all information in the receipt including the recording of the area fished. The receipt shall be effective by daily records sheet as a consecutively numbered form and will be responsible for the termination of the licence.

(g) Economic Monitoring.

To maintain the profitability of licensed buyer, the buyer shall submit to the Officer-In-Charge of Fisheries Research in Daru at the end of each calendar month a summary of costs for that month.

5. GEAR RESTRICTION

(a) The exploitation of all beche-de-mer species shall be by free diving. This is consistent with restrictions currently in force for exploitation of sedentary in PNG under the Fisheries Act 1994 and the Regulations as Gazetted in the National Gazette No. G70 of 31 August, 1995. No SCUBA, snorkel, use of surface light and any other specialized breathing apparatus will be used for exploitation of beche-de-mer in the Western Province and PNG's Torres Strait Protected Zone Management Area.

(b) Exploitation will be restricted to free diving, wading and walking on the reef flat. Dinghies and canoes captains breaching this regulation will be prosecuted and may lose their permits if successfully prosecuted.

6. TORRES STRAIT TREATY

(a) Licences will be revoke for buyers and exporters who knowingly buying beche-de-mer from fishermen whom illegally fishing from the Australia Jurisdiction of the Warrior Reef.

(b) Permits from fishermen illegally fishing on the Australian jurisdiction of the Warrior Reef will be revoked if the fishermen are successfully prosecuted under the PNG laws and also under the relevant Commonwealth of Australia and Queensland's State Laws.

7. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(a) A Committee to be known as the Beche-de-mer Fishery Technical Committee shall be established. This committee shall be appointed by the Minister for Fisheries and Chaired by a representative nominated by the Torres Strait Resources Owners.

(b) The function of the committee will be to advise the Senior Management Committee (SMC) of the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) on the management and development matters of the fishery and on updating the management plan. Its task shall be to meet biannually and report to the SMC of the NFA its recommendations. Except in an emergency, the Committee may meet to deliberate on the situation at hand.

(c) The Committee shall comprise the following-

- (i) a representative of the Torres Strait Resources owners (Chairman),
- (ii) the Provincial Fisheries Officer for Western Province,
- (iii) the Assistant Secretary for Department of Primary Industry,
- (iv) a Councilor from each treaty village,
- (v) a fishermen representative,
- (vi) a exporters representative,
- (vii) the OIC for Inspection and Surveillance in Daru and,
- (viii) the OIC for Fisheries Research and Management in Daru.

(d) The secretary duties of the committee will be carried out by the National Fisheries Authority through its office in Daru.

(e) The technical Committee and any other Committee involved such as the Integrated Coastal Fisheries Management Committee by SPC shall report to the Senior Management Committee of the National Fisheries Authority.

Endorsed this

24th

of

September

1999

Chairman

National Fisheries Board.

Approved this

24th

of

September

1999

Ron Garrafo

Minister For Fisheries.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1998**MILNE BAY PROVINCE BECHE-DE-MER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY, by virtue of the power conferred by Section 28 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1998* and all powers it enabling hereby draws up the following fisheries management plan to take effect on and from the date of approval by the Minister.

1. CITATION

This Management Plan shall be cited as 'Milne Bay Province Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan' (Management Plan).

2. SCOPE

This Management Plan, applies

- (1) to all fishing and marketing activities related to beche-de-mer in the Milne Bay Province ("the management area"); and
- (2) to all species of the beche-de-mer of the genus *Holothuria*, *Thelenota*, *Actinopyga* and *Bohadaschia*.

3. INTERPRETATION

This Management Plan, unless the contrary intention applies;

"Authority" means the National Fisheries Authority;

"Board" means the National Fisheries Board;

"Beche-de-mer" means all species of the class *Holothuroidea* which are processed through boiling, sun drying or smoke drying and are sold in the open market as a food product;

"Convention" means the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10th December 1992;

"Management Working Group" means the Provincial Fisheries Management Working Group appointed under Section 8;

"Maximum sustainable yield" means the highest possible catch of beche-de-mer that may be taken from the management area with minimum effect on the ability of the stock to continue to replenish itself.

"Milne Bay Province" means the geographical area within the political boundary of Milne Bay Province as defined by law;

"Minister" means the National Minister for Fisheries;

"Sea-cucumber" means all species in the class *Holothuroidea*.

"Total Allowable Catch (TAC)" means the set amount of catch that is allowed to be taken out of the fishery in any one year or season. The TAC is set at a safe level based on the average annual production or on stock assessment work.

"Traditional Management Practices" means methods for conservation of marine and coastal resources practiced by traditional ingenious of the Milne Bay Province, that have been passed down from generations to generations and which are not usually formally recorded.

4. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Management Plan is:-

- (1). Manage the beche-de-mer fishery in the Management Area so that the size of the stock is moving towards the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and to maintain the fishery at an economically sustainable level; and
- (2). Safeguard the beche-de-mer fishery in the Management Area as a source of income for resources owners and for the people in the Milne Bay Province; and
- (3). Promote good fisheries management practices in the Province and to promote the beche-de-mer fishery as sustainable fishery; and
- (4). To encourage in the Management Area, where appropriate, self regulation in the fishery through sustainable traditional management practices; and
- (5). Apply the precautionary approach in the management of the fishery in the Management Area.

5. PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH TO BECHE-DE-MER MANAGEMENT

Consistent with international agreements and arrangements including the Convention's management principles, precautionary approaches of management shall apply in the management of the species specified in this Management Plan in the following manner:

- (1). In the absence of adequate scientific data, the Authority shall take into account the uncertainties with respect to the size and productivity of the stock, to other management reference points such as maximum sustainable yield, the level and distribution of fishing mortality, and the impact of fishing activities on associated and dependent species, and including climatic, oceanic, environmental and socio-economic conditions.
- (2). In managing the beche-de-mer fishery, the Authority shall consider the associated ecosystems on reefs within the Management Area. The Authority shall develop data collection and research projects to assess the impact of fishing on non-target species and their environment; adopt plans as necessary to ensure the conservation of non-target species and consider the protection of habitats of special concern.
- (3). The absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to make measures to protect the target and non-target species in the Milne Bay Province beche-de-mer fishery.
- (4). The precautionary approach shall be based on the best scientific information available, including all appropriate techniques and be aimed at setting stock specific minimum standards for conservation and management.

(5) The Authority shall, in collaboration with relevant persons and organisations in the Province, develop systems to collect data, and to undertake research into conservation on the stock and the protection of habitats.

6. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

(1) Licensing

(a). All beche-de-mer collected from Milne Bay Province, shall be exported from Milne Bay Province. No product shall be moved to another province for sale without clearance from the Provincial Fisheries Authority.

(b). Exporting and buying are restricted activities. The issuing of licences shall be carried out with due consideration of the Milne Bay Provincial Government.

(c). Export facility and storage licenses and buyers licenses shall be issued only for the specific handling of sedentary resources.

(d). All buyers licensed shall be endorsed for the buying of beche-de-mer throughout Milne Bay Province with due regard to the resources owners.

(e). All application for buyers licences shall be require to complete compulsory certified training sanctioned by the Authority. The content of the course shall comprise of beche-de-mer processing procedures and techniques, quality control, beche-de-mer fishery management, basic beche-de-mer biology and beche-de-mer marketing. The licensee shall carry out extension services in the province to ensure quality products are produced and proper implementation of the Management Plan.

(f). The number of exporters operating in the Province shall limited to 3 exporters.

(g). The number of buyers endorsed to each exporter shall be limited to 6 buyers.

(h). A buyers licence shall be issued to the person who physically buys products from the fishermen. A buyers licence is not transferable.

(i). All licences shall be endorsed by the Management working group before submission to the Board for approval.

(j). All licence holders shall have their licence automatically terminated if they breach licence conditions. Fisheries Regulations and provisions of this Management plan.

(k). Licensed exporters who do not export any products within a period of a year shall automatically lose their licence.

(l). Resources owners may apply for a buyers licence to buy beche-de-mer from within traditional boundaries, which they control. The number of buyers shall be determined after consultation with the resource owners.

Biological and economic factors may be considered if the need arises to limit the number of buyers in the traditional boundaries.

(2) Size Limits

- (a). For the purpose of this Management Plan, the new size restrictions for the Milne Bay Province are listed in *Schedule 1*.
- (b). Purchase and handling of undersized products shall result in the automatic termination of the buyers licence, the exporters licence, and fish storage licence upon successful prosecution.

(3) Gear Restrictions

- (a). The use of underwater breathing apparatus are banned from being used for the purpose of fishing for any beche-de-mer species for the purpose of processing into beche-de-mer in the waters around Milne Bay Province.
- (b). The use of underwater lights or surface lights in the night for the purpose of fishing for beche-de-mer species is banned in the Milne Bay Province.

(4) Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

- (a). A Total Allowable catch shall be enforced for the whole of the Milne Bay Province. The TAC shall be set at 60 tonnes per year.
- (b). Fishing will cease as soon as the TAC for the year is reached and recommence 1st January the following year.

(5) Open and Closed Season

All harvesting buying, selling and storage of beche-de-mer shall cease at the beginning of the closed period declared or after the TAC for the year is reached. A compulsory closure will occur in each year from 1st October to 31st December in each year to protect spawning of some of the most common high value species. No product shall be kept in storage after one (1) week from the start of the closure.

(6) Marketing

- (a). All products harvested from Milne Bay Province shall be exported from Milne Bay Province. Companies who fail to export from the Province shall automatically lose their Export Licence.

- (b). To maintain the best quality all products will be properly boiled and dried following the guidelines in Anon., 1994, Sea cucumbers and beche-de-mer of the Tropical Pacific. A Handbook for Fishers by Lokani and Kubohojam (undated, Beche-de-mer processing and marketing in Papua New Guinea). These documents are available at the National Fisheries Headquarters, or Provincial Fisheries Office.

- (c). All products packed for export will be graded by species, size and quality. *Schedule 2* provides the standard common trade names to be used and sizes. *Schedule 3* provides a guideline on the quality based on odour and water content.

- (d). All products will be packed in standard weights of 40 kg using poly bags or copra bags. The bags will be labeled with the following standard labels; Product of Papua New Guinea, Name of Importer, and Name of Exporter, Species Name and Grade. Where the products are shipped by

air a poly bag should be used and where the product is shipped by sea a copra bag should be used, in order to maintain quality.

- (e). All products bought from the fishermen will be graded using the matters specified in *Schedule 2* and *3*.

(7) Traditional Management Measures

- (a). Traditional management measures currently existing throughout Milne Bay Province are recognised and will be considered for incorporation into Beche-de-mer Management plan by the Beche-de-mer Management Working Group. The Board may request for a study on the Traditional Management System being used in a specific area. The Board may publish the document in the *National Gazette* as the official record of Traditional Management System for the specified area.
- (b). Traditional management areas which feature closed and open season and closed area may be submitted to the Beche-de-mer Management Working Group for screening and incorporation as a component of Beche-de-mer Fishery Management for the specified area.
- (c). All traditional open season will cease in the event of a province wide closed season imposed by the Minister by notice published in the *National Gazette*.

7. MONITORING

(1) Receipt-Book Data System

- (a). All beche-de-mer bought from the fishermen shall be recorded in a triplicate receipt form. These shall include the name of the fishermen, village of the fishermen if he was fishing within the vicinity of the village or the fishing area if he was fishing outside of his village, species, grade, weight and price. Where possible the hours or days fishing for the products being sold will be recorded.
- (b). The duplicate copy of the invoice/receipt shall be sent to the Fisheries Office at Alotua for entry into a computer database once every month.

8. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIVE WORKING GROUP

- (1) In order to better facilitate efficient management of the fishery, a fisheries consultative management-working group may be appointed by the Authority in the Province.
- (2) The role of the management working group appointed under Subsection (1) is:
- (a). To oversee and review the Management Plan; and
- (b). To screen all licence applications from within the Province and to make appropriate recommendations to Board; and
- (c). To address any development issues of fishery in the province; and
- (d). Undertake such other role as the Authority determines.
- (3) The Fisheries Consultative Management Working Group shall comprise;

- (a) an officer of the Department of Milne Bay Province responsible for Fisheries matters of at least assistant secretary level who will be the chairman,
 - (b) a representative from the exporters/buyers,
 - (c) a representative from the resource owners in the Province,
 - (d) the local Senior Fisheries Officer responsible for the Southern Region,
 - (e) the Provincial Fisheries Officer and,
 - (f) a representative from the Department of Environment and Conservation stationed in the province.
- (4) The Provincial Fisheries Management Working Group shall meet twice a year on February and October of each year. The chairman of the Working Group may convene an emergency meeting if there is a need to discuss any urgent agenda.
- (5) The Milne Bay Provincial Fisheries Office shall carry out the secretarial duties of the working group.

9. RESEARCH PLAN

There shall be a research plan with research programmes jointly developed with the Milne Bay Provincial Government to monitor the fishery and carry out stock assessment.

10. AMENDMENTS

- (1) This management plan shall be kept under review by the Authority as new information is obtained as to meet its objectives.
- (2) 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.

SCHEDULE 1

Minimum Size Restrictions in Live Length and Dry Length for Milne Bay Province:

Common name	Scientific name	Live (cm)	Dry (cm)
Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	22	10
Black teatfish	<i>Holothuria nobilis</i>	22	11
White teatfish	<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	34	17
Lollyfish	<i>Holothuria atra</i>	15	8
Elephant's trunk fish	<i>Holothuria fuscopuntata</i>	24	12
Prickly redfish	<i>Thelenota ananas</i>	25	12
Amberfish	<i>Thelenota anax</i>	25	12
Blackfish	<i>Actinopyga miliaris</i>	15	8
Deepwater redfish	<i>Actinopyga echinites</i>	16	8
Stonefish	<i>Actinopyga lecanora</i>	15	8
Curryfish	<i>Stichopus variegatus</i>	23	11

Greenfish	<i>Stichopus chloronotus</i>	20	9
Brown sandfish	<i>Bohadschia marmorata</i>	23	11

SCHEDULE 2

Common trade names corresponding to the scientific name and the grading sizes to be used at Milne Bay Province.

Products with a lower quality should be downgraded to the next grade down.

Common name	Scientific name	Grade	Size
Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	SUPER	>14 cm
Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	L1	11-13 cm
Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	M1	9-10 cm
Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	S1	8-9 cm
White teatfish	<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	L1	>20 cm
White teatfish	<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	M1	18-20 cm
White teatfish	<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	S1	17-18 cm
Black teatfish	<i>Holothuria nobilis</i>	L1	>16
Black teatfish	<i>Holothuria nobilis</i>	M1	16 cm
Black teatfish	<i>Holothuria nobilis</i>	S1	11-15 cm
Prickly redfish	<i>Thelenota ananas</i>	L1	>16 cm
Prickly redfish	<i>Thelenota ananas</i>	S1	11-16 cm
Surf redfish	<i>Actinopyga mauritiana</i>	L1	>10 cm
Surf redfish	<i>Actinopyga mauritiana</i>	S1	8-10 cm
Blackfish	<i>Actinopyga miliaris</i>	L1	>10 cm
Blackfish	<i>Actinopyga miliaris</i>	S1	8-10 cm
Greenfish	<i>Stichopus variegatus</i>	L1	>15 cm
Greenfish	<i>Stichopus variegatus</i>	S1	8-10 cm
Curryfish	<i>Stichopus variegatus</i>	L1	>15 cm
Curryfish	<i>Stichopus variegatus</i>	S1	11-15 cm
Tigerfish	<i>Bohadschia argus</i>	L1	>16 cm
Tigerfish	<i>Bohadschia argus</i>	S1	11-15 cm
Amberfish	<i>Thelenota anax</i>	L1	>16 cm
Amberfish	<i>Thelenota anax</i>	S1	12-16 cm
Lollyfish	<i>Holothuria atra</i>	L1	>17 cm
Lollyfish	<i>Holothuria atra</i>	S1	12-17 cm
Brown sandfish	<i>Bohadschia marmorata</i>	L1	>16 cm
Brown sandfish	<i>Bohadschia marmorata</i>	S1	11-16 cm
Elephant's Trunk fish	<i>Holothuria fuscopunctata</i>	L1	>15 cm
Elephant's Trunk fish	<i>Holothuria fuscopunctata</i>	S1	8-15 cm

SCHEDULE 3

Guide for determining quality based on appearance, odour, moisture and stage of spoilage.

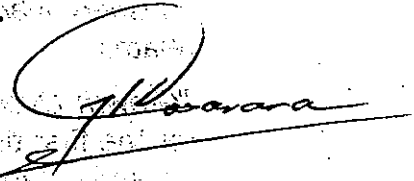
Appearance: A smooth and natural surface should be the normal shape of a good quality product. An uneven shrunken product will result in the product being down graded to a lower grade.

Odour: A pleasing fishy smell is considered good quality. An annoying decomposed smell will result in the product being rejected and discarded.

Moisture content: A hard and dry product with moisture content of ten to thirty percent is considered good quality. A soft product requires further drying otherwise the product should be rejected

Spoilage: All products in the high grades, which are spoiled or do not have the natural shape, shall be down graded to a lower grade. Any product that has any chemical spoilage will be rejected.

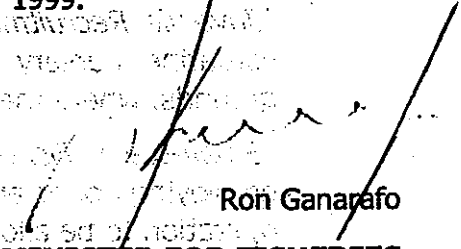
Endorsed this 24th day of September 1999.



Chairman

NATIONAL FISHERIES BOARD

Approved this 24th day of September 1999.



Ron Ganarifo

MINISTER FOR FISHERIES

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1998

THE GULF OF PAPUA PRAWN FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY, by virtue of the powers conferred by Section 28 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1998*, and all other powers it enabling, hereby draws up the following Fisheries Management Plan to supercede the pervious plan gazetted on 2nd January 1997, gazette NO. G1, under *Fisheries Act 1994* and take effect on and from the date approved by the Minister.

1. CITATIONS

The Management Plan shall be cited as 'The Gulf of Papua Prawn Fishery Management Plan' (the Fishery Plan).

2. INTERPRETATION

This Management Plan, unless the contrary intention applies;

"*Fishery Management Area*" means the specified area to which the fishery plan relates.

"*Growth Overfishing*" means overfishing of prawns entering the fishing grounds for the first time by offshore migration from estuarine nursery areas are taken at an early stage before they have had sufficient time to growth and increase in volume to full market price.

"*Industrial Fishery*" refers to the fishery outside of the three-mile zone, other than dories and dinghies, where vessels operates twin or quad rigged otter trawl gear.

"*Juvenile Recruitment*" means the offshore migration of juvenile prawns from estuarine nursery area (mangroves and sea grass) into the trawl (fishing) grounds, where they are liable to industry harvest for the first time.

"*Small-scale Fishery*" refers to the small-scale prawn trawling operation employing dories and dinghies, which tow a beam trawl. This shall be the type of operation to be allowed within the three-mile zone.

"*Three-mile Zone*" refers to the sea area, which extends from the mean high water mark seaward by three nautical miles (as per the *National Seas Act*). Industrial trawling is prohibited within three-mile zone.

"*Three mile limit*" is the seaward boundary of the three-mile zone and extends from Parama Island to the border of the Gulf and Central Provinces.

"*Timed Area Closure*" means that a specified area is closed to fishing for a specific time.

"*Traditional Resource Owners*" means families with fishermen or single fishermen who have fished for both prawn and fin fish in near shore coastal waters and are recognised by their people as having traditional ownership rights to the coastal prawn and fin fish resources.

3. SCOPE OF THE FISHERY PLAN

- (a) This geographical area covered in this fishery Management Plan is the sea area that is bounded as follows:
 - (i) The northern boundary is the coastline to Papua New Guinea from Parama Island (at the southern limit of the estuary of Fly River) to the border of Central and Gulf Provinces.
 - (ii) The southern boundary is the 9 degree of latitude line, which passes through Parama Island in the west and meets the border of Central and Gulf Provinces in the east.
 - (iii) The eastern boundary is the boarder of Central and Gulf Provinces.
- (b) This fishery plan shall cover all species of the Family Panaeidae including: the principle species white banana prawn (*Panaeus merguensis*); the Indian banana prawn (*Panaeus indicus*); the (giant) black tiger prawn (*Panaeus monodon*); the brown tiger prawn (*Panaeus semisulcatus*); and including the lesser value endeavour species, *Metapanaeus* spp.
- (c) The fishery plan covers the method of single vessel otter trawl fishing and the method of beam-trawl by dory or dinghy. Other methods are prohibited unless approved by the National Fisheries Board.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THIS FISHERIES PLAN

The broad objective of this fishery Management Plan is to reinforce and give effect to the fisheries management principle in the *Fisheries Management Act 1998*, and specifically:

- (a). To manage the Prawn fishery in the management area so that the size of the stock tends towards that will give the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), chiefly through control of fishing effort;
- (b). Provision of sustainable economic benefit through prevention of growth overfishing on the principle species, the banana and tiger, in order to maximise economic returns;
- (c). Conservation of stocks of demersal fish species caught as by-catch;
- (d). Promotion of sustainable fisheries development practices;
- (e). Development of controlled sustainable small-scale fishery development of the prawn and associated fin-fish resources within selected areas of the three mile zone, for the participation and benefit of the traditional resources owners; and
- (f). To manage the fishery with a precautionary approach.

5. PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH TO PRAWN MANAGEMENT

Consistent with the regional and international management principles, precautionary approaches shall apply for Gulf of Papua Prawn Fishery in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a). In the absence of adequate scientific data, the National Fisheries Authority has taken into account the uncertainties with respect to the size and productivity of the stock, to other management reference points such as

maximum sustainable yield, the level and distribution of fishing mortality, and the impact of fishing activities on associated and dependent species, and including climatic, oceanic, environmental and socio-economic conditions.

- (b). In managing the Prawn fishery, the Authority has considered the associated ecosystems on reefs within the Management Area. The Authority may develop data collection and research projects to assess the impact of fishing on non-target species and their environment, adopt plans as necessary to ensure the conservation of non-target species and consider the protection of habitats of special concern.
- (c). The absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to make measures to protect the target and non-target species in the Gulf of Papua Prawn fishery.
- (d). The precautionary approach taken in controlling of fishing effort including the recommendation to maintain the number of vessel at 15.

6. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The following management measures, which are to realise the objectives in Section 4, are to take effect immediately:

- (a) Licensing
 - (i) The number of licences for the industrial fishery shall be maintained at 15 (fifteen).
 - (ii) Preference shall be given to licence applications from resources owners for new licences. Non-citizen companies shall not be granted licences.
 - (iii) Prawn trawlers of the PNG Torres Strait fishery based out of Daru, Western Province, may be endorsed to operate in the Fly/Bamu fishing zone. Specifications for these vessels shall be in accordance with the PNG Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Plan.
 - (iv) Licence shall be required for any dory or dinghy operating a beam trawl in the shore small-scale fishery. National Fisheries Board may approve specification for such vessel and specific area of operation.
 - (v) There shall be a maximum of 10 (ten) licences for small-scale commercial dories or dinghies fishing by beam trawl operating in the inshore small-scale fishery.
- (b) Fishing Restrictions
 - (i) The gear restrictions for the industrial fishery shall be as follows;
 - A. The taking of penaeid prawn is prohibited at all times by the National Regulations on Control of Prawn Fishing in Papua New Guinea (National gazette NO. G41 27th April, 1996);
 - ~ by boats owned by non-citizen companies;
 - ~ by foreign-registered vessels;
 - ~ by boats exceeding 30 meters overall length (LOA) according to Papua New Guinea registered survey length;
 - ~ by boats with main engines with shaft power exceeding 410 kilowatts or 550 horse power, as set out in the manufacturer's specifications;

by method of more than 4 (four) main nets and 1(one) try net towed at the same time;

by a method whereby the aggregate head rope (with mesh attached) for the main nets exceeds 60 metres and 1. (one) try net exceeds 6 metres head line;

~ by method whereby the head line of any one single main net exceeds 30 metres;

~ by method whereby the meshes for all nets, when measured diagonally stretched from knots to knots are less than 50 millimetres both on the body and cod end;

~ by method using an otter board that is more than 5 (five) square metres in area, per board; and

by beam trawl of greater than 6 (six) meters beam length.

(ii) The gear restriction for small-scale fishery employing beam trawl towed by dory or dinghy, shall be as follows:

B. The taking of panaeid prawns is prohibited at all times:

by method where the width of all beam trawls exceeds 4 (four) metres; and

~ by methods whereby the meshes of all nets when measured from knots to knots, are less than 50 millimetres (2.0 inches); and

~ by method of beam trawl that does not incorporate a fish escape panel at the neck of the cod-end, consisting of 1. (one) metre wide panel of net of 50 millimetres (2.0 inches) mesh laid crosswise and which forms the body of the net at the neck of the cod-end.

(c) There shall be no restriction on the species of prawn caught

(d) **Timed area closure**

The trawl grounds from Iokea to Cape Blackwood shall be closed from 1st December to 31st March.

Boundaries for Close Area:

Western Boundary

The western boundary shall be the line 144 degrees 28 minutes 00 seconds east ($144^{\circ} 28' 00'' E$) extending north to south from Cape Blackwood to the Latitude 8 degrees 24 minutes south ($8^{\circ} 24' 42'' S$).

Southern Boundary

The southern boundary shall be the line of latitude 8 degrees 24 minutes 42 seconds south ($8^{\circ} 24' 42'' S$) extending west to east from the termination of the western boundary to the coast at the village of Iokea.

Northern and Eastern Boundary

The northern and eastern boundary shall be the coast from the southern point of Cape Blackwood to Iokea village in the east.

(v) Industrial otter trawling and small-scale beam trawling shall be prohibited in this area during the period specified.

(e) Industrial fishing is prohibited within the three-mile zone from Parama Island to the border of the Gulf and Central Provinces.

(f) Marketing standards shall continue to be based on the standards established by the relevant authorities.

(g) The prawn operators shall be required to submit to the National Fisheries Authority,

(i) Catch and effort data on the by-catch including non-fish species;

(ii) all by-catch shall be recorded;

(iii) all live mammals and turtles shall be returned to the sea;

(iv) removing of fin from shark and returning them to sea alive is prohibited.

(h) Vessel Tracking System and Surveillance

(i) All prawn fishing vessels shall be required to carry vessel-tracking devices, to facilitate the fishery plan and increase safety in navigation.

(ii) Officer of the National Fisheries Authority and the Gulf Province Division of Fisheries shall be placed at random on board licensed prawn trawlers to under take surveillance and research.

7. MONITORING

(a) In accordance with Section 29 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1998*, licensed operators are obliged to submit data on catch and effort, as well as marketing data, for the purpose of this fishery plan. The National Fisheries Authority shall supply log-books for entry of catch and effort data.

(b) A scientific observer/research programme mutually agreed to by the industry and NFA may be set up to monitor the fishery and to make recommendations for any relevant changes for improvement of the fishery plan to achieve the objectives in Section 4. The industry may be requested to provide logistic support and other form of assistance to implement the research programme in relation to prawns as well as other alternate fishery resources in the Gulf of Papua.

8. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR TRADITIONAL RESOURCE OWNERS

(a) Special consideration should be given to the need to avoid adverse impact on subsistence and small-scale commercial fisheries.

(b) Ownership of the near-shore fisheries resources (the resources inside the three mile limit) by traditional resources owners is recognised.

(c) Where possible, effort shall be made to document and promote traditional conservation and management measures in the three-mile zone where small-scale prawn trawling operations may be developed. In order to enhance the conservation and management practices of the fisheries resources within the traditional waters.

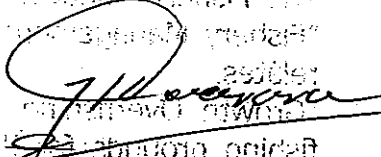
(d) Preference will be given to licence application from traditional resources owners, both for fishing by method of industrial trawling and by method of beam trawl towed by dory or dinghy.

(e) The National Fisheries Authority in collaboration with the industry and provincial authority shall work towards facilitation and establishment of small-scale fisheries development of the prawn and associated finfish resources within certain parts of the three-mile zone.

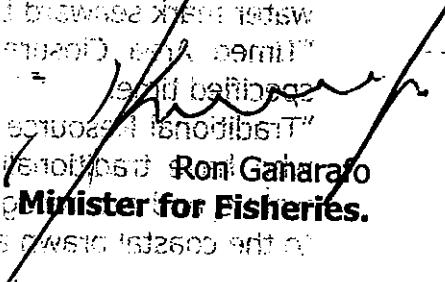
9. AMENDMENTS

Any amendment to this fishery plan may be made by giving notice through the National Gazette on recommendation from the National Fisheries Board; as new information are obtained to enhance the objectives of this fishery plan.

Endorsed this 24th day of September 1999.


Chairman
National Fisheries Board.

Approved this 24th day of September 1999.


Ron Gaharaho
Minister for Fisheries.

SCOPE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

(a) Orange Bay Prawn Fishery Area
For the purpose of this fishery management plan the geographical area covered by this management plan is the sea area comprising all the waters of the Orange Bay commencing on the west of the latitude 12 degrees 30 minutes and 00 seconds east, being the central and Orange Bay Provincial boundary to the east at latitude 12 degrees and 2 minutes and 00 seconds east being the north-eastern side of Mullins Harbour, extending from the mainland coastline seaward to 1.5 nautical miles from the mainland coastline (that is the territorial sea).

(b) The method of fishing covered by this management plan is the method of fishing covered by this fishery management plan the method of the vessel other than fishing, and the method of the sea area covered by this vessel other than fishing.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1998**ORANGERIE BAY PRAWN FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY, by virtue of the power conferred by Section 28 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1998* and all powers it enabling, hereunder provide the following fisheries management plan to supercede previous plans on gazettal G1 in 1997 under the *Fisheries Act 1994*, to take effect on and from the date of approval by the Minister.

1. CITATION

This fishery plan may be cited as "the Orangerie Bay Prawn Fishery Management Plan" (the Fishery Plan).

2. INTERPRETATION

This Fishery Management Plan, unless the contrary intention appears:

"Fishery Management Area" means the specified area to which the fishery plan relates.

"Growth Overfishing" means overfishing of prawns when prawns entering the fishing grounds for the first time by offshore migration from estuarine nursery areas are taken at an early stage before they have had sufficient time to grow and increase in size and value to full market price.

"Juvenile Recruitment" means the offshore migration of juvenile prawn from estuarine nursery areas (mangroves and sea grass) into the trawl grounds, where they are liable to industry harvest for the first time.

"The Three-Mile Zone" means the sea area which extends from the mean low-water mark seaward by 3 nautical miles (as per the National Seas Act).

"Timed Area Closure" means that a specified area is closed to fishing for a specified time.

"Traditional Resource Owners" means families with fishermen or single fishermen who have traditionally fished for both prawn and fin fish in nearshore coastal waters and are recognised by their people as having traditional ownership rights to the coastal prawn and fin fish resources.

3. SCOPE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN**(a) Orangerie Bay Prawn Fishery Area**

For the purpose of this Fishery Management Plan the geographical area covered by this management plan is the sea area comprising all the waters of the Orangerie Bay commencing on the west at the latitude 149 degrees 30 minutes and 00 seconds east, being the Central and Milne Bay Provincial Boundary to the east at latitude 150 degrees and 5 minutes and 00 seconds east being the south-eastern side of Mullins Harbour; thence, extending from the mainland coastline seaward to 12 nautical miles from the mainland coastline (that is the territorial seas)

(b) The method of fishing covered by this management plan

For the purpose of this Fishery Management Plan the method of the single vessel otter trawl fishing; and the method of the beam-trawl towed by dory or

dinghy. Other methods are prohibited unless approved by the Minister for Fisheries.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The broad objective of this management plan is to reinforce and give effect to the Fisheries management principles in the *Fisheries Management Act 1998*; and specifically;

- (a) to restore the prawn stocks and maintain them at a level capable of producing the maximum sustainable yield with consideration to environment and economic factors;
- (b) to maximise the benefit to the operators, the immediate resources owners and the people of Milne Bay Province.
- (c) to adopt necessary and appropriate conservation and management measures for the reduction and utilisation of the by - catch;
- (d) to maintain and promote participation of the immediate resource owners in the prawn industry;
- (e) to monitor the interaction between the artisanal fishing activities and commercial fishing operations and;
- (f) to manage the fishery with a precautionary approach.

5. PRECAUTIONARY APPROACHES TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Consistent with regional and international management principles, a precautionary approach shall apply for the Orangerie Bay prawn fishery in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) In the absence of adequate scientific data, the National Fisheries Authority has taken into account any uncertainties with respect to the size and productivity of the stock, and the impact of fishing activities on associated and dependent species, and including climatic, oceanic, environment and socio - economic conditions.
- (b) In managing the fishery, the National Fisheries Authority has considered the associated ecosystems in Orangerie Bay and Mullins Harbour. Data collection and research projects shall be developed to assess the impact of fishing on non-target species and their environment, adopt plans as necessary to ensure the conservation of non-target species and consider the protection of any habitat of special concern.
- (c) The absence of adequate scientific information will not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take measures to protect the target and the non-target species.
- (d) The permanent closure to commercial trawling in the Mullins Harbour is a precautionary approach, until further studies have been done to determine the relationship of the harbour to Orangerie Bay.

6. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The following management measures, which are to realise the objectives in 4.0, shall take effect immediately:

(a) **Licensing measures.**

The number of trawlers and licenses in the Orangerie Bay prawn fishery shall be restricted to two.

(b) **Gear restrictions**

(i) Vessel size shall be no greater than 14.0 meters overall length (LOA) and engine size no greater than 200 British Horsepower.

(ii) Trawling shall be by method of otter trawl, with no more than 2 main nets and cod-end mesh size shall be no smaller than 50 mm.

(iii) The aggregate head rope (with mesh attached) for the main nets shall not exceed 40 meters.

(iv) Trawling shall only be carried out in daylight hours from 06.30am to 18.30pm.

(v) Trawling by boats operating from ports outside of Milne Bay Province shall not be permitted into this fishery.

(c) **Total Allowable Catch (TAC).**

A total allowable catch (TAC) of 35 tonnes shall be enforced. Fishing operations shall cease when the TAC has been reached and shall not be resumed until 1st May of the following year.

(d) **Time Closure**

The area of Mullins Harbour shall be closed permanently to any prawn trawling, including commercial beach seining

7. **MONITORING**

(a) **Provision of fishing data**

Pursuant to the *Fisheries Management Act 1998*, licensed operators are obliged to submit data and on catch and effort, as well as marketing data, for the purpose of this management plan.

(b) **Research programme**

(i) A scientific observer/research programme may be set up to monitor the fishery and make recommendations for any relevant changes for improvement of the management plan to achieve the objectives in 4.0.

(ii) Routine test fishing may be carried out during the closure in collaborating and under the supervision of the National Fisheries Authority to estimate the stock levels.

8. **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR TRADITIONAL RESOURCES OWNERS**

(a) Special consideration should be given to the need to avoid adverse impact on subsistence and small-scale commercial fisheries.

(b) Ownership of the near-shore resources including the Mullins Harbour by traditional resource owners is recognised.

(c) Where possible, effort shall be made to document and promote traditional conservation and management measures in the three-mile zone where small

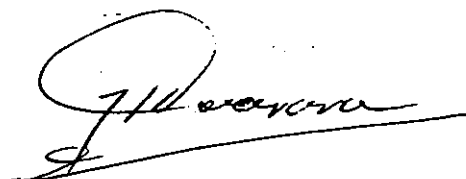
scale prawn operations may be developed, in order to enhance the conservation and management practices of the fisheries resources within the traditional waters.

- (d) Vessels based in ports outside of Milne Bay Province shall not be permitted into the fishery

9. AMENDMENTS

The Minister shall from time to time give notice of any amendments as new information is obtained to enhance the objectives of this management plan.

Endorsed this 24th day of September 1999.



**Chairman
National Fisheries Board.**

Approved this 24th day of September 1999.



**Ron Ganararo
Minister for Fisheries.**

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