



The Government of Norfolk Island

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister calls for public comment on Fisheries Management Policy

Norfolk Island Minister for Commerce and Industry, Chris Magri, today released for public comment a consultation draft of the Norfolk Island Fishery Management Policy. He said that this draft policy is being used as a starting point for discussions, to establish sustainable community-based fishery management for the Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery ("the Box"). The draft policy is available on the Norfolk Island Government website www.gov.nf and the Norfolk Telecom website www.ni.net.nf.

Mr Magri said that for effective and sustainable fishery management, the policy must be developed, managed and "owned" by Norfolk Island, through the cooperation of the Norfolk Island Government (NIG), the community and the Norfolk Island Fishing Association (NIFA), while also giving effect to the Australian legislative framework and obligations under domestic and international law (including international agreements) in relation to the fishery and marine environment.

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) has endorsed the Consultation Draft in conjunction with other Australian Departments including the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts (DEWHA).

"The Norfolk Island Government and the executive members of the Norfolk Island Fishing Association have also endorsed this Consultation Draft", Mr Magri said. "This policy document now needs to be thoroughly considered and discussed, and if appropriate amended, in the light of broad-based community and stakeholder consultations".

Mr Magri said that consultation with the Commonwealth and Norfolk Island stakeholders commenced in March 2008. He intended to finalise the Fisheries Policy by the end of June 2009, at the end of the 15-month consultation period.

"Written submissions or comments from individuals or community based organisations are welcome, and should be provided to me, as the responsible Government Minister, by email to cmagri@assembly.gov.nf, by phone on 22003 or mailed to me care of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly, Kingston, Norfolk Island, 2899. I look forward to the participation and contribution of all interested members of the community to this process".

Chris Magri
Minister for Commerce and Industry

13 March 2009