

COMMONWEALTH MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: STATUS OF MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserve and Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve

The Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserve and Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve Management Plan **expires 4 September 2008**. DEWHA have advised that until a new management plan is in place, interim management arrangements will apply.

From 4 September 2008 all people intending to undertake commercial activities (including tourism, which excludes fishing, and photography) or scientific research in the Coringa-Herald and Lihou Reef National Nature Reserves must apply for an Approval from the Director of National Parks.

There are conditions associated with Approvals to conduct activities within the Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserve and Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve. These conditions place certain requirements on activities undertaken in the Reserves. Failure to adhere to these conditions may result in variation or revocation of Approvals.

To apply for an Approval to conduct activities within the Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserve or Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve contact the Coral Sea Reserve Manager on (02) 6274 1111 or email mpa@environment.gov.au.

If your application is approved you will receive your Approval in the mail. This should be kept onboard your vessel and you must abide by its conditions.

Commercial fishing activity

Under the interim management arrangements activities that are allowed to take place in the Reserves will remain unchanged. **Please note the Coringa-Herald and Lihou Reef National Nature Reserves are strict nature reserves and thereby all extractive uses are prohibited. This includes Commercial Fishing (including collecting) and recreational fishing.**

Commercial vessel transit

Commercial vessel transit will be covered by a General Approval and an individual Approval will not be required for this activity. The conditions of this approval are:

- Commercial fishing is prohibited.
- Comply with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*.
- Discharge or disposal of minerals, mineral waste and any other solid waste, or any other noxious, offensive or polluting substance in the approved area/s is prohibited.
- Discharge or disposal of any liquid or gaseous material in the approved area/s is prohibited if it is likely to pollute the air, soil, water or a watercourse or be harmful to a native species or harmful or offensive to another person.

Consultation with stakeholders

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts will undertake formal consultation periods during the development of the new management plan. The commencement of this process is pending the outcomes of the East Marine Bioregional Planning process currently underway. The final East Marine Bioregional Plan is scheduled for release in mid 2010.

Current Management Plan: <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/publications/coringa-plan.html>