

## **AFMA Interim Policy for inshore waters surrounding Norfolk Island**

1. This interim policy applies to the waters of the Norfolk Island 'box' and covers an interim period while the Commonwealth and Administration of Norfolk Island continue discussing longer term management of these waters. Continuation of this interim policy will be subject to a review of progress undertaken before the end of July 2005.
  2. AFMA recognises that local fishing activity takes place inside the Norfolk Island 'box'. This activity is undertaken by Norfolk Island residents, using small boats (less than eight metres in length) which are launched from the Island. All of the catch is consumed on the Island, mostly by the fishers themselves, although small quantities are traded or sold to other residents or the small number of restaurants on the island.
  3. There is currently limited information available regarding fishing activity inside the Norfolk Island 'box'. AFMA and the Administration of Norfolk Island have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Norfolk Island fisheries data. The MOU recognises that collecting and monitoring fisheries catch and effort information is essential for managing the Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery. Both parties have agreed to work together to maintain and enhance bilateral cooperation regarding fisheries data and management of the Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery.
  4. AFMA considers that it would not be consistent with a precautionary approach to allow any commercial fishing activity, in addition to the local fishing activity that currently takes place by Island residents. Therefore AFMA will not issue any commercial fishing permits for the inshore waters surrounding Norfolk Island, during the period of this interim policy.
  5. In addition, given the modest total annual catch (estimated to be 80-100 tonnes) and corresponding revenue generated by fishers on Norfolk Island, in comparison to the potentially high cost of management and enforcement, AFMA does not consider that these activities could be undertaken in a manner consistent with the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* objective of pursuing cost effective and efficient management.
- Given the above obstacles to pursuing the ecologically sustainable development objective and the cost effective and efficient management objective under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, AFMA will not issue any commercial fishing permits during the period of this interim policy.
  - Continuation of this interim policy will be subject to a review of progress achieved regarding the Norfolk Island/Commonwealth negotiations, by July 2005.

As decided at the 116<sup>th</sup> AFMA Board Meeting 25-26 November 2004.