



16 December 2022

Dear Coral Sea Zone SFR concession holder

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Coral Sea Zone Hook Trial

I am writing to inform you about the status of the Coral Sea Zone Hook Trial and management arrangements that will apply in the Coral Sea Zone of the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) from the start of the fishing season on 1 January 2023.

Over the past two fishing seasons (2021 and 2022) AFMA, in consultation with stakeholders has administered the 'Coral Sea Zone Hook Trial' (the trial). Under the trial, concessions holders have been permitted through gear limitations to set 1200 hooks per day¹ between 1 March and 30 August within a certain area of the Coral Sea Zone west of longitude 148 degrees, east regardless of the number of longline sets undertaken. AFMA implemented the trial through Statutory Fishing Right (SFR) conditions.

Extension of the trial into the 2023 season will be subject to consultation with the Coral Sea Zone Working Group. If following consideration of stakeholder advice, AFMA decides to continue the trial, AFMA will notify concession holders and make necessary variations to the SFR conditions.

Concession holders are reminded that until such time, standard SFR conditions will apply in relation to maximum hook limits within the Coral Sea Zone. That is that when using pelagic longline, concessions holders may not set more than 500 hooks on any longline set in the area of the Coral Sea Zone as defined in the (Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2010).

If you require any further clarification on this matter, please contact me on (02) 6225 5392 or at Kate.Martin@afma.gov.au.

Kate Martin

Kate Martin
Manager
Tropical Tuna Fisheries

¹ GEAR LIMITATION 2022

1. The holder:
 - (a) Can set a maximum of 1200 hooks per day in the area of the Coral Sea Zone (as defined in the *Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2010*) east of longitude 148 degrees east, regardless of the number of longline sets undertaken.
 - (b) Can set a maximum of 1200 hooks per day between the period of 1 March 2022 and 31 August 2022 in the area of the Coral Sea Zone (as defined in the *Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2010*) west of longitude 148 degrees, east regardless of the number of longline sets undertaken.
 - (c) Must not set more than 500 hooks on any longline set in the area of the Coral Sea Zone (as defined in the *Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2010*) west of longitude 148 degrees east in all other times than those mentioned in (b).
 - (d) Must provide the correct frequency of all radio buoys used to locate the boat's pelagic longlines during the retrieval of those fishing lines, if requested by an authorised officer.

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