

To The Bait Net Licensee

Pursuant to Section 34 of the *Fisheries Act 1988* (the Act), it is a **requirement that you submit catch and market returns to the Director of Fisheries** for each commercial fishing licence you hold. The manner and form for the required return(s) is outlined, with examples, on the following pages. These must be read in conjunction with this notice.

The information on the return form is used by Fisheries to monitor stocks and assist in the sustainable management of the fishery. The accuracy of data is, therefore, very important.

The return forms request the minimum information necessary. Any additional information, such as fish numbers, size or condition that you may wish to add will be very useful.

The information you provide is **CONFIDENTIAL** to Fisheries, subject to Section 36 of the *Fisheries Act 1988* and the *Information Act 2002*. Information Privacy Principles apply to the information collected through catch and market returns.

Any interaction with Threatened, Endangered and Protected Species (TEPS) (and other species as may be listed on the return form) **must** be recorded in the area provided on the return form or in the comments section. In addition, any interaction with TEPS that occurs within **Territory waters** should be reported to the NT Wildlife Incident Reporting number, 1800 453 941. Please note that as long as operators are fishing in accordance with fisheries legislation, it is not an offence to interact with protected species. It is however an offence **NOT** to report these interactions.

The Australian Government *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requires the reporting of any interaction with listed TEPS within **Commonwealth waters**. Any interaction that occurs within Commonwealth waters must be reported to the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts within 7 days on telephone 1800 641 806 or email protected.species@environment.gov.au

Your co-operation and contribution to the monitoring of our fisheries is greatly appreciated.

Ian Curnow
Director of Fisheries

Notice To The Bait Net Licensee

Pursuant to Section 34 of the *Fisheries Act 1988* (the Act), it is a requirement that the holder of a commercial fishing licence submit returns within twenty-eight (28) days from the end of each month.

This person, pursuant to the Act, is known as the “**licence holder**” but may be a nominated person, temporary transferee or short term operator.

The original (white) copies should be forwarded to the Returns Officer and you should retain the pink copies in the logbook for your personal records.

Please be advised that:

- (a) Returns must be filled out as completely and accurately as possible, sufficient to satisfy the Director of Fisheries.
 - (i) Each column refers to a specific fishing activity undertaken in one grid and area by one fishing method.
 - (ii) If you fish in the same grid but different areas complete a separate column for each area.
 - (iii) If you fish in the same grid and area but use a different fishing method (e.g. different length of net), complete a separate column for each method.
 - (iv) Your list of species caught for each activity should be entered in that activity column only. Do not total your catch into one column.

(see sample return on the following page if you need help in completing returns. Grid numbers referred to in the returns are shown on the NT grid map).

- (b) If no catch or sales take place in a given month a ‘**NIL**’ return must still be lodged.
- (c) If you believe that your returns may be late in reaching Fisheries it is your responsibility to notify the Returns Officer and inform them of when the returns can be expected to arrive.
- (d) All correspondence relating to your licence and returns will be directed to the address stated on your licence application. If this address is no longer correct please notify Fisheries in writing of any changes.
- (e) If licence return conditions are not met, fines and/or prosecution may result.

Returns are to be lodged with the:

Director of Fisheries
Department of Resources
GPO Box 3000
DARWIN NT 0801

ATTENTION: Returns Officer

or deposited in the 'returns' box located at the reception desk of Fisheries, Goff Letts Building, Berrimah Farm, Makagon Road, Berrimah or by fax on (08) 8999 2057.

Business reply postage paid envelopes have been provided for your convenience.

No postage stamps are required for the envelopes, if they are posted in Australia.

Any further information on the completion of returns can be obtained from RETURNS OFFICER, phone (08) 8999 2148 or (08) 8999 2189 or by email logbookreturns@nt.gov.au