



Fisheries Compliance Principles & Priorities

Compliance Priorities – where we focus our efforts

WHAT IS A COMPLIANCE PRIORITY?

A compliance priority is a specific focus area that has been identified as requiring a higher level of attention, risk management and/or monitoring, over a specific period.

While NT Fisheries is responsible for enforcing compliance with the *Fisheries Act 1988* by all stakeholders, the following areas will receive extra effort and emphasis over the coming two years.

Priority	Measure of Success	What we will report
01	Deliver a risk based regulatory approach that targets effort toward activities, locations, and sectors posing the highest risk.	a. Existing spatial closures are supported by 20 Patrols per year. b. New Spatial and/or temporary closures are supported a Temporary Closure Compliance Plan (TCCP) that includes specific activities and targets. c. 25% of commercial fishing vessels that target 'at risk' stocks in the Greater Darwin Region are inspected.
02	Support Marine Rangers and Aboriginal groups to regulate fishing activities on Sea Country.	a. Number and location of patrols: Quarterly heat map, and annual report card. b. Metrics from TCCPs will be included and reported against in the annual report card. c. Inspection rate of commercial fishing vessels that target key stocks is reported in the annual report card.
03	Improve compliance reporting of the commercial industry, including FTO sector.	a. Fisheries works with Aboriginal groups to develop an agreed Local Compliance Plan (LCP) for each region that wishes to have one in place. b. Compliance annual report card will include: number of LCPs agreed; number, types and location of activities undertaken in partnership.
04	Improved transparency and accountability.	a. Quarterly audits of licence holder's submission of record and returns. Results reported by fishery, quarterly, and in annual report card. b. Inspection rates of commercial fishing vessels that are reported in the annual report card. c. The number of reports, and number of investigations to be included in annual report card d. Processes approved by the Director of Fisheries and published on departmental website.
	a. 90% of commercial licences are reporting their records and returns within the proscribed timeframe. b. > 10% of all commercial fishers inspected > 10% of offshore fishery landings in Darwin are inspected. c. Published processes for: - assessment of licence applications in commercial fisheries - Fit and proper person	a. Policy and guidelines approved by Director of Fisheries and published on departmental website. b. Annual report card published by 30 September, following each financial year. c. Updated booklet approved by Director of Fisheries and published. d. Build and implement education and recreational fishing stewardship campaign. e. Fisheries Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2026-28 approved and implemented.
	a. Publish a Compliance Policy and Guidelines b. Publish an annual report card c. Update and publish recreational fishing and guidance booklet. d. Implement an education and stewardship campaign for recreational fishing sector. e. Increase Fisheries visibility in the media and engagement space.	