

TO THE MUD CRAB LICENSEE

Fisheries catch return data are vital to assist in the sustainable management of fisheries and stock assessments, and this data are used to make informed decisions in relation to fisheries management.

Pursuant to Section 34 of the *Fisheries Act 1988* (the Act), it is a requirement that the holder of a commercial fishing licence submits accurate catch and market returns within twenty-eight (28) days from the end of the month in which the fishing took place. The manner and form for the required return(s) is outlined, with examples, on the following pages to assist you with meeting your legal requirements.

The information on the catch and market return forms 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 size or condition that you may wish to add will be very useful.

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

Returns are to be lodged with the:

Director of Fisheries
Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
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 (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.

If you believe that your returns may be late in reaching Fisheries it is your responsibility to notify the Returns Officer seeking approval to submit them at an alternate time. All correspondence relating to your licence and returns will be directed to the address stated on your licence application. Please notify Fisheries of any changes if this address is no longer correct.

Any direct interactions with Threatened, Endangered and Protected Species (TEPS) must be recorded in the comments section of the logbook. In addition, any interactions with TEPS within **Territory waters** must be reported to the NT Marine WildWatch Hotline number 1800 453 941. Any interaction that occurs within **Commonwealth waters** must be reported to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities within 7 days on 1800 641 806 or email protected.species@environment.gov.au.

Please note that as long as operators are fishing in accordance with fisheries legislation, it is not an offence to unintentionally interact with TEPS. It is however an offence not to report these interactions.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Bryan McDonald
Director Aquatic Resources
Fisheries