

21 March 2018

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Genuine efforts demonstrated in balancing livelihoods of professional fishers**

Northern Territory Seafood Council is relieved the Management Plan for the North Marine Parks Network released today contained no additional surprises for our members in the form of further loss of access.

'We commended the Australian Government on taking future growth of the seafood industry into account when it released its North Network Draft Management Plan in July last year and we are relieved this plan is now being put forward in Parliament for adoption,' said Northern Territory Seafood Council Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Katherine Winchester.

'This management plan is a better outcome for our industry than the draft plan proposed in 2012, which failed to recognise the development and growth potential of the Northern Territory seafood industry.

'We share our waters with a number of user groups including Aboriginal communities, recreational fishers as well as other industry groups such as mining and energy and we recognise the challenge in finding a balance that considers both conservation and user group needs.

'Marine parks are not a fisheries management tool, rather a complimentary measure and must be based on science and risk assessment to avoid having unnecessary cost or impact to the community.

'Overall the Commonwealth Marine Park network will now cover 36% of Australia's oceans, well ahead of international benchmarks that aim for 10%.

'Within the North Network, an area off the coast of the entire Northern Territory and part of Queensland, there are eight Marine Parks covering a total area of 157,480 square kilometres.

'Northern Territory professional fishers contribute millions of dollars annually to the Northern Territory's economy and industry wants to be able to continue to support their families and the economy by sustainably harvesting seafood for others to enjoy,' said Mrs Winchester.

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