



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### **NLC extends interim fishing arrangements from Blue Mud Bay until 31 December 2010**

**16 December 2009**

The Northern Land Council's recent Full Council meeting held at Crab Claw Island endorsed the extension of the current interim licensing and permit regime for commercial and recreational fishing in tidal waters over Aboriginal land until **31 December 2010**.

The interim regime was originally in force until two months after the High Court's Blue Mud Bay judgement being until 30 September 2008.

In 2007 the Land Councils committed to extending the interim regime for at least 12 months after the High Court's judgement which was until 31 July 2009. This was further extended until 31 December 2009.

The Northern Land Council has committed to this additional extension to **31 December 2010** to ensure that good faith negotiations can continue between all partners and stakeholders for the management and development of a sustainable fishing industry.

Aboriginal land covers approximately 5,500 kilometres of Northern Territory coastline and consultations with Traditional Owners will take some time to complete.

This scheme is free and involves the automatic grant of licences to commercial operators, with recreational licences automatically granted on request to the NLC.

The interim scheme was implemented in response to the Federal Court's decision in March 2007 in favour of Traditional Owners, and is administered by the NLC on behalf of the Anindilyakwa, Northern and Tiwi Land Councils.

Northern Land Council – Freecall 1800 645 299 or [www.nlc.org.au](http://www.nlc.org.au)

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