



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Blue Mud Bay: extension of licensing scheme

21 May 2007

The Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive, Norman Fry, has announced that agreement has been reached whereby the interim licensing scheme regarding tidal waters overlying Aboriginal land will be extended to the Anindilyakwa and Tiwi Land Councils regions.

The scheme was implemented in April in response to the Federal Court's decision in the Blue Mud Bay case.

“The interim scheme will be administered by the NLC on behalf of the three Land Councils”, Mr Fry said.

“This is a “one-stop shop”. Only one application needs to be lodged to cover all tidal waters overlying Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory.”

“The scheme is free and, subject to one special exemption, the interim recreational licence will commence on the date on which the application is made and the valid until two months after the High Court's decision,” Mr Fry said.

“The special exemption is that applications made before the “cut-off date” will be automatically backdated to 2 March 2007 (the date of the Court's decision).”

“The “cut-off date” was originally 31 May, but has been extended to 31 July 2007.

The NLC encourages all recreational fishers to apply for an interim licence and permit.

Application forms and a fact sheet may be obtained from the NLC website, and may be made by post, facsimile or online.

Further information is contained in the attached fact sheet.

The NLC's website is: www.nlc.org.au/

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