



NORTHERN
LAND COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

Northern Land Council: new access arrangements for Mini Mini and East Alligator River

21 March 2021

The NLC is pleased to announce that, following recent consultations with traditional owners of sea country in the Mini Mini and East Alligator River regions, recreational fishers and tourists on organised fishing tours can now access hundreds of kilometres of prime fishing grounds in those areas that were previously closed subject to further consultations.

Those new access areas are in addition to the more than 3,000 kilometres of fishing grounds announced when the NLC established a registration system earlier this month and that provides permit-free access until the end of 2022.

In early March, NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour said that the NLC would continue to talk to the traditional owners of sea country in those areas that had previously been shown as the subject of further consultations.

“Over the past few weeks I’ve attended consultations with traditional owners of the Mini Mini and East Alligator River systems and they have agreed to allow recreational fishers and tourists on guided tours into their sea country. This is a great result that could only have come about through the hard work of NLC staff and the goodwill of traditional owners and I congratulate them on this result.

“I’d also like to thank the industry stakeholders - AFANT, the NT Guided Fishing Industry Association and the Seafood Council – for their cooperation, patience and goodwill. Despite the naysayers, we can all work together to achieve good outcomes, to protect traditional owners’ sea country and the industries associated with that country. We look forward to similar collaboration in the future and to finalising our arrangements with the NT government,” said Ms Scrymgour.

Ms Scrymgour encouraged all fishers to sign up for registration. “We are really pleased with the take-up of the registration system. Nearly 750 fishers have registered so far and we look forward to more registering before Easter. We’ll have updated maps showing these new access areas at the NLC website in the next day or so.”

To view the detailed maps and to register visit www.nlc.org.au.

NLC contact: Bob Gosford 0448 226 943