



**National
Fisheries
Authority**

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



FISHERY CLOSURE NOTICE AND BAN ON HOOKER GEAR USE

Date: 15th November 2024

This notice serves to inform all stakeholders in the Tropical Rock Lobster fishery in Papua New Guinea's jurisdiction of the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) and Western Province that the fishery will be closed immediately, as of the date of this notice.

Effective Date: 15th November 2024

Closure Period: 15th November 2024 to 31st March 2025

Affected Parties:

- Licensed operators of tropical rock lobster fishing vessels
- Licensed buyers of tropical rock lobster
- Licensed shore-based facility operators in Daru, Western Province

All licensed parties listed above are required to immediately cease fishing for tropical rock lobster in the affected area.

Purpose of the Closure:

This closure is a management intervention to prevent overharvesting of tropical rock lobster in the co-managed PNG–Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ). The fishery has already exceeded its Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 80 tonnes, with 120.1 tonnes harvested from the PNG side.

Resumption of Fishing:

Fishing will resume on 1st April 2025. All licensed operators/ companies are required to provide monthly catch data to avoid any further interruptions to inter-port transfers.

This condition will be strongly enforced going forward.

Ban on Hooker Gear:

A ban on the use of hooker gear will also take effect for the duration of the season.

For any further inquiries regarding this closure, please contact the National Fisheries Authority, Fisheries Management Unit, at phone: +675 309 0444.

**Approved for Publication by:
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