



# NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### EXTENSION OF THE MUD CRAB FISHING SEASON

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) wishes to inform all Mud Crab Harvesters, Licensed Buyers, Exporters, and the General Public that the Mud Crab Fishing Season is extended for another two (2) months period for the 2023-2024 season.

The reasons for the extension are premised on the following.

1. The TAC for each province is set at 50% of the standing stock biomass of each province.
2. The sporadic spawning behavior of mud crabs allow for natural replenishment of their population
3. The utilization of the resource to its full potential will provide continued social and economic benefits to coastal communities; and
4. Encouraging continuity in business investments and commitments to end markets to be fully utilized.
5. Encouraging and exploring potential farming opportunities for commercialization.

The extended fishing period will be from **21<sup>st</sup> August to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024.**

During this extension period, only existing licensed companies will be allowed to continue with the Buying, Selling, Storing and Exporting of live Mud Crabs and no new licenses will be considered.

Below is the list of existing licensed companies:

NO.	COMPANY	PROVINCE
1	United Seafoods Limited	NCD/Central
2	ANM Marine NCD	NCD/Central
3	Sakura Marine NCD	NCD/Central
4	Coco Enterprise Limited	NCD/Central
5	Maru Shipping Co. LTD	NCD/Central
6	Flyig Taihang Mountain Trading Limited	NCD/Central
7	A.L Gaidi Marine Resource NCD	NCD/Central
8	Golden Bowl Limited	NCD/Central
9	Kroton Laitepo Equities	NCD/Central
10	Qoito Pacific Limited	NCD/Central
11	Sugujiji Marine Products Limited	NCD/Central

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12	Solwara Seafood Limited	NCD/Central
13	Sangak Enterprise Limited	NCD/Central
14	A.L Gaidi Marine Resource Gulf	Gulf Province
15	ANM Marine Limited Gulf	Gulf Province
16	Sakura Marine Products Limited	Gulf Province
17	Karasiva Marine Resource	New Ireland Province
18	Island Marine Products Limited NIP	New Ireland Province
19	ANM Marine Limited NIP	New Ireland Province
20	Island Marine Products Limited	New Ireland Province
21	Aquila Enterprise Limited	Western Province
22	Mjay Kaine Limited	Western Province
23	New Century Limited	Western Province
24	Red Coral Development LTD	Western Province
25	Bay Seafoods Limited	Milne Bay Province
26	ANM Marine Limited Milne Bay	Milne Bay Province
27	Marigold Limited	West New Britain

Further, in this extension period, Gulf and Central Province fishing grounds are Prohibited from harvesting, and trading of Mud Crabs within the provincial jurisdiction for commercial or export purposes, as they have already reached their Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the 2023-2024 open season.

However, Gulf and Central Province-based companies are allowed to purchase mud crabs from other provinces through facilitation by their Provincial Fisheries Office, for the purpose of storage and export only. Utilization of their facilities in Gulf is consistent with the provisions of the mud crab management plan, particularly Schedule 2 (Inter-provincial Transfer Form).

The Mud Crab Management Plan-2022 [G619] encourages the Buying, Selling, Storing and Exporting of Mud Crabs from respective maritime provinces who have yet to reach their TAC allocation during this extended fishing period.

All the licensed companies, including those based in Central and NCD are advised to submit all daily purchase record data, which should include purchases made in other maritime provinces to the National Fisheries Authority during this extension period.

Please note that penalties are applicable per the Fisheries Management Act 1998 as amended and the Fisheries Regulation 2000 as amended, to companies and individuals who breach the conditions of this extension period.

This notice does **NOT** affect the harvesting, selling, and buying for local or domestic consumption or sale to local markets, restaurants, and hotels.

For further information, please contact **Mr. Thomas Usu, Executive Manager, Fisheries Management Unit** or **Mr. Jerome Tioti, Executive Manager, Licensing & Data Management Unit** on landline (+675) 3090 444.



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