

# Cocos (Keeling) Islands Fisheries Management - Initial 12-month plan

Approved by Cocos Marine Care and forwarded by Kendra Travaille 24 November 2022

## Background

To facilitate a successful transition toward a community-based fisheries management model, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) and Cocos Marine Care have agreed to a phased funding approach, with an initial 12-month agreement, delivered in partnership with Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, to develop critical management structures and processes, and demonstrate the effectiveness of the new approach.

Pending successful delivery of the agreed 12-month workplan, this would then move to a 3- to 5-yearly funding cycle, in line with standard Government processes (e.g. annual performance review and budget approval).

## Work plan

### Fisheries management objectives

The objectives of fisheries management at Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) are to:

- Manage and provide for the conservation and sustainable use of marine fisheries in accordance with the *Fish Resource Management Act (1994) (WA) (CKI)*; and
- Enable the local community to effectively participate in the management of fisheries and the marine environment at CKI.

The following work plan will be implemented to achieve these objectives.

### 12-month work plan (tent. 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2023)

Service area and objective	Activities	Responsible parties	Delivery timeframe (month)
<b>Administration:</b> ensure appropriate personnel, systems, processes and policies are in place to effectively deliver fisheries management services	Manage and administer funding	CKI Shire	Ongoing
	Review and update workplace policies to align with management activities	CKI Shire	1
	Engage technical fisheries partner	CKI Shire - administration and procurement CMC- partner selection and coordination	1-2
	Recruit Fisheries Ranger	CKI Shire - administration CMC - candidate selection	1-2

		Technical partner - Ranger supervision and management	
	Assess immediate ranger training and equipment needs	Technical partner	2
	Manage ranger activities	Technical partner, w. CKI Shire	Ongoing
	Review ongoing requirements (FTE, training, equipment, etc.)	Technical partner, w. CMC DITRDCA - funding approval	7-8
<b>Education and outreach:</b> effectively communicate fishing rules and rationale to CKI community and visitors to promote voluntary compliance	Develop and deliver community education program regarding new fishing rules and fisheries sustainability principles, via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-on-one engagement at boat ramps, airport, community events, etc.</li> <li>• Public meetings and community presentations to share rules and answer questions</li> <li>• Publishing and distributing informational materials</li> <li>• Sharing information via newsletter articles and social media posts</li> </ul>	Technical partner - guide program design and coordinate materials  Ranger, w. CMC - deliver on-island activities	Plan: 2-3 Delivery: ongoing
	Install signage with new rules at high traffic areas, e.g. boat ramps and airport	Technical partner - design and delivery CKI Shire - installation	6
<b>Compliance and enforcement:</b> Develop fit-for-purpose system for delivering fisheries compliance and enforcement services at CKI	Formalise compliance and enforcement partnership with AFP	DITRDCA Technical partner to advise	1
	Establish working arrangements between CMC and AFP	CMC and AFP DITRDCA and Technical partner - facilitate and advise	2
	Review and confirm ongoing compliance and enforcement arrangements	DITRDCA w. CMC and AFP Technical partner to advise	7
<b>Science and monitoring:</b> collect	Continue recreational fisheries monitoring program to collect	Technical partner - training, data mgmt.,	2-3

data on fisheries activities and fish stocks to inform and evaluate management	catch, effort and export statistics	analysis and reporting Ranger - data collection and reporting	
	Update data management system for collecting, storing, managing and retrieving recreational fishing data	Technical partner	3
	Negotiate data sharing agreement with DPIRD for access to historical data	DITRDCA	3
	Produce 6-month and annual reports on fishing and export activities (e.g. for CMC, DITRDCA and CKI community)	Technical partner, w. support from Ranger	6,11
	Continue biological data collection for key recreational fishing species, as part of stock assessment program	Biospherics - lead Technical partner - manage and coordinate activities Ranger - data collection and reporting	Ongoing (x3 site visits)
	Update giant clam ( <i>Tridacna maxima</i> ) assessment, as part of WTO conditions	Technical partner w. Biospherics	11
	Develop longer-term <i>Science and Monitoring Plan</i> , including robust stock assessment program	DITRDCA - lead Technical partner - advise	10-11
<b>Policy and management:</b> advise the Australian government on fisheries matters to ensure effective governance and management	Hold inaugural meeting of the CKI FAC	FAC members DITRDCA - Secretariat	2
	Establish system and processes for managing community fisher and cultural exemptions	CMC and Technical partner	

	Establish process and pool of independent experts for issuing and managing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific research permits</li> <li>• Commercial fishing licences</li> <li>• Aquaculture permits</li> </ul>	DITRDCA, w. CMC & Technical partner	5
	Identify cost-sharing opportunities for marine management, monitoring and research (e.g. with Parks Australia)	DITRDCA and Parks Australia Technical partner - advise	Ongoing
	Advise of any recommended amendments to 2022 Fisheries Ordinance	CMC, w. support from Technical partner	8
	Review policy changes required to comply with <i>Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016 (WA)</i>	DITRDCA Technical partner to help advise	8

## Program Milestones

Milestone	Responsible
Q1 (Tent. Jan - Mar 2023)	
Key deliverables:	
• Technical fisheries partner organisation engaged	CKI Shire, CMC
• Ranger employed and suitably equipped	CKI Shire, CMC
• Inaugural meeting of the CKI Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC) held	FAC
• (At least) 1 community information session held to introduce ranger and new arrangements	CMC, Technical partner
Q2 (Tent. Apr - Jun 2023)	
Key deliverables:	
• Fishing rules signage installed (e.g. at boat ramp)	Technical partner, CKI Shire
• Processes for managing exemptions established	CMC, Technical partner
• Process for issuing scientific permits, commercial and aquaculture licences (post-DPIRD) established	DITRDCA, CMC

Q3 (Tent. Jul - Sep 2023)	
Key deliverables:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicative work plan and budget for Year 2 (Phase 2) submitted to DITRDCA</li> </ul>	Technical partner, CMC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial report on recreational fishing activities and export data provided to CMC, DITRDCA, CKI community</li> </ul>	Technical partner, CMC
Q4 (Tent. Oct - Dec 2023)	
Key deliverables:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Giant clam survey and report completed</li> </ul>	Technical partner & Biospherics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longer-term Science and Monitoring Plan developed</li> </ul>	DITRDCA, Technical partner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of annual report on Phase 1 activities, learnings and recommendations for Phase 2</li> </ul>	CMC, Technical partner, CKI Shire, DITRDCA

## Budget

Expected costs to deliver proposed work plan, with an additional approx. \$19,200 in-kind support provided by Cocos Marine Care committee members to undertake fisheries management activities.

Item Description	Total Price
<b>Personnel</b>	
Fisheries ranger (CKI Shire Level 6)	\$ 82,121
Technical fisheries partner	\$ 96,560
<b>Contractors</b>	
Stock assessment - Biospherics	\$ 54,500
Clam survey update (for WTO)	\$ 10,000
<i>Personnel sub-total</i>	<i>\$ 243,181</i>
<b>Travel (R/T from Perth)</b>	
Trip 1 (tent. Feb 2023; 2 pax, 7 nts.) - <i>Community meeting, develop Ranger work plan, FAC meeting (TBC)</i>	\$ 6,800
Trip 2 (tent May 2023, 1 pax, 7 nts.) - <i>Install signage, clam survey, CMC and Ranger check-in</i>	\$ 3,750
Trip 3 (tent. Sept 2023, 2 pax, 7 nts.) - <i>Review phase 1 activities and next steps; community meeting</i>	\$ 6,800
<i>Travel sub-total</i>	<i>\$ 17,350</i>
<b>Infrastructure, equipment and materials</b>	
<u>Communications and outreach</u>	
Comms materials (brochures, signage, articles, etc.)	\$ 7,100
Venue hire for community meetings	\$ 300
<u>Data collection and management</u>	
Tablet	\$ 800

Data management and storage platform	\$	2,200
<u>Infrastructure</u>		
Office space and equipment, ferry pass, admin (CKI Shire)	\$	15,385
Administrative costs (Cocos Marine Care)	\$	8,500
Vehicle and running costs (CKI Shire)	\$	12,000
First aid provider certificate	\$	350
<u>Misc.</u>		
Consumables	\$	1,000
<i>Equipment sub-total</i>	\$	47,635
<b>Cash contribution from Australian Government (DITRDCA)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>308,166</b>
<i>In-kind support from Cocos Marine Care</i>	\$	19,200
<b>Total cost (12-month pilot)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>327,366</b>