

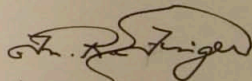
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CABINET DECISION

NO. 2361

Submission No.: 2001
Title: AMATEUR FISHING - FAMILY BAG LIMIT

Cabinet agreed that section 2(b) of Cabinet Decision No. 2085, approving a family bag limit for amateur barramundi fishing, not be implemented at this time.



(M.R. FINGER),
Secretary to Cabinet.
4 June, 1982.

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THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

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FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No. 2001

Title:

AMATEUR FISHING - FAMILY BAG LIMIT

Cabinet Member

THE HONOURABLE R.M. STEELE, MLA
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Purpose:

TO RESCIND SECTION 2(b) OF CABINET DECISION NO. 2085 WHICH APPROVED THE INTRODUCTION OF A FAMILY BAG LIMIT.

Relation to existing policy:

WITHOUT REGULATIONS FOR FAMILY LICENCES THE INTRODUCTION OF A FAMILY BAG LIMIT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT.

Timing/legislative priority:

N/A

Announcement of decision, tabling, etc.:

NIL REQUIRED

Action required before announcement:

N/A

Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc.:

NIL

Total cost:

NIL

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ISSUE

1. To decide whether to proceed with Section 2(b) of Cabinet Decision No. 2085 which established family bag limits for amateur barramundi fishermen in the absence of amateur fishing licences.

BACKGROUND

2. Cabinet Decision No. 2085 of 8 December 1981 on a revised plan of management for the Northern Territory barramundi resource, approved:
"the amendment of the present (amateur) bag limit regulations to provide for a family bag limit of 10 barramundi per day per family with a maximum of 20 barramundi in possession".
3. Existing regulations provide for an individual bag limit of 5 barramundi per person per day with a maximum of 10 barramundi in possession.

4. The family bag limit was proposed in Cabinet Submission No. 1759 as a measure to be applied in conjunction with amateur licences for barramundi fishing. The intention was that a family (including small children) would be able to fish under a family licence and need not take out licences for each individual. At the same time the family would not be allowed to exceed the family bag limit.
5. The family bag limit would simply apply to a group of persons fishing under a family licence.
6. Cabinet decided not to implement amateur licences for barramundi fishing.
7. The introduction of a family bag limit in the absence of a family licence requires that a 'family' be defined for the purpose of the regulation.

Options

8. In effect the original approach and intention would be changed from the situation where a family chose to take out a family licence and accepted related conditions to one in which a definition of a family will be imposed on them.

PUBLIC IMPACT

CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE

9. It is apparent from discussions with the Legislative Draftsman that the best way of determining a 'family' for the purpose of a bag limit would be to include children who are under a certain age. This approach would help reduce abuse of present bag limit regulations but may engender dispute on the basis that young anglers will be discriminated against as would two parent families (engaged in fishing) compared with a family fishing group where only one parent is in attendance.
10. These technical difficulties suggest that a family bag limit (in the absence of amateur licences) may not meet Cabinet's original intentions.

OPTIONS

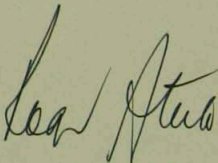
11. Two options are available:
- (a) to attempt to fully implement Cabinet Decision No. 2085 in the absence of family licences; or,
 - (b) to rescind Section 2(b) of the Cabinet Decision and not implement a family bag limit at this time.

PUBLIC IMPACT

12. Public reaction may be expected against a family bag limit which appears to prejudice certain individuals.

RECOMMENDATION

13. It is recommended that Section 2(b) of Cabinet Decision No. 2085 approving a family bag limit for amateur barramundi fishing not be implemented at this time.



ROGER STEELE

Minister for Primary Production

31/5/82

MAY, 1982.