

**NT GUIDED FISHING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
PO BOX 1313 NIGHTCLIFF NT 0814**

Dear NTGFIA Member-

Attached for information is a summary of the NTGFIA's submission on permanent funding options for its Executive Officer position. The submission (a complete text of which is now available on the NTGFIA website) was lodged with the Minister for Fisheries on 8 March 2006 in the expectation that its principal recommendation - the incremental introduction of FTO licence fees as a revenue base for the Association's ongoing activities - would be adopted prior to the commencement of the 2006/7 licensing year.

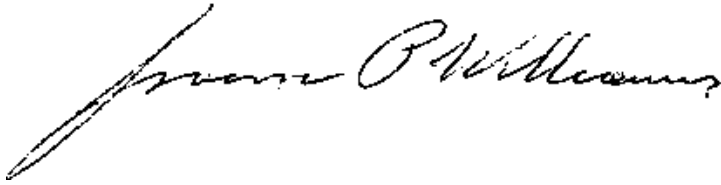
It is my understanding that the major issues and initiatives canvassed in the submission were not formally presented to Cabinet until last week (15 August, 2006). The following day Lloyd and I met with the Minister and were informed that the introduction of FTO licence fees and concomitant funding for the Association had been approved in principle, and that he would be announcing specific details of their implementation (eg the amount and date of introduction of FTO licence fees) in the forthcoming weeks.

Our best assessment of the situation (based on admittedly limited Departmental and Ministerial information) is that licence fees will not be introduced until 1 July 2007 and that the fee per licence will be of the order of \$400. In return for exceeding the \$200 fee recommended by the NTGFIA, the Government is prepared to consider submissions from industry on the implementation of a regime of more economically viable and operationally efficient management measures designed to enhance the professional status and viability of the FTO fishery. Such measures, if approved, could be effected by the declaration of a managed fishery or by changes to the Fisheries Regulations. A managed fishery could be implemented immediately whereas the implementation of an amended set of regulations would undoubtedly be delayed until the completion of the current review of the Fisheries Act – some 18 to 24 months hence.

Accordingly, the Executive Committee has instructed Lloyd to commence work immediately on preparing a Draft Plan of Management for the FTO Fishery, which will incorporate not only those matters already endorsed as Association policy (eg the introduction of a Multi-Tier Business Licence and Licence Limitation) but any other matters which, by consensus, are considered essential to enhancing FTO day to day operations and minimizing red tape. To this end Lloyd will be seeking your ideas and comments on the various elements of the plan over the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, to remain viable, the Association must fulfill its various ongoing corporate obligations – one of the most important of which is the requirement to hold an Annual General Meeting within 18 months of incorporation (in our case prior to 13 November). Accordingly I have set Thursday 26 October 2006 as the date for the Association's first Annual General Meeting and am calling for nominations for the five positions on the Management Committee as detailed on the attached Nomination Form.

Also attached is a membership renewal form which I urge you to complete and return to our Executive Officer together with the \$10 annual fee. With major changes to the administration of the FTO Fishery in the offing, the need for a comprehensive and active membership base is even more critical.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graeme Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Graeme Williams
Chairman, NTGFIA
23 August 2006

**NT GUIDED FISHING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
PO BOX 1313 NIGHTCLIFF NT 0814**

**Management Committee
Nomination Form**

I hereby nominate.....for the position of

- CHAIRMAN**
 - VICE CHAIRMAN**
 - SECRETARY**
 - TREASURER**
 - GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER**
- (Strike out those which do not apply)

	NAME (BLOCK LETTERS)	SIGNATURE
NOMINATOR		
SECONDER		

**NTGFIA
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

I wish to renew my membership of the NTGFIA

NAME (BLOCK LETTERS)	SIGNATURE + LICENCE NUMBER

Please return this form together with your \$10 renewal fee to the
Executive Officer
NTGFIA
PO Box 1313
Nightcliff NT 0814

PERMANENT FUNDING OPTIONS FOR THE NTGFIA

MARCH 2006 SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTER

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Guided Fishing Industry Association Inc (NTGFIA) was incorporated on 13 May 2005.
- It has a current membership of 74 - approximately 65% of the total number of licences issued.
- The Industry has agreed to the introduction of a \$200 licence fee in the 2006/7 licencing year.
- Industry has also agreed in principle to (eventual) full cost recovery by incremental increases in licence fees over a three or five year time frame, but on the proviso that substantial progress is made towards establishing a more business oriented administrative environment for FTOs.
- Such an environment can be fostered by appropriate amendments to Sections 13 and 14 of the Act and by the declaration of the FTO Fishery as a Managed Fishery
- There are now precedents and different perspectives on the introduction of licence limitation (or its variants) into FTO Fisheries in other States, which are highly relevant to the Northern Territory situation.
- Both Government and Industry can benefit significantly from the introduction of a *restricted* (rather than fully *limited*) licence regime in the NT, with the application of all or part of the revenue from the sale of *additional* licences to recreational fishery research.
- Catch return documentation needs to be revised and digitized for optional on-line use.
- Viable funding sources for the NT Guided Fishing Industry Association are limited to either licencing fees or Government subsidies – or an appropriate combination of both.
- The Association needs time to build its reputation and credibility with all stakeholders but especially with the guided fishing industry. This is no easy task given the diversity and unique operational characteristics of the fishery.
- To secure adequate industry representation until it can gain credible status the Association needs to keep membership fees and levies at nominal levels.
- The Association needs funding to continue its operations. The most equitable way to provide for it in forthcoming years is the introduction of a \$200 licence fee in the 2006/7 licencing year with the shortfall in the Association's annual running costs (approximately \$15,000 in 2006/7) to be funded by Government grant. It was noted in this connection that both AFANT and the NT Seafood Industry Council were similarly funded and to a much greater extent than \$15,000.