

Document library – Indigenous fisheries and Sea Country

The following document library is a list of documents on Indigenous fisheries and Sea Country, including downloadable links. This is intended to collate resources that can support better engagement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups with respect to these issues.

Documents included in this list cover primarily Indigenous-led sea country and Indigenous Protected Area planning documents produced since c.2000, and Commonwealth public inquiries or commissioned research since the mid-1980s (with some state level documents included). Our focus in collating these documents is to highlight those publicly available statements that have been made by Indigenous Nations related to their rights, responsibilities and interests in fisheries and their Sea Country over a very long period of time.

Work to collate documents in this database was undertaken with the financial support of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, support via Project 2021-024 “Development of an Indigenous Engagement Strategy for fishing interests with a focus on Commonwealth fisheries.” The document library at this stage reflects the Commonwealth focus of the project that supported its development. Future work on this document library may include a more comprehensive set of documents, for example covering each state/territory jurisdiction in more detail, and key international cases of relevance to current developments in Australia, and creating a simple web-hosted database to facilitate easier access of these documents.

If you would like more information or would like to provide documents to add to the library please contact UTS project co-ordinator Nick McClean.

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The following documents were used in the initial review but were no longer available online at the time of compiling the database. *Mandinalbay IPA Planning* by the Mandinalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation (2010) and the *Cape York Turtle and Dugong Regional Plan* by the Traditional Owners of Cape York with support from Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation (2013)

Indigenous led Sea Country plans and strategies

Name of author/owner	Document name and link	Year	Jurisdiction
Northern Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)	National Indigenous Sea Country Workshop Report	2012	Australia-wide
Northern Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)	Timeline of significant events in Indigenous Sea Country Management	2013	Australia-wide
The Kimberley Indigenous Saltwater Advisory Group (iSWAG)	The Kimberley Indigenous Turtle and Dugong Initiative (2022 - 2032): A plan for indigenous-led regional management: implementation plan	2021	Western Australia
Port Curtis Coral Coast Trust Limited	Port Curtis Coral Coast (PCCC) Corporate Plan 2017 - 2030	2017	Queensland
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation/Yirralka Rangers	Yirralka Rangers Business Plan (2013 - 2016)	2013	Northern Territory
Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation	Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation Strategic Business Plan (2020-2030)	2020	Queensland
Tiwi Land Council	Tiwi Land Council Corporate Plan 2022-2026	2022	Northern Territory
Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council (WBACC)	WBACC Corporate Plan 2022 – 2023	2023	New South Wales
Northern Land Council	NLC Corporate Plan 2023-2024	2023	Northern Territory
Mandimalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation	Mandimalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation Strategic Business Plan 2013-2018	2013	Queensland
Ngarrindjeri Tendi, Ngarrindjeri Heritage Committee, Ngarrindjeri Native Title Management Committee	Ngarrindjeri Nation Yarlwar-Ruwe Sea Country Plan	2006	South Australia
Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation, made up of the following cultural groups; Kokatha, Mirning, Wirangu, Yalata group, Oak Valley Group and the Robert's groups.	Far West Coast Healthy Country Plan	2016	South Australia
Gunggandji PBC Aboriginal Corporation	Gunggandji Land and Sea Country Plan (2013)	2013	Queensland
Wuthathi People, Meriam Nation People, and Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P), Department of Environment and Science	Raine Island National Park Management Statement 2021	2021	Queensland
Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation and Yirrganydji People	Yirrganydji Sea Country Plan (2014)	2014	Queensland
Worimi Conservations Lands Board of Management and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service	Worimi Conservation Lands Plan of Management	2015	New South Wales
Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation, Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation and WA Government Department of Parks and Wildlife	Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park management plan (2013-2023)	2013	Western Australia

Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management and Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Country Cultural & Natural Resource Management Plan 2010 - 2015	2010	Queensland
Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	Gunaikurnai Whole of Country plan	2015	Victoria
Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation	Eastern Maar Meerreengeeye Ngakeepoorryeeyt Country Plan	2015	Victoria
Pilbara Indigenous Marine Reference Group - Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, Rangelands NRM, Big Island Research	Pilbara Sea Country Plan	2010	Western Australia
Wunambal Gaabera Aboriginal Corporation (WGAC)	Wunambal Gaambera Healthy Country Plan (2010 - 2020)	2010	Western Australia
Gunditjmara Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria	Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong Mara South West Management Plan (2015)	2015	Victoria
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners	Wadawurrung Country Plan 2020-2030	2020	Victoria
Torres Strait Regional Authority	Land and Sea Management Strategy for the Torres Strait 2016 - 2036	2016	Torres Strait
Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation (Yolnu people)	Yolnuwu Monuk Gapu Wana Sea Country Plan (Dhimmurru)	2006	Northern Territory
Framlingham Aboriginal Trust and Winda Mara Aboriginal	Kooyang Sea Country Plan	2004	Victoria
Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation Gkuthaarn and Kukatji Traditional Owners	Gkuthaarn and Kukatji Land and Saltwater Country Plan	2014	Queensland
Tiwi Land Council	Tiwi Islands Regional Natural Resource Management Strategy 2003	2003	Northern Territory
Kurtijar People and the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	Kurtijar Land and Saltwater Country Plan	2014	Queensland
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre	Iungtalanana, Babel Island & Big Dog Island Healthy Country Plan	2020	Tasmania
Karajarri Traditional Lands Association	Karajarri Healthy Country Plan (2013 - 2023)	2014	Western Australia
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre	Preminghana Healthy Country Plan	2015	Tasmania
Djelk Rangers	Djelk Healthy Country Plan (2015 - 2025)	2015	Northern Territory
Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation/Kimberley Land Council	Balanggarra Healthy Country Plan (2012 - 2022): One mob together for Country	2011	Western Australia
Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association on behalf of Yanyuwa Traditional Owners	Barni-Wardimantha Awara Yanyuwa Sea Country Plan	2007	Northern Territory
Mayala Inninalang Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Malaya Country Plan (2019 - 2029)	2019	Western Australia
Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation	Eastern Kuku Yalanji Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan Stage 2	2012	Queensland
Northern Land Council (NLC)	South East Arnhem Land Indigenous Protected Area Plan of Management (2016 - 2021)	2015	Northern Territory
Maluilgal (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation RNTBC on behalf of Koey Mabaygal and Badulgal, Boigulgal, Dauanalgal, Goemulgal and Saibailgal Traditional Property Owners of Warul Kawa / Leberen, Awaial Kawa / Kiss Ilan and NorWes Sandbank / Turu Cay,	Ugul Malu Kawal Indigenous Protected Area Plan of Management (2018 - 2028)	2017	Queensland

in association with Torres Strait Regional Authority Land & Sea Management Unit			
Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation	Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan (2015 - 2022)	2015	Northern Territory
Anindilyakwa Land Council	Anindilyakwa Indigenous Protected Area Plan of Management 2016	2016	Northern Territory
Pulu IPA Committee	Pulu Indigenous Protected Area Plan of Management	2009	Queensland
Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation	Uunguu Indigenous Protected Area: Wundaagu (Saltwater) Plan of Management (2016 - 2020)	2017	Western Australia
Girringun Aboriginal Corporation, Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gugu Badhun, Gulnay, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu Traditional Owners	Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan (2013 - 2023)	2013	Queensland
Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation	Dambimangari Healthy Country Plan (2012 - 2022)	2012	Western Australia
Carpentaria Land Council on behalf of Traditional Owners of the Wellesley Islands	Thuwathu/Bujimulla Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan	2016	Queensland
Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation on behalf of the Gangalidda People	Nijinda Durlga (Gangalidda) Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan	2015	Queensland
Warraberalgal RNTBC/Proumalgal RNTBC/ Torres Strait Regional Authority	Warraberalgal and Porumalgal Indigenous Protected Area Plan of Management (2018 - 2028)	2018	Queensland
Yawuru RNTBC	Yawuru Indigenous Protected Area Plan of Management (2016 - 2026)	2014	Western Australia
Nyangumarta Warran Aboriginal Corporation and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation	Nyangumarta Warrarn Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan (2022 - 2032)	2022	Western Australia
Bardi Jawi Niimidiman Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Bardi Jawi Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan (2013 - 2023)	2013	Western Australia
Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation	Arafura Swamp Indigenous Protected Area: A proposal for a new Northern Territory IPA	2018	Northern Territory
Tiwi Land Council	Tiwi Islands Sea Country: An information booklet supporting Tiwi people's aspirations for a Marine Indigenous Protected Area	2021	Northern Territory
NAILSMA	Dugong and Marine Turtle Knowledge Handbook 2005	2005	Queensland, Torres Strait, Northern Territory, Western Australia
Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation LNAC	Larrakia Nation Strategic Plan 2020 - 2024	2020	Northern Territory
Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation	Mandingalbay Yidinji Country Strategic Plan	2009	Queensland
Anindilyakwa Land Council	Anandilyakwa Land Council Strategic plan (2023 - 2033)	2024	Northern Territory
Ngiyambandigay Wajaarr Aboriginal Corporation	Ngiyambandigay Wajaarr Aboriginal Corporation Strategic Plan (2021 - 2026)	2021	New South Wales
Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation	Jabalbina Yalanji Strategic Plan (2023 - 2028)	2023	Queensland
Arakwal Elders and people and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service	Arakwal National Park Plan of Management	2007	New South Wales

Yawuru Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) and Department of Parks and Wildlife	Yawuru Nagulagun/Roeback Bay Marine Park Joint Management Plan (2016)	2016	Western Australia
Wunambal, Gaambera, Balanggarra, Ngarinyin and Miriuwung Gajerrong Traditional Owners and WA Department of Parks and Wildlife	North Kimberley Marine Park Joint Management Plan (2016): Uunguu, Balanggarra, Miriuwung Gajerrong and Wilinggin management areas	2016	Western Australia
Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation and WA Government, Parks and Wildlife Service	Lalang-gaddam Marine Park Joint Management Plan (2022)	2022	Western Australia
Yawuru people and WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Guniyan Binba Conservation Park Joint Management Plan (2020)	2020	Western Australia
Karajarri Traditional Lands Association, Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation, Wanparta Aboriginal Corporation (Ngarla) or Nyangumarta Karajarri Aboriginal Corporation and WA Government Department of Parks and Wildlife	Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park Management Plan (2014 - 2024)	2014	Western Australia
Birpai Barray (Hastings) Aboriginal community and NSW Department of Primary Industries	Birpai Barray (Hastings) Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Local Management Plan	2022	New South Wales
Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council and NSW DPI Fisheries (under the Department of Regional NSW)	Tweed Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Local Management Plan	2022	New South Wales
Quandamooka people Traditional Owners of Moreton Island, members of the Moreton Island Planning Advisory Committee and members of the Moreton working group and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS)	Moreton Island National Park, Cape Moreton Conservation Park & Moreton Island Recreation Area Management Plan	2007	Queensland
Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council (Koori people) and NSW National Parks	Booderee National Park Management Plan (2015 - 2025)	2015	New South Wales
Wet Tropics TO's, FNQ NRM, Rainforest CRC, Natural Heritage Trust and others	Wet Tropics Aboriginal Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan (2012)	2005	Queensland
Saltwater Traditional owners of the Woppaburra TUMRA region	Statement by Saltwater Traditional Owners of the Woppaburra TUMRA region	2013	Queensland
Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation (NNAC)	Narungga Nation Traditional Fishing Agreement	2021	South Australia
ipima ikaya Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Key Commitments for Yamarrinh Wachangan Islands (Denham Group) National Park (Cypal) under the Indigenous Management Agreement: Yamarrinh Wachangan Islands	N.D.	Queensland

Government inquiries, initiatives or government commissioned research

Name of author/owner	Document name and link	Year	Jurisdiction
Commonwealth Australian Government	Review of Commonwealth Fisheries: Legislation, Policy and Management	2012	Commonwealth
Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)	Customary Law Inquiry – Australian Law Reform Commission 1986	1986	Australia-wide
Commonwealth Australian Government	Productivity Commission 2016, Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture	2017	Australia-wide
National Oceans Office/Dermot Smyth	Australia's Ocean Policy: Saltwater Country Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Interest in Ocean Policy Development and Implementation. Socio-cultural Considerations - Issues paper 6	1997	Australia-wide
National Oceans Office	Living on Saltwater Country. Review of literature about Aboriginal rights, use, management and interests in northern Australian marine environments	2004	Commonwealth
National Oceans Office/Rodney Dillon	Sea Country: An Indigenous perspective. The South-East Regional Marine Plan	2002	South-East Australia: New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia
Commonwealth Australian Government	Coastal Zone Inquiry 1993 - A voice in all places - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests in the Coastal Zone	1993	Australia-wide
Commonwealth Australian Government	Coastal Zone Inquiry 1993 - Chapter 10: Indigenous interests	1993	Australia-wide
Commonwealth Australian Government	Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples: Studies, Policies and Legislation	1996	Australia-wide
Commonwealth Australian Government	Coastal Zone Inquiry 1993 - Existing and Potential Mechanisms for Indigenous Involvement in Coastal Zone Resource Management	1993	Australia-wide
Commonwealth Australian Government	Coastal Zone Inquiry 1993 - Values and Attitudes concerning the coastal zone	1993	Australia-wide
Commonwealth Australian Government	National Fisheries Plan 2022 - 2030	2022	Australia-wide
National Native Title Tribunal	Fishing Principles to guide Indigenous involvement in marine management	2004	Australia-wide
TSRA Torres strait Regional Authority /Commonwealth Australian Government	Torres Strait Regional Authority Fisheries Strategy	N.D.	Torres Strait
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	2019	Queensland

Queensland government	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander commercial fishing development policy	2020	Queensland, Torres Strait
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation/Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies/Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation, Milingimbi & Outstations Progress Resource Association, and NSW Aboriginal Fishing Rights Group.	Livelihood values of Indigenous customary fishing	2018	Australia-wide
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation/ Michael J Gilby	Improving the recognition and integration of Traditional Owner customary fishing and ecological knowledge in the management of Victoria's fisheries	2021	Victoria
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation/Stephan Schnierer and Hayley Egan	Impact of management changes on the viability of Indigenous commercial fishers and the flow on effects to their communities: Case study in New South Wales	2012	New South Wales
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation/ C. Moyle et al.	Improved data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fisheries resource use to inform decision-making	2020	Australia-wide
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation /Australian Venture Consultants	Independent Review of the Indigenous Reference Group	2023	Australia-wide
Commonwealth of Australia	Understanding Country - The Importance of Land and Sea in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Societies	1994	Australia-wide
Tasmanian Government/Palawa people	Tasmania Pathway to Truth-Telling and Treaty: Treaty Readiness Report	2021	Tasmania
FRDC Indigenous Reference Group (IRG)	Indigenous Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Priorities for Fishing and Aquaculture	2012	Australia-wide
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation	National Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy 2022 Community Consultation Report	2022	Australia-wide
Indigenous leaders from around Australia/FRDC Research/UTS	Workshop proceedings: Development of an Indigenous fisheries advisory or reference group for Commonwealth fisheries	2023	Australia-wide
Palawa community members Tasmania/lutruwita/FRDC Research/UTS	Palawa Fisheries Workshop: Meeting Outcomes	2023	Tasmania
South Australian Traditional Owners/FRDC Research/UTS	South Australia regional Indigenous fisheries workshop – Summary notes	2023	South Australia
Torres Strait Island Traditional Owners/FRDC Research/UTS	Torres Strait Islands Commonwealth fisheries information and consultation session	2023	Torres Strait
Indigenous leaders from around Australia/FRDC Research/UTS	National Workshop on Indigenous Engagement in Fisheries: Summary Proceedings	2023	Australia-wide