

Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security  
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## **NORTHERN TERRITORY SEAFOOD COUNCIL SUBMISSION**

### **Draft declaration – proposal to prohibit subsea mining**

As the peak representative body for the wild catch, aquaculture and trader/processor seafood sectors in the Northern Territory (NT), the Northern Territory Seafood Council (NTSC) welcomes the opportunity to provide written comment on the *Draft declaration – proposal to prohibit subsea mining*.

The Statement of Reasons for the draft declaration of prohibited action: subsea mining has been noted and importantly that the term “seabed mining” and “subsea mining” have the same meaning and are interchangeable terms. In that ‘seabed mining’ refers to the exploration and extraction of sub-sea minerals and extractive minerals for commercial gain.

We note the Statement of Reasons and acknowledge that currently scientific knowledge and information is incomplete or lacking and unavailable.

As highlighted in our submission to the NT EPA (20 November 2020), the NTSC is not in a position to support seabed mining activities to occur in the Northern Territory due to the significant information gaps and risks posed to the environment.

The proposal to declare a prohibition on subsea mining by the Minister for Environment under section 38 of the *Environment Protection Act 2019* is supported by the NTSC.



KATHERINE WINCHESTER  
Chief Executive Officer

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