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TSRA PART OF INTER-AGENCY EFFORT TO CURB OVERFISHING IN PROTECTED ZONE

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) will participate in inter-agency efforts to curb overfishing of Protected Zone fisheries off the coast of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The TSRA, along with other government agencies, attended the South Fly Future Development Conference at Daru in June 2015, hosted by PNG's National Fisheries Authority and facilitated by the CSIRO.

The TSRA Deputy Chairperson, Mr Aven S. Noah, said the conference produced ideas to overcome development challenges for communities in the South Fly District of PNG's Western Province.

The TSRA shared its experience with the conference on community-based management of marine species to contribute to discussion on managing PNG's fish resources within the Torres Strait Protected Zone.

The consultation of treaty village traditional owners was identified at the conference as a key factor in the success of any such development.

The TSRA Portfolio Member for Fisheries and Member for Erub, Mr Kenny Bedford, says specific concern about fisheries resource management adjacent to treaty villages needs to be addressed. Ultimately, we all share from the same Torres Strait resource stocks.

"Urban migration towards Daru is bringing a demand the fisheries just cannot sustain," Mr Bedford said.

"There's genuine concern about fish – including a lot of the high-value species such as barramundi, crayfish and jewfish – disappearing."

"Time and resources need to be invested talking to communities as they will have solutions to these overfishing problems - this isn't something other people can introduce and impose."

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