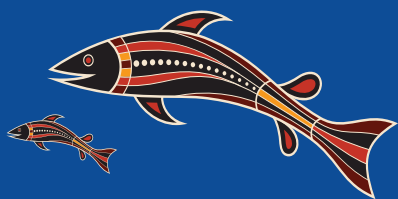
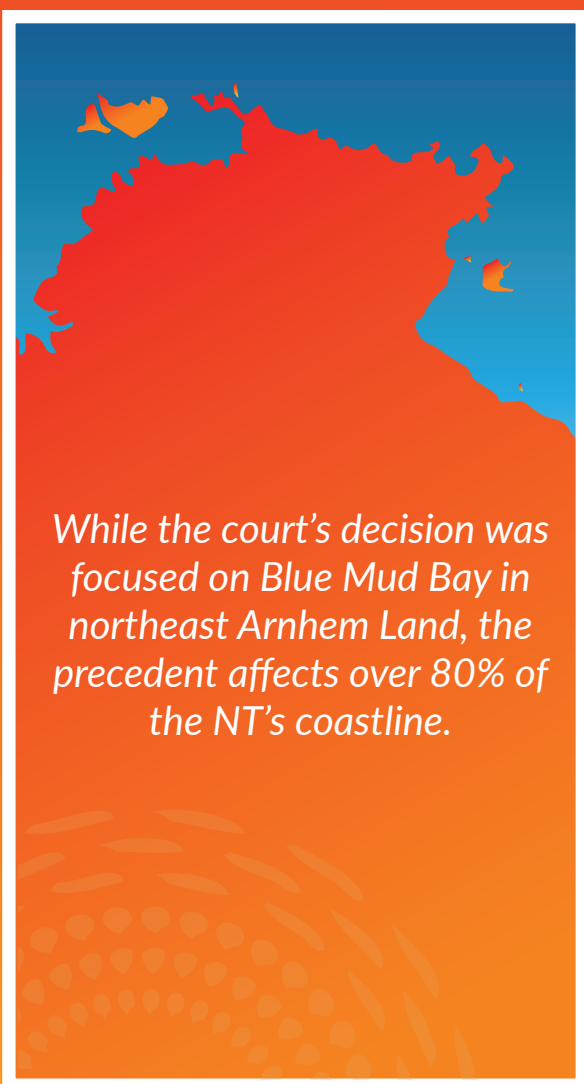


## High Court Ruling

### Blue Mud Bay



On the 31st of July 2008, the High Court of Australia determined that land rights granted to Aboriginal people under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act extended to the low tide watermark, and included the waters overlying the land at high tide. That means this intertidal zone cannot be accessed without permission from the Traditional Owners.



*While the court's decision was focused on Blue Mud Bay in northeast Arnhem Land, the precedent affects over 80% of the NT's coastline.*

- Since 2008, there have been significant discussions between the NT Government, Aboriginal Land Councils, and Traditional Owners regarding access for recreational fishers. While consultations are currently ongoing, there has been progress.
- Long term agreements are in place in several locations in the NT where anglers can fish without seeking individual permission.
- Aboriginal Land Councils across the NT have also set up registration and permit systems, whereby recreational fishers can register to gain access to certain areas. While there are some areas which have been closed for access, there are ongoing consultations to develop longer term access arrangements.

**To find out more about the status of your favourite fishing spot in the NT, visit the relevant Land Council websites for maps and information.**

**Blue Mud Bay Registration Northern Land Council ([nlc.org.au](http://nlc.org.au))**

**Tiwi Land Council ([tiwilandcouncil.com](http://tiwilandcouncil.com))**

**Anindilyakwa Land Council ([anindilyakwa.com.au](http://anindilyakwa.com.au))**



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NORTHERN TERRITORY  
RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY