

AN ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR POTENTIAL CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

As part of its program to encourage best practice marine tourism on the Great Barrier Reef, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) rewards high standard operators and provides incentives for other operators to improve their performance. There may be various rewards or incentives, including the opportunity to apply for longer term permits.

The method of identifying high standard operators is through external certification schemes. The GBRMPA accepts certification schemes that can meet a set of *Assessment Criteria for Potential Certification Schemes*.

Assessment Process

The following assessment process will be followed in judging potential certification schemes.

- Potential certification schemes either identified by the GBRMPA or contact the GBRMPA directly.
- The GBRMPA Tourism and Recreation Section work with interested potential schemes as requested by individual schemes.
- Final proposals from potential schemes received.
- Each final proposal assessed against the Assessment Criteria by an Assessment Panel, comprising:
 - a representative of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
 - a representative of the Queensland Government
 - an independent industry representative
 - a person with expertise in marine tourism best practice and/or research
- The Assessment Panel provides advice to the Chairman, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- The Chairman decides on the suitability of the potential schemes and advises the scheme accordingly.
- Agreement developed by the GBRMPA with successful schemes.