



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Mr Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Box 7051
Canberra BC
CANBERRA ACT 2610

Dear Mr Norris

I am writing to you as the Delegate of the Minister for the Environment in relation to new conditions being placed on the Part 13A approval of the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery (the fishery) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

At the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on the 17-28 August 2019, a proposal to include three species of sea cucumber or teatfish (including *Holothuria whitmaei* and *H. fuscogilva*) in Appendix II to CITES was adopted. The listing will come into effect on 28 August 2020.

The Department, in consultation with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, have amended the wildlife trade operation conditions for the fishery to allow for the export of CITES listed species under the EPBC Act, as the take specified in the conditions has been found to be non detrimental to the species. The amended conditions are provided at Attachment 1 and are in place until 17 December 2020.

These conditions will be reviewed when the fishery is reassessed as a wildlife trade operation by 17 December 2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen Oxley'.

Stephen Oxley
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment
28 August 2020

Declaration of the Harvest Operations of the Torres Strait Bêche-de-mer Fishery as an approved wildlife trade operation, August 2020

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS (section 303FT)

Relating to the harvesting of specimens that are or are derived from fish or invertebrates, other than specimens that belong to species listed under Part 13 of the EPBC Act (other than a species listed in the conservation dependent category), and specimens that belong to taxa listed under section 303CA of the EPBC Act (Australia's CITES list), taken in the Torres Strait Bêche-de-mer Fishery:

1. Operation of the Torres Strait Bêche-de-mer Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime in force under the Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984.
2. The Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority to inform the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment of any intended material changes to the Torres Strait Bêche-de-mer Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.
3. The Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority to produce and present reports to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment annually as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. The Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority to implement a strategy to manage the risks of overfishing and localised depletion for all species harvested in the fishery. This may include data collection and analysis protocols to manage risks, triggers and/or limits for managing harvest, and should also account for all sources of stock mortality, including commercial, recreational, Traditional and illegal harvest.
5. The Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority to complete an ecological risk assessment and implement an ecological risk mitigation strategy to ensure all environmental and ecological risks are appropriately managed.
6. The Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority to continue to pursue the changes necessary to facilitate reporting of interactions with species listed in Part 13 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*.
7. The Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority must limit the take of the following species listed under the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), from the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery to no more than:
 - a) 15 tonnes of white teatfish (*Holothuria fuscogilva*), and
 - b) 0 tonnes of Black teatfish (*Holothuria whitmaei*).

The Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority must report the amount of White Teatfish harvested by weight and where available, include the number of individuals, their lengths and locations of harvest, to the CITES Scientific Authority of Australia, as part of the annual reporting referred to in Condition 3.

8. The Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority to provide the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment with the preliminary results of the population survey for White Teatfish and Black Teatfish conducted in 2019 as soon as they become available, but no later than 18 September 2020, with final survey results provided as soon as they become available in December 2020.