



Dr Nick Rayns  
Executive Manager AFMA Fisheries  
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Dear Dr Rayns

*Nick*

I am writing to you regarding the extension of export approvals under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for the Commonwealth Coral Sea, Commonwealth Western Trawl (North West Slope Trawl and Western Deepwater Trawl), Torres Strait Finfish, Torres Strait Prawn, and Torres Strait Trochus fisheries.

I am satisfied that it remains unlikely that fishing operations conducted in accordance with these management regimes will adversely affect the conservation status of protected species including listed migratory species, cetaceans or listed marine species, or the survival or recovery in nature of listed threatened species. I also consider that under the current management regimes, fishing operators are required to take all reasonable steps to avoid the killing or injuring of species listed under Part 13 of the EPBC Act.

I have therefore decided to include product derived from these fisheries on the list of exempt native specimens until 22 December 2017. This will ensure product can continue to be exported while these fisheries are assessed for further approval.

The conditions placed on the original export approvals continue to apply during this time. For your convenience I have listed these at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Paul Murphy

Delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Energy

28 June 2017

## **Commonwealth Coral Sea Fishery**

1. Operation of the Coral Sea Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime in force under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and the Fisheries Management Regulations 1992.
2. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended amendments to Coral Sea Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment of the fishery against the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are based.
3. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B to the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to:
  - a. evaluate and document the risks to humphead Maori wrasse in the Coral Sea Fishery at the reef and sub-reef level
  - b. implement additional management measures, as appropriate, to mitigate the risks identified, as agreed with the Australian Scientific Authority for CITES<sup>1</sup>, and
  - c. report annually on the management and monitoring of humphead Maori wrasse in the fishery to the Australian Scientific Authority for CITES, as part of the annual reporting referred to in Condition 3.

## **Commonwealth Western Trawl Fisheries**

1. Operation of the North West Slope Trawl Fishery and the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime, in force under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and the Fisheries Management Regulations 1992.
2. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to advise the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities of any intended material change to the legislated management regime and management arrangements of the North West Slope Trawl Fishery and the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery that could affect the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are based.
3. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to produce and present reports to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities annually as per Appendix B of the 'Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition'.
4. Should fishing effort in waters shallower than 200 metres in the north east portion of the North West Slope Trawl Fishery exceed 2011 levels in a given season, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority to review the ecological risk assessment for this fishery to include analysis of the impact of demersal trawling on bottom habitats in this area of the fishery.

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<sup>1</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

### **Torres Strait Finfish Fishery**

1. Operation of the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery Management Plan 2013 in force under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*.
2. The Protected Zone Joint Authority to inform the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities of any intended amendments to the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery's management arrangements that may affect the assessment of the fishery against the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are based.
3. The Protected Zone Joint Authority to produce and present reports to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities annually as per Appendix B of the 'Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition'.

### **Torres Strait Prawn Fishery**

1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan 2009 in force under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* and the Torres Strait Fisheries Regulations 1985.
2. The Protected Zone Joint Authority will advise the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities of any intended change to the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery's management arrangements that could affect the assessment against the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are based.
3. The Protected Zone Joint Authority to produce and present reports to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities annually as per Appendix B to the 'Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition'.

### **Torres Strait Trochus Fishery**

1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime in force under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* and the Torres Strait Fisheries Regulations 1985.
2. The Protected Zone Joint Authority to inform the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities of any intended amendments to the Torres Strait Trochus Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment of the fishery against the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are based.
3. The Protected Zone Joint Authority to produce and present reports to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities annually as per Appendix B to the 'Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition'.