



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment**

Ref: 000907713

Senator the Hon Anne Ruston  
Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources  
PO Box 6100  
The Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for the Environment in relation to the assessment of Australian export from exploratory fisheries in Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) Statistical Divisions 58.4.1 and 58.4.2 (the CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

In August 2015, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) provided an application to the Department of the Environment seeking export approval for the CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries. The application has been assessed for the purposes of the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act and I am pleased to advise that the assessment is now complete. The new assessment report will be available on the Department of the Environment's website at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/fisheries/commonwealth/aus-export-ccamlr-new-exploratory>.

I consider that the CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries operate in line with the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Given the management arrangements and precautionary measures for the fisheries, including spatial and temporal controls, gear restrictions and catch limits, I have decided to amend the list of exempt native specimens to allow export of product from the CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries for a period of five years, until 27 November 2020.

I am satisfied that the operation of the fisheries remains consistent with the objects of the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act.

While there are some environmental risks associated with the CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries, I believe that AFMA has in place measures to address these issues. Officers from AFMA and this department have discussed and agreed to four recommendations focussing on ensuring good management practices. These recommendations can be found at **Attachment 1**.

I would like to thank you for the constructive way in which your officials have approached this assessment.

I have written to the Hon Norman Moore, Chair of the AFMA Commission, in similar terms.

Yours sincerely

Paul Murphy  
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment  
24 December 2015



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**Attachment 1**

**Recommendations to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority on the  
ecologically sustainable management of the CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries –  
December 2015**

1. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) to ensure that all relevant Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) conservation measures are implemented for the operation of Australian vessels in the CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries in Statistical Divisions 58.4.1 and 58.4.2.
2. AFMA to inform the Department of any intended material changes to the management arrangements for Australian operations in the CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.
3. AFMA to produce and present reports to the Department annually as per Appendix B of the 'Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition'.
4. AFMA to continue to work collaboratively with relevant expertise, such as the Australian Antarctic Division of the Department, to ensure Australian operations in the CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries reflect best practice for mitigation of ecological risks.