



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Hon Jon Ford MLC
Minister for Fisheries
9th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock St
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, in response to your letter of 4 March 2008, concerning the Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) declaration for the South Coast Trawl Fishery (the Fishery) of Western Australia (WA).

I am aware that officers from both our Departments recently met in Perth and discussed the issues raised in your letter regarding the progress against Condition 1 of the WTO declaration and delays to legislating the draft plan for the Fishery, highlighting competing legislative drafting priorities and limited legal resources in WA.

In recognition and acknowledgement of these difficulties, the continual progression of the draft plan to the legislative drafting stage and the recent low fishing effort in the Fishery, I have agreed to your request to extend the due date of Condition 1 to 31 August 2008, to coincide with the expiry of the current WTO declaration (**Attachment A**).

I look forward to receiving a more comprehensive update as to the status of the Fishery's management arrangements and progress against the conditions and recommendations of the current WTO declaration, in the WA Department of Fisheries submission for ongoing export approval due to expire in August 2008.

Yours sincerely

Ian Cresswell
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
18th April 2008

SCHEDULE

April 2008

**Declaration of the Harvest Operations of the Western Australia South Coast
Trawl Fishery as an approved Wildlife Trade Operation**

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS (section 303FT)

Relating to the harvesting of fish specimens that are, or are derived from, fish or invertebrates, other than specimens of species listed under Part 13 of the Act, taken in the Western Australia South Coast Trawl Fishery.

1. By 31 August 2008, Department of Fisheries, Western Australia to develop and implement a formal interim management plan for the South Coast Trawl Fishery that includes the management commitments contained within the Discussion Paper *Management of the Proposed South Coast Trawl Fishery – a Discussion Paper*, and improves the ecological sustainability of the fishery.
2. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime in force under the Western Australian *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.
3. The Department of Fisheries, Western Australia to advise the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts of any material change to the South Coast Trawl Fishery's legislated management regime that could affect the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are based, within three months of that change being made.
4. Annual reporting on the following:
 - progress on implementation of the recommendations;
 - annual catch and catch-per-unit-effort trends and data;
 - performance against objectives, performance indicators and measures once developed; and
 - research undertaken or completed relevant to the fishery.