



Mr Rob Gott  
Director Marine Resources  
Primary Industries Division  
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment  
GPO Box 44  
HOBART TASMANIA 7001

Dear Mr Gott

I refer to a letter from Mr Grant Pullen, Manager of Wild Fisheries Management, to Ms Kerry Cameron, Assistant Director of Sustainable Fisheries, on 6 October 2011, regarding the new management plan for the Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishery.

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities has assessed the new *Fisheries (Rock Lobster) Rules 2011* and determined that it does not significantly alter the sustainability of the fishery as assessed in 2007.

I note that the new plan will incorporate a number of rules that will improve the ecological sustainability of the fishery, including tighter controls on the recreational take of rock lobsters, reductions in bycatch allowances for commercial operators and removal of annual carryover provisions. We commend your agency for pursuing these improvements.

As Delegate of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, I have agreed to include product derived from the Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishery, as defined in the *Fisheries (Rock Lobster) Rules 2011*, made under the *Tasmanian Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*, in the list of exempt native specimens until 5 February 2012. I have also reaccredited the management arrangements for the fishery under Part 13 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The above decisions will allow export to continue upon commencement of the new management plan until 5 February 2012, and ensure that fishers operating in accordance with the new management plan are not liable to the offence provisions of Part 13 of the EPBC Act should they interact with protected species in Commonwealth waters.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Routh  
Assistant Secretary  
Marine Biodiversity Policy Branch

19 October 2011