



Australian Government

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

Ref: 002068376

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

Dear Mr Norris

I am writing to you as the Delegate of the Minister for the Environment in relation to the reassessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) of Australian operations in the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) Statistical Subareas 58.4.1 and 58.4.2 (East Antarctica Exploratory Toothfish Fishery) and the CCAMLR Statistical Subdivisions 88.1 and 88.2 (Ross Sea Exploratory Toothfish Fishery).

In July 2020, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority applied for export approval for the East Antarctica and Ross Sea Exploratory Toothfish fisheries under the EPBC Act. The application has been assessed and I have amended the List of Exempt Native Specimens (LENS) to allow export of product from these fisheries until 27 November 2025.

The amendment to the LENS for the East Antarctica Exploratory Toothfish Fishery includes three conditions and two recommendations, including that AFMA continue to work collaboratively with relevant experts to ensure the mitigation of ecological risks, and to collect data for a stock assessment for Antarctic toothfish. The recommendations and conditions can be found at [Attachment 1](#).

The amendment to the LENS for the Ross Sea Exploratory Toothfish Fishery includes three conditions and two recommendations, including that AFMA continue to work collaboratively with relevant experts to ensure the mitigation of ecological risks. The recommendations and conditions can be found at [Attachment 2](#).

The recommendations and conditions for both fisheries were agreed by officials from both Departments, and in consultation with CCAMLR, as issues to be addressed before the next assessment for these two fisheries.

I have also accredited the management regime for the Ross Sea Exploratory Toothfish and the East Antarctica Toothfish Fishery under Part 13 of the EPBC Act designed to minimise interactions with species listed under the EPBC Act.

Yours sincerely

Laura Timmins
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment

26 November 2020

**Conditions to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority on the ecologically sustainable management of Australian operations in the Ross Sea Exploratory Toothfish Fishery (CCAMLR Statistical Subdivisions 88.1 and 88.2),
November 2020**

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 Subareas 88.1 and 88.1.
2. Australian Fisheries Management Authority must 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. Australian Fisheries Management Authority must produce and present reports to the Department annually as per Appendix B of the Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition.

**Recommendations to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority on the ecologically sustainable management of Australian operations in the Ross Sea Exploratory Toothfish Fishery (CCAMLR Statistical Subdivisions 88.1 and 88.2),
November 2020**

1. Australian Fisheries Management Authority to continue to work collaboratively with relevant expertise, particularly the Australian Antarctic Division of the Department, to ensure Australian operations in the CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries reflect best practice for mitigation of ecological risks.
2. AFMA to continue to collect data to estimate population biomass and density of Antarctic Toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) in waters within the Statistical Subarea 88.2 small-scale research units 882C to 882I to inform a stock assessment.