



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Hon Norman Moore
Minister for Fisheries
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Minister

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts in relation to the re-assessment of the Western Australian (WA) Salmon Fisheries (South Coast Salmon Managed Fishery and South-West Coast Salmon Managed Fishery) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

An initial assessment of the WA Salmon Fisheries was completed in November 2004, resulting in the then Delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage declaring the fishery exempt from the export controls of the EPBC Act until 15 November 2009.

In September 2009, the Department of Fisheries Western Australia (DFWA) submitted their submission for assessment under the EPBC Act. The submission has been assessed for the purposes of the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act.

I am pleased to advise that an assessment of the fisheries is now complete. The assessment report will be available on the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) website at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/wa/salmon/index.html>

I am satisfied that for the purposes of the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act, the management arrangements provide the basis for the fisheries to be managed in an ecologically sustainable way. I therefore propose to amend the List of Exempt Native Specimens, to include specimens that are or are derived from fish taken in the WA Salmon Fisheries, excluding specimens that are listed under Part 13 of the EPBC Act, for a period of five years. Such listing will serve to exempt the fisheries from the export controls of the EPBC Act, providing the fisheries operate in accordance with the *South Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan 1982* and *South-West Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan 1982*, made under the *Western Australian Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and continues not to involve the export of specimens listed on the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species.



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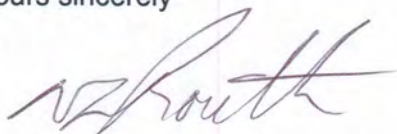
The management arrangements for the WA Salmon Fisheries meet the Australian Government's *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition*. The WA Salmon Fisheries are relatively low impact fisheries that are appropriately precautionary. The combination of management arrangements, data gathering, proposed strategies and the nature of the fisheries allow confidence that the fishery managers will maintain low bycatch levels, minimise interactions with protected species and manage impacts on the wider ecosystem.

While there are some environmental risks associated with these fisheries, I believe that DFWA is committed to addressing these issues. Officers from our two departments have discussed key areas requiring ongoing attention. I understand they have agreed to a number of recommended actions, focusing on ensuring the continuation of good management practices, to be implemented before the next Australian Government review of the fisheries. The recommendations at **Attachment A** have been an important factor in my decision to exempt the fishery and I look forward to receiving your confirmation that they will be implemented.

I would also like to reiterate that EPBC Act approvals are given to the WA Salmon Fisheries' management regime in place at the time of the decision and as such DEWHA must be advised of any management changes, to ensure that accreditations remain valid.

I ask that you ensure your officers are aware of this requirement and keep my Department appropriately informed.

Yours sincerely



Nigel Routh

Delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

12 November 2009

Attachment A

Recommendations to DFWA on the ecologically sustainable management of the WA Salmon Fisheries.

Unless a specific time frame is provided in the recommendation each recommendation must be addressed before the next assessment of the WA Salmon Fisheries in November 2014.

1. Operation of the Salmon Managed Fisheries will be carried out in accordance with the *South Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan 1982* and *South-West Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan 1982* in force under the *WA Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.
2. The Department of Fisheries Western Australia (DFWA) to inform the DEWHA of any intended amendments to the Salmon Managed Fisheries' management arrangements that may affect the assessment of the fishery against the criteria on which the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Act (EPBC Act) decisions are based.
3. DFWA to produce and present reports to DEWHA annually as per Appendix B to the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. DFWA to encourage fishers in the Salmon Managed Fisheries to incorporate the following objectives into the fisheries' Code of Practice to:
 - a. minimise protected/listed species interactions;
 - b. minimise or maintain bycatch at sustainable levels; and
 - c. minimise impacts on the marine environment.
5. DFWA to conduct a review of risk levels for target species, byproduct, bycatch (including protected species) and impacts on the environment for the Salmon Fisheries. DFWA to implement appropriate measures to ensure identified risks are addressed and minimised.
6. DFWA to continue:
 - a. to cooperate with other relevant jurisdictions to pursue complementary management and research of shared stocks of target and major byproduct species; and
 - b. where appropriate, to ensure that any relevant indigenous, conservation and recreational interests in the fishery are considered through consultative mechanisms.
7. DFWA to improve reporting mechanisms in the Salmon Managed Fisheries, including:
 - a. recording byproduct and bycatch taken in the Salmon Managed Fisheries on catch returns;
 - b. ensuring observer coverage is high enough to validate byproduct and bycatch recorded on returns for at least a period of 12 months; and
 - c. monitoring trends in byproduct, bycatch and protected species interactions.