



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Assessment of the
**Take of Native Oyster in the Tasmanian Shellfish
Fishery**

August 2016

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This report should be attributed as '*Assessment of the Take of Native Oyster in the Tasmanian Shellfish Fishery, August 2016*, Commonwealth of Australia 2016'.

Disclaimer

This document is an assessment carried out by the Department of the Environment and Energy of a commercial fishery against the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition*. It forms part of the advice provided to the Minister for the Environment and Energy on the fishery in relation to decisions under Parts 13 and 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Minister for the Environment and Energy or the Australian Government.

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SECTION 1: SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT FOR THE TAKE OF NATIVE OYSTER IN THE TASMANIAN SHELLFISH FISHERY AGAINST THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES (2ND EDITION)

Purpose: To enable transparent articulation of which commercial fisheries assessed under the EPBC Act clearly meet all legislative requirements and all Guidelines, and those which may require further investigation or assessment to demonstrate requirements are met.

Overview of the take of Native Oyster in the Tasmanian Shellfish Fishery against the relevant requirements of the Guidelines and the EPBC Act.

Guidelines	Meets	Partially meets	Does not meet	Details
Management regime	6 of 9 1 of 9 N/a	2 of 9		<p>The management regime is effective.</p> <p>Management arrangements for the take of Native Oysters in the Tasmanian Shellfish Fishery (the fishery) are regulated by the Fisheries (Shellfish) Rules 2007 and closely monitored by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE). Management is transparent and information is publicly accessible. The general public is involved in consultation processes, administered under the Tasmanian <i>Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995</i> (the LMRM Act), when there are changes or reviews of the management plan. As part of this process, all stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the management arrangements. The effectiveness of performance measures are evaluated every two to three years based on data obtained from the stock surveys. In addition, the scale of the fishery is relatively small, currently supporting two active fishers, and DPIPWE take a highly precautionary approach to ensure the fishery remains sustainable.</p>
Principle 1 (target stocks)	7 of 11 3 of 11 N/a	1 of 11		<p>Target stocks are generally well managed.</p> <p>There is a reliable level of data collection and a robust assessment of the dynamics of the fishery. Where there is limited information available, the management arrangements have erred toward a precautionary approach. Therefore, the Department considers the harvest of native oysters, under current management arrangements, is conducted in a manner that will maintain ecologically viable stock levels for the foreseeable future.</p>
Principle 2 (bycatch and TEPS)				<p>Risks to bycatch and protected species are minimal.</p> <p>Not applicable. Bycatch is considered minimal due to the highly selective nature of harvest (i.e. hand collection).</p>
Principle 2 (ecosystem impacts)	2 of 5 3 of 5 N/a			<p>Ecological risk is inherently low due to the fishing method used.</p> <p>While an analysis of risks has not been completed for the fishery, the impact on the wider ecosystem is considered minimal due to the selective nature of the fishing gear used (i.e. hand collection) and the small scale of the operations (two fishers in one discrete area).</p>

EPBC requirements				
Part 12				Not applicable. There is no fishing activity within areas covered by a bioregional plan.
Part 13				Not applicable. No Part 13 assessment required as no fishing activity occurs in the Commonwealth marine area.
Part 13A	1 of 3 1 of 3 N/a	1 of 3		Partially meets. The Department considers that the amendment of the list of exempt native specimens to include Native Oysters taken in the Tasmanian Shellfish Fishery would be consistent with the provisions of Part 13A. There is limited consultation if LENS is amended, although it is sufficient for strict requirements, as per advice to Minister in MS14-002367.
Part 16	1 of 1			Meets. The Department has accounted for the precautionary principle in the preparation of its advice.
Conclusion: Native oyster (<i>Ostrea angasi</i>) is harvested by hand collection in Georges Bay, Tasmania. Stocks are assessed regularly by the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) is set based on estimates of the harvestable proportion. A harvest level of 16 per cent of the biomass of native oysters in a zone is considered to be a sustainable level. However, IMAS take a highly precautionary approach and set the TACC at 10 per cent which provides a significant safety buffer for the fishery. There are no bycatch, protected species or wider ecosystem concerns with this fishery, therefore it meets all environmental requirements of the EPBC Act and most of the Guidelines.				
Final recommendation for 2016 assessment of the take of native oysters in the Tasmanian Shellfish Fishery: Low risk, eligible for 10 year approval (2016-2026).				

Notes:

Assessment history:

The assessment history, including agency applications for the take of Native Oysters in the Tasmanian Shellfish Fishery is available on the Departments website at

<http://environment.gov.au/marine/fisheries/tas/native-oyster>.

1st assessment finalised November 2004 – Exempt from Part 13A export provisions of the EPBC Act while a wildlife trade operation (WTO) declaration is in place for the fishery until 12 May 2007 (GN 25, 23 June 2004). Export approval was subject to two conditions.

2nd assessment finalised May 2007 – Exempt from Part 13A export provisions of the EPBC Act until 12 May 2012 (SGN 89, 10 May 2007). Export approval was subject to five recommendations.

3rd assessment finalised April 2014 – Exempt from Part 13A export provisions of the EPBC Act until 05 May 2017 (F2012L01000). Export approval was subject to four recommendations.

Fishery reporting:

Annual report – last provided in September 2015.

Protected species interactions – interactions are negligible due to the selective harvest method (hand collection).

Key links and references:

The fishery is managed in accordance with provisions in the following Tasmanian legislation and regulations, and is available at <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/>:

– *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*

– *Fisheries (Shellfish) Rules 2007*

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment 2007 'Shellfish Fishery Policy Document – information supporting the Shellfish Management Plan for the Fisheries (Shellfish) Rules 2007', Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Hobart TAS, Available at <http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Shellfish-Fishery-Policy-Document-March-07.pdf>.

SECTION 2: DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE TAKE OF NATIVE OYSTER IN THE TASMANIAN SHELLFISH FISHERY AGAINST THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES (2ND EDITION)

Guidelines	Meets	Partially meets	Does not meet	Comment
THE MANAGEMENT REGIME				
The management regime does not have to be a formal statutory fishery management plan as such, and may include non-statutory management arrangements or management policies and programs. The regime should:				
Be documented, publicly available and transparent	Meets. Management arrangements are documented, publicly available and transparent. Fisheries under Tasmanian jurisdiction are administered through the provisions of the Tasmanian <i>Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995</i> (the LMRM Act) and its subordinate legislation. The take of native oysters (<i>Ostrea angasi</i>) in Tasmanian waters falls within the Tasmanian Fisheries (Shellfish) Rules 2007 (Shellfish Rules). All Tasmanian legislation is publicly available on the Tasmanian legislation website at www.thelaw.tas.gov.au . Information on the fishery is also available on the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) website (link above). DPIPWE's website also contains other information regarding the policy framework for the management of Tasmanian fisheries.			
Be developed through a consultative process providing opportunity to all interested and affected parties, including the general public	Meets. All changes to a management regime must be released for public consultation with all stakeholders and the wider public.			
Ensure that a range of expertise and community interests are involved in individual fishery management committees and during the stock assessment process	Partially meets. The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) provide strategic research assessment advice and consult with DPIPWE on Native Oyster survey design and population assessment and dynamics. The marine police are consulted about reporting and enforcement provisions of the permits. Management of the Native Oyster resource in Georges Bay is the responsibility of the Marine Resources Group of DPIPWE in consultation with local community representatives where appropriate, including other shellfish harvesters, processors, recreational fisheries managers, and other non-extractive users of Georges Bay. The commercial sector is also represented by the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council. The general public were consulted during the development of the fishery assessment process and the establishment of trigger rules. Consultation provisions under the LMRM Act ensure that all stakeholders, including the general public, are provided the opportunity to contribute to the stock assessment process whenever there is a change or review of the management plan.			
Be strategic, containing objectives and performance criteria by which the effectiveness of the management arrangements are measured	Partially meets. Some general objectives and performance measures for assessing the effectiveness of management arrangements are contained within the 2007 Policy Document for the fishery. DPIPWE take a highly precautionary approach, setting the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) at 10 per cent of the biomass, to ensure the management arrangements are effective.			

Be capable of controlling the level of harvest in the fishery using input and/or output controls	<p>Meets.</p> <p>Management measures for harvesting Native Oysters in the fishery include the following input and output controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited entry (two licenses only) • area restrictions (Georges Bay only) • gear restrictions (hand collection only) • restrictions on the number of assistant fishers (two only) • a requirement to complete logbooks and report catch straight after harvest • an annual TACC limit, and • minimum size limit of 70 mm.
Contain the means of enforcing critical aspects of the management arrangements	<p>Meets.</p> <p>The Shellfish Rules contain a grade of penalty attached to each rule, which mandates the penalty that is imposed by the Court if an offence is proven. Also, provisions apply for infringement notices with mandated smaller penalties—which can be issued at the discretion of a fisheries officer for lesser or first offences. Enforcement of these rules is undertaken by Tasmania Marine Police, who are authorised fishery officers under the LMRM Act.</p>
Provide for the periodic review of the performance of the fishery management arrangements and the management strategies, objectives and criteria	<p>Meets.</p> <p>All management plans and regimes are subject to periodic formal review, generally every 10 years. However, if issues arise then more specific reviews can be undertaken if statutory management changes are required. Stock assessment and TACCs are reviewed annually.</p>
Be capable of assessing, monitoring and avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse impacts on the wider marine ecosystem in which the target species lives and the fishery operates	<p>Meets.</p> <p>Given the highly selective nature of the fishing method (hand collection), interactions with threatened, endangered or protected species (TEPS) are unlikely for this sector of the fishery. Available information suggests that the current management arrangements are sufficient and that any adverse impacts on the wider marine ecosystem are unlikely.</p>
Requires compliance with relevant threat abatement plans, recovery plans, the National Policy on Fisheries Bycatch, and bycatch action strategies developed under the policy	<p>Not applicable.</p> <p>There are no relevant plans or strategies relating to threat abatement, recovery or bycatch with which the fishery is required to be compliant. Bycatch in this fishery is negligible due to the highly selective fishing method used, i.e. hand collection.</p>
PRINCIPLE 1 - A fishery must be conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing, or for those stocks that are over-fished, the fishery must be conducted such that there is a high degree of probability the stock(s) will recover.	
Objective 1 - The fishery shall be conducted at catch levels that maintain ecologically viable stock levels at an agreed point or range, with acceptable levels of probability.	
Information requirements	

<p>1.1.1 There is a reliable information collection system in place appropriate to the scale of the fishery. The level of data collection should be based upon an appropriate mix of fishery independent and dependent research and monitoring.</p>	<p>Meets.</p> <p>Mandatory logbooks record daily catch and effort. Fishery independent data is collected from surveys conducted by IMAS with licensee's involvement every two to three years. IMAS analyse the survey data and provide advice on harvest levels. Distribution and abundance information has been collated from technical reports compiled by IMAS.</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	
<p>1.1.2 There is a robust assessment of the dynamics and status of the species/fishery and periodic review of the process and the data collected. Assessment should include a process to identify any reduction in biological diversity and /or reproductive capacity. Review should take place at regular intervals but at least every three years.</p>	<p>Meets.</p> <p>Native Oyster stocks in Georges Bay are assessed every two to three years during field surveys overseen by IMAS. An estimate of the biomass can then be determined and 10 per cent of that biomass is allocated as the annual TACC. Although a harvest level of 16 per cent of the biomass of Native Oyster in a zone is considered to be a sustainable level, IMAS identified 10 per cent as being an internationally accepted, highly precautionary figure which provides a significant safety buffer for the fishery.</p>
<p>1.1.3 The distribution and spatial structure of the stock(s) has been established and factored into management responses.</p>	<p>Meets.</p> <p>Historical information on the distribution of Native Oyster in Georges Bay is available and changes are being monitored over time. In addition, research staff at the IMAS have conducted habitat mapping in Georges Bay, providing baseline reference data for this area. The harvest of native oysters is based on the surveyed beds in Georges Bay.</p>
<p>1.1.4 There are reliable estimates of all removals, including commercial (landings and discards), recreational and indigenous, from the fished stock. These estimates have been factored into stock assessments and target species catch levels.</p>	<p>Meets.</p> <p>The commercial and recreational harvest of Native Oyster is factored into local stock assessments and target species catch levels. Native Oyster is caught in Tasmanian waters as part of cultural fishing activities by Indigenous people – bag limit of 50 oysters per person per day. This catch is not quantified but is believed to be negligible. Special permits for Aboriginal cultural events can also be obtained on application.</p>
<p>1.1.5 There is a sound estimate of the potential productivity of the fished stock/s and the proportion that could be harvested.</p>	<p>Partially meets.</p> <p>IMAS conduct regular surveys to collect data that is then extrapolated to provide an estimate of the potential productivity of each fished oyster bed in Georges Bay. The TACC is normally set for two to three years, just after a biomass survey, and can be decreased if monitoring indicates that this action is appropriate. A harvest level of 16 per cent of the biomass of native oysters in a zone is considered to be a sustainable level for the harvest of native oysters. However, IMAS identified 10 per cent as being an internationally accepted, highly precautionary figure which provides a significant safety buffer for the fishery. In recent years the harvest has been substantially less than the allocation due to market constraints.</p>
<p>Management responses</p>	
<p>1.1.6 There are reference points (target and/or limit), that trigger management actions including a biological bottom line</p>	<p>Meets.</p> <p>When one or more of the following trigger points has been reached, DPIPWE will initiate consultation with industry and conduct a review and implement appropriate actions to best address the issue:</p>

and/or a catch or effort upper limit beyond which the stock should not be taken.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in the catch per unit effort (CPUE), where there is a decline of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20 per cent in each of two consecutive years; or 35 per cent in a year. Catch targets not met for Native Oysters where an agreed percentage of the TACC is not taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 40 per cent in each of two consecutive years; or 30 per cent in a year. Where quantifiable, an undesirable change in size or age composition of the catch. Identification of disease outbreak in shellfish stocks.
1.1.7 There are management strategies in place capable of controlling the level of take.	Meets. Management measures, including the input and output controls identified above, are capable of controlling the level of harvesting in the fishery.
1.1.8 Fishing is conducted in a manner that does not threaten stocks of byproduct species.	Not applicable. There are no concerns for byproduct species identified in the fishery as only Native Oysters are permitted to be taken and the fishing gear used for the target species is highly selective, i.e. hand collection.
(Guidelines 1.1.1 to 1.1.7 should be applied to byproduct species to an appropriate level)	
1.1.9 The management response, considering uncertainties in the assessment and precautionary management actions, has a high chance of achieving the objective.	Meets. The management response has a high chance of achieving the objective.
If overfished, go to Objective 2: If not overfished, go to PRINCIPLE 2:	
Objective 2 - Where the fished stock(s) are below a defined reference point, the fishery will be managed to promote recovery to ecologically viable stock levels within nominated timeframes.	
Management responses	
1.2.1 A precautionary recovery strategy is in place specifying management actions, or staged management responses, which are linked to reference points. The recovery strategy should apply until the stock recovers, and should aim for recovery within a specific time period appropriate to the biology of the stock.	Not applicable. Stocks are not considered to be in a state of recovery. Therefore, no specific management arrangements are in place to address a precautionary recovery response.
1.2.2 If the stock is estimated as being at or below the biological and / or effort bottom line, management responses such as a zero targeted catch, temporary fishery closure or	Not applicable. The current take at stock level is considered sustainable. Therefore, no specific triggers or management responses are in place to address a precautionary recovery response.

a 'whole of fishery' effort or quota reduction are implemented.	
PRINCIPLE 2 - Fishing operations should be managed to minimise their impact on the structure, productivity, function and biological diversity of the ecosystem.	
Objective 1 - The fishery is conducted in a manner that does not threaten bycatch species.	
Information requirements	
2.1.1 Reliable information, appropriate to the scale of the fishery, is collected on the composition and abundance of bycatch.	Not applicable. Bycatch is considered minimal due to the highly selective nature of harvest, i.e. hand collection.
Assessments	
2.1.2 There is a risk analysis of the bycatch with respect to its vulnerability to fishing.	Not applicable. As per 2.1.1
Management responses	
2.1.3 Measures are in place to avoid capture and mortality of bycatch species unless it is determined that the level of catch is sustainable (except in relation to endangered, threatened or protected species). Steps must be taken to develop suitable technology if none is available.	Not applicable. As per 2.1.1
2.1.4 An indicator group of bycatch species is monitored.	Not applicable. As per 2.1.1
2.1.5 There are decision rules that trigger additional management measures when there are significant perturbations in the indicator species numbers.	Not applicable. As per 2.1.1
2.1.6 The management response, considering uncertainties in the assessment and precautionary management actions, has a high chance of achieving the objective.	Not applicable. As per 2.1.1
Objective 2 - The fishery is conducted in a manner that avoids mortality of, or injuries to, endangered, threatened or protected species and avoids or minimises impacts on threatened ecological communities.	
Information requirements	
2.2.1 Reliable information is collected on the interaction with endangered, threatened or	Not applicable.

protected species and threatened ecological communities.	Considered nil. At present, there has been no reported interaction between the fishery and any protected species.
Assessments	
2.2.2 There is an assessment of the impact of the fishery on endangered, threatened or protected species.	Not applicable. As per 2.2.1
2.2.3 There is an assessment of the impact of the fishery on threatened ecological communities.	Not applicable. As per 2.2.1
Management responses	
2.2.4 There are measures in place to avoid capture and/or mortality of endangered, threatened or protected species.	Not applicable. As per 2.2.1
2.2.5 There are measures in place to avoid impact on threatened ecological communities.	Not applicable. As per 2.2.1
2.2.6 The management response, considering uncertainties in the assessment and precautionary management actions, has a high chance of achieving the objective.	Not applicable. As per 2.2.1
Objective 3 - The fishery is conducted, in a manner that minimises the impact of fishing operations on the ecosystem generally.	
Information requirements	
2.3.1 Information appropriate for the analysis in 2.3.2 is collated and/or collected covering the fisheries impact on the ecosystem and environment generally.	Meets. While an analysis of risks has not been completed for the fishery, the selective fishing gear used (i.e. hand collection) has a minimal impact on the ecosystem and environment in which it is deployed. There is historical information on the distribution of Native Oysters in Georges Bay and specific locations of major beds are being monitored over time. In addition, research staff at IMAS have conducted habitat mapping throughout the bay, providing a baseline reference for this area.
Assessment	
2.3.2 Information is collected and a risk analysis, appropriate to the scale of the fishery and its potential impacts, is conducted into the susceptibility of each of the following ecosystem components to the fishery: 1. Impacts on ecological communities	Not applicable. No specific ecological risk assessment (ERA) has been conducted for this fishery. However, the current management arrangements are considered sufficient with respect to the scale and nature of the fishery. The impacts from the harvesting operations on the wider marine ecosystem are minimal due to the highly selective fishing methods used (i.e. hand collection).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benthic communities • Ecologically related, associated or dependent species • Water column communities <p>2. Impacts on food chains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure • Productivity/flows <p>3. Impacts on the physical environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical habitat • Water quality. 	
Management responses	
2.3.3 Management actions are in place to ensure significant damage to ecosystems does not arise from the impacts described in 2.3.1.	Meets. Management measures for the harvest of Native Oysters in the fishery (identified above) have the capacity to ensure minimal impacts on the wider ecosystem. The Department considers that the range of management measures is sufficient to ensure minimal impact on the ecosystem.
2.3.4 There are decision rules that trigger further management responses when monitoring detects impacts on selected ecosystem indicators beyond a predetermined level, or where action is indicated by application of the precautionary approach.	Not applicable. As per 2.3.2
2.3.5 The management response, considering uncertainties in the assessment and precautionary management actions, has a high chance of achieving the objective.	Not applicable. As per 2.3.2

SECTION 3: ASSESSMENT OF THE TAKE OF NATIVE OYSTERS IN THE TASMANIAN SHELLFISH FISHERY AGAINST THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EPBC ACT

Please Note – the table below is not a complete or exact representation of the EPBC Act. It is intended as a checklist of relevant sections and components of the EPBC Act to provide advice on the fishery in relation to decisions under Part 13 and Part 13A.

Part 12

	Meets	Partially meets	Does not meet	Comment
Section 176 Bioregional Plans				
(5) Minister must have regard to relevant bioregional plans	Not applicable. There is no fishing activity within areas covered by a bioregional plan.			

Part 13

No Part 13 assessment is required as no fishing activity occurs in the Commonwealth marine area.

Part 13A

Section 303BA Objects of Part 13A				
(1) The objects of this Part are as follows: (a) to ensure that Australia complies with its obligations under CITES and the Biodiversity Convention; (b) to protect wildlife that may be adversely affected by trade; (c) to promote the conservation of biodiversity in Australia and other countries; (d) to ensure that any commercial utilisation of Australian native wildlife for the purposes of export is managed in an ecologically sustainable way; (e) to promote the humane treatment of wildlife; (f) to ensure ethical conduct during any research associated with the utilisation of wildlife; and (h) to ensure the precautionary principle is taken into account in making decisions relating to the utilisation of wildlife.				
	Meets	Partially meets	Does not meet	Comment
Section 303DC Minister may amend list (non CITES species)				
(1) The Minister may amend the LENS by: (a) doing any of the following: (i) including items in the list;	The Department recommends that specimens that are or are derived from Native Oysters, taken in the Tasmanian Shellfish Fishery as defined in the management regime in force under the Tasmanian <i>Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995</i> , but not including			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) deleting items from the list; (iii) imposing a condition or restriction to which the inclusion of a specimen in the list is subject; (iv) varying or revoking a condition or restriction to which the inclusion of a specimen in the list is subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specimens that belong to eligible listed threatened species, as defined under section 303BC of the EPBC Act, or • specimens that belong to taxa listed under section 303CA of the EPBC Act (Australia's CITES list) <p>be included in the list of exempt native specimens until 25 July 2026.</p>
(1A) In deciding to amend LENS, Minister must rely primarily on outcomes of Part 10, Div. 1 Or 2 assessment	<p>Not applicable.</p> <p>No assessment under Part 10 of the EPBC Act has been completed as the Tasmanian Shellfish Fishery is not a Commonwealth fishery.</p>
(1C) The above does not limit matters that may be considered when deciding to amend LENS.	<p>Meets.</p> <p>The Department considers that the amendment of the list of exempt native specimens to include native oysters taken in the Tasmanian Shellfish Fishery would be consistent with the provisions of Part 13A as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the fishery will not harvest any Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) listed species • there are management arrangements in place to ensure that the resource is being managed in an ecologically sustainable way, and • the operation of the Tasmanian Shellfish Fishery is unlikely to be unsustainable and threaten biodiversity within the next ten years.
<p>(3) Before amending LENS, Minister must consult:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) other Minister or Ministers as appropriate; and (b) other Minister or Ministers of each State and self-governing Territory as appropriate; and (c) other persons and organisations as appropriate. 	<p>Partially meets.</p> <p>General consultation with the (TAS) Minister for Fisheries in October 2014 (MS14-002367).</p>

Part 16

	Meets	Partially meets	Does not meet	Comment
Section 391 Minister must consider precautionary principle in making decisions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Minister must take account of precautionary principle (2) The precautionary principle is that lack of full scientific certainty should 	<p>Precautionary management measures in place</p> <p>The precautionary principle has been considered by the Department when making its recommendation to the delegate to include specimens in the list of exempt native specimens.</p>			

not be used as a reason for postponing a measure to prevent degradation of the environment where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.