



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment

The Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP  
Minister for Primary Industries and Water  
Parliament House  
Hobart Tasmania 7000

Dear Minister

I am writing to you as the Delegate of the Minister for the Environment in relation to the reassessment of the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

In June 2014, the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment provided an application to the Department of the Environment seeking continued export approval for the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery.

The application has been assessed for the purposes of the protected species provisions of Part 13 and the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act. The assessment took into account measures that have been developed by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment in response to the recommendations made in the 2009 assessment of the fishery.

I am pleased to advise that the assessment is now complete. The new assessment report will be available on the Department of the Environment's website at:  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/fisheries/tas/giant-crab>.

The management regime for the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery was first accredited under Part 13 of the EPBC Act, for interactions with protected species, in July 2006. I am satisfied that it is unlikely that fishing operations conducted in accordance with the management regime will adversely affect the conservation status of protected species or affect the survival or recovery in nature of listed threatened species or adversely affect the conservation status of listed migratory species, cetaceans or listed marine species. I also consider that under the current management regime, operators are required to take all reasonable steps to avoid the killing or injuring of species listed under Part 13 of the EPBC Act.

I have therefore recredited the management regime for the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery under Part 13 of the EPBC Act. Accreditation will ensure that individual fishers operating in accordance with the current management regime are not required to seek permits if they are at risk of killing or injuring listed species in Commonwealth waters.

I consider that the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery operates in line with the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Given the management arrangements and precautionary measures for the fishery, including limited entry, seasonal spawning closures, pot restrictions and minimum size limits, I have decided to amend the list of exempt native specimens to allow export of product from the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery to continue for a period of five years, until 18 July 2019.

While there are some environmental risks associated with the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery, I believe that the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment has in place measures to address these issues. Officers from the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment and this Department have discussed and agreed to six recommendations focussing on ensuring the continuation of good management practices. These recommendations can be found at **Attachment 1**.

I would like to thank you for the constructive way in which your officials have approached this assessment.

Yours sincerely



Shaneen Coulson  
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment

18 July 2014

**Recommendations to the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment Tasmanian on the ecologically sustainable management of the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery, July 2014**

1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime in force under the Tasmanian *Living Resources Management Act 1995*.
2. The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) to inform the Department of the Environment (the Department) of any intended material changes to the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.
3. DPIPWE to produce and present reports to the Department annually as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*
4. The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment to:
  - a) work collaboratively with AFMA to investigate the impacts of trawling on Giant Crab stock and if necessary, implement appropriate spatial management arrangements, and
  - b) continue to work with relevant fishery management agencies in the management of the shared giant crab stocks.
5. The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment to finalise and implement the harvest strategy for the fishery.
6. The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment to work with fishers to improve data collection in the fishery.