



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Ref: 2013/02232

Ms Michelle Besley
Marine Scalefish Fishery Manager
Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
GPO Box 1625
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Ms Besley

I am writing to you on behalf of the Minister for the Environment in relation to the accreditation of the management arrangements for the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery under Part 13 (protected species provisions) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

As you are aware, on 30 January 2012, the SA Marine Scalefish Fishery was accredited under Part 13 of the EPBC Act, subject to a condition requiring the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), in consultation with marine mammal experts and the Department, to develop and implement a management strategy to protect Australian sea lions by 1 August 2013. At PIRSA's request, the timeframe for completion of this management strategy has been extended a number of times, most recently to 30 June 2014.

In July 2014, PIRSA advised that although the strategy had been developed, additional time was needed for final consultation with the broader fishing industry. As a consequence, PIRSA requested an extension to the Part 13 condition timeframe to allow for this final consultation to occur and then to implement the management strategy before the fishery is next reassessed in full against the requirements of the EPBC Act in January 2015. I have considered your request, as well as the progress to date made by PIRSA in meeting the condition, and understand it is expected that the management strategy will be implemented in the next seven months.

On this basis I have therefore agreed to vary the condition to which the current accreditation of the management arrangements for the fishery is subject. The new Part 13 accreditation (**Attachment 1**) requires PIRSA to develop and implement a management strategy to protect Australian sea lions by 28 January 2015.

Please note that EPBC Act decisions relate to the management arrangements in force at the time of the decision. To ensure that decisions remain valid, it is important that conditions to which accreditation of the management arrangements for the fishery under the EPBC Act is subject are implemented. In addition, the Department needs to be advised of any intended changes to the management regime that may affect the assessment of the fishery against the criteria on which EPBC Act decisions are based. This includes both legislated amendments and operational changes.

Yours sincerely

Shaneen Coulson
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment

4 July 2014

Condition on the Part 13 accreditation for the SA Marine Scalefish Fishery – February 2014

1. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia, in consultation with relevant experts and the Department of the Environment, to develop and implement a management strategy to mitigate the risk of fishery interactions with Australian sea lions by 28 January 2015.