



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Hon Tim Mulherin MP
Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries
and Rural and Regional Queensland
GPO Box 46
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

I am writing to you as the Delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts in relation to the Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) declaration and Part 13 (protected species) accreditation for the Gulf of Carpentaria Fin Fish Fishery (GOCIFFF), made under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

On 15 June 2009, Queensland Primary Industry and Fisheries (QPIF), part of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, wrote to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) requesting a 12 month extension to the current WTO accreditation to allow QPIF to review the *Fisheries (Gulf of Carpentaria Fin Fish) Management Plan 1999*. A schedule included in the letter indicated that the review is expected to be finalised by June 2010 and QPIF noted that the scope for this review will include a review of the management arrangements for all fin fish fisheries covered by the Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority developmental fisheries permits and the line fishery for Spanish Mackerel (L4). In addition, a progress report towards the conditions and recommendations placed in the current GOCIFFF WTO accreditation and Part 13 declaration was attached.

I have considered the request and the progress made towards meeting the conditions and recommendations made during the assessment of the fishery under the EPBC Act in 2007, and I am happy to inform you that I have agreed to extend the current WTO for 12 months. In accordance with section 303FN (6) of the EPBC Act a WTO declaration may be granted for a maximum period of three years. The current GOCIFFF WTO was first signed on 21 August 2007 and is due to expire on 20 August 2009. The 12 month extension will bring the new expiry date for the WTO declaration to 20 August 2010. Should the fishery wish to continue exporting after this date, the fishery will need to undergo a reassessment under the EPBC Act.

I am also pleased to inform you that I have considered the progress reported against the condition of the Part 13 accreditation for the GOCIFFF, which required QPIF, then the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, "to prohibit the retention of all EPBC Act listed chondrichthyan species in the GOCIFFF as a priority, but by no later 31 July 2009" and I consider the condition to be met.

Should you wish to discuss any of the issues in this letter please contact either myself or Mr Sean Lane, Director of Sustainable Fisheries on (02) 6274 1917.

Yours sincerely

[Signed]

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

20 July 2009