



THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

12 DEC 2016

MS16-002186

Senator the Hon Anne Ruston MP
Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600


Dear Assistant Minister

In April 2016, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) applied for export approval for the Commonwealth Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery under Part 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Department of the Environment and Energy has assessed the application and considered AFMA's responses to the conditions and recommendations made in the previous 2013 assessment. The assessment report will be available on the Department's website at: www.environment.gov.au/marine/fisheries/commonwealth/southern-bluefin.

I consider that the management arrangements for the fishery meet most of the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*. Taking into account these arrangements, I am satisfied that the operation of the fishery remains consistent with the objects of the EPBC Act and I have declared the fishery an approved wildlife trade operation until 13 December 2019. The declaration will apply only to those classes of specimens specified in the instrument of declaration, available from the Department's website, and will be subject to the conditions (**Attachment 1**) specified in the instrument.

Officers from AFMA and the Department have discussed key areas requiring further attention. While there are some environmental risks associated with this fishery, I believe that AFMA is committed to addressing these issues.

I have written to the Chair of the AFMA Commission, the Hon Norman Moore, in similar terms.

Yours sincerely

JOSH FRYDENBERG

Att:

Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the Commonwealth Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery – December 2016

Condition 1:

Operation of the Commonwealth Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery will be carried out in accordance with the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995 in force under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

Condition 2:

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to inform the Department of the Environment and Energy of any intended material changes to the Commonwealth Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.

Condition 3:

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment and Energy annually as per Appendix B of the Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition.

Condition 4:

The management arrangements for the Commonwealth Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery to implement catch monitoring technologies which provide a high degree of confidence in the estimates of southern bluefin tuna catch in the purse seine sector.

Condition 5:

The management arrangements for the Commonwealth Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery to begin accounting for Australia's attributable (commercial, Indigenous and recreational fishing sector) southern bluefin tuna catch as soon as possible, and at least by 2018.

Condition 6:

The management arrangements for the Commonwealth Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery to continue to implement all relevant measures agreed by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna in the Commonwealth Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery, to the extent that these are within the remit of AFMA, to support the recovery of the southern bluefin tuna stock to ecologically sustainable levels.