



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

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

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 4 February 2008, to the Delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, in relation to the recent accreditation of the Queensland East Coast Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery (ECTRLF) as a Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

I am pleased by your confirmation that the recommendations to the ECTRLF WTO will be implemented by your Department and also note the progress made in meeting Recommendation 1:

"DPI&F to develop and implement interim management arrangements, prior to the commencement of the 2008 fishing season, to ensure that the 2008 total catch does not exceed 200 tonnes."

I understand a critical part of the interim arrangements, formalised prior to the commencement of the fishing season on 1 February 2008, is that fishery reviews will be conducted in April and June to ensure that catch of tropical rock lobster does not exceed 200 tonnes. In light of the importance of these reviews, and any subsequent management actions in controlling catch, to reflect these processes I seek an addition to Recommendation 1 in the following terms:

"By 30 June 2008, DPI&F to notify DEWHA of the forecast catch for the season and, if this exceeds 200 tonnes, provide details of the proposed management response, including a clear timetable for implementation."

I understand that officials from your Department have agreed in principle to this amendment and I trust that this addition simply formalises a course of action which DPI&F is already progressing. I look forward to confirmation of your agreement to the addition.

Yours sincerely

Ian Cresswell
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
16th April 2008



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