Ref: 2013/03442

Ms Barbara Koennecke  
Arafura Aquatic Fish Pty Ltd  
PO Box 230,

NHULUNBUY NT 0881

Dear Ms Koennecke

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Water in relation to the assessment of the harvest of *Tridacna squamosa* and *T. crocea* for Arafura Aquatic Fish Pty Ltd under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

You provided the department with a submission for assessment under the EPBC Act seeking export approval for product derived from broodstock and gametes of giant clams taken under your Northern Territory Aquaculture Licence. Your submission has been assessed for the purposes of the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act. The proposed harvest of *T. squamosa* and *T. crocea* was also assessed under the requirements for export of specimens listed under the appendices of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

I am pleased to advise that the assessment of the operation of Arafura Aquatic Fish Pty Ltd is now complete. I am satisfied that the operation of Arafura Aquatic Fish Pty Ltd, as it relates to *T. squamosa*,is consistent with the objects of the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act and that the management arrangements provide the basis for the operation to be managed in an ecologically sustainable way. I am also satisfied that the operation, as it relates to *T. squamosa,* is unlikely to be detrimental to the survival or conservation status of the taxon to which the operation relates, or threaten any relevant ecosystem.

Hence, I propose to declare the collection of broodstock and gametes of giant clams by Arafura Aquatic Fish Pty Ltd as an approved wildlife trade operation under Part 13A of the EPBC Act, subject to the conditions at **Attachment A**. This declaration would allow the export of *T. squamosa* (and their progeny) by Arafura Aquatic Fish Pty Ltd collected from the date of the declaration to 30 June 2016.

In relation to the harvest of *T. crocea*, there is currently not enough information on the population of this species to assess the impact of the proposed harvest for the purpose of the export requirements of CITES. Should more information on *T. crocea* populations in the area become available that may allow an assessment of the impact of harvest of this species, you may apply in relation to this species again in future.

Prior to the export of product derived from this operation, you will be required to apply to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities for multiple-use export permits prior to exporting specimens covered by the declaration.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Richardson  
  
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Water  
24 July 2013

**Conditions on the approved wildlife trade operation declaration for the collection of broodstock and gametes of giant clams by Arafura Aquatic Fish Pty Ltd - July 2013**

**Condition 1:** Arafura Aquatic Fish Pty Ltd must operate its giant clam aquaculture venture in accordance with aquaculture licences issued by the Northern Territory Government under the Northern Territory *Fisheries Act 1988* and Northern Territory Fisheries Regulations.

**Condition 2:** Arafura Aquatic Fish Pty Ltd must advise the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in writing of any changes to the:

* conditions on the aquaculture licences issued by the Northern Territory Government
* collection process of wild specimens or gametes, or
* growing out process of juvenile clams.

**Condition 3:** By 30 April each year, Arafura Aquatic Fish Pty Ltd must provide a report for the preceding year to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities which must include:

* total harvest of *Tridacna squamosa* from the wild for broodstock; including date of harvest, location, quantity, size and reproductive state of individuals collected
* total harvest of *T. squamosa* from the wild for the collection of gametes; including date of harvest, location, quantity, size and reproductive state of individuals collected and the period of time for which individuals were retained before being returned to the wild
* numbers and details of mortality of any broodstock collected from the wild
* where known, numbers and details of any mortality of wild *T. squamosa* used for the collection of gametes
* results of spawning and rearing trials and the number of specimens reared and lost through brood mortality
* quantities and numbers of specimens sold or held as stocks, and
* details of the reproductive success of the operation.

**Condition 4:** *Tridacna squamosa* grown out in sea cages must be harvested prior to reaching reproductive maturity.