



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