



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Hon Michael Egan
Chairman
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Box 7051
Canberra BC
CANBERRA ACT 2610

Dear Mr Egan

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts in relation to the reassessment of the Southern Squid Jig Fishery (SSJF) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

In August 2009, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) submitted the *Annual Status Report - Southern Squid Jig Fishery July 2009* to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) seeking further export approval for the SSJF.

The submission has been assessed for the purposes of the protected species provisions of Part 13 and the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act. The assessment also took account of measures that have been developed by AFMA in response to recommendations made in the 2004 assessment of the SSJF. I am pleased to advise that the assessment of the SSJF is now complete.

The new assessment report will be available on the Department's website at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/commonwealth/southern-squid-jig/index.html>.

I am satisfied that the operation of the SSJF is consistent with the objects of the wildlife trade provisions in Part 13A of the EPBC Act. I am also satisfied that it is unlikely to be detrimental to the survival or conservation status of any taxon to which the fishery operation relates, or threaten any relevant ecosystem in the medium to long term.

Given the management arrangements and precautionary measures for the fishery including limited entry, gear restrictions, a harvest strategy containing a number of catch trigger limits and the bycatch and discarding workplan, I have decided to amend the List of Exempt Native Specimens (LENS) to allow ongoing export of product from this fishery for a period of five years, until 30 April 2015.



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While there are some environmental risks associated with the SSJF, I believe AFMA is committed to addressing these issues and is already taking proactive steps in some areas. Officers from AFMA and DEWHA have discussed areas requiring ongoing attention and agreed to recommendations focussing on ensuring the continuation of good management practices. These recommendations can be found at **Attachment A**.

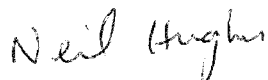
DEWHA considers that the operation of the fishery does not, or is not likely to, adversely affect the survival in nature of a listed threatened species or population of that species, or the conservation status of a listed migratory species, cetacean or listed marine species or a population of any of those species. DEWHA also considers that under the management plan for the fishery, operators are required to take all reasonable steps to avoid the killing or injuring of protected species, and the level of interactions under current fishing operations is low.

For these reasons, the management regime was accredited under Part 13 of the EPBC Act in August 2005. Since there have been no significant material changes to the management arrangements for the fishery since the last assessment I have recredited the management regime under Part 13 of the EPBC Act and I consider that the existing section 33 declaration for this fishery remains valid.

I would like to thank you for the cooperation of your officials on this assessment and I look forward to receiving your formal endorsement of the recommendations.

Please note that export decisions under the EPBC Act relate to the arrangements in force at the time of the assessment decision. To ensure that the decision remains valid, DEWHA needs to be advised of any intended changes to the management plan and make an assessment that the new arrangements are equivalent or better, in terms of ecological sustainability, than those in place at the time of the original decision. This includes legislated amendments and operational changes that may affect the sustainability of the target species or negatively impact on byproduct, bycatch, protected species or the ecosystem.

Yours sincerely



Neil Hughes
Delegate of the Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts

22 April 2010

Recommendations to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) on the ecologically sustainable management of the Southern Squid Jig Fishery (SSJF).

The material submitted by AFMA for assessment of the Southern Squid Jig Fishery (SSJF) suggests the fishery generally operates in accordance with the Australian Government's *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition*.

DEWHA is satisfied that the harvest of specimens from the SSJF will not be detrimental to the survival or conservation status of the taxon to which the fishery relates in the short to medium term. Similarly, it is not likely to threaten any relevant ecosystem in the short to medium term. To minimise the risks in the longer term, the following recommendations have been made for the SSJF.

Recommendation 1: Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the *Southern Squid Jig Fishery Management Plan 2005* in force under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

Recommendation 2: The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) to inform the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) of any intended amendments to the management arrangements for the SSJF that may affect the assessment of the fishery against the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) decisions are based.

Recommendation 3: AFMA to produce and present reports to DEWHA annually as per Appendix B to the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.

Recommendation 4: AFMA to continue to cooperate with other relevant jurisdictions to pursue increased knowledge and complementary management of shared stocks of squid target and byproduct species across fisheries and across jurisdictions.

