



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

Our reference: 2011/10603

The Hon Michael O'Brien MP
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
GPO Box 668
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in relation to the reassessment of the South Australian Sea Urchin Fishery under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

In July 2011, the Department of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia provided the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities with a submission for reassessment of the South Australian Sea Urchin Fishery under the EPBC Act.

I am pleased to advise that assessment of the South Australian Sea Urchin Fishery is now complete. The assessment report will be available on the department's website at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/sa/sea-urchin/index.html>.

I am satisfied that the operation of the South Australian Sea Urchin Fishery is consistent with the objects of the wildlife trade provisions in Part 13A of the EPBC Act. Given the management arrangements and precautionary measures for the fishery including exclusion zones and specific measures such as vessel restrictions, gear restrictions, and limited licence holders, I have decided to amend the list of exempt native specimens to allow ongoing export of product from this fishery for a period of five years, until 1 October 2016.

While there are some environmental risks associated with the South Australian Sea Urchin Fishery, I believe the Department of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia has in place measures to address these issues. Officers from the Department of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia and the department 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**.

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, the department 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.

I would like to thank you for the cooperation of your officials in this assessment.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Routh

Delegate of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

28 September 2011



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Recommendations to the Department of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia on the ecologically sustainable management of the South Australian Sea Urchin Fishery.

1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the South Australian management arrangements made under the South Australian *Fisheries Management Act 2007* and consistent with the *Fisheries Management (Miscellaneous Fishery) Regulations 2000*.
2. The Department of Primary Industries and Resources, South Australia to advise the department of any intended amendments to the management arrangements that may affect the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are based.
3. The Department of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia to produce and present reports to the department annually as per Appendix B to the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition*.
4. Upon finalisation of the ‘Data Summary Miscellaneous Fishery’ project, the Department of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia to:
 - a) provide the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities with a copy of the final report, subject to confidentiality provisions; and
 - b) outline how the outcomes of the report will be incorporated into the management of the Sea Urchin Fishery.
5. The Department of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia to develop and implement a Policy Document outlining:
 - the ongoing management arrangements; and
 - management objectives;

for all ‘Miscellaneous’ dive fisheries, including the South Australian Sea Urchin Fishery, before the end of 2014.