



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

27 June 2006

Mr Andrew McNee  
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage  
Department of the Environment and Heritage  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Australia

### Export Approval for Scallops Taken During Scientific Surveys

Dear Mr McNee

I refer to your letter of 15 March 2006 concerning AFMA's request for export approval of product derived from scientific surveys undertaken for the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (BSCZSF).

As outlined, the direction of 14 December 2005 by the Federal Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation makes it unlikely that there will be any commercial fishing in the BSCZSF over the next 3 years and consequently there is no apparent need for a reassessment of the fishery under Part 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* at this stage.

AFMA plans to continue a survey program to monitor the recovery of the fishery and to provide information for future management. A key incentive for attracting industry members to participate in the survey program is the opportunity to retain some of the catch. AFMA proposes to offer the retention of a total of up to 150 tonnes (shell weight) of scallops per annum for the surveys. This quantity of scallops should be sufficient to support surveys of known scallop beds and to encourage surveying across the wider fishery including in historically dense beds which have not been fished or surveyed for some years.

Survey participants will be subject to conditions for each survey which should cover minimum scallop size and total quantity of scallops that may be retained, locations from which scallops can or cannot be retained, and observer coverage. It is expected that no more than 10 vessels would be involved in surveying within a single year.

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As previously advised, we would expect these scallops to be sold to various processors and there is a chance that at least a proportion of the scallops will be mixed with product caught in State fisheries and exported. For this reason we seek export approval for product derived from the scientific surveys in the BSCZSF.

You have requested a report addressing set criteria to support our request. This report is attached.

For further information please contact Phil Domaschenz on telephone 02 62723274 or email [phil.domaschenz@afma.gov.au](mailto:phil.domaschenz@afma.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

**SIGNED**

Dr Nick Rayns  
Executive Manager  
Fisheries Branch