



Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

13 October 2009

Reference: F2009/0497

Mr Peter Peterson
A/g Director Sustainable Fisheries
Marine Division
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Peter,

In keeping with AFMA's obligations under the additional provisions of the Southern Bluefin Tuna Wildlife Trade Operation 2008, I am writing to you to inform you that AFMA is intending to implement a Temporary Order altering part of the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995* (SBTF Plan).

Decisions on the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Australia, as well as other nations, are set at the annual Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) meeting. The TAC must then be decided upon by the AFMA Commission.

Sub-section 18.3 of the SBTF Plan stipulates that, not later than 30 days before the commencement of the season, AFMA must:

- a) calculate the actual live weight value for the season and specify in a public notice the details of the TAC for Australia, the total number of SFR's and the actual live weight value of an SFR; or
- b) in any other case – AFMA must calculate the interim live weight value of a statutory fishing right for the season and specify that value in a public notice.

Due to the timing of both the CCSBT meeting and the meeting of the AFMA Commission it is impossible for AFMA to publish the values, as stipulated in the Plan, 30 days before the commencement of the upcoming season on 1 December 2009. The Temporary Order proposes that the 30 days notice on actual live weight value of SFR's be reduced to 14 days before the commencement of the season on 1 December.

The approach was discussed at the Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee (SBTMAC) held in September. SBTMAC endorsed the decision to implement a Temporary Order and recommended that the AFMA Commission also do the same. The approach was also discussed at the recent Southern Bluefin Tuna stakeholder meeting at which representatives of DEWHA were present.

AFMA believes that the use of the Temporary Order in this case is administrative only and should not alter the Wildlife Trade Operation accreditation under the *Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*, however AFMA would appreciate DEWHA confirming that this is indeed the case.

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If you have any queries in relation to the above please feel free to contact Matt Daniel, A/g Manager Southern Bluefin Tuna Fisheries, AFMA on telephone 6225 5338.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Trysh Stone', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Trysh Stone
Senior Manager
Tuna and International Fisheries