



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Ian Yarroll
A/Deputy Director General, Fisheries
Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries
GPO Box 46
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Yarroll

Thank you for your letter of 24 September 2009 advising that the Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (QPIF), part of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation does not intend to seek continued export accreditation under the *Environment and Biodiversity Protection Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for the Marine Specimen Shell Collection Fishery (MSSCF).

As you are aware the export approval for the MSSCF will expire on 12 November 2009, and export of product harvested in the fishery after this date is illegal. I understand that no operators are currently exporting product harvested from the MSSCF.

I note that officers from your department will be discussing this issue with the fishers of the MSSCF. However, I consider it important that licensees are formally notified of the lapse of the accreditation as soon as possible to ensure they understand that export of product harvested from the fishery after 12 November 2009 contravenes the EPBC Act. Should they wish to export product from the fishery in the future, approval under the EPBC Act is required prior to the product being collected.

Please note that the MSSCF may be reconsidered for export approval at any time, subject to a full reassessment under the EPBC Act. Should you wish to pursue this, please contact Mr Sean Lane, Director, Sustainable Fisheries on 02 6274 1917 or at Sean.Lane@environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

[signed]

Nigel Routh
Assistant Secretary
Marine Biodiversity Policy Branch

29 October 2009