



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Professor Gavin Begg
Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture,
Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
GPO Box 1671
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Professor Begg

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for the Environment in relation to the assessment of the South Australian Sardine Fishery under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

On 9 June 2021, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia, applied for export approval for the South Australian Sardine Fishery under Part 13 (wildlife trade) provisions of the EPBC Act. The application has now been assessed and I have agreed to grant export approval for the fishery via an amendment to the List of Exempt Native Specimens until 7 March 2027.

I have also decided to re-accredit the management regime for the fishery under the Part 13 (protected species) provisions of the EPBC Act. This accreditation is subject to the conditions set out in **Attachment A**.

I would like to thank you for the constructive manner in which your officials have approached this assessment. I look forward to working with you and your team on other South Australian managed fisheries in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Sincock'.

Adam Sincock
Principal Director
Wildlife Trade Office
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment

7 March 2022

Conditions: Accreditation of the South Australian Sardine Fishery management regime under Part 13 of the EPBC Act – March 2022

Condition A:

The operation of the fishery must be carried out in accordance with the management arrangements specified in the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (SA); Fisheries Management (Sardine Fishery) Regulations 2021 (SA); the Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017; and the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery*.

Condition B:

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia must inform the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment of any intended material changes to the South Australian Sardine Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.

Condition C:

[The Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia must inform the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment of any intended changes to fisheries legislation that may affect the legislative instruments relevant to this approval.

Condition D:

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia must produce and present reports to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment annually, as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*

Condition E:

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia must ensure the most effective measures to mitigate or eliminate interactions with protected species are adopted in the South Australian Sardine Fishery.

This should include working with fishing operators and other relevant parties to consider and, where appropriate, trial any suitable technologies or practices identified in the global literature review of mitigation measures in small pelagic fisheries project (FRDC Project 2020-049).

Condition F:

By June 2022, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia must consider and respond to the outcomes of the “Assessment of the sustainability of common dolphin interactions with the South Australian Sardine Fishery” report (FRDC Project 2019-063).

This should include an assessment of any required changes or improvements to existing fishery management arrangements and protected species mitigation/monitoring methods.

Condition G:

By April 2024, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia must implement suitable measures to ensure accurate information on protected species mortality levels is collected in the fishery and that underreporting is not occurring.

In satisfying this condition, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia must:

- a) by June 2022, publish a plan detailing how it will respond to this issue, including any systems, controls, or management arrangements that will be implemented and associated timeframes. The plan will need to be made publicly available and a copy provided to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.
- b) by April 2024, provide evidence that suitable systems have been implemented to ensure accurate information on protected species mortality levels is collected in the fishery and that underreporting is not occurring.