



Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

28 February 2006

Dear Fishing Concession Holder

In November 2005 the Australian government announced a series of measures as part of its 'Securing Our Fishing Future' initiative to ensure a sustainable and profitable industry. This was followed in December 2005 by a Direction from the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation requiring AFMA to accelerate its programs to end overfishing in Commonwealth fisheries, address the rebuilding of overfished stocks and minimize fishing impacts on the marine environment.

While the focus of the Direction is on the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery and Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery, all Commonwealth fisheries are affected by the Direction. AFMA is required by law to comply with the Direction and has released the 'Future Operating Environment for Commonwealth Fisheries' as an initial response. This document and a copy of the Minister's Direction to AFMA are attached for your information.

As a result of these decisions by government, the way in which many Commonwealth fisheries are being managed will change. For some fisheries this will mean accelerating measures underway through current management arrangements and plans whilst for others it will mean developing new arrangements. Specific management arrangements that may apply in your fishery(ies) are also attached for your consideration. For all fisheries there will be a greater focus on achieving long-term sustainable outcomes, applying precautionary management strategies and increasing the level of monitoring and independent data collection.

If you have any questions about the attachments, please contact your Fisheries Manager or Management Advisory Committee Executive Officer. A list of these is attached for your convenience.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD McLOUGHLIN
Managing Director

www.afma.gov.au

 Protecting **our** fishing future