



16 April 2020

Dear SESSF concession holder

I am writing to provide an overview of key management arrangements for the 2020–21 Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) fishing season, which will take effect on 1 May 2020.

Please note the information below is a summary only, and you should refer to your concession conditions for the complete requirements. Concession conditions will be uploaded to your GoFish account. If you wish to receive a copy of your concession conditions via email please contact AFMA at [licensing@afma.gov.au](mailto:licensing@afma.gov.au).

The SESSF Management Arrangements Booklet for the 2020–21 fishing season has also been updated. A digital version will also be uploaded to your GoFish account, and hard copies will be sent to SESSF vessel concession holders before the start of the SESSF season, and will also be available on AFMA's website at [www.afma.gov.au](http://www.afma.gov.au).

### **Seabird Management Plans (SMPs) in the automatic longline sector**

Vessel-specific SMPs have been required for vessels using the automatic longline method since 2014. SMPs describe each vessel's obligations in relation to seabird mitigation. The existing conditions relating to SMPs have been updated to provide clearer guidance on the obligation for a concession holder to comply with their SMP. This update also provides consistency with existing conditions prescribed for the SESSF trawl sector.

### **Discharge of biological material in the trawl sector**

In addition to existing requirements under SMPs, additional management arrangements were introduced in the 2019-20 SESSF fishing season that require zero discharge of biological material for otter board trawl vessels when fishing gear is deployed in high risk areas during daylight hours.

The new arrangements were introduced on 1 November 2019 in waters south of latitude 39° S and west of longitude 147° E. These arrangements will be extended to waters south of 38° S from 1 July 2020.

Exemptions to the new rules will be considered if operators can demonstrate mitigation techniques that remove the risk to seabirds interacting with warp wires. Given the current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, observers may not be available for the purpose of assessing new mitigation approaches. If you would like to apply for an exemption, please contact the trawl manager, Dan Corrie, on 0447 019 916, and an alternative approach may be considered for the purpose of demonstrating mitigation approaches and gaining an exemption.

Further information on exemptions can be found at [www.afma.gov.au/seabirds](http://www.afma.gov.au/seabirds).

#### **Canberra**

PO Box 7051  
Canberra ACT 2610  
P 02 6225 5555  
F 02 6225 5500

#### **Darwin**

PO Box 131  
Darwin NT 0801  
P 08 8943 0333  
F 08 8942 2897

#### **Thursday Island**

PO Box 376  
Thursday Island QLD 4875  
P 07 4069 1990  
F 07 4069 1277

#### **Lakes Entrance**

PO Box 408  
Lakes Entrance VIC 3909  
P: 0447 019 916

## **Management of processing waste (including offal) for hook methods**

Requirements regarding the management of processing waste (including offal) for vessels using demersal longline, automatic longline and dropline methods were previously prescribed in Part 12 of the *Fisheries Management Regulations 1992*. These Regulations are no longer in force and have been replaced by the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*. Instead of being prescribed in the new Regulations, these requirements have been added as a condition to all applicable SESSF concessions. There has been no change to requirements, only the way they are put into effect.

## **Blue Warehou**

A move-on provision was introduced for trawlers in the 2019–20 fishing season to reduce the risk of large catches of blue warehou. This requirement remains in place for the 2020-21 fishing season, however, wording of the condition has been revised to specify that operators must not fish within 3 nautical miles of any point at which the trawl shot was undertaken, for a period of 24 hours, when more than 200 kg of blue warehou are caught in a shot.

## **Western Orange Roughy Research Plan**

AFMA and SETFIA have developed a Western Orange Roughy Research Plan (WORRP) for the 2020–21 and 2021–22 fishing seasons which was recently approved by the AFMA Commission. The objective of the WORRP is to collect appropriate data (catch and effort, age, size structure) to better understand the current status of the western orange roughy stock and inform future stock assessments.

Under the WORRP, operators can apply for a scientific permit to participate in the program. If successful, operators will be allocated research catch allowance to fish in areas currently closed by the deepwater closure, for the purpose of collecting data. For more information, please visit the AFMA website at [www.afma.gov.au/worrrp](http://www.afma.gov.au/worrrp).

## **Mollusc trip limits – Victoria**

The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments have reached formal agreement to increase the trip limit for molluscs caught by Commonwealth trawl vessels in waters relevant to Victoria from 50 kg to 500 kg, of which no more than 50 kg can be shells and shellfish of the Family Gastropoda (e.g. bailer shells). Please refer to your relevant trawl concession conditions for more detail.

## **Conversion factors**

Conversion factors for converting the weight of processed fish to whole weight for SESSF quota species were previously prescribed in the *Fisheries Management (Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery) Regulations 2004*. These Regulations are no longer in force. These conversion factors have now been added as a condition for all SESSF concessions. There has been no change to the conversion factors to be applied for SESSF quota species, only the way they are put into effect.

## Condition changes - Your rights of review

In accordance with Section 165 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, if you are dissatisfied with this decision you may, within 21 days after receipt of this letter, or within such further period (if any) as AFMA allows following a request for an extension of time made within 21 days after receipt of this letter, request in writing that AFMA reconsider this decision. Your request for reconsideration must set out the reasons for making the request and should be sent to:

By post:

The Manager  
Licensing and Data Services  
AFMA PO Box 7051  
Canberra BC ACT 2610

By facsimile:

The Manager  
Licensing and Data Services  
Facsimile number: 02 6225 5440

After receiving a valid request, AFMA will, within 45 days, reconsider this decision and may make a decision (the reviewable decision):

- in substitution of this decision whether in the same terms or not; or
- revoke this decision.

AFMA will write to you:

- to inform you of the outcome of the reconsideration; and
- give you reasons for the reviewable decision.

If you are dissatisfied with the reviewable decision, you may apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) for a review of the reviewable decision. An application to the AAT must be lodged within 28 days of your receipt of the reviewable decision, or within such other time as the AAT allows.

Please note, there have been some recent changes to the SESSF management team. Natalie Couchman has replaced Brodie Macdonald as Manager of Gillnet, Hook, Trap and High Seas Fisheries, and Belinda Norris is no longer with AFMA.

If you have any questions regarding the matters covered in this letter please contact either Daniel Corrie, Manager of Trawl, Scallop & Squid Fisheries on 0447 019 916 or by email at [daniel.corrie@afma.gov.au](mailto:daniel.corrie@afma.gov.au) or Natalie Couchman, Manager of Gillnet, Hook, Trap and High Seas Fisheries on 02 6225 5382 or by email at [natalie.couchman@afma.gov.au](mailto:natalie.couchman@afma.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Fiona Hill  
Senior Manager, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries