



OUT12/13012

Dear commercial fishing stakeholder

Update on the development of the Harrison's and southern dogfish rebuilding strategy

You are receiving this letter as you have indicated that you would like to keep updated on the development of the rebuilding strategy for Harrison's and southern dogfish populations.

Since the last consultation meeting with industry on 18 May 2012 in Newcastle, Fisheries NSW has received formal feedback from the Commonwealth Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC). The TSSC advises the Commonwealth Minister whether or not to list a nominated species as threatened under Commonwealth law. A copy of the feedback from the TSSC is attached to this letter.

Of particular interest is **Attachment B – Matters which the Committee will consider in framing its advice to the Minister about Harrison's and southern dogfish**. This section provides management principles that the TSSC will give particular consideration to.

Next steps

Fisheries NSW will continue to attend stakeholder working group meetings and maintain discussions with AFMA about complementary arrangements, where possible. John Harrison from the Professional Fisherman's Association will also continue to receive information through the stakeholder working group process.

At this point, Fisheries NSW is of the view that, for most methods, a mix of closed areas and operational changes can work to minimise the risk posed by NSW managed fisheries to the species of concern, but the expectations from Commonwealth agencies and the TSSC about the use fishing closures appear to be very high.

We are putting together a draft strategy taking into account:

- the risk assessment of NSW fishing methods and their potential interaction with the above species,
- feedback from the TSSC,
- AFMA's draft proposals and strategies,
- the range of closure and operational changes that have been discussed with NSW fishers, and
- advice from the recreational fishing sector regarding support for a zero bag limit.

Once written, the draft strategy will be sent to fishers on our 'interested stakeholder list', and further comments will be sought at that time. The draft strategy will also be placed on the website.

If you would like further information, please contact me on 9527 8550 (Mon, Wed and Thurs). If you no longer wish to receive this information, please contact Miriam Vandenberg on 9527 8424.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Silberschneider'.

Veronica Silberschneider
Fisheries Manager
18 June 2012