



Out of Session Item

Export Approval for the Ocean Hauling Fishery

Background

The OH Fishery was granted a five year exemption from the export regulations of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in 2003. The exemption was issued following a formal ecological sustainability assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The exemption expires on 25 April 2008 unless the fishery is reassessed and a new export approval granted prior to the expiry.

The Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEWR) is now seeking advice on whether a renewal of the export approval for the OH fishery is required beyond the expiry date. NSW DPI is proposing that industry should be given the opportunity to exercise a leadership role in making decisions to seek export approvals and accepting any necessary conditions, and therefore is seeking OHMAC's advice in this regard.

An application for renewal of the export approval would require NSW DPI, on behalf of industry, to prepare and submit information to assist DEWR to undertake the fishery reassessment. NSW DPI is seeking confirmation from DEWR regarding the level of information required to undertake a fishery reassessment. Depending on the outcome of this, NSW DPI will advise OHMAC if any additional resources and associated funding may be required.

Please note that no new assessment work is required to maintain the environmental approval for the fishery under NSW environment law.

Recommendation

That members provide advice on whether a renewal of the export approval for the OH Fishery is required beyond the expiry date on 25 April 2008. Please refer comments to the address below by COB Thursday 20 December 2007.

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