



702/1132

Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Senator for Queensland

REF: MNMC2012-06309

The Hon. John Murphy MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 10 September 2012 about the petition requesting the refusal of entry to Australian waters of the large mid-water trawl vessel the FV *Abel Tasman*, formerly the FV *Margiris*.

On 20 September 2012 the Minister for Environment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), with my agreement, imposed an interim declaration preventing the FV *Abel Tasman* and similar boats from operating in the Commonwealth Small Pelagic Fishery. The interim declaration prohibits commercial fishing activities by large mid-water freezer vessels in the Commonwealth Small Pelagic Fishery (declared commercial fishing activity) for a period of 60 days. Over the interim declaration period the minister is required to consult with persons about making a longer-term final declaration preventing the declared commercial fishing activity and allowing an expert panel to assess the potential environmental impacts of the activity.

Yours sincerely

Joe Ludwig /

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Senator for Queensland

12 October 2012

