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## **Transshipment Application Doomed**

Seafish Tasmania has confirmed they have submitted a “transshipment application” to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) as they attempt to use the banned 143 metre Super Trawler, Abel Tasman, as a factory freezer ship. AFMA has sought public comment on the application.

TARFish CEO Mark Nikolai is confused by the application as he says the Fisheries Management Act which controls recreational and commercial fishing in commonwealth waters specifically defines *fishing* as, amongst other things “(g) the processing, carrying or transshipping of fish that have been taken”. The Super Trawler has been banned by Minister Burke from *fishing* for a period of 2 years. If transshipment is defined as *fishing* and the Super Trawler is banned from *fishing* I can’t understand why the application has been lodged with AFMA”.

Mark also notes Minister Ludwig has recently announced “a root-and-branch review of the 20-year-old Fisheries Management and Administration Acts”. Minister Burke has announced the establishment of an “Expert Panel to conduct an assessment of all the potential impacts of the FV Abel Tasman before it can be given approval to fish in Commonwealth waters”. Concurrently AFMA are conducting reviews of the SPF Commonwealth Policy on Fisheries Bycatch and the Commonwealth SPF Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines. With all these reviews and uncertainty surrounding this fishery we believe nothing should change within the fishery until these processes have concluded and AFMA should reject the application or refer it to Minister Burke’s Expert Panel for consideration.

Contact Mark Nikolai, Chief Executive Officer on (Mobile) 0403 868 004 or (Office) 1300 665 225 for further information.

*TARFish is the independent, government recognised peak body looking after the interests of recreational marine fishers in Tasmania.*