



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture  
and Water Resources**

Christine McDonald  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms McDonald

Recently the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources was given the opportunity by the Environment and Communications References Committee (the Committee), to submit new information. On 27 September 2016 the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources provided a supplementary submission to the senate committee inquiry into the environmental, social and economic impacts of large-capacity fishing vessels commonly known as 'supertrawlers' operating in Australia's marine jurisdiction.

In that submission we advised that we would provide additional information once the 2016 ABARES Fishery status reports 2016 were released. The Fishery status reports 2016 have now been released, our additional information is attached for the Committee's reference.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Neil  
Assistant Secretary  
Fisheries Branch

19 October 2016



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### [Fishery status report 2016 – ABARES](#)

The ABARES Fishery status reports 2016, reporting on the 2014–15 and 2015–16 fishing seasons, classified all seven SPF stocks (sardine, blue mackerel east and west, jack mackerel east and west and redbait east and west) as not overfished and not subject to overfishing. Redbait west was previously classified as uncertain with respect to biomass status due to a lack of formal stock assessment. The latest status reports draw on recent ecosystem modelling and it was assessed that the low level of exploitation on the stock over the last decade was unlikely to have reduced biomass to below the limit reference point.