

Dear Committee Members,

Super trawlers like the Geelong Star are completely unacceptable in Australian fisheries.

The Australian public remains unconvinced that the science, management and resource stewardship is adequate for these large factory freezer trawl vessels in our Small Pelagic Fishery. The continued catch of threatened species is just one indication of how unacceptable the operation of this vessel has become.

The introduction of super trawlers to Australia is a highly controversial fisheries management issue. Australia has rejected two such super trawlers in the past - the Veronica and the Margiris, and we must reject the Geelong Star.

The Australian public owns our fishery resources, which are managed by government on our behalf. We contribute to the management costs of our Commonwealth fisheries, and are called upon to underwrite major fishing industry reforms when fisheries management has failed.

It is important to respect the public's expectations of how our marine environment and resources are managed.

Australians expect sustainable, well-managed fisheries that do not threaten endangered species, damage our marine environment, or impact other ocean users. The Geelong Star does not meet these expectations.

For those reasons we call on the Government to enact a permanent ban on the operation of factory freezer trawlers in the Small Pelagic Fishery.

Please accept this as a submission to the Senate's inquiry into the environmental, social and economic impacts of large-capacity fishing vessels commonly known as 'super trawlers' operating in Australia's marine jurisdiction.

Yours sincerely,