



Our ref: CORP F2021/000194

29 June 2021

Ms Angela Heathcote
C/- Australian Geographic

Via email: [REDACTED]

CORPORATE SERVICES
Level 15
25 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 1671
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 667
Tel 8429 0422
www.pir.sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Heathcote

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act) which was received by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) on 17 May 2021, seeking access to the following:

"Documents about the fishing ban lift in the Upper Spencer Gulf in 2020, including all internal emails and documents, and meeting minutes."
Timeframe: 1/05/2019 to 17/05/2021

On 18 May 2021, contact was made with you by PIRSA's Freedom of Information and Privacy Officer seeking to clarify the scope of your request.

On 31 May 2021, a response was received from you and your application was revised as follows:

"Documents on the decision-making that led to the lifting of the cuttlefish fishing ban in the Upper Spencer Gulf in 2020, including all internal emails and documents, and meeting minutes."
Timeframe: 1/05/2019 to 17/05/2021

Your application was placed on hold for a period of thirteen days and, accordingly, pursuant with the Act, the revised determination due date is 29 June 2021.

The following determination has been finalised.

I have located five documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

Determination

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Meeting minutes 16/12/2019 - Giant Cuttlefish Working Group	4

2	Minute to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 11/2/2020 re Giant Australian Cuttlefish Options for Future Management	6
2a	Attachment to Doc 2 – Giant Australian Cuttlefish Working Group 16/12/2019 draft meeting minutes	5
2b	Attachment to Doc 2 – S79 notice and map showing temporary cuttlefish closure area in northern Spencer Gulf	2
3	Email from G Begg (PIRSA) to Giant Cuttlefish Working Group members dated 28/4/2020 re Giant Cuttlefish Working Group minutes	4

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation <https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/information-held-sa-government/making-freedom-information-application#Review>, by completing the "FOI Application Form for Internal Review of a Determination" and returning the completed form to:

Freedom of Information Principal Officer
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

or via email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Lisa Farley, Freedom of Information and Privacy Officer on 8429 0422 or email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Griffiths

Accredited Freedom of Information Officer
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS

Meeting Minutes

PIRSA

Monday 16 December 2019, 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Level 14, 25 Grenfell Street, Adelaide

Giant Cuttlefish Working Group

Attendees: Gavin Begg (Chair), Keith Rowling (PIRSA) Simon Bryars (DEW), Lisien Loan (DEW), Andrew Solomon (EPA), Michael Steer (SARDI), Craig Wilkins (CCSA)

Apologies: Keith Baldry (EPA), Joanne Davidson (SATC), Graham Keegan (MRFAC), Bronwyn Gillanders (UofA), Peter Appleford (SARDI), Simon Clark (SGWCPFA), Nathan Bicknell (MSF), Philip Stratton (DPTI), Sam Gaylard (EPA), Jason Higham (DEW)

Guest James Brook (CCSA)

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed members and noted apologies.

2. Minutes and Actions

2.1 Minutes and actions

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 7 September 2018 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and all actions were completed.

Item	Actions from 7 September 2018	Responsibility	Target Date
1	Provide Shelley Paul with links to previous dive surveys	Mike Steer	Completed
2	Funding for future survey. Consider potential partnerships with other NGO's and collaborate with Experiencing Marine Science (EMS) towards a citizen science approach & run workshops.	Shelley Paull/Mike Steer	Completed

3	Provide a copy of the SARDI research report to CCSA which covered a range of potential risks to the cuttlefish population including nutrients from Aquaculture. To liaise with Mike Steer if any concerns.	Mike Steer	Completed
4	Communications Draft a media release on the SARDI advice for 2018	Cathy Parker	Completed
5	Communications Connect with the working group once the Minister has endorsed the approach.	Cathy Parker	Completed
6	Communications Provide key information from the Cuttlefish population surveys to EPA Communications for the annual EPA Road Show in Whyalla.	Cathy Parker	Completed
7	PIRSA to provide a briefing to the Minister on recommendation of a temporary closure for a further 12 months	Jon Presser	Completed
8	SARDI to publish a paper on the results of the survey in a suitable journal	Mike Steer	Not required, see minutes

3. Presentation

A presentation was given by Dr Mike Steer from SARDI on the 2019 Point Lowly Cuttlefish population estimate.

The 2019 spawning population of Giant Australian Cuttlefish is estimated to consist of 114,596 cuttlefish, with a collective biomass of 70.7 t.

The Giant Australian Cuttlefish spawning population at Point Lowly has remained relatively strong since 2015, with annual estimates consistently exceeding 110,000 cuttlefish. The population consists of a high proportion of small animals, with the estimated size of both males and females measuring below their respective long-term averages. This reduction in individual body size was reflected in the moderate biomass estimate of 70.7 t in 2019.

Greater emphasis is placed upon cuttlefish abundance (more accurately measured) rather than biomass as an indication of population strength. These last twelve consecutive survey years have illustrated the population's capacity to fluctuate over short time-scales, as emphasised by the rapid population increase from a record low of 13,492 individuals in 2013 to the most recent peak of 177,091 individuals in 2016. The contemporary estimates of cuttlefish abundance indicate that the population has sufficiently recovered from the historical low observed in 2013.

The Working Group discussed the relationship between temperature and individual body size and agreed there may be opportunities for a university intern, or student, to undertake a project to investigate any relationship.

The Working Group also discussed the need to publish a scientific paper on the results of the survey, and it was agreed that this would no longer be required, and would be left to SARDI to progress, as they determined. If a paper was developed it would be circulated to the Working Group for comment prior to being submitted for publication.

4. Future Management Arrangements

The Working Group noted that there is currently a permanent closure to the take of all cephalopods in False Bay that protects the spawning aggregation of cuttlefish, and a temporary closure in northern Spencer Gulf that prohibits the take of cuttlefish (*Sepia* spp.). This temporary closure was implemented as a result of the low abundance and biomass in 2013 and 2014 as a temporary management arrangement. PIRSA advised that, from a fisheries management perspective, this temporary management arrangement may no longer be required due to the recovery and maintenance of reasonable cuttlefish numbers in the aggregation, which meets the sustainability object in fisheries legislation.

The Chair sought comments from the Working Group members regarding their views on the need for the closure to be maintained.

Working Group members agreed that the permanent closure protected the spawning aggregation, but discussed a number of factors which some members believed should be considered in maintaining the temporary closure in northern Spencer Gulf. These included:

- Perceptions of the public and the need to balance the fishing and tourism needs.
- That any communication and messaging regarding the removal of the temporary closure is important, if it is decided to go that way.
- A number of members suggested community consultation may be required to meet some of the communication and perception needs above.
- Members noted the decline in abundance for 2019, but acknowledged the fact that cephalopod population numbers often vary on an annual basis due to the life history of the species.
- Due to the snapper closure there may be a shift in effort to other species (including cuttlefish) from commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery and charter fisheries; this should be recognised when making a decision on lifting the closure.
- If the closure is removed and yellowtail kingfish aquaculture commences at the same time then it may be difficult to interpret future changes in cuttlefish numbers and potential causes, e.g. if the population declines again over the next 3 years it may be difficult to correlate it with the timing of the removal of the closure vs the re-commencement of finfish aquaculture.
- PIRSA advised that, for the commercial and charter sector the amount of catch and effort can be monitored on a monthly basis, due to the catch and effort returns they are required to provide.

The Chair summarised that PIRSA will be providing advice to the Minister re. the temporary management arrangements and the recovery of the stock, ongoing sustainability and the fact the spawning aggregation is protected by the False Bay closure; including the divergent views of the Working Group.

4. New Business

Nil

5. Other Business

The Working Group agreed a survey should be conducted in 2020 particularly if the temporary closure is removed. Further discussion will occur on how this survey will be funded.

The Working Group discussed contrasting information on correlations that have been undertaken to investigate the impact of kingfish aquaculture in Fitzgerald Bay with cuttlefish abundance. It was agreed the CCSA, SARDI and EPA would validate the dataset and information, then prepare an out of session paper for the Working Group to consider if required

There was a discussion of cumulative impacts and ecosystem condition decline linked to nutrient inputs and other factors. It was reiterated any rationale for change should include information on the considerations that were taken into account, consistent with the discussions regarding the future management arrangements.

5. Meeting concluded: 2:30pm

6. Next meeting:

The Chair informed the Working Group that the agreed approach of having a single meeting each year to consider survey results will continue. September 2020 will be when the Working Group meets next unless the need arises for an earlier meeting.

Action List

Item	Actions from 16 December 2019	Responsibility	Target Date
1	Validate the dataset and information used to explore the correlation between Giant Australian Cuttlefish abundance and Yellowtail Kingfish biomass from the adjacent aquaculture site.	CCSA, SARDI, EPA	ASAP
2	Minute to Minister regarding management arrangements post 14 February 2020	PIRSA	Completed



Minute to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Objective ID: A4328709

For	Approval
Critical Date	14 February 2020
Subject	Giant Australian Cuttlefish options for future management

Synopsis

The Giant Australian Cuttlefish Working Group met on 16 December 2019 to consider the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) 2019 Point Lowly Giant Cuttlefish population estimate. The more recent estimates of cuttlefish abundance indicate that the population has sufficiently recovered from the historical low observed in 2013.

A temporary fishing closure for the take of cuttlefish (*Sepia* spp.) has been in place in northern Spencer Gulf since March 2013 in response to a decline in cuttlefish abundance in 2012. This temporary closure is in addition to the permanent cephalopod closure in place within False Bay and near Point Lowly. The temporary closure in northern Spencer Gulf was implemented pursuant to s79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act) and the notice expires on 15 February 2019.

Recommendations

That you:

1. **Note** the information in this brief.

NOTED

2. **Consider and approve** your preferred approach to cuttlefish management arrangements in northern Spencer Gulf.

Option 1 allow the current notice to prohibit cuttlefish fishing in northern Spencer Gulf to expire and re-instate the management arrangements that were in place prior to March 2013 on the 15 February 2020.

APPROVE / NOT APPROVED

Option 2 extend the temporary closure for a further 12 months until 15 February 2021 and initiate a public consultation to inform the long-term cuttlefish management arrangements for northern Spencer Gulf with a view to amend the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017*.

APPROVE / NOT APPROVED

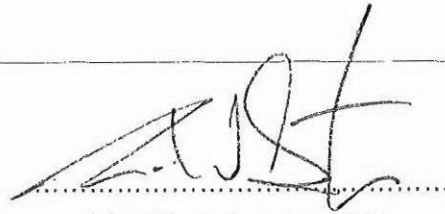
Option 3 amend the temporary closure notice to only prohibit commercial fishing for cuttlefish in northern Spencer Gulf and allow recreational and charter fishing and

initiate a public consultation to inform the long-term cuttlefish management arrangements for northern Spencer Gulf with a view to amend the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017*.

~~APPROVE~~ / NOT APPROVED

2. **Note** key stakeholders including the Cuttlefish Working Group will be advised of your decision.

NOTED



Hon Tim Whetstone MP
Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development

14 / 4 / 2020

Ministerial Comments

Background

- Each winter, tens of thousands of Giant Australian Cuttlefish aggregate on a discrete area of rocky reef in northern Spencer Gulf to spawn. This is the only known dense aggregation of spawning Giant Cuttlefish in the world. To allow for this aggregation to occur with limited disturbance from fishers, a permanent ban on the taking of any cephalopods in the False Bay area near Point Lowly has been in place for over a decade. A 2013 survey indicated that the annual spawning aggregation had declined by about ~90% over 13 years. The nature and extent of this decline was a concern for the general public, government and non-government agencies.
- A Giant Australian Cuttlefish Working Group was established in July 2012 to coordinate a whole-of-government response to concerns over the sustainability of the population. The Australian Government and the Government of South Australia committed a combined \$805,000 in funding to address a number of key research priorities identified by the Giant Australian Cuttlefish Working Group. The research has been led by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) with support from the University of Adelaide, and the Environment Protection Authority.
- In March 2013, due to the decline in the cuttlefish population the former Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries requested PIRSA implement a temporary cuttlefish fishing closure in northern Spencer Gulf. The temporary fishing closure has been in place since this time, with the current closure notice expiring on 15 February 2020.

Discussion

- The Giant Australian Cuttlefish Working Group met on 16 December 2019 to consider the SARDI 2019 Point Lowly Giant Cuttlefish population estimate and future management arrangements (Minutes at **Attachment 1**).
- Annual estimates of Giant Australian Cuttlefish abundance have increased over four consecutive years increasing from a record low of 13,492 individuals in 2013 to 177,091 individuals in 2016, representing a 1,213% increase at a rate of approximately 56,425 cuttlefish per year. This declined by 29% to 124,992 cuttlefish in 2017, but increased 20% to 150,408 cuttlefish in 2018. In 2019 the population was estimated at 114,596 indicating the population at Point Lowly has remained relatively strong since 2015. You have previously received a briefing on the outcomes of the 2019 cuttlefish survey (A4165469).
- The last twelve consecutive survey years have illustrated the population's capacity to fluctuate over relative short time-scales, as emphasised by the rapid population increase from a record low of 13,492 individuals in 2013 to the most recent peak of 177,091 individuals in 2016. The more recent estimates of cuttlefish abundance indicate that the population has sufficiently recovered from the historical low observed in 2013, and reminiscent of the high densities observed in the late 1990s and early 2000s.
- The Working Group noted that there is currently a permanent closure to the take of all cephalopods within False Bay and near Point Lowly that protects the spawning aggregation of cuttlefish, and a temporary closure in northern Spencer Gulf (north of a line between Arno Bay and Wallaroo) has been in place since 2013, which prohibits the take of cuttlefish (map and current s79 at **Attachment 2**).
- Given the recovery of the population from the historical low observed in 2013, the Working Group agreed that the permanent closure protected the spawning

aggregation, but discussed a number of factors that some members believed should be considered in maintaining the temporary closure in northern Spencer Gulf. These included:

- Perceptions of the public and the need to balance fishing and tourism needs.
 - Due to the snapper closure there may be a shift in effort to other species (including cuttlefish) from commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery and charter fisheries.
 - If the closure is removed and yellowtail kingfish aquaculture re-commences in Fitzgerald Bay, then it may be difficult to interpret the cause of future changes in cuttlefish abundance (relative to the potential impacts of fishing).
- PIRSA advised that, for the commercial and charter sector the amount of catch and effort can be monitored on a monthly basis, due to the catch and effort returns they are required to provide.
 - A number of members suggested community consultation may be required to meet some of the communication and perception needs above, and that any communication and messaging regarding the removal of the temporary closure will be important.
 - The Working Group agreed a population survey should be conducted in 2020, particularly if the temporary closure is removed.

Management Arrangements

- Consistent with the operation of s79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to regulate temporary prohibitions to fishing activities, should the closure of northern Spencer Gulf continue a change to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* would need to be undertaken.
- In order to progress long-term management arrangements for cuttlefish in northern Spencer Gulf, PIRSA provides the following options for consideration:

Option 1

- Allow the current notice to prohibit cuttlefish fishing in northern Spencer Gulf to expire. This will have the effect of re-instating the management arrangements that were in place prior to March 2013 on the 15 February 2020. The more recent estimates of cuttlefish abundance indicate that the population has sufficiently recovered from the historical low observed in 2013 and this option allows northern Spencer Gulf cuttlefish to again support fishing activities. The permanent closure to the take of all cephalopods within False Bay and near Point Lowly protects the spawning aggregation of cuttlefish and would remain in place under this option.
- This approach is not supported by some members of the Cuttlefish Working Group and will likely raise concerns in the broader community. There is concern that the temporary snapper closure arrangements may increase fishing effort on cuttlefish by all sectors, which could potentially lead to a decline in sustainability.
- There is concern by some members of the Cuttlefish Working Group that there is a link between the aquaculture of yellowtail kingfish farming in Fitzgerald Bay and the abundance of cuttlefish at Point Lowly in northern Spencer Gulf. The farming of yellowtail kingfish farming in Fitzgerald Bay may re-commence in the future and some members of the Cuttlefish Working Group are concerned that should fishing be

re-introduced at a similar time, then variations in cuttlefish abundance may not be easily interpreted due to these potential pressures impacting at the same time.

Option 2

- Extend the temporary closure for a further 12 months until 15 February 2021 and initiate a public consultation process to inform long-term cuttlefish management arrangements for northern Spencer Gulf with a view to amend the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017*.
- This approach will allow the consideration of commercial, charter boat and recreational fishing interests along with broader community concerns into the development of long-term cuttlefish management arrangements. This option will ensure the community has the opportunity to participate in the development of long-term management options and is the recommended approach.

Option 3

- Implement a revised temporary closure to only prohibit commercial fishing for cuttlefish in northern Spencer Gulf. This option will provide opportunities for the charter boat and recreational fishing sectors to target cuttlefish while limiting the take of commercial fishing.
- This option is unlikely to be supported by Marine Scalefish Fishery licence holders who have previously accessed cuttlefish in northern Spencer Gulf consistent with the *Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish) Regulations 2017* and the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Management Plan.
- This option will likely raise community concerns.
- Similar to Option 2, a public consultation process to inform long-term cuttlefish management arrangements for northern Spencer Gulf will be initiated.

Farmer and Stakeholder impacts/ Regional Business and Stakeholder impacts

- There is community and stakeholder support to maintain the temporary closure in northern Spencer Gulf for the taking of cuttlefish.

Management of key risks

- Nil key risks identified.

Consultation and engagement

- A Giant Australian Cuttlefish Working Group was established in July 2012. Membership includes representatives of PIRSA, SARDI, Department for Environment and Water, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Environment Protection Authority, South Australian Tourism Commission, University of Adelaide and the Conservation Council of South Australia.
- The Working Group met on 16 December 2019 to discuss the current survey results and ongoing research and management priorities for the Giant Australian Cuttlefish.

- Correspondence will be drafted to inform Executive Officers of all commercial fisheries Associations, the Chair of MRFAC and CEOs of regional coastal councils and other key stakeholders of your preferred option.
- Recreational fishers will be informed of your decision through media releases, the PIRSA website and Recreational Fishing App, and the FishFacts newsletter.
- A transition from a temporary closure to a permanent closure of cuttlefish fishing in northern Spencer Gulf will likely require a period of public consultation given the high level of community interest in the cuttlefish.

Legislative implications

- It is proposed that following your approval, the A/Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture as the delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development will implement cuttlefish management arrangements as follows:
 - Option 1 – No legal instruments required.
 - Option 2 – Notice issued under section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to commence on 15 February 2020 and consultation will commence on amendments to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017*.
 - Option 3 - Notice issued under section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to commence 15 February 2020 and consultation will commence on long-term management arrangements.

Attachments

- Giant Australian Cuttlefish Working Group 16 December 2019 draft meeting minutes.
- Current s 79 notice and map showing temporary cuttlefish closure area in northern Spencer Gulf.



for
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 Primary Industries and Regions SA
 11/2/2020

CONTACT	Gavin Begg
POSITION	A/Executive Director
DIVISION	Fisheries and Aquaculture
MOBILE and LANDLINE	0477 316 248
PREPARED BY	Belinda McGrath-Steer

Monday 16 December 2019, 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Level 14, 25 Grenfell Street, Adelaide

Giant Cuttlefish Working Group

Attendees: Gavin Begg (Chair), Keith Rowling (PIRSA) Simon Bryars (DEW), Lisien Loan (DEW), Andrew Solomon (EPA), Michael Steer (SARDI), Craig Wilkins (CCSA)

Apologies: Keith Baldry (EPA), Joanne Davidson (SATC), Graham Keegan (MRFAC), Bronwyn Gillanders (UofA), Peter Appleford (SARDI), Simon Clark (SGWCPFA), Nathan Bicknell (MSF), Philip Stratton (DPTI), Sam Gaylard (EPA), Jason Higham (DEW)

Guest James Brook (CCSA)

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed members and noted apologies.

2. Minutes and Actions

2.1 Minutes and actions

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 7 September 2018 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and all actions were completed.

Item	Actions from 7 September 2018	Responsibility	Target Date
1	Provide Shelley Paul with links to previous dive surveys	Mike Steer	Completed

2	Funding for future survey. Consider potential partnerships with other NGO's and collaborate with Experiencing Marine Science (EMS) towards a citizen science approach & run workshops.	Shelley Paul/Mike Steer	Completed
3	Provide a copy of the SARDI research report to CCSA which covered a range of potential risks to the cuttlefish population including nutrients from Aquaculture. To liaise with Mike Steer if any concerns.	Mike Steer	Completed
4	Communications Draft a media release on the SARDI advice for 2018	Cathy Parker	Completed
5	Communications Connect with the working group once the Minister has endorsed the approach.	Cathy Parker	Completed
6	Communications Provide key information from the Cuttlefish population surveys to EPA Communications for the annual EPA Road Show in Whyalla.	Cathy Parker	Completed
7	PIRSA to provide a briefing to the Minister on recommendation of a temporary closure for a further 12 months	Jon Presser	Completed
8	SARDI to publish a paper on the results of the survey in a suitable journal	Mike Steer	Not required, see minutes

3. Presentation

A presentation was given by Dr Mike Steer from SARDI on the 2019 Point Lowly Cuttlefish population estimate.

The 2019 spawning population of Giant Australian Cuttlefish is estimated to consist of 114,596 cuttlefish, with a collective biomass of 70.7 t.

The Giant Australian Cuttlefish spawning population at Point Lowly has remained relatively strong since 2015, with annual estimates consistently exceeding 110,000 cuttlefish. The population consists of a high proportion of small animals, with the estimated size of both males and females measuring below their respective long-term averages. This reduction in individual body size was reflected in the moderate biomass estimate of 70.7 t in 2019.

Greater emphasis is placed upon cuttlefish abundance (more accurately measured) rather than biomass as an indication of population strength. These last twelve consecutive survey years have illustrated the population's capacity to fluctuate over short time-scales, as emphasised by the rapid population increase from a record low of 13,492 individuals in 2013 to the most recent peak of 177,091 individuals in 2016. The contemporary estimates of cuttlefish abundance indicate that the population has sufficiently recovered from the historical low observed in 2013.

The Working Group discussed the relationship between temperature and individual body size and agreed there may be opportunities for a university intern, or student, to undertake a project to investigate any relationship.

The Working Group also discussed the need to publish a scientific paper on the results of the survey, and it was agreed that this would no longer be required, and would be left to SARDI to progress, as they determined. If a paper was developed it would be circulated to the Working Group for comment prior to being submitted for publication.

4. Future Management Arrangements

The Working Group noted that there is currently a permanent closure to the take of all cephalopods in False Bay that protects the spawning aggregation of cuttlefish, and a temporary closure in northern Spencer Gulf that prohibits the take of cuttlefish (*Sepia* spp.). This temporary closure was implemented as a result of the low abundance and biomass in 2013 and 2014 as a temporary management arrangement. PIRSA advised that, from a fisheries management perspective, this temporary management arrangement may no longer be required due to the recovery and maintenance of reasonable cuttlefish numbers in the aggregation, which meets the sustainability object in fisheries legislation.

The Chair sought comments from the Working Group members regarding their views on the need for the closure to be maintained.

Working Group members agreed that the permanent closure protected the spawning aggregation, but discussed a number of factors which some members believed should be considered in maintaining the temporary closure in northern Spencer Gulf. These included:

- Perceptions of the public and the need to balance the fishing and tourism needs.
- That any communication and messaging regarding the removal of the temporary closure is important, if it is decided to go that way.
- A number of members suggested community consultation may be required to meet some of the communication and perception needs above.
- Members noted the decline in abundance for 2019, but acknowledged the fact that cephalopod population numbers often vary on an annual basis due to the life history of the species.
- Due to the snapper closure there may be a shift in effort to other species (including cuttlefish) from commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery and charter fisheries; this should be recognised when making a decision on lifting the closure.
- If the closure is removed and yellowtail kingfish aquaculture commences at the same time then it may be difficult to interpret future changes in cuttlefish numbers and potential causes, e.g. if the

population declines again over the next 3 years it may be difficult to correlate it with the timing of the removal of the closure vs the re-commencement of finfish aquaculture.

- PIRSA advised that, for the commercial and charter sector the amount of catch and effort can be monitored on a monthly basis, due to the catch and effort returns they are required to provide.

The Chair summarised that PIRSA will be providing advice to the Minister re. the temporary management arrangements and the recovery of the stock, ongoing sustainability and the fact the spawning aggregation is protected by the False Bay closure; including the divergent views of the Working Group.

4. New Business

Nil

5. Other Business

The Working Group agreed a survey should be conducted in 2020 particularly if the temporary closure is removed. Further discussion will occur on how this survey will be funded.

The Working Group discussed contrasting information on correlations that have been undertaken to investigate the impact of kingfish aquaculture in Fitzgerald Bay with cuttlefish abundance. It was agreed the CCSA, SARDI and EPA would validate the dataset and information, then prepare an out of session paper for the Working Group to consider if required

There was a discussion of cumulative impacts and ecosystem condition decline linked to nutrient inputs and other factors. It was reiterated any rationale for change should include information on the considerations that were taken into account, consistent with the discussions regarding the future management arrangements.

5. Meeting concluded: 2:30pm

6. Next meeting:

The Chair informed the Working Group that the agreed approach of having a single meeting each year to consider survey results will continue. September 2020 will be when the Working Group meets next unless the need arises for an earlier meeting.

Action List

Item	Actions from 16 December 2019	Responsibility	Target Date
1	Validate the dataset and information used to explore the correlation between Giant Australian Cuttlefish abundance and Yellowtail Kingfish biomass from the adjacent aquaculture site.	CCSA, SARDI, EPA	ASAP
2	Minute to Minister regarding management arrangements post 14 February 2020	PIRSA	31 January 2020

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 2007: SECTION 79

TAKE NOTICE that it is hereby declared that it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the class of fishing activity specified in Schedule 1 during the period specified in Schedule 2.

SCHEDULE 1

The act of taking cuttlefish (*Sepia* species) in the waters of northern Spencer Gulf north of the line commencing at the Mean High Water Springs closest to 33°55'39.942" South 136°34'20.131" East (near Arno Bay) to the Mean High Water Springs closest to 33°55'39.942" South 137°37'14.527" East (Wallaroo Jetty).

SCHEDULE 2

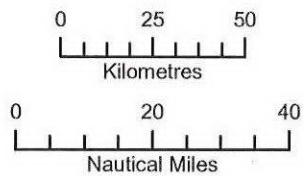
1201 hours on 15 February 2019 until 1200 hours on 14 February 2020.

Dated 30th October 2018

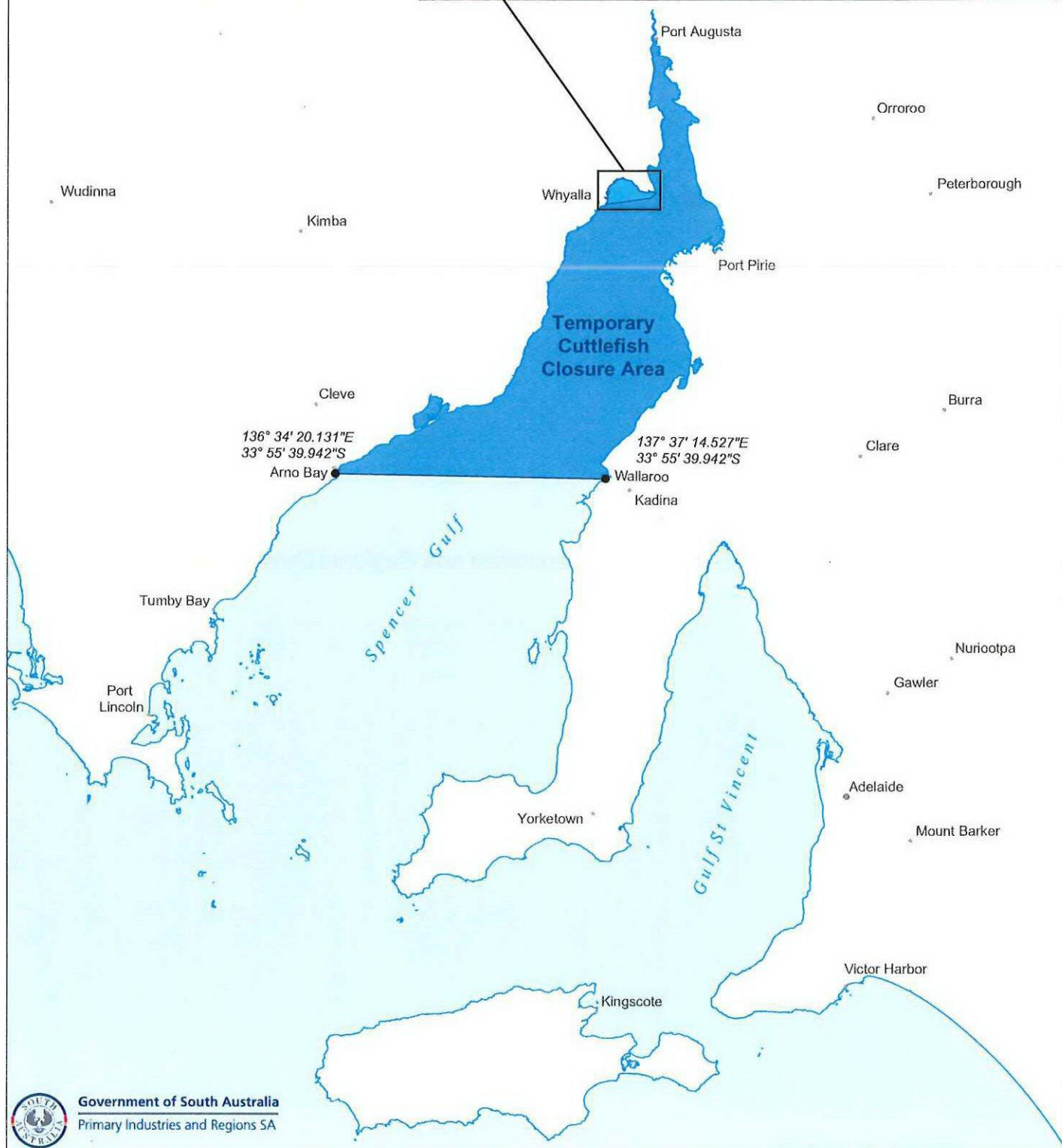
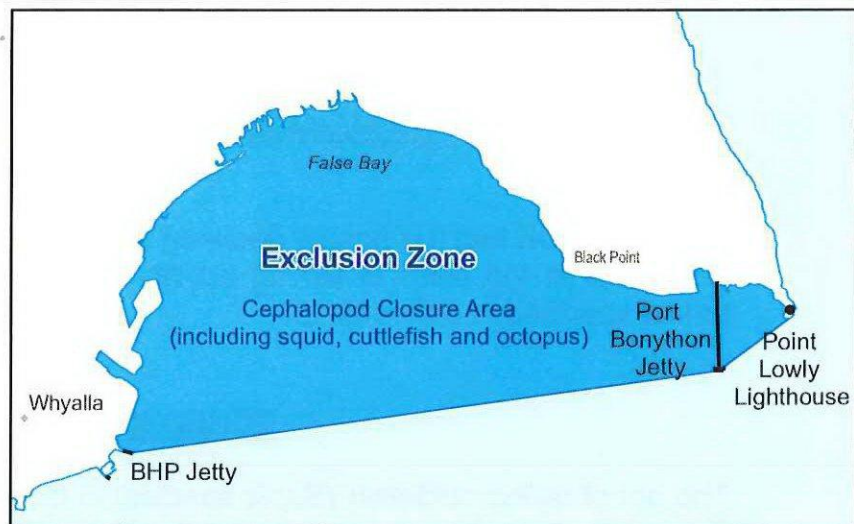


Sean Sloan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
Delegate to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

TEMPORARY TOTAL CLOSURE ON THE TARGETING AND TAKING OF CUTTLEFISH



Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia, 1994



Government of South Australia
Primary Industries and Regions SA

Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)

From: Stark, Lucy (PIRSA) on behalf of Begg, Gavin (PIRSA-SARDI)
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2020 1:27 PM
To: Solomon, Andrew (EPA); Bryars, Simon (DEW); Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI); Baldry, Keith (EPA); eo@marinefishersa.com.au; eo@prawnassociation.com.au; Davidson, Joanne (SATC); Gaylard, Sam (EPA); bronwyn.gillanders@adelaide.edu.au; Higham, Jason (DEW); graham@safa.org.au; Loan, Lisien (DEW); Presser, Jon (PIRSA); Stratton, Philip (DPTI); craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au; Appleford, Peter (PIRSA-SARDI); Barrett, Skye (PIRSA); Rowling, Keith (PIRSA); Shanks, Steve (PIRSA)
Cc: Begg, Gavin (PIRSA-SARDI)
Subject: RE: Giant Cuttlefish Working Group Minutes

Hi All

Consistent with Action 2 of the minutes of the 16 December meeting of the Giant Cuttlefish Working Group, PIRSA provided a briefing to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development consistent with the discussions at the meeting. On the weekend the Minister made a decision to lift the temporary closure to the take of Cuttlefish in the northern Spencer Gulf.

This spatial closure was initially considered necessary to protect Cuttlefish following a research project funded by the FRDC and conducted by SARDI which reported a significant decline in the abundance and biomass of the Cuttlefish in the Point Lowly area.

The more recent estimates of Cuttlefish abundance indicate that the population has sufficiently recovered from the historical low level observed in 2013. The annual spatial closure in northern Spencer Gulf for Cuttlefish was originally implemented as a temporary measure and is now considered no longer required.

Please note that the permanent closure to the take of all cephalopods (including Cuttlefish, Squid and Octopus) within False Bay and near Point Lowly still remains in place. Further information about this closure can be found on PIRSA's website at:

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/closures_and_aquatic_reserves/fishing_closures

SARDI will continue to monitor the Cuttlefish population in False Bay and the Working Group will meet to consider these results and any other matters later in 2020. Thanks again for your input into this process.

Regards
 Gavin

Prof Gavin Begg | A/Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture
 Primary Industries and Regions SA - PIRSA | Government of South Australia
 P: +61 (08) 8429 0960 | W: www.pir.sa.gov.au/research



Disclaimer: The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.

From: Stark, Lucy (PIRSA) <Lucy.Stark@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 4 February 2020 10:17 AM

To: Solomon, Andrew (EPA) <Andrew.Solomon@sa.gov.au>; Bryars, Simon (DEW) <Simon.Bryars@sa.gov.au>; Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>; Baldry, Keith (EPA) <Keith.Baldry@sa.gov.au>; eo@marinefisherssa.com.au; eo@prawnassociation.com.au; Davidson, Joanne (SATC) <Joanne.Davidson@sa.gov.au>; Gaylard, Sam (EPA) <Sam.Gaylard@sa.gov.au>; bronwyn.gillanders@adelaide.edu.au; Higham, Jason (DEW) <Jason.Higham@sa.gov.au>; graham@safa.org.au; Loan, Lisien (DEW) <Lisien.Loan@sa.gov.au>; Presser, Jon (PIRSA) <Jon.Presser@sa.gov.au>; Stratton, Philip (DPTI) <Philip.Stratton@sa.gov.au>; craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au; Appleford, Peter (PIRSA-SARDI) <Peter.Appleford@sa.gov.au>; Barrett, Skye (PIRSA) <Skye.Barrett@sa.gov.au>; Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>; Shanks, Steve (PIRSA) <Steve.Shanks@sa.gov.au>

Cc: Begg, Gavin (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>

Subject: Giant Cuttlefish Working Group Minutes

Hi All

Thank you for your comments. Please find attached updated minutes from the 16 December meeting of the Giant Cuttlefish Working Group.

Consistent with the second action item, PIRSA are currently preparing a briefing to the Minister regarding management arrangements.

Kind regards

Lucy

Lucy Stark | Executive Officer to Executive Director & Director Operations

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Primary Industries and Regions SA - PIRSA

Government of South Australia | Level 14, 25 Grenfell St Adelaide, SA, 5000

GPO Box 1625 Adelaide SA 5001 | DX 210

P: (08) 8429 2893 | F: 8226 0434 | W: www.pir.sa.gov.au



Service | Professionalism | Trust | Respect | Collaboration & Engagement | Honesty & Integrity | Courage & Tenacity | Sustainability

Disclaimer: The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.

From: Solomon, Andrew (EPA) <Andrew.Solomon@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 15 January 2020 8:54 AM

To: Bryars, Simon (DEW) <Simon.Bryars@sa.gov.au>; Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>; Stark, Lucy (PIRSA) <Lucy.Stark@sa.gov.au>; Baldry, Keith (EPA) <Keith.Baldry@sa.gov.au>;

eo@marinefishersa.com.au; eo@prawnassociation.com.au; Davidson, Joanne (SATC) <Joanne.Davidson@sa.gov.au>; Gaylard, Sam (EPA) <Sam.Gaylard@sa.gov.au>; bronwyn.gillanders@adelaide.edu.au; Higham, Jason (DEW) <Jason.Higham@sa.gov.au>; graham@safa.org.au; Loan, Lisien (DEW) <Lisien.Loan@sa.gov.au>; Presser, Jon (PIRSA) <Jon.Presser@sa.gov.au>; Stratton, Philip (DPTI) <Philip.Stratton@sa.gov.au>; craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au; Appleford, Peter (PIRSA-SARDI) <Peter.Appleford@sa.gov.au>; Barrett, Skye (PIRSA) <Skye.Barrett@sa.gov.au>; Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>; Shanks, Steve (PIRSA) <Steve.Shanks@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Begg, Gavin (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Giant Cuttlefish Working Group Minutes [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For Official Use Only

Comments are supported

Regards,

Andrew Solomon, Manager (Environmental Science), 0407636883, Environment Protection Authority, SA

From: Bryars, Simon (DEW)
Sent: Friday, 20 December, 2019 10:55 AM
To: Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) ; Stark, Lucy (PIRSA) ; Baldry, Keith (EPA) ; eo@marinefishersa.com.au; eo@prawnassociation.com.au; Davidson, Joanne (SATC) ; Gaylard, Sam (EPA) ; bronwyn.gillanders@adelaide.edu.au; Higham, Jason (DEW) ; graham@safa.org.au; Loan, Lisien (DEW) ; Presser, Jon (PIRSA) ; Solomon, Andrew (EPA) ; Stratton, Philip (DPTI) ; craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au; Appleford, Peter (PIRSA-SARDI) ; Barrett, Skye (PIRSA) ; Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) ; Shanks, Steve (PIRSA)
Cc: Begg, Gavin (PIRSA-SARDI)
Subject: RE: Giant Cuttlefish Working Group Minutes [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For Official Use Only

Hi Lucy

I have added my comments to the version edited by Mike.

Cheers

Simon

From: Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 20 December, 2019 8:30 AM
To: Stark, Lucy (PIRSA) <Lucy.Stark@sa.gov.au>; Baldry, Keith (EPA) <Keith.Baldry@sa.gov.au>; eo@marinefishersa.com.au; Bryars, Simon (DEW) <Simon.Bryars@sa.gov.au>; eo@prawnassociation.com.au; Davidson, Joanne (SATC) <Joanne.Davidson@sa.gov.au>; Gaylard, Sam (EPA) <Sam.Gaylard@sa.gov.au>; bronwyn.gillanders@adelaide.edu.au; Higham, Jason (DEW) <Jason.Higham@sa.gov.au>; graham@safa.org.au; Loan, Lisien (DEW) <Lisien.Loan@sa.gov.au>; Presser, Jon (PIRSA) <Jon.Presser@sa.gov.au>; Solomon, Andrew (EPA) <Andrew.Solomon@sa.gov.au>; Stratton, Philip (DPTI) <Philip.Stratton@sa.gov.au>; craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au; Appleford, Peter (PIRSA-SARDI) <Peter.Appleford@sa.gov.au>; Barrett, Skye (PIRSA) <Skye.Barrett@sa.gov.au>; Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>; Shanks, Steve (PIRSA) <Steve.Shanks@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Begg, Gavin (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Giant Cuttlefish Working Group Minutes

Thanks Lucy,

Minor edits attached.

Mike

From: Stark, Lucy (PIRSA) <Lucy.Stark@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 19 December 2019 5:06 PM

To: Baldry, Keith (EPA) <Keith.Baldry@sa.gov.au>; eo@marinefishersa.com.au; Bryars, Simon (DEW) <Simon.Bryars@sa.gov.au>; eo@prawnassociation.com.au; Davidson, Joanne (SATC) <Joanne.Davidson@sa.gov.au>; Gaylard, Sam (EPA) <Sam.Gaylard@sa.gov.au>; bronwyn.gillanders@adelaide.edu.au; Higham, Jason (DEW) <Jason.Higham@sa.gov.au>; graham@safa.org.au; Loan, Lisien (DEW) <Lisien.Loan@sa.gov.au>; Presser, Jon (PIRSA) <Jon.Presser@sa.gov.au>; Solomon, Andrew (EPA) <Andrew.Solomon@sa.gov.au>; Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>; Stratton, Philip (DPTI) <Philip.Stratton@sa.gov.au>; craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au; Appleford, Peter (PIRSA-SARDI) <Peter.Appleford@sa.gov.au>; Barrett, Skye (PIRSA) <Skye.Barrett@sa.gov.au>; Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>; Shanks, Steve (PIRSA) <Steve.Shanks@sa.gov.au>

Cc: Begg, Gavin (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>

Subject: Giant Cuttlefish Working Group Minutes

Good Afternoon

Please find attached the draft minutes from the Giant Cuttlefish Working Group held on Monday 16 December 2019.

If you have any comments or amendments, please provide these to me by COB 10 January 2020.

Kind regards

Lucy

Lucy Stark | Executive Officer to Executive Director & Director Operations
Fisheries and Aquaculture
Primary Industries and Regions SA - PIRSA
Government of South Australia | Level 14, 25 Grenfell St Adelaide, SA, 5000
GPO Box 1625 Adelaide SA 5001 | DX 210
P: (08) 8429 2893 | F: 8226 0434 | W: www.pir.sa.gov.au



Service | Professionalism | Trust | Respect | Collaboration & Engagement | Honesty & Integrity | Courage & Tenacity | Sustainability

Disclaimer: The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.