



Government  
of South Australia

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Date: 27 MAY 2008

Mr Philip Hall  
President  
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C/- Conservation Council of SA  
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Dear Mr Hall

Thank you for your letter dated 27 February 2008 concerning Western blue groper and Harlequin fish and the Marine Life Society of South Australia's call for full protection of the species in South Australian waters.

My previous advice to you was based on the small number of retained Blue groper (63) relative to the number of all fish retained (5,240) during offshore charter fishing in west coast waters over a 21 month period (September 2005 – July 2007).

As mentioned in my previous correspondence, I shall be including Western blue groper and Harlequin fish in the review of recreational fishing regulations. The review will utilise all scientific information available for both these species, including the most recent information on catch and effort available for both the general recreational and recreational charter boat fisheries. Thank you for drawing my attention to the recent published research paper on Western blue groper in southern Australian waters. This publication will also assist in the review.

You would also be aware of the development of 19 Marine Parks in South Australian waters. It is likely that some of these parks will be situated in west coast waters and they may also contribute to the future protection of key habitat for these two species.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rory McEwen", written over a white background.

**Hon Rory McEwen MP**  
**MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES**  
**MINISTER FOR FORESTS**