



Government  
of South Australia

Minister for  
Agriculture, Food  
and Fisheries  
Minister for Forests

Level 17  
Grenfell Centre  
25 Grenfell Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

PO Box 668  
Adelaide SA 5001  
DX 192

Tel 08 8226 0322  
Fax 08 8226 0316

Email  
Minister.McEwen@state.sa.gov.au

eA50771

Date: 24 JAN 2008

Mr Philip Hall  
President  
Marine Life Society of South Australia Inc  
120 Wakefield Street  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Mr Hall

Thank you for your recent letter concerning your Society's concern at the current level of protection for Blue Groper and Harlequin Fish. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I note your suggested actions for future management of both species.

With the recent implementation of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* there is now an opportunity to review the regulations associated with the capture and retention of a number of key recreational species, including Western Blue Groper and Harlequin Fish.

A recent report from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Aquatic Sciences on the catches taken by recreational charter boat operators between September 2005 and June 2007 shows that only 63 Western Blue Groper were caught and retained. This indicates that this species is not being targeted by this sector.

As advised in my letter of 13 June 2007 a review of recreational management arrangements was scheduled to commence after the new Act had been implemented. This review will commence in the first half of 2008. I have forwarded your recommendations to the Director of Fisheries for consideration in this review.

Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rory McEwen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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