

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2004/43

Permit requirements to import or export Toothfish

The import and export of fish, or parts of fish, of the species *dissostichus eleginoides,* commonly known as Patagonian toothfish or Chilean Sea Bass, and fish of the species *dissostichus mawsoni*, commonly known as Antarctic toothfish (collectively known as toothfish), are prohibited without permission, in writing, under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (regulation 4BA, Schedule 3A) and the *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958* (regulation 6, Schedule 4) (the regulations). The prohibition commenced in August 2000 (see Statutory Rules Nos 211 and 214 of 2000).

The regulations prohibit the import or export of toothfish and parts of toothfish whether fresh, chilled, frozen, filleted, smoked, preserved in containers, or in any other form unless a permission in writing has been obtained from the Minister administering the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* or an authorised officer from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA). The Minister administering the Fisheries Management Act is the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation.

A permission is required to import or export any toothfish, this includes the export of toothfish that were caught in the Australian fishing zone that have not been landed in Australia.

The toothfish is a threatened species, legally and illegally fished off the southern edge of Australia’s continental shelf. Toothfish are found in the sub-Antarctic waters, including the waters around the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands.

The PI and PE Regulations were introduced as part of Australia’s commitment to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). The harvesting of toothfish is subject to a wide range of international restrictions placed on landings, transhipments, imports and exports.

The importation of other species of fish may also be subject to permit requirements, under either Regulation 4B of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* or under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.* More information on these controls is available on the internet at [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au/) or by contacting Customs Information on telephone number 1300 363 263 or via email to [information@customs.gov.au](mailto:information@customs.gov.au).

Enquiries concerning this notice may be directed to Community Protection on telephone number

(02) 6275 6114 or via email to [community.protection@customs.gov.au](mailto:community.protection@customs.gov.au).

Further information on the permit requirements for toothfish can be obtained from AFMA on telephone (02) 6272 5029. To apply for a permit to import or export toothfish, please contact the Australian Fisheries Management Authority at PO Box 7051 Canberra Business Centre Canberra ACT 2601, fax: (02) 6272 5175.

Phil Burns National Director Cargo and Trade CANBERRA ACT

November 2004

