

# Kenepuru & Central Sounds



Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

The Chief Executive Officer  
Inshore Fisheries Management  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
Wellington 6011  
Email: FMsubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

*Ross Withell  
(President)  
Kenepuru Road  
RD 2  
Picton 7282*

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association Submission on Review of Sustainability Measures for Southern Scallops (SCA 7) Discussion Paper 2014.07**

I write in my capacity as President of the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association Inc.

### **Introduction**

1. The Association was established in 1991 and currently has over 260 household members whose residents live full time or part time in the Kenepuru and Pelorus Sounds. The Association's objects include, among others, to coordinate dealings with central and local government and promote the interests of residents of Kenepuru Sound and adjacent areas and to promote and act in the best interests of residents, ratepayers and persons associated with the Kenepuru and Central Sounds area. AGM's of the Association are well attended. The Association receives no government funding.

---

#### **Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.**

President	Ross Withell
Vice President	Adrian Harvey
Vice President	Andrew Caddie
Secretary	Maggie Girling
Treasurer	Stefan Schulz
Chairman Roding Committee	Robin Bowron

withell@clear.net.nz  
mountstokes@xtra.co.nz  
andrew.caddie@xtra.co.nz  
maggie@clovabay.net.nz  
kcsra@pws.co.nz  
info@thenikaus.co.nz

2. The recreational opportunities afforded by the Marlborough Sounds are much appreciated by our members. Like Maori, our members view the opportunity for the recreational fishing of scallops as extremely important. Accordingly, we have canvassed our members using our electronic newsletter facility, reviewed that feedback and tasked Committee members with reviewing the Ministry's Discussion Paper.

### **MPI Discussion Paper**

3. It is fair to say that your Discussion Paper is a most dispiriting read, recording as it does yet another instance of the seemingly poor management and consequential collapse and closure of the scallop fisheries in the Tasman Bay and Golden Bay areas. The Association finds it distressing that notwithstanding the known collapse of the scallop fishery in these areas, this is the first review since 2002 (almost exactly the time of the start of the current collapse). It defies logic that for a decade there has been a total allowable commercial catch (TACC) of over 800 tonnes per annum when the actual commercial take appears to have been in the region of 40 tonnes per annum over that period.
4. We are slightly encouraged by the Paper's confirmation that having identified changes in benthic habitat in Tasman and Golden Bay as a potential causal factor, there appears to be some ongoing investigation as to why this is so (see paragraph 31 of the Paper). The question we ask of the Ministry is just exactly what are the terms of reference of these investigations, do they cover reasons as to why the benthic habitat is degrading and when will the reports be available? The Association regards this as an Official Information Act request.
5. Against this depressing background, the Association's prime focus is the preservation of the recreational and customary take in the Marlborough Sounds area of SCA 7.

### **Association's Recommendations**

6. Accordingly, we find it a "no brainer" to make it clear that the Association rejects Option 1 (the status quo) and supports Option 2,

which quite correctly maintains recreational and customary take at a maximum of 40 tonnes and still gives the commercial operators a generous 46 tonnes TACC resulting in a TAC (including a mortality allowance) of 130 tonnes.

7. At paragraph 45 of the Discussion Paper you note that industry levies are around \$200,000 and while that is not commensurate with the value of recent landings, the industry representative has stated that they are agreeable to continue to pay levies at this level. Accordingly, we do not understand why at paragraph 55, the Ministry appears to recommend that the levy be decreased to around \$15,000. The Association **recommends** that there be no change to the quantum of the levy.
8. We also **recommend** that for the commercial fishers the maximum dredge size and number, number of days fished and the length of the commercial season be reduced.

#### **Availability for Discussion**

9. If in the course of compiling the Ministry's final advice paper, the Ministry would like to talk to the Association, we would be pleased to arrange a mutually convenient time and place.

Yours faithfully



Ross Withell

President

Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association

c/- 2725 Kenepuru Road

RD 2, Picton 7282

Email: [withell@clear.net.nz](mailto:withell@clear.net.nz)

Cc Minister of Fisheries, Parliament Buildings, Wellington