



Office of Hon Nathan Guy

MP for Otaki

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Racing

Associate Minister for Economic Development

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23 MAR 2017

Andrew Caddie
Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association
Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association
Pelorus Boating Club
andrew.caddie@xtra.co.nz

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 February 2017 and your suggestions for managing the Marlborough Sounds part of the Southern Scallop fishery.

I am advised by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) that the latest survey results show scallop biomass across the whole fishery has continued to decline, despite last season's closure to parts of the fishery. However, in Marlborough Sounds there does appear to be some stabilisation of the population, which I agree is encouraging for this area.

I will shortly receive advice from MPI on a strategy for the fishery for this coming season. I will be looking to ensure that measures are in place for the coming season that protect the fragile recovery in the Marlborough Sounds, and increase the likelihood that the other parts of the fishery begin to recover.

I note that the suggestions in your letter primarily relate to the management structure and decision-making process for the Marlborough Sounds part of the fishery. However, I am required to ensure the sustainability of the Southern Scallop fishery as a whole, including those parts of the fishery that have traditionally contained the majority of fishery biomass, but are now at very low levels.

I, and MPI, wish to ensure that the management regime for the entire fishery is transparent, engages all users as effectively as possible, and is efficient in meeting fishery objectives. MPI has, therefore, initiated a review of the decision-making process for the fishery as a whole. The review has a particular focus on the Challenger Scallop Enhancement Company Enhancement Plan and associated memorandum of understanding. MPI is discussing the scope and timing of this review with the company, and will also engage with you in terms of the review over the next few months.

Until this review is completed, I am not prepared to convene a mandated working group that focuses just on the Marlborough Sounds. However, I encourage you in the interim, to work with the other parties noted in your letter to implement a more collaborative approach to managing the scallops in the Marlborough Sounds part of the fishery.

Over the next month, MPI will also be bringing together scientists from various disciplines with expertise in the fishery and marine environment to develop a unified research plan for the fishery. There are a number of research projects underway that potentially provide useful information on the factors driving the decline of the fishery. The plan will ensure these are coordinated, and that opportunities for targeted research to support recovery of the fishery are identified.

It will be important that groups such as those you represent have input into this plan, and I am advised that MPI intends to approach you shortly to discuss with you how this will occur.

Once again, I thank you for your commitment and thoughtful contributions toward restoring this important fishery.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nathan Guy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hon Nathan Guy
Minister for Primary Industries