

9 November 2018

Hon S. Nash  
Minister for Fisheries  
Executive Wing  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

## **Marlborough Sounds Scallops – Southern Scallop Working Group**

Dear Minister

I am writing this on behalf of an alliance of Marlborough Sounds community groups – Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association, Pelorus Boating Club and the Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association - who are participating in the Southern Scallop Working Group (**SSWG**).

Following our meeting with you on 23 March 2018 at Nelson we last corresponded with you on 19 April 2018 so thought a quick update in order.

### **Update**

The SSWG has had three meetings and what follows are a few brief highlights /comments for your information. But firstly we would like to **reiterate our appreciation** of your support in trying to preserve and rebuild the Sounds scallop resource.

SSWG highlights include;

- Agreement from Top of the South iwi to nominate a representative to attend SSWG meetings.
- Agreement from the group that two representatives from the national iwi body – TOKM – to support the local iwi representative.
- Finalisation of the Terms of Reference for the SSWG (Copy **attached** for ease of reference).
- Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) putting in place a small technical group of experienced FNZ and NIWA staff to assist the SSWG and attend meetings.
- Agreement that the technical advisers to the group address the historic lack of “soft” and “hard” biomass limits for SCA7.
- Some indicative initial suggestions from the technical advisers as to what hard and soft biomass limits might look like for the Sounds resource.

- FNZ resourcing the SSWG with appropriate secretarial support thereby freeing up the FNZ Manager tasked with chairing the group as well as ensuring the more timely circulation of meeting minutes, papers etc.

### **Next Steps/Direction**

The group is at an interesting point.

We are clear that we need to focus on how to both refine **and use** the technical work around hard and soft limits and identify a management target biomass band above the soft limit.

The technical advisers are, as always, quite wary of becoming too close to the management of the resource as opposed to science. They seem more comfortable to pursue other areas of more technical interest. We have identified the need to get a better grasp of how these other areas of technical interest will further better management and prioritise accordingly. We are also actively pursuing ways to “sweat” the technical data we have ahead of yet further biomass surveys.

Industry is seemingly more interested in focussing on better understanding **the risks** of possible management decisions/options. We see that as a potentially useful exercise **after** we have a better quantitative grasp of the likes of hard and soft limits.

### **Conclusion**

We see the next two meetings as crucial in terms of integrating research and management plans and developing what an opening regime might look like if the Sounds resource is to continue to recover and rebuild.

Once again many thanks for your vision in supporting a SSWG tasked with developing recommendations for the rebuild and sustainable management of the Marlborough Sounds Scallop fishery.

Andrew Caddie

President KCSRA

For and on behalf of Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents’ Assoc., Pelorus Boating Club Inc., and Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association.

Email [andrew.caddie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:andrew.caddie@xtra.co.nz)