



## Office of Hon Nathan Guy

**MP for Otaki**

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Racing

Min15-0132

25 SEP 2015

Andrew Caddie  
C/- The Commodore  
Pelorus Boating Club Inc  
12A The Cliffs  
**NELSON 7010**

Dear Andrew Caddie

Following my reply of 28 August to your correspondence of 29 July regarding the proposed 2015-16 scallop harvest plan for the Marlborough Sounds, I would like to provide you with an update.

Let me reassure you that I want to be informed by the best available science, and ensure a rebuild of the fishery. I rejected the initial harvest plan put forward by the Challenger Scallop Enhancement Company Ltd. The harvest levels initially proposed were not consistent with the recommendations of MPI and the Shellfish Working Group, and I requested that the Company submit a revised plan.

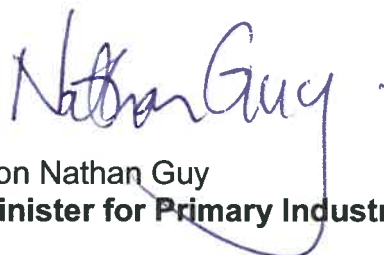
The revised plan, which I have now accepted, includes a catch limit of 15 tonnes in Area H (Tasman Bay) and an overall catch limit of 25 tonnes within the Marlborough Sounds. Sub-area catch limits within the Marlborough Sounds will be closely monitored and MPI will be undertaking a mid-season survey in early October to assess whether any catch limits need to be adjusted. I have also made it clear that I expect the Company to make in-season harvest adjustments as required, based on changes in observed biomass, to ensure overfishing of any sub-areas does not occur.

I share the concerns of all fishers in SCA 7 regarding the rebuild of this fishery. As such, MPI will be, following its mid-season survey, conducting a full survey of the SCA 7 fishery. This will be the first survey of its kind that will look at the whole fishery, including those areas primarily used by recreational fishers, to determine total biomass.

This survey will give us all an accurate understanding of biomass and what actions, if any, are required to rebuild this important shared fishery for the future. It is my intention to ensure all stakeholders are fully informed of the outcome of the in-depth survey and MPI will engage with sector representatives to seek their views on the survey design and outcome once known.

As is now standard practice for our valued shared fisheries, community input along with input from the sector groups is critical in reaching robust outcomes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nathan Guy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the word "Guy".

Hon Nathan Guy  
**Minister for Primary Industries**