

12 December 2017

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

Marlborough Sounds Scallops

Dear Minister

I refer to my letter to you dated 30 October 2017 written on behalf of an alliance of Marlborough Sounds Community groups - the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association (KCSRA), the Pelorus Boat Club (PBC) and the Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association (MRFA). A copy is **attached** for ease of reference.

We received confirmation of receipt of the same from your office and advice that due to your heavy work load in coming up to speed in a number of complex portfolio areas you hoped to meet with us in the New Year.

In the interim we have not stood idle.

We have endeavoured to progress a more rational governance structure with your officials to replace the not fit for purpose current governance arrangements. Our objective is for a shared Sounds scallop fishery managed in a sustainable manner due to meaningful input from non-commercial stakeholders in the development of sound operational strategy.

Latest unfortunate developments

Regretfully our discussions with your officials have generated real concern at the apparent unwillingness to focus on progressing these governance issues with industry. We can appreciate the deep-seated resistance from industry makes such discussions difficult but against a background of a failed fishery, this renders them, we respectfully suggest, urgent and necessary.

At a more fine-grained operational level these discussions have also generated real concern amongst representatives of our alliance.

By way of example, your officials appear to support the use of toothed dredges in the upcoming biomass survey of the Sounds fishery. We appreciate this may genuinely be thought to be only in the interests of science but we are concerned at the seemingly lack of assessment of the environmental pros and cons.

Then there is the generation of unfortunate negative public perceptions from using this more invasive dredge design.

Meeting

Accordingly Minister, we are keen to take up your office's indication of your willingness to meet with us in the New Year.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Caddie', followed by a period.

Andrew Caddie
Vice President KCSRA
For and on behalf of KCSRA, PBC and MRFA.

Email andrew.caddie@xtra.co.nz

Copy for Info.

30 October 2017

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

Email:

Marlborough Sounds Scallops – New Governance Structure required

Dear Minister

I am writing this on behalf of an alliance of Marlborough Sounds Community groups that have fought hard and long over the last few years to save the sole remaining scallop fishery in the top of the South Island from a commercial sector seemingly hell-bent on running it into the ground.

These organisations are the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association (KCSRA), the Pelorus Boat Club (PBC) and the Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association (MRFA).

However, before I set out our request, firstly we would like to congratulate your party for having won the right to form a coalition government and secondly, to congratulate you personally for agreeing to take on this Ministerial portfolio.

What we are asking for

In a nutshell, our alliance is pressing for an equal say for non-commercial interests in the governance of the Sounds Scallop fishery. This would require the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Crown and the industry representative body (the Challenger Scallop Enhancement Company – CSEC) to be restructured before the current moratorium on **all** scallop fishing in the top of the South Island runs out.

Background

By way of background we note that relatively recently there was a plentiful and robust scallop resource in the top of the South Island (SCA7). This was contained in three separate fisheries: Tasman Bay, Golden Bay and the Marlborough Sounds.

The previous two main scallop fisheries have not sustained a commercial fishing season for many years (Tasman Bay since 2006 and Golden Bay from 2010). We

believe that this is primarily due to poor governance of the commercial take. The science supports this view.

Our alliance was appalled to realise that there was a real danger of this happening for the remaining viable SCA7 fishery (the Sounds) as the commercial sector was prepared to ignore the independent surveys showing a rapidly declining biomass. As a first step we fought for and achieved the closure of the SCA7 area to **all** scallop fishing effort for the last two seasons. It is too early to say if we have been successful but arguably we may have stopped the plunge to zero.

Required Next Steps

In order to preserve these gains for future generations we need to achieve a restructuring of the governance arrangements whereby non-commercial interests, such as the alliance and iwi, have an equal say in making recommendations as to management process and procedures to you - the responsible Minister.

Sadly this aspect seems to have gone off the radar of the Ministry for Primary Industries. We respectfully urge you to discuss the matter with your officials with a view to getting this work stream back on track.

Meeting

A representative of our alliance will be in Wellington on the 22nd and 23rd of November and would be happy to discuss this matter with you in more detail. Otherwise perhaps the next time you are in Blenheim or Nelson?

We look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely



Andrew Caddie
Vice President KCSRA
For and on behalf of KCSRA, PBC and MRFA.

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