



## Office of Hon Nathan Guy

MP for Otaki

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Racing

Associate Minister for Economic Development

AM17-0083

Dear Stakeholder

### **Decision on the Operational Plan to Manage the Incidental Capture of New Zealand Sea Lions in the Southern Squid Trawl Fishery (SQU6T) 2016-17**

This letter sets out the management measures that will apply to the southern squid trawl fishery (SQU6T) for 2016/17. These measures will be implemented in accordance with section 15(2) of the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act) and will be implemented through the SQU6T Operational Plan.

I have considered the views of stakeholders and advice presented to me by MPI and, following consultation with the Minister of Conservation, I have decided to retain the settings used to manage the interactions of the SQU6T fishery with New Zealand sea lions from 2012-2016 for one more year. Management settings include:

- A limit on the number of sea lion deaths attributable to vessels operating in the SQU6T fishery. The fishing-related mortality limit (FRML) is 68;
- The strike rate is 5.89;
- The Sea Lion Exclusion Device (SLED) discount rate for vessels operating in the SQU6T fishery is 82%;
- Procedures to monitor the incidental capture of sea lions against the FRML;
- Reporting requirements for vessel operators in the SQU6T fishery; and
- A process to close the fishery if the FRML is reached.

In making my decision, I have considered my obligations under the Act, particularly the requirement to take such measures as I consider necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate fishing-related mortality of protected species (section 15), the environmental and information principles (sections 9 and 10) and the purpose of the Act (section 8).

I would like to thank everyone who participated and I encourage your continued engagement in the review and update of management measures in 2017.

Copies of the Operational Plan and the Advice Paper provided to me are available on the Ministry for Primary Industries website at [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely

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

Hon Nathan Guy  
**Minister for Primary Industries**