



20 February 2014

Tena koe

Review of Southern Scallop Sustainability Measures

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is extending the consultation timeframe for its review of Southern Scallop Sustainability Measures, from 21 February to 3 March 2014.

This extended timeframe is to ensure adequate consideration and consultation occurs on intermediate and alternative TAC options associated with its discussion paper of 24 January (refer www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/consultations)

In the consultation document, MPI noted that the options presented are not exhaustive, invited feedback on any intermediate options, and acknowledged potential for alternative strategies. Based on initial reactions, MPI is concerned that this paper may not have been sufficiently clear on the strength of MPI's willingness to consider options between the status quo TAC of 827t (Option 1) and a reduced TAC of 130t (Option 2).

To encourage tangata whenua and stakeholder information and views across the full range of potential options, and to promote effective consultation, MPI invites submissions on the following third, intermediate, option:

Proposed Total Allowable Catch (TAC), Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) and allowance options for SCA 7 (meat weight)

Option	Allowances				Other sources of fishing-related mortality (t)
	TAC (t)	TACC (t)	Māori Customary (t)	Recreational (t)	
Option 1 (<i>Status Quo</i>)	827	747	40	40	0
Option 2	130	46	40	40	4
Option 3 (New)	500	416	40	40	4

Option 3 places greater weight on the economic consequences of reducing the TAC than Option 2. It recognises that a more modest reduction to the TAC may better meet the purpose of the Fisheries Act 1996, as it begins to move the TAC for the fishery downwards to recent catch levels, having regard to socio-economic factors. We seek the views of submitters on the significance of this impact.

This option provides some headroom in the TAC to allow for future enhancement and /or rotational fishing operations in Tasman/Golden Bay. We seek stakeholder views on future plans for the Tasman/Golden Bay component of the fishery.

As a consequence of this headroom, this option relies to a greater extent on the governance arrangements (including the supporting memorandum of understanding) within the fishery, such as the consultation process run by the Challenger Scallop Enhancement Company, to manage risks such as localised depletion and impacts on other sectors from commercial fishing in the Marlborough Sounds.

MPI seeks the views of stakeholders on the ability of governance arrangements to adequately manage such risks, and the willingness of participants to engage. Details on these arrangements are outlined in the MPI IPP at paragraphs 32-34 in particular.

Overall, subject to the views of submitters, MPI considers that Option 3 provides a balance between the need to ensure long term sustainable management of the scallop fishery and the economic impacts of reducing the TAC. It best reflects the ability of the existing management arrangements to manage risks associated with the fishery.

Under all options MPI will, as described in its discussion paper, be inviting commercial, tangata whenua and recreational representatives to work closely on future management options for the fishery.

MPI will continue to monitor the performance of the fishery during 2014. This monitoring information and progress on the above initiatives will determine the future approach to management.

Making a submission

Please ensure that MPI receives your submission on these proposals no later than **5pm, on Monday 3 March 2014.**

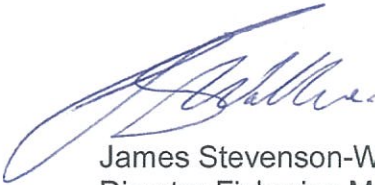
Written submissions should be sent to:

Email: FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Post: Shellfish Submissions
Fisheries Management – Inshore Fisheries
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140

If you have difficulties accessing the documents please phone 04 894 0076 or email FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Naku noa, na

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Stevenson-Wallace', with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

James Stevenson-Wallace
Director Fisheries Management
Resource Management and Programmes