



11 June 2018

Dear Stakeholder

Further closure to the Southern Scallop Fishery 2018/19

Fisheries New Zealand is seeking feedback and submissions on whether a further temporary closure of the Southern Scallop fishery (SCA 7) is required.

Fisheries New Zealand also seeks feedback and submissions on whether the small Port Underwood recreational fishery, which is immediately adjacent to (but not part of) SCA 7, should also continue to be closed to protect it from displaced harvest pressure.

Scientific surveys have shown a significant decline in scallop abundance over the past 10 years. Scallop biomass in Golden and Tasman Bays collapsed in the 2000s and has remained at negligible levels since then. Biomass in the Marlborough Sounds followed a declining trend from 2009 to 2015. As a result SCA 7 has been closed to commercial and recreational scallop fishing for the past two seasons (2016 and 2017).

A survey in January 2017 suggested biomass in the Marlborough Sounds had stabilised, and a new survey in January 2018 indicated an increasing trend in biomass in some scallop beds in the outer Marlborough Sounds. However, the overall biomass of scallops remains low and the difference is not statistically significant from previous surveys. High densities of scallops remain confined to relatively few beds in the outer Marlborough Sounds. Overall, the SCA 7 stock is still likely to be below the hard limit, the biological reference point at which it is Fisheries New Zealand policy that a closure should be considered.

The Discussion Document outlining the proposals in full can be found at:
<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/scallopclosure>

Alternatively, hardcopies of the Discussion Documents may be requested at the email or post addresses provided below.

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Should you wish to discuss your submission or have questions about the Discussion Document or the fishery, or want a copy of the survey document, please contact Tony Brett on (03) 466 3688.

Making a submission

All submissions should be received by **5pm, Monday 25 June 2018**.

Written submissions should be sent directly to:

Email

FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Post

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Yours sincerely

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Fisheries New Zealand