



Office of Hon Phil Heatley

MP for Whangarei

Minister of Fisheries

Minister of Housing

H0518

Dear Stakeholder

INTRODUCTION OF BLADDER KELP (*MACROCYSTIS PYRIFERA*) IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AREAS 3 AND 4 INTO THE QUOTA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON 1 OCTOBER 2010

I have decided to introduce bladder kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) in its attached state in Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs) 3 and 4 into the Quota Management System (QMS) on 1 October 2010. Outlined below is the rationale for my decision.

In making this decision, I considered the Ministry of Fisheries (the Ministry) Final Advice Paper (dated 24 September 2009) and the issues and information provided in submissions. I wish to thank those submitters who provided their views on the proposal to manage these attached stocks within the QMS.

I wish to ensure that any utilisation of attached bladder kelp occurs within a management framework that can ensure sustainability and avoid, remedy or mitigate the potential effects of harvesting on the marine environment. I believe a rights-based approach to management provides greater certainty for investment and rational development of this fishery resource along with opportunities for collective action to help identify and manage any adverse effects of fishing.

I note that submissions from both commercial and non-commercial stakeholders overwhelmingly support the decision to introduce attached bladder kelp in FMA 3 and 4 into the QMS in recognition of the important role seaweeds have in the marine environment.

A decision to retain attached bladder kelp outside the QMS would require me to provide for an open-access fishery. I believe an open-access management framework for attached bladder kelp in FMAs 3 and 4 would give rise to potential sustainability and utilisation concerns that I am not prepared to risk given the role of attached seaweeds in the marine ecosystem.

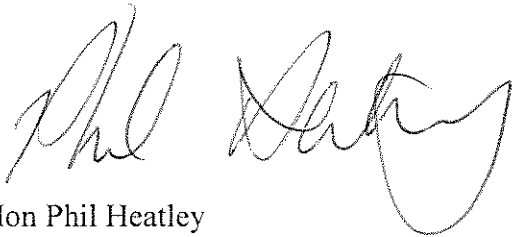
I have decided to retain the free-floating and beach-cast bladder kelp in FMAs 3 and 4 outside the QMS. While I recognise these seaweed states are important to the functioning of the marine ecosystem, I do not believe there are any sustainability or utilisation issues that would warrant QMS introduction at this time. The Ministry will continue to monitor the use of these seaweed states in FMAs 3 and 4, and will reconsider QMS management if sustainability and/or utilisation issues (including any adverse effects of beach-cast seaweed harvesting on the wider marine environment) are identified in the future.

I acknowledge the views expressed in many submissions about the ecological importance of bladder kelp. I fully recognise the important role this seaweed plays to the function of the marine ecosystem and agree that harvest must be managed within safe environmental limits. The Ministry will undertake further consultation early next year on the setting of a range of appropriate management measures (including setting a Total Allowable Catch and sector allowances) for each seaweed stock. I encourage stakeholders to participate in this process and provide me with your views regarding these measures.

In addition to my decision to introduce attached bladder kelp into the QMS in FMAs 3 and 4, I have agreed to set Quota Management Areas for these stocks correlating to their respective FMA boundaries. I have also decided that the fishing year will be 1 October to 30 September, and the unit of measure will be greenweight.

If you require any further information about my decision please contact Steve Halley, Inshore Fisheries Team Leader, on 04 819 4669 or steve.halley@fish.govt.nz.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Heatley', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Hon Phil Heatley
Minister of Fisheries