



Office of Hon Phil Heatley

MP for Whangarei

Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Minister of Housing

B11-246

Dear Stakeholder

The purpose of this letter is to outline the decision on the proposal to remove all paua stocks from Schedule 5A of the Fisheries Act 1996.

It has been agreed that all paua stocks will be removed from the schedule. This will allow holders of paua annual catch entitlement (ACE) to carry forward up to 10% of their ACE, if uncaught, into the next fishing year.

The decision has the potential to increase the economic benefit obtained from the paua fishery and to reduce business compliance costs.

Some submitters were concerned that the change might impact on the sustainability of the paua fishery. However, I am satisfied that this is not the case, and that the change will not impact on the health of the aquatic environment, the cultural and social benefits derived from the fishery, or other stakeholders in the fishery. This is because no additional commercial catch entitlement will be created; the change only allows some commercial catch to be deferred until the following fishing year.

Given the potential benefits to the paua industry and lack of impact on sustainability of paua stocks, I am satisfied this is a positive move for the fishery.

Kind regards

Hon Phil Heatley

Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture