

20 July 2018

Mr D Bolger
Fisheries New Zealand
PO Box 10420
Wellington

Dear Dan

SUPPORT FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PAU4 FISHERIES PLAN

1. Fisheries Inshore is the Sector Representative Entity for inshore finfish, pelagic and tuna fisheries in New Zealand. Its role is to deal with national issues on behalf of the sector and to work directly with, and behalf of, its quota owners, fishers and affiliated sector representative organisations. Its key outputs are:
 - a. developing appropriate policy frameworks, processes and tools to assist the sector to manage inshore, pelagic and tuna fishstocks more effectively;
 - b. minimising fishing interactions with protected species and the associated ecosystems; and
 - c. working positively with other fishers and users of marine space where we carry out our harvesting activities.
2. The role FINZ plays in the inshore is very similar to that of PAUMAC4 in respect of the PAU4 fishery with the exception that PAUMAC4 participates more closely in the finescale and catch management of the fishery. The PAUMACS and CRAMACs have demonstrated their experience and ability to generate additional value for their members by their active management of their fisheries.
3. The development of the PAU4 fisheries plan by PAUMAC4 reflects that successful history and is a natural extension of their current operations. That they have the support of their community and tangata whenua is testimony to their desire to engage with and be seen as part of the Chatham Island community.
4. Fisheries plans at this scale have the potential to manage catch, the fishery and the economic returns in a manner consistent with the basic principles of the QMS introduction but deliver fisheries management benefits far beyond the capability of a regulatory-based manager such as FNZ. Fisheries management decisions such as catch levels, minimum lengths, catch spreading in time and space and focused research are best left to those who live and work in the fishery –PAUMAC4.
5. We see the development of fisheries plans at either the national or fishstock level as the means to derive greater value from the stocks. A resource that is managed by a responsible, interested owner will consistently outperform a centrally managed resource where the managers have no personal interest in the resource. The contrast in performance between the inshore finfish stocks which do not even have a national plan and the rock lobster and puaa cannot be more stark as to the benefits of locally established and driven fisheries management.

6. The plan is simple in structure but has focused on the essential elements of actively managing a fishery. It comprises the appropriate blend of resource management and catch management to ensure the quality of a sustainable fishery is preserved. By imposing and monitoring catch levels within the year, catch spreading can be used to ensure effective spatial management does not result in depleted or overfished areas. With the use of focused research as to spawning grounds, reseedling and translocation programmes, the plan can enhance the natural biomass of paua for the future.
7. Under the proposed fishery plan, PAU4 can be managed in a far more active, responsive and more robust manner that would be possible under the passive management approach that FNZ can only provide. We would see a more formal inclusion of wider community interests, such as the recreational, customary and environmental sectors, to be a natural extension of the plan.
8. We recognise that FNZ may need to make changes to their management thinking to enable the implementation of the plan. However, innovation and enablement is the key to unlocking greater value for New Zealand's fisheries resources. FNZ needs to adopt a positive, supportive, enabling philosophy if fisheries management is to evolve from its current limiting stance.
9. For the above reasons, we support and commend PAUMAC4 for the development of the PAU4 fisheries plan and recommend its introduction.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Helson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeremy Helson
Fisheries Inshore New Zealand