

[To be placed on Association letterhead]

[Date]

Minister of Fisheries
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Sir

Kenepuru Sound – Extension of Commercial Fin Fishing Ban

As you may recall, in my capacity as Chair of the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents Association Inc, I wrote to you on 10th June 2011 detailing the case for the extension of the current ban on commercial fin fishing operations in Kenepuru Sound to a year round ban.

The Committee of the Association has now had the time to consider your reply of (*insert date of ministerial reply*) and comment as follows.

To say that the Association is disappointed with your negative reply is an understatement.

As you noted, the Association put up a very reasoned case after a careful review of the scientific evidence to hand and following consultation with affected stakeholders. The Association's review clearly demonstrates that there is no compelling reason not to extend the commercial fin fishing ban. We do not accept that the timing of the current ban was to ensure an available catch for recreational fishers over the period when peak levels of recreation fishing can be expected. Our understanding is that the ban was timed to coincide with, among others, the snapper spawning season. If, upon review of the Ministry's reports and papers at the time the ban was put in place, your officials do not agree with our understanding, please advise. To assist, please consider this an Official Information Act request.

In terms of your understanding that there are already many controls on commercial fishing methods in the Marlborough Area, please have your officials list those relevant to the Kenepuru Sound. Again, please consider this a request under the Official Information Act.

Minister, in short, the Association remains strongly of the view that a compelling case exists, including that there would be little or no impact on the existing commercial fin fishing operations, to have the ban extended as we have requested. We ask that you have your officials review their advice and if they still do not support a ban, have them put up a substantive case to the contrary.

If you would like to discuss the above, or any aspect of the Association's request, we would be happy to meet at a mutually convenient time and place.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Chair
Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents Association Inc