

To The Hon Nathan Guy  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Executive Wing  
Parliament House  
Wellington  
22 December 2016

Dear Minister

## **Marlborough Sounds Scallop Fishery – Longer Term Restoration Measures – Delays - Action Required**

I write on behalf of an alliance of Marlborough community and recreational organisations (Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association, the Pelorus Boating Club and the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association).

As you will be aware, representatives from these three groups have, over the last three years, been vigorous in working with your officials and industry, in good faith, to try and save the Marlborough Sounds scallop fishery from the fate suffered by the Tasman and Golden Bay fisheries.

Accordingly, we were pleased to see you and your officials, over the protests of industry, decide that plummeting biomass yields called for drastic action – closure of the Sounds Fishery to both industry and recreational fishers for the 2016 season.

We noted with approval that your decision as to next steps made it clear that this would include a review of how the fishery was currently managed by industry via the memorandum of understanding with the Ministry for Primary Industries (previously Fisheries).

The purpose of this letter is to alert you to our serious concerns that a lack of decisive action by your officials to grasp this particular nettle – compounded to be sure by an industry group who seem unable or unwilling to engage in constructive discussion (or indeed any discussion) with your officials and other stakeholders – is seriously inhibiting the development of a new more inclusive management model for the Sounds fishery.

To date we have shown a high degree of willingness to attend meetings and try and progress matters through conventional channels. As noted, the industry representatives are unwilling to attend such meetings. Accordingly, the alliance is increasingly concerned that if we are not vigilant and vocal any changes to management and fishing practices in the Sounds fishery will be inflicted solely on the recreational sector. This would be most unfair and do little to restore the Sounds Fishery. We are of the view that to continue on the present management path will lead to the total collapse of the scallop fishery, a result which would be viewed with alarm by many local residents both economically and recreationally.

We urge you, Minister to seek an urgent update from your officials and obtain clear recommendations from them as to how the roadblock of non-engagement from the commercial sector will be decisively dealt with.

Naturally we would be happy to come to Wellington to meet with you, such is the degree of our concern.

We look forward to hearing from you.

For and on behalf of the:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Caddie".

Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association  
Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association  
Pelorus Boating Club

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