



Office of Hon Nathan Guy

MP for Otaki

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Racing

Min13-0015

09 OCT 2013

Mark Connor
President
New Zealand Sport Fishing Council
P.O. Box 93
WHANGAREI 0140

Dear Mark Connor

Thank you for your correspondence of 28 June 2013 regarding management of the CRA 3 (Gisborne) rock lobster fishery. Apologies for the time it has taken me to respond to your letter.

I am confident that my recent decisions on catch limit and commercial concession area regulations for the CRA 3 fishery are based on the best available scientific and management information. Before making my decisions, I also carefully considered submissions received from tangata whenua and stakeholders on the proposals and my relevant obligations under the Fisheries Act 1996.

Instead of meeting with me to discuss rock lobster management, I recommend that you, firstly, direct your concerns to the independent chair of the National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG), Dr John McKoy, at the following email address: realmckoy@xtra.co.nz. The NRLMG is a multi-stakeholder group that acts as my primary advisor on catch limit, regulatory and other management actions that apply specifically to rock lobster fisheries.

I am highly supportive of the collaborative engagement approach of the NRLMG and the robust advice the group provides. Experience and observation of rock lobster fisheries suggests that the NRLMG approach is working in a way that is consistent with my statutory obligations. Therefore, I do not consider it necessary, at this time, to undertake a comprehensive review of the current management regime.

The benefits that recreational fishers receive from rock lobster fisheries are primarily related to rock lobster abundance. I and the NRLMG are committed to rebuilding abundance in the CRA 3 fishery and maintaining it at or above the agreed target. CRA 3 abundance has improved in recent years and the conservative management strategy that applies is assisting the rebuild of the stock.

Regarding your statement that rock lobster research information is not available to you. I am informed by my officials that a large number of scientific reports on rock lobster are freely available on the following pages of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) website: www.mpi.govt.nz/news-resources/publications and <http://fs.fish.govt.nz/Page.aspx?pk=61&tk=209>. Many of these reports provide summaries of research data that has been used in rock lobster stock assessment and management procedure development, and consequently decision-making.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nathan Guy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Hon Nathan Guy
Minister for Primary Industries