

# Hon Rachel Brooking

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries  
Minister for Food Safety  
Associate Minister for the Environment  
Associate Minister of Immigration



31 May 2023

B23-0277

Ian Steele  
President, NZ Sport Fishing Council  
secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz

Tēnā koe Ian,

## Approval of a Fisheries Plan for the Southern Pāua Fisheries

I am writing to notify you of my approval under section 11A of the *Fisheries Act 1996* (the Act) of a Fisheries Plan for the three southern pāua fisheries developed by PauaMAC 5. These fisheries are Fiordland (PAU 5A), Stewart Island (PAU 5B), and Southland/Otago (PAU 5D).

Thank you for your submission during consultation on the Plan (jointly with LegaSea, the New Zealand Angling and Casting Association, and the New Zealand Underwater Association). I acknowledge that you did not support the Plan on the basis of concerns regarding a proposed 'harvest control rule' for these fisheries.

I have carefully considered your concerns and have received advice on the matters raised in your submission. I can confirm that the rule proposed in the Plan is a voluntary commercial catch shelving arrangement that does not change the requirement under section 11 of the Act to set a Total Allowable Catch for these fisheries. Any review of the statutory settings for these fisheries would continue to require full public consultation as part of Fisheries New Zealand's annual sustainability process, with any decisions made by the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries.

Thank you again for providing input on the Plan and engaging with Fisheries New Zealand throughout the consultation process.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Brooking'.

Hon Rachel Brooking  
**Minister for Oceans and Fisheries**