



MIN25-0546

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Karyn van Wijngaarden
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Pelco NZ Limited application to exceed quota aggregation limits

Tēnā koe Karyn,

I am writing to inform you of my decision regarding the application made by Pelco New Zealand Limited (Pelco NZ) to hold quota shares for blue mackerel and kahawai in excess of the aggregation limits set out in the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act).

I have taken time to review and understand the application, as well as the advice provided by Fisheries New Zealand and the submissions received during public consultation. In making my decision, I assessed the potential effects of the application against the statutory considerations set out in the Act. Alongside my own assessment, I have also reviewed the rationale provided by the previous Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, Hon David Parker, who decided to decline consent for all aspects of a similar application made by Pelco NZ in 2022.

While I understand the previous Minister for Oceans and Fisheries had particular concern regarding the potential effects of market concentration and impacts on other quota owners and commercial fishers, my assessment of the application has led me to a different conclusion.

I have decided to grant consent for Pelco NZ to hold the requested 45.993 percent of kahawai quota and 55.304 percent of blue mackerel quota. However, this consent is subject to the condition that Pelco NZ provide a report to Fisheries New Zealand after five years, which outlines how the consent has delivered on the expected benefits set out in their application. I expect this report to also set out an assessment of any unintended consequences that may have arisen in this time-period.

After reviewing the application and advice provided by Fisheries New Zealand, I note granting consent was assessed as likely to have a neutral to positive net effect on the blue mackerel and kahawai fisheries overall. I am, however, conscious of the complexity and sensitivity of these fisheries, particularly in relation to kahawai within the northeast North Island quota management area (KAH 1).

I acknowledge the concerns raised by submitters, in relation to the accessibility of kahawai annual catch entitlement, as well as general concerns voiced regarding the high-volume and low value nature of the purse seine operations that harvest the majority of the catch.

Introducing a reporting requirement after five years acknowledges there is some uncertainty around the impacts of quota aggregation. This condition will support Fisheries New Zealand to examine the effects of this exemption decision on the market, and to test how the exemption has been used to deliver improved market access and supply (as set out in the application). It will also provide insights into how quota aggregation may further investment in the catching and processing capacity of fisheries.

Following notification of my approval, I have asked Fisheries New Zealand officials to engage with Pelco NZ to set out the reporting requirements of the associated condition. A gazette notice has been drafted, which will give effect to my decision to approve the Pelco NZ quota aggregation exemption from mid-July.

Thank you again for submitting a thorough and comprehensive application, and I wish Pelco NZ the best in its future endeavours.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries