

NAME: Green Island Fishing Club

DATE: 9th April 2013

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Green Island Fishing Club in response to the request for submissions on the proposals put forward by the Ministry of Primary Industries in the Paper No.2013/06 – “Review of commercial access restrictions in the PAU 5D fishery”.

Our strongly preferred option is:

OPTION 1 - Status quo - to retain existing commercial harvest prohibitions.

Our reasons for this option are explained in further detail below:

- There has not been sufficient evidence provided to show that the option of opening the recreational areas to commercial pāua gathering would be sustainable.
- If commercial pāua harvesting is sustainable, then why is access to recreational areas required, given that commercial gathering has access to over 500km of coastline in PAU5D.
- There are no baseline studies of pāua populations in the closed areas, and thus it is impossible to quantify the impact of commercial gathering on the area.
- The recreational areas are where family traditions exist, for generations the average kiwi family could access a feed – this “right” needs to be safe-guarded for future generations.

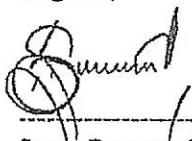
We also request that you note the following points:

1) The areas from which commercial harvest prohibitions are proposed to be lifted provide a recreational resource for adjacent communities, and the wider community. These areas also provide an opportunity to conduct scientific research on a pāua stock that is not being commercially fished.

2) There are concerns that parts of the PAU 5D fishery are already being commercially fished in an unsustainable manner. These concerns are acknowledged by the MPI, and by the commercial Paua fishing industry. If the proposed new areas are opened to commercial harvesting, the likely result is a negative impact on an important recreational asset.

3) The discussion paper incompletely identifies areas where non-commercial efforts are concentrated. It fails to acknowledge that the areas proposed to be opened also contain many other areas that are used by recreational paua fishers.

Regards,



(signature)

Steve Bennett, Secretary GIFIC

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