

OSSAHC

Submissions - 17 April 2013

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Otago Students' Spearfishing and Hunting Club

1. This submission is to the Ministry of Primary Industry (MPI) on behalf of the Otago Students' Spearfishing and Hunting Club (OSSAHC), regarding the issue of whether changes should be made to the access of recreational paua fisheries in Otago and Southland.
2. OSSAHC submits that the status quo should be retained, and the fisheries should remain closed to commercial operators.
3. OSSAHC is a club of approximately 60 members. The principle aims of the club are:
 - i. Provide unique, new, and innovative ways for students to participate in the outdoor life of Dunedin, and surrounds
 - ii. Build a diverse community of Dunedin students committed to strengthening progressive spearfishing and hunting/gathering.
 - iii. Advance the ethos of kaitiakitanga (stewardship) and preserve the majesty of our lands and waters.
4. Many OSSAHC members regularly enjoy paua diving along the Otago and Southland coastlines. As membership is wholly comprised of students, the majority of our members are on very low incomes.
5. The ability to dive for and collect Paua within the Otago area recreationally is recognised by the club as a privilege we are lucky to have.
6. It is evident from the MPI's own 2003 and 2006 stock assessments of the current commercial paua fishery PAU 5D that sustainability is far from assured. The MPI has acknowledged this.
7. If commercial fisheries are allowed access to the recreational beds, then it is obvious that stocks available to recreational fishers will be depleted.
8. The effects of this will be felt strongly by our members.
9. OSSAHC members already find it difficult to arrange and afford transport to current paua beds. If these close fisheries become unfruitful, travel further afield will be prohibitive to many, and onerous for all.
10. Higher travel costs will offset the benefits gained by catching paua. Even those who can afford the travel will be unable to justify the costs when they will outweigh the benefits.
11. A modest catch of paua is a significant amount of fresh fish for students on low incomes. The retail cost of fresh kai moana is beyond the means for many students. Students would be unable to obtain anywhere near the amount of fresh kai moana elsewhere.

12. The vast majority of OSSAHC members are from outside of the Otago/Southland region. Paua diving is something they often are not able to do in their hometowns. A lack of recreational paua fisheries in Otago and Southland will be one less attraction for visitors to the regions.
13. MPI is mistaken when they state that the proposed areas to be opened to commercial fishing are not used by recreational fishers. Members of OSSAHC have fished the following areas in the last 6 months:
- i. Smails Beach
 - ii. Cape Saunders
14. The students who are members of OSSAHC are very passionate about the club's ethos of kaitiakitaka. As the Ministry in control of Aotearoa's fisheries, which is bound by the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, MPI should be mindful of its own duty of kaitiakitaka.
15. It is respectfully submitted that MPI would be doing grievous harm to the environment and to the people of Otago and Southland if it allowed commercial operators to fish the closed recreational paua beds.

Jono Paulin
President
OSSAHC

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