

PAUA INDUSTRY COUNCIL Ltd

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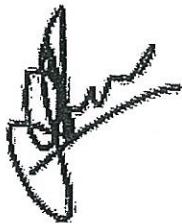
Review of commercial access restrictions in the PAU 5D fishery

1. The Paua Industry Council Ltd (PIC) makes this submission on the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Discussion Paper "Review of commercial access restrictions in the PAU 5D fishery (IPP) on behalf of quota owners, ACE holders and processors in the commercial paua fishery. The submission has been developed through consultation with our members and the PauaMac5 Industry Association Inc. (PauaMac5).
2. PIC endorses the opinion that the regulations governing access restrictions for shellfish gathering in Quota Management Area PAU 5D are redundant and that the Animal Products Act 1999 is the appropriate legislative framework for water sanitation matters. We consider that in normal circumstances the appropriate policy response is to repeal the regulations.
3. PauaMac5 however recognises that not all of the closed area is relevant to the paua fishery (i.e. does not contain habitats that support paua populations) and that there is existing use of these closed areas by non-commercial fishers. We consider that they have been prudent and respectful in limiting their request for access.
4. PauaMac5 is motivated is to increase the size of the biomass in the QMA from which they can harvest their TACC. They have not requested a review of the TACC to reflect the increased available biomass, rather they are seeking to increase the overall size of the resource, for the benefit of all users in the fishery.
5. We understand from our discussions with PauaMac5 that they intend to control commercial harvest in these areas, through appropriate harvest rules, to ensure that the resource is well maintained. They plan to collect information on fine-scale catch and effort in these areas in order to monitor stock response to commercial fishing and to ensure that serial depletion does not occur.
6. We have been frustrated by the response through the media to this request for increased access. It has been made by a stakeholder that has invested significantly in management measures to rebuild the fishery and shown a thoughtful responsive approach to implementing measures to ensure the sustainability of the resource (e.g. increased minimum harvest size, investment in technology to collect information at a fine scale, reseeding etc.). The PAU5D resource has been rebuilding well in recent years as will be shown in the results of the stock

assessment about to be published. There is no basis to allege that PauaMac5 is irresponsible, motivated solely by greed or untrustworthy. Their actions to date speak louder than words.

7. In conclusion we endorse and support the submission by PauaMac5 and support Option 2 to amend the regulations to enable commercial paua harvest in the nominated areas.

Yours sincerely
Paua Industry Council



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Executive Officer

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