

South Coast Underwater Club

PO Box 9

Gore



A submission regarding the opening up of recreational only Paua areas in coastal Otago and Southland to commercial gatherers

The South Coast Underwater Club is a Dive Club based in Gore with a membership of approximately 60 members

Many of our members recreationally snorkel for paua in the coastal Otago and Southland Recreational Paua areas and are disappointed that commercial paua divers are asking that the area set aside and managed for them and other recreational paua divers be opened up for commercial take.

It is our understanding that commercial operators want to open the recreational areas due to depletion of stock in the commercial areas. This only tells us that commercial operators have mismanaged their resource and that the same would happen in the recreational areas.

We also believe that the recreational only areas were created for a purpose, that being to ensure a catch will always be available for recreational paua gatherers.

We wish to have our submission recorded as,

In respect to the proposals put forward in Paper No.2013/06 my/our preferred option is:

OPTION 1- Status quo to retain existing commercial harvest prohibitions

Yours sincerely
Warren Ayers
Secretary
South Coast Underwater Club