



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
Te Tautiaki i nga tini a Tangaroa

S7597

3 October 2006

Minister of Fisheries

2006 IN-SEASON REVIEW OF THE NORTHLAND SCALLOP FISHERY TAC

Executive Summary

1 The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) recommends that you agree to provide an in-season Total Allowable Catch (TAC) increase for the Northland scallop fishery (SCA1) from 75 tonnes meatweight to 120 tonnes meatweight until the end of the current fishing year (31 March 2007). The TAC will revert to 75 tonnes meatweight at the end of the 2006-07 fishing year in accordance with s 13(8) of the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act).

2 SCA1 occupies the area from Reef Point (90 Mile Beach) to Cape Rodney (Hauraki Gulf). SCA1 is included on the Second Schedule of the Act, which allows for a strategy of an in-season increase in the TAC for stocks with highly variable abundance if supported by information about the abundance of scallops during the fishing year. The current TAC (hereafter referred to as the "baseline TAC") is based on an estimate of long term yield for the fishery and is set low relative to historical catches in the fishery resulting in a Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) of 40 tonnes meatweight.

3 Since 1992, research surveys have been used to estimate the abundance of scallops in the Northland scallop fishery. Yield estimates based on surveys have been used to set limits on catch for the fishery. The yield estimates provide the key information for decisions concerning the utilisation of the resource while ensuring sustainability.

4 In making your decision on required services for 2006-07, you agreed to an optional survey for SCA1 during 2006. Quota holders decided that scallop abundance should be assessed during 2006. A survey was undertaken in May 2006. The survey results have shown that increased sustainable yield can be taken for the current fishing year. Details and results from the survey are discussed in the Initial Position Paper (IPP).

04 OCT 2006

608 Rosebank Road, Avondale
PO Box 19747, Avondale
Auckland, New Zealand
Phone (09) 820-1990, Fax (09) 820-1980

M/TWA
Option 3
[Signature]

Final Recommendations

98 MFish recommends that you:

EITHER (MFish's recommended option (option 3) – increase the non-commercial allowances and increase ACE to 70 tonnes)

- a) **agree** to increase the TAC for SCA1 from 75 tonnes meatweight to 120 tonnes meatweight for the 2006 season, and within the TAC:
 - ✓ i) **agree** to increase the allowance for recreational fishing from 7.5 tonnes meatweight to 13 tonnes meatweight;
 - ii) **agree** to increase the allowance for customary Maori fishing from 7.5 tonnes meatweight to 13 tonnes meatweight;
 - iii) **agree** to increase the allowance for other sources of fishing-related mortality from 20 tonnes meatweight to 24 tonnes meatweight;
 - iv) **agree** to increase the annual catch entitlement (ACE) for SCA1 by increasing the available ACE for quota owners from 40 tonnes meatweight to 70 tonnes meatweight; and
 - v) **note** that at the end of the current fishing year for SCA1, the TAC will revert to 75 tonnes meatweight, the allowance for recreational fishing will revert to 7.5 tonnes meatweight, the allowance for customary fishing will revert to 7.5 tonnes meatweight, the allowance for other sources of fishing-related mortality will revert to 20 tonnes meatweight, and the ACE will revert to 40 tonnes meatweight.

OR (option 1: retain the non-commercial allowances and increase the ACE to 70 tonnes)

- b) **agree** to increase the TAC for SCA1 from 75 tonnes meatweight to 109 tonnes meatweight for the 2006 season, and within the TAC:
 - i) **agree** to retain the allowance for recreational fishing at 7.5 tonnes meatweight;
 - ii) **agree** to retain the allowance for customary Maori fishing at 7.5 tonnes meatweight;
 - iii) **agree** to increase the allowance for other sources of fishing-related mortality from 20 tonnes meatweight to 24 tonnes meatweight;
 - iv) **agree** to increase the annual catch entitlement (ACE) for SCA1 by increasing the available ACE for quota owners from 40 tonnes meatweight to 70 tonnes meatweight; and
 - v) **note** that at the end of the current fishing year for SCA1, the TAC will revert to 75 tonnes meatweight, the allowance for other sources of fishing-related mortality will revert to 20 tonnes meatweight, and the ACE will revert to 40 tonnes meatweight.

OR (option 2: retain the non-commercial allowances and increase the ACE to 100 tonnes)

- c) **agree** to increase the TAC for SCA1 from 75 tonnes meatweight to 149 tonnes meatweight for the 2006 season, and within the TAC:
 - i) **agree** to retain the allowance for recreational fishing at 7.5 tonnes meatweight;

- ii) **agree** to retain the allowance for customary Maori fishing at 7.5 tonnes meatweight;
- iii) **agree** to increase the allowance for other sources of fishing-related mortality from 20 tonnes meatweight to 34 tonnes meatweight;
- iv) **agree** to increase the annual catch entitlement (ACE) for SCA1 by increasing the available ACE for quota owners from 40 tonnes meatweight to 100 tonnes meatweight; and
- v) **note** that at the end of the current fishing year for SCA1, the TAC will revert to 75 tonnes meatweight, the allowance for other sources of fishing-related mortality will revert to 20 tonnes meatweight, and the ACE will revert to 40 tonnes meatweight.

OR (option 4: increase the non-commercial allowances and increase ACE to 100 tonnes)

- d) **agree** to increase the TAC for SCA1 from 75 tonnes meatweight to 175 tonnes meatweight for the 2006 season, and within the TAC:
 - i) **agree** to increase the allowance for recreational fishing from 7.5 tonnes meatweight to 13 tonnes meatweight;
 - ii) **agree** to increase the allowance for customary Maori fishing from 7.5 tonnes meatweight to 13 tonnes meatweight;
 - iii) **agree** to increase the allowance for other sources of fishing-related mortality from 20 tonnes meatweight to 34 tonnes meatweight;
 - iv) **agree** to increase the annual catch entitlement (ACE) for SCA1 by increasing the available ACE for quota owners from 40 tonnes meatweight to 100 tonnes meatweight; and
 - v) **note** that at the end of the current fishing year for SCA1, the TAC will revert to 75 tonnes meatweight, the allowance for recreational fishing will revert to 7.5 tonnes meatweight, the allowance for customary fishing will revert to 7.5 tonnes meatweight, the allowance for other sources of fishing-related mortality will revert to 20 tonnes meatweight, and the ACE will revert to 40 tonnes meatweight.



Arthur Hore
for Chief Executive
Ministry of Fisheries

Option 3
AGREED / NOT AGREED / AGREED AS AMENDED



Hon Jim Anderton
Minister of Fisheries

10 / 10 / 2006