



8 October 2014

Robert Trumble
Vice President-Fisheries
MRAG Americas, Inc.
10051 5th St. N, Suite 105
St. Petersburg FL 33702

Dear Robert

Ministry for Primary Industries recognition of agreed harvest control rule for three orange roughy stocks

In August 2014, Deepwater Group Limited (DWG) and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) collaborated to document a new Harvest Control Rule (HCR) for three orange roughy fisheries. DWG took this HCR to their stakeholders, the owners of relevant orange roughy quota, and secured consensus of those quota owners to implement the HCR in the three fisheries that are currently in assessment by the Marine Stewardship Council for certification as sustainable fisheries.

The HCR is based on the Management Strategy Evaluation completed by Innovative Solutions Limited in July 2014. This work was reviewed by MPI's Deepwater Fisheries Assessment Working Group and the methods were approved. In addition, the HCR itself has been reviewed internally at MPI and has broad support both in the Science group and in the Fisheries Management group.

The work to finalise and agree the HCR was not quite complete when the Minister for Primary Industries made his decisions regarding the 2014 catch limits for two of the orange roughy stocks being considered for MSC certification. While the 2014 catch limits are broadly consistent with those produced by the HCR, the catch limit for the Northwest Chatham Rise stock was set above that required by the HCR. In this case, industry has taken responsibility for ensuring that catch levels during 2014/15 is consistent with the HCR by shelving all catch above the HCR generated limit. In future, now the HCR has been formally agreed, MPI will endeavour to set the catch limits for these three orange roughy stocks using the agreed HCR wherever possible.

MPI continues to support the efforts of DWG to achieve Marine Stewardship Council certification of New Zealand's deepwater fisheries and recognises the commitment of the industry to achieving the high standards required for this certification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Vicky Reeve'.

Vicky Reeve
Fisheries Manager – Deepwater (Acting)

Growing and Protecting New Zealand

**Regulation & Assurance
Fisheries Management**

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