



MP for Napier

Minister of Police

Minister of Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Minister for Small Business

B19-0376

Dear Stakeholder

Changes to sustainability measures and other management controls for 1 October 2019

I write to inform you of the decisions I have made to ensure New Zealand maintains sustainable fisheries for our cultural, social and economic wellbeing. I am pleased that the generally healthy state of our fisheries has enabled me to increase catch limits in many cases. Where sustainability is at risk I have looked hard at management action to ensure we continue making good progress toward sustainably using our fisheries for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

Attached to this letter are my decisions for each stock. This year the catch limits for a total of 20 stocks were reviewed with increases in nine, decreases in seven and four unchanged. In addition, the deemed values for another eight stocks have been changed.

In making my decisions, I have carefully considered the feedback received from many responders identifying the implications to all users of the marine environment. In particular, I have heard clearly the importance of kaimoana to Māori and the ability for any New Zealander to “catch a feed”. As a consequence, I have ensured appropriate allowances for customary and recreational users have been set. The customary allowances are consistent with the provisions of the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992.

I am aware of the potential impact my decisions could have on individuals and communities. I am pleased to see that in some cases fishers have worked together to find solutions to sustainability issues. I look forward to seeing further collaborative efforts in developing sustainability solutions that work for all.

While recognising that year-on-year certainty of allocations is beneficial, difficult decisions have had to be made where our stocks aren't as healthy as we would like. Where fishery plans are in place, I have given preference to the planned measures in making my decisions. I will be watching these stocks carefully and will take further action should plans not deliver on commitments or achieve necessary improvements.

The issue of 28N rights has again been raised and I want to assure you that I would like to see this issue resolved. Currently, Te Ohu Kaimoana, industry and Fisheries New Zealand are discussing possible options to resolve this, which I will consider.

The changes to sustainability measures and management controls outlined in this letter will come into effect at the start of the new fishing year on 1 October 2019. The specific decisions and rationale for each stock are attached.

Copies of the discussion documents and the final advice are available on the Fisheries New Zealand website at www.fisheries.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Nash'.

Hon Stuart Nash
Minister of Fisheries

Summary of October 2019 Sustainability Measures

Stock	Change	Rationale
Gemfish SKI 3 & 7 [Entire South Island and lower west coast North Island]	↑	Gemfish biomass has increased considerably during recent years resulting in increased catches.
Elephant fish ELE 7 [Top of the South Island]	-	These four “Top of the South” trawl fishery stocks are being treated as a complex. The most recent stock assessments in 2016 and 2018 estimate that the JDO 7, GUR 7 and SPO 7 stocks are at or above target levels. A TAC and allowances for ELE 7 are set for the first time.
Gurnard GUR 7 [Top of the South Island]	↑	
John dory JDO 7 [Top of the South Island]	↑	
Rig SPO 7 [Top of the South Island]	↑	
Hake HAK 7 [West Coast South Island]	↓	The stock assessment for hake in HAK 7 indicates the stock is likely to be below the soft limit, requiring the implementation of a time-bound rebuilding plan.
Hoki HOK 1 [Entire New Zealand coast]	↓	Fisheries New Zealand is continuing work to refine and test the stock assessment model for hoki. New information has been incorporated into the stock assessment, which indicates that the stock is likely lower than previously estimated.
Kina SUR 1A & 1B [North east coast of North Island]	-	There are concerns that this taonga species may be over-exploited. Fisheries New Zealand will support collaborative work to develop a kina fishery plan to balance use of the fisheries and sustainability concerns.
Ling LIN 7 [West Coast South Island and Cook Strait]	↑	The most recent stock assessment estimates high stock status of the West Coast South Island ling stock and an opportunity to increase take.
Orange Roughy ORH 3B [East Coast South Island]	↑	Implement the second year of the three-year phased TACC increase I agreed to in 2018.
Orange Roughy ORH 7A [West Coast South Island]	↑	The stock assessment for ORH 7A estimates the stock to be above the mid-point of the management target range. Science indicates that an increased catch level is sustainable over the next five years.

Paua PAU 4 [Chatham Islands]	-	A TAC is set for the first time, as well as allowances for Māori customary and recreational fishers. Although the paua biomass appears to be declining, the PAU 4 fishery plan provides a commitment by PAU 4 quota owners to shelve 40% of PAU 4 ACE. I will monitor adherence with this plan closely.
Red Snapper RSN 1 RSN 2 [Entire New Zealand coast]	↓ ↑	Reallocation of TACC between RSN 1 & 2 to allow improved access to these RSN stocks, but maintain overall catch limits within current levels.
Tarakihi TAR 1, 2, 3, & 7 [East Coast North & South Island]	↓	East Coast North Island and South Island tarakihi are managed as one stock unit. There is a sustainability concern with this stock.
Deemed value rate reviews		Bluenose (BNS 7) Black cardinalfish (CDL 5) Jack mackerel (JMA 7) Kingfish (KIN 3) Rubyfish (RBY 5 & 6) Silver warehou (SWA 3 & 4)

Summary Report on the 2019 October Sustainability Round Decisions

Pāua (PAU 4) Chatham Islands

A Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and allowances have not been previously set for PAU 4. Only a Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) was required when it entered the Quota Management System (QMS). A lack of data for this fishery makes decision-making difficult. Industry have acknowledged the situation and earlier this year I approved their fish plan under section 11A of the Fisheries Act.

Consequently, I have decided to set the TAC, TACC and allowances for PAU 4 as follows:

	TAC (t)	TACC (t)	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
Old (2018/19)	-	326	-	-	-
New (2019/20)	334	326	2	3	3

Reported annual customary catch numbers fluctuated between 1000 and 4300 individual pāua between 2010 and 2013, which equates to a maximum reported customary take of 1.2 tonnes. A three-tonne customary allowance should therefore be sufficient to allow for current customary harvest levels.

Due to the small population living on the Chatham Islands and its isolation, it is likely that recreational catch is small but important. I consider that a three-tonne allowance is sufficient to allow for current recreational harvest. Previous research suggests that incidental mortality of pāua from fishing could be approximately 0.3% of the landed catch, which would be less than 1 tonne under the current TACC. An allowance of 2 tonnes is therefore appropriate to allow for all likely other sources of mortality, including illegal catch.

There is a lack of reliable data to effectively quantify the biomass of the fishery. However, commercial catch and effort data and anecdotal information suggests that the fishery is declining.

I note that shelving of 10-20% of Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) in the 10 years before the 2017 stock assessment appears not to have addressed the apparent decline in abundance. In response, PauaMAC 4, supported by iwi, imi, Te Ohu Kaimoana and the community, developed a Fisheries Plan for PAU 4, which I approved earlier this year under section 11A of the Act. In addition to a range of important fine scale and voluntary measures, this Plan includes a commitment by quota owners to shelve 40% of PAU 4 ACE.

In considering sustainability measures for PAU 4 I am required to take into account the effect that this Plan is expected to have, including whether it will contribute to the biomass being restored to or above a level that will produce B_{MSY} (the default biomass target). In setting the TAC at 334 tonnes and retaining the current TACC at 326 tonnes, I have placed significant weight on the effect of the Plan in achieving this objective.

I expect strict adherence to the Plan by all commercial operators in PAU 4. I will not hesitate to act to revoke it and start the process to reduce the TAC and TACC should this not be the case.

Red Snapper (RSN 1) Northern east coast, North Island and Red Snapper (RSN 2) Rest of New Zealand coast

I have decided to vary the TACs, TACCs and recreational fishing allowance for the RSN 1 and RSN 2 fisheries as follows:

		TAC (t)	TACC (t)	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
RSN 1	Old (2018/19)	140	124	1	2	13
	New (2019/20)	80	64	1	2	13
RSN 2	Old (2018/19)	25	21	1	2	1
	New (2019/20)	85	81	1	2	1

The TACC for RSN 1 has been significantly under-caught since it came into the QMS in 2004. Conversely, commercial landings from RSN 2 have been at or above the TACC for four of the last five years.

The commercial fishing industry has expressed concern that the low TACC in RSN 2 is restricting the ability of fishers to access other target species. My decision is intended to address a potential sustainability concern in RSN 1, while facilitating increased commercial access to red snapper stocks in RSN 2.

There has been no stock assessment of red snapper and it is not known what the stock status of RSN 1 and RSN 2 are relative to B_{MSY} . There is limited information available to monitor the fishery and assess fishery performance, apart from the catch reported by commercial fishers.

There is some risk to sustainability by increasing the RSN 2 TAC in the absence of more comprehensive scientific information. However, I consider that some of the risk of making an increase to this TAC can be mitigated by making the increase equivalent to the decrease made in RSN 1. This approach means that the overall total catch limit originally set when red snapper was introduced into the QMS in 2004 will be retained.

The rollout of electronic reporting and GPS tracking of commercial vessels this year will also allow for better monitoring of red snapper catch.

Kina (SUR 1A) North east coast North Island and Kina (SUR 1B) North east coast North Island

I have decided not to make changes to SUR 1A and SUR 1B and retain the current TAC, TACC and allowances, as follows:

		TAC (t)	TACC (t)	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
SUR 1A	Status Quo Retained	172	40	2	65	65
SUR 1B	Status Quo Retained	324	140	4	90	90

Fisheries New Zealand informs me that for a number of years commercial kina fishers have said that they consider the stocks could support increased harvest without causing any sustainability concerns, and that there could be other benefits from growing the industry, including reducing the prevalence of kina barrens.

SUR 1A and 1B are low information stocks. Customary reporting shows that kina is actively fished, and recreational fishing surveys indicate kina harvest could be relatively high in this region. The best available information on these stocks is obtained through commercial reporting of catch, effort and landings. Reported commercial catches of kina in SUR 1A and 1B increased in the ten years before introduction into the QMS in 2003. During this period the average annual catch across both stocks was approximately 200 tonnes. Since 2003, commercial landings of SUR 1A and 1B have been relatively consistent, with the respective TACCs constraining total commercial harvest.

The finest scale information currently available from commercial reporting at a general fisheries statistical area scale. My concern with statistical area scale reporting is that for sedentary species such as kina, it is difficult to determine if catches are being sustained from a smaller sub-area or if catch rates remain high due to fishers changing location within the larger area. There is, therefore, some risk associated with using this information to assess trends in fishing. International experience has shown a history of depletion around the world, including in Chile (which supports the largest sea urchin fishery), France and parts of the United States. These experiences support a careful approach to management. I also note that it can be the case that kina in barrens are unlikely to be in suitable condition for commercial harvest.

On balance, I have chosen to maintain the status quo, noting the status of kina as a significant taonga species for Māori. I also note strong concern about proposals to increase the catch limits expressed through Iwi Fisheries Forums, as well as the experiences of depletion in international sea urchin fisheries and the relatively slow growth characteristics of kina (which are estimated to live up to 20 years).

I recognise that some stakeholders will be disappointed that I chose to not increase the TAC and TACC. However, Fisheries New Zealand will support further work to develop a collaborative management plan that clearly identifies all aspirations and considers ways of gathering further information in the fishery, if there is interest from all parties to do so. Following the development of a plan, and at such a time when sufficient information has been collected, Fisheries New Zealand could review these stocks again.

Tarakihi (Combined) East Coast of New Zealand

I have decided to implement a package of measures to provide a high level of confidence in the rebuild of the East Coast tarakihi stock.

This is the second consecutive year that I have reviewed the East Coast tarakihi stock and follows my decision in 2018, which resulted in significant reductions to the commercial catch.

Stock		TAC (t)	TACC (t)	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
Combined	Old (2018/19)	5,561	4,679	468	193	221
	New (2019/20)	5,205	4,355	436	193	221
TAR 1 Northland	Old (2018/19)	1,390	1,097	110	73	110
	New (2019/20)	1,333	1,045	105	73	110
TAR 2 Southeast North Island	Old (2018/19)	1,823	1,500	150	100	73
	New (2019/20)	1,658	1,350	135	100	73
TAR 3 East Coast South Island	Old (2018/19)	1,174	1,040	104	15	15
	New (2019/20)	1,060	936	94	15	15
TAR 7 West Coast and top of South Island	Old (2018/19)	1,174	1,042	104	5	23
	New (2019/20)	1,154	1,024	102	5	23

For the 1 October 2019 fishing year, I have decided to reduce the combined TAC for TAR 1, 2, 3 and 7 to 5,205 tonnes. Within the combined TAC, I have decided to retain the current allowances for customary and recreational fishing, and reduce the allowance for other sources of fishing-related mortality to 436 tonnes. I have also decided to reduce the TACC to 4,355 tonnes. This equates to a further 10% reduction to the commercial catch for East Coast tarakihi (TAR 2, TAR 3, and the East Coast portions of TAR 1 and TAR 7), following the 20% reduction that I made last year.

In addition to these reductions to catch limits, I have also agreed to the implementation of the *Eastern Tarakihi Management Strategy and Rebuild Plan* (the Industry Rebuild Plan).

The Industry Rebuild Plan has been developed by Fisheries Inshore New Zealand, Te Ohu Kaimoana, and Southern Inshore Fisheries. It represents the Industry's commitment to the sustainable management of the East Coast tarakihi fishery, and to work with Fisheries New Zealand, while also maintaining a viable inshore fishing industry.

The Industry Rebuild Plan commits to a range of management actions including, catch splitting arrangements, selectivity and gear trials, move-on rules, voluntary closed areas, and enhanced research that are intended to assist in the rebuild of this fishery. The Plan also commits to a maximum rebuild timeframe of 20 years.

There is however, uncertainty as to the extent to which the measures outlined in the Industry Rebuild Plan will be successful in delivering a 20 year rebuild. To provide me with a greater level of certainty this will be achieved, I have decided to combine the Industry Rebuild Plan with a 10% reduction to commercial catch.

In reviewing the Industry Rebuild Plan I have also sought a higher degree of confidence and assurance that the industry will adhere to the Plan. As a result, I have asked industry to strengthen monitoring and verification of catch through the use of on-board cameras in TAR 2 and TAR 3. In particular, I want added assurances around catch reporting, including the reporting of juvenile, sub-minimum legal size fish.

In-principle agreement from industry to the use on-board cameras in TAR 2 and 3 has been received, with a large majority of operators in TAR 2 and a good majority of operators in TAR 3 agreeing, and it is my expectation the use of cameras will provide coverage of a significant majority of catch in these areas by the end of 2020. In the event that there is a shortfall, I will look to supplement cameras with compulsory observer coverage to ensure I am satisfied that there is an acceptable level of verification of the industry's compliance with its plan.

I now expect the industry to develop a proof of concept plan for on-board cameras in this fishery. This should be presented to Fisheries New Zealand by the end of 2019 to ensure necessary steps are being taken to provide for a rollout in 2020.

If industry fails to deliver on the commitments outlined in the Industry Rebuild Plan, I will look to introduce further catch reductions in October next year. I have instructed Fisheries New Zealand to regularly and closely monitor performance against the Industry Rebuild Plan and report any non-performance to me.

Rebuilding the East Coast tarakihi fishery

East Coast tarakihi is an important commercial inshore trawl fishery that is caught all year round and consumed locally, with more than 90% of catch sold domestically. It is also of high value to recreational and customary fishers as a preferred finfish species.

In making my decisions for this important fishery, I have carefully considered the views of submitters, the best available scientific information and assessments of economic impacts; while also taking into account any uncertainty in the information presented.

Abundance of East Coast tarakihi is currently very low, with the most recent stock assessment estimating it to be 15.9% SB_0 (spawning stock biomass). The assessment also indicates that the stock has been near the current level since the early 2000s, and has declined slowly since the mid-1970s to a low point in 2013. This is significantly below the proxy management target of 40% SB_0 , as recommended by the Harvest Strategy Standard. It is also below the level that requires a time constrained rebuild plan. I consider that further work is required before a different species specific management target for tarakihi can be set, and therefore consider 40% SB_0 to be an appropriate target at this time.

While my decisions last year will have begun the process of rebuilding the stock, I indicated at that time that those actions were unlikely to rebuild the stock at the rate I wanted. Consequently, I consider it necessary to take further action this year to provide confidence that the stock will rebuild in a way and at a rate that I consider appropriate. My decision reflects my understanding of the economic impacts on fishers, their families and the regional communities where they operate, balanced against my responsibility to ensure the sustainability of this fishery.

The next stock assessment of East Coast tarakihi is scheduled to take place in early 2021 and will provide an update of abundance for the stock. This information will be used to assess the performance of the Industry Rebuild Plan and inform whether further management action is needed to protect the sustainability of the stock. However, as previously indicated, I will not hesitate to act sooner should the industry commitments that impact my decision not be met.

Top of the South Trawl Fishery

Fisheries New Zealand provided advice to me on a suite of six stocks (red gurnard GUR 7, rig SPO 7, John dory JDO 7, snapper SNA 7, flatfish FLA 7 and elephant fish ELE 7) that are caught together as part of a mixed trawl complex in FMA 7, in particular in Tasman and Golden Bays. The advice took into account the interdependencies of these stocks, including how catch will be influenced across all stocks by the setting or varying TACs. I am pleased to see this approach to look at multiple stocks simultaneously as a step towards ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM).

While six stocks were analysed, only four stocks (red gurnard GUR 7, rig SPO 7, John dory JDO 7, and elephant fish ELE 7) had recommendations to set or vary TACs this year. Snapper (SNA 7) has been overcaught in each of the last three years, but industry has had some success in modifying fishing patterns to minimise snapper over-catch to date. Based on the feedback received during consultation, SNA 7 will be a high priority for review as part of the October 2020 sustainability round. Given the importance of SNA 7 to all sectors, Fisheries New Zealand will commence preliminary engagement in preparation for this review over the next few months.

Gurnard (GUR 7) Top of the South Island

I have decided to increase the TAC, TACC and recreational fishing allowance for red gurnard in GUR 7 as follows:

	TAC (t)	TACC (t)	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
Old (2018/19)	1,065	975	50	15	25
New (2019/20)	1,176	1,073	50	15	38

The reason for my decision is that the most recent stock assessment indicates that GUR 7 is very likely (>90% probability) to be at or above target levels, indicating that there is an opportunity to increase catch of this stock. The best available information on recreational catch suggests catch is higher than the current allowance.

Rig (SPO 7) Top of the South Island

I have decided to increase the TAC and TACC for rig in SPO 7 as follows:

	TAC (t)	TACC (t)	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
Old (2018/19)	346	271	27	15	33
New (2019/20)	373	298	27	15	33

The most recent stock assessment indicates that SPO 7 is likely (>60% probability) to be at or above target biomass levels, indicating that there is an opportunity to increase catch of this stock.

I note that an increase in the TAC and TACC for rig is likely to see an increase in the catch of red gurnard. Since I have also increased the TAC and TACC for GUR 7, any increase in red gurnard catch can be balanced within the new TACC.

John dory (JDO 7) Top of the South Island

I have decided to increase the TAC and TACC for John dory in JDO 7 as follows:

	TAC (t)	TACC (t)	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
Old (2018/19)	226	209	11	2	4
New (2019/20)	247	230	11	2	4

The most recent stock assessment indicates that JDO 7 is very likely (>90% probability) to be at or above target biomass levels, indicating that there is an opportunity to increase catch of this stock.

An increase in the TACs and TACCs for both rig and red gurnard is likely to see an increase in the catch of John dory. My decision to increase the TACC for John dory allows for this.

Elephant fish (ELE 7) Top of the South Island

I have decided to set a TAC and allowances for elephant fish in ELE 7, for the first time, as follows:

	TAC (t)	TACC (t)	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
Old (2018/19)	-	102	-	-	-
New (2019/20)	127	102	10	5	10

In leaving the TACC at current levels, I have considered that the most recent CPUE indicates that ELE 7 is about as likely as not (40-60% probability) to be at or above target biomass levels, indicating the current TACC is appropriate. The customary and recreational allowances I have set are based on best available information on current customary and recreational catch.

Deepwater Stocks

Hake (HAK 7) West Coast South Island

I have decided to reduce the TAC, TACC and allowance for other mortality caused by fishing for the West Coast South Island hake fishery (HAK 7) as follows:

	TAC (t)	TACC (t)	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
Old (2018/19)	5,120	5,064	51	5	0
New (2019/20)	2,300	2,272	23	5	0

The 2019 HAK 7 stock assessment indicates the biomass of this stock is below the soft limit of 20% B_0 at 17% B_0 . Under the New Zealand Harvest Strategy Standard, a formal, time-constrained rebuilding plan should be developed for stocks below the soft limit. The stock should ideally be rebuilt to at least the target level of biomass (40% B_0) in no longer than twice the timeframe it would take in the absence of fishing.

I have decided to reduce the TAC to 2,300 tonnes to support the rebuilding of the stock, recognising the signals that indicate improved recruitment may be coming into the fishery, and giving consideration to the economic impacts of the TAC reduction. Setting a TAC at this level is expected to result in the stock returning to the target level in a minimum of seven years, depending on recruitment coming into the fishery.

I note the next stock assessment is scheduled to take place after the winter 2021 West Coast South Island trawl survey. This will inform the October 2022 sustainability round. In the interim, Fisheries New Zealand will use information collected by observers to monitor year classes recruiting into the fishery. Depending on results, Fisheries New Zealand may review the TAC prior to October 2022.

Hoki (HOK 1) Entire New Zealand EEZ

I have decided to reduce the TAC, TACC and allowance for all other mortality caused by fishing for HOK 1 as follows:

	TAC (t)	TACC (t)	Non-regulatory catch split arrangement		All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
			Eastern stock limit	Western stock limit			
Old (2018/19)	151,540	150,000	60,000	90,000	1,500	20	20
New (2019/20)	116,190	115,000	60,000	55,000	1,150	20	20

Hoki is managed as two stocks through a non-regulatory catch limit arrangement, whereby the TACC is split between the eastern and western stocks.

My decision to reduce the TAC for hoki by 35,350 tonnes reflects the possibility that the status of the western stock is below the management target range (35-50% B_0), and my desire to increase the certainty that this important fishery will recover to the management target range within five years. It is my expectation that the full reduction in catch will apply to the western stock catch limit. No change will be made to the catch limit for the eastern stock.

I recognise the preference of the hoki fishing industry to manage hoki catch through voluntary shelving arrangements. However, I think it is important that our TACs and TACCs are set at levels that ensure the sustainability of our stocks, particularly in the absence of shelving arrangements in a formal fish plan that has been approved under section 11A of the Act.

I acknowledge the willingness of the fishing industry to implement measures that further support improving the status of the hoki stock including the voluntary reduction of catch for the 2018/19 fishing year, management of the east-west catch split arrangement, rotating spawning season closures in key areas, and measures to reduce fishing pressure on juvenile hoki.

Fisheries New Zealand is undertaking a comprehensive review of the hoki stock assessment model to ensure that it is making the best use of the available information, and will also explore research to better understand potential environmental changes that may be affecting hoki and other important fish stocks.

Catch limits will be reviewed again next year, including consideration of the allowances.

Ling (LIN 7) West Coast South Island

I have decided to increase the TAC, TACC and allowances for Māori customary and for all other mortality caused by fishing for West Coast South Island ling (LIN 7) as follows:

	TAC (t)	TACC (t)	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
Old (2018/19)	3,144	3,080	62	1	1
New (2019/20)	3,458	3,387	68	2	1

My decision is based on the most recent stock assessment in 2016/17, which estimated that the stock is Very Likely (>90%) to be at or above the management target of 40% B_0 and able to support a higher TAC. I have increased the Māori customary allowance in recognition of the pātaka recently established in Fisheries Management Area 7.

I note that the stock assessment for LIN 7 will be updated in 2020, and the catch limit may be reviewed again for the 1 October 2020 fishing year.

Orange roughy (ORH 3B) South East

I have decided to increase the TAC, TACC and allowance for all other mortality caused by fishing for South-East orange roughy (ORH 3B) as follows:

	TAC (t)	TACC (t)	Non-regulatory catch split arrangement					All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
			Northwest Chatham Rise	East & South Chatham Rise	Puysegur	Arrow Plateau	Sub-Antarctic			
Old (2018/19)	6,413	6,091	1,150	4,095	347	0	500	317	5	0
New (2019/20)	7,116	6,772	1,150	4,775	347	0	500	339	5	0

Orange roughy in ORH 3B is managed through a non-regulatory catch limit arrangement whereby the TACC is split between five sub-areas. I expect industry to apply all of this TACC increase to the sub-area catch limit for the East and South Chatham Rise, and to not exceed the current non-regulatory catch limits for Northwest Chatham Rise (1,150 tonnes), Puysegur (347 tonnes), Arrow Plateau (0 tonnes) and Sub-Antarctic (500 tonnes).

This is the second year of a three-year, phased increase to the TAC and TACC for ORH 3B based on the 2018 stock assessment of the East and South Chatham Rise and Northwest Chatham Rise orange roughy stocks. Last year, I determined that staging the potential TAC/TACC increase over three years was a cautious approach to management, because the anticipated increase in year three could be cancelled or deferred should information become available that the TAC/TACC increase is having an adverse impact on the orange roughy stock or associated and dependent species. There is no information to suggest that there is any issue at this time.

I intend to consult with stakeholders and make separate TAC and TACC decisions next year (which would be year three of the phased increase), prior to the start of the fishing year.

Orange roughy (ORH 7A + Westpac Bank) West Coast South Island

I have decided to increase the TAC, TACC and allowances for all other mortality caused by fishing for West Coast South Island orange roughy (ORH 7A + Westpac Bank), and introduce a Māori customary fishing allowance as follows:

	2019 TAC (t)	TACC (t)	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
Old	1,680	1,600	80	0	0
New	2,163	2,058	103	2	0

My decision is based on the estimated status of the stock of 47% B_0 , which is in the upper half of the management target range of 30-50% B_0 , and use of a harvest control rule to estimate sustainable levels of catch for the fishery. I have taken a conservative approach and consider that my decision best reflects the objective of ensuring the long-term sustainability of this fishery.

I acknowledge the commitment of the ORH 7A quota holders to support implementation of the catch limit for the Westpac Bank portion of this stock set by the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation. New Zealand will continue to actively engage with the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation to maintain ongoing access for New Zealand fishers to the Westpac Bank area and compatibility of management measures within and out of zone for this straddling stock.

I have also increased the Māori customary allowance in recognition of the pātaka recently established in Fisheries Management Area 7, which enables the customary take of orange roughy in ORH 7A.

Gemfish (SKI 3) East and South Coast South Island and (SKI 7) West Coast South Island

I have decided to increase the TACs, TACCs and allowances for all other mortality caused by fishing and introduce a Māori customary fishing allowance as follows:

		2019 TAC (t)	TACC (t)	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing (t)	Māori Customary Allowance (t)	Recreational Allowance (t)
SKI 3	Old	300	300	0	0	0
	New	606	599	6	1	0
SKI 7	Old	300	300	0	0	0
	New	606	599	6	1	0

My decision is based on scientific information indicating that gemfish biomass has increased considerably during recent years due to above average recruitment, and the expectation that stock size is likely to increase over the next 1-3 years. It is not expected that the increased TACs will result in a reduction in gemfish biomass over the short term.

I have also decided to introduce 1 tonne Māori customary allowances for each stock to provide for gemfish taken under a pātaka arrangement.

I note that there are 152.5 tonnes of preferential allocation ('28N') rights associated with the SKI 7 stock. The increase in the TACC of SKI 7 will result in the discharge of these rights, in that the quota shares of owners who do not have '28N' rights would be reduced and redistributed to the holders of '28N' rights (in accordance with the formulas set out in section 23 of the Act). The effect on iwi quota holdings derived from the 1992 Fisheries Settlement would be to permanently reduce the proportion of the quota shares iwi hold in this stock.

Deemed Value Rates (multiple stocks)

I have decided to adjust deemed value rates for a number of fish stocks. Table 1 summarises my decisions on deemed value rates.

My decisions are consistent with both the Deemed Value Guidelines and my statutory obligations. For all stocks, I have given particular consideration as to how best to encourage fishers to balance catch with ACE throughout the year and to avoid creating incentives to misreport, whilst still ensuring the long term value of the stocks.

Table 1: Old and new deemed value rates (\$/kg) for selected stocks to apply from 1 October 2019

Old						New			
Species	Stock	Interim \$/kg	Annual \$/kg	Annual at maximum excess \$/kg	Differential	Interim \$/kg	Annual \$/kg	Annual at maximum excess \$/kg	Differential
Bluenose	BNS 7	2.70	3.00	10.00	Special	3.60	4.00	11.00	Special
Black cardinalfish	CDL 5	0.26	0.52	0.52	-	0.27	0.30	0.30	-
Jack Mackerel	JMA 7	0.14	0.15	0.30	Standard	0.18	0.20	0.30	Special
Kingfish	KIN 3	8.00	8.90	17.80	Standard	4.00	4.45	8.90	Standard
Rubyfish	RBY 5	0.25	0.28	0.56	Standard	0.25	0.28	0.28	-
	RBY 6	0.25	0.28	0.56	Standard	0.25	0.28	0.28	-
Silver warehou	SWA 3	1.57	1.74	3.00	Special	0.63	0.70	2.00	Special
	SWA 4	0.50	1.22	3.00	Special	0.63	0.70	2.00	Special