



## Office of Hon Phil Heatley

MP for Whangarei

Minister of Fisheries

Minister of Housing

H0307

Dear Stakeholder

### **MANAGEMENT MEASURES RELATING TO THE INTRODUCTION OF REDBAIT INTO THE QUOTA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON 1 OCTOBER 2009**

1 The purpose of this letter is to inform stakeholders of my decisions regarding management measures relating to the introduction of redbait into the Quota Management System (QMS) on 1 October 2009.

2 In making these decisions, I considered the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) Final Advice Paper, dated 12 June 2009, and the issues and information put forward in submissions. I appreciate the efforts made by stakeholders to provide submissions.

#### *Catch limits*

3 In making my decisions on where to set the catch limits for redbait I considered recent catch history together with the biological characteristics of this species. Redbait is likely to be a relatively fast-growing and short-lived species that may have been comparatively under-exploited to date. The information available suggests that the fishery could support a total allowable catch (TAC) that is above recent catches, which will enable fishers to manage their redbait bycatch while also providing an opportunity for fishers to further develop an economically viable redbait fishery.

4 For these reasons I decided to set TACs for the main stocks (RBT3 and RBT7) that are 10% higher than the highest annual catch reported during the last five complete fishing years (2003/04 to 2007/08). For the RBT1 stock I have set a TAC of 20 tonnes in order to reduce the possibility of the entire TAC being caught in a single trawl. I have set a zero TAC for RBT10 as bottom trawling is prohibited within the Kermadec fishery management area.

5 I have set a nil allowance for both customary and recreational fishers for all stocks as redbait is a deepwater species and there is no information to suggest that there is any non-commercial fishery. I have also decided to set an allowance for all other sources of fishing-related mortality that is around 5% of the TAC, which is consistent with several other fisheries.

6 My decisions on TACs, total allowable commercial catches (TACCs) and other allowances for redbait stocks are shown the table below (all figures are in tonnes):

Stock	TAC	Customary allowance	Recreational allowance	Other sources of fishing-related mortality	TACC
RBT 1	20	0	0	1	19
RBT 3	2,305	0	0	115	2,190
RBT 7	2,991	0	0	150	2,841
RBT 10	0	0	0	0	0

#### *Deemed value rates*

7 Setting annual deemed value rates at 50% of either the landed price or representative export price is a standard approach that MFish takes in the deemed value setting process, particularly when there is limited information available. In the case of redbait, the only available price information considered relevant was export price information and I wish to thank fishing industry representatives for supplying MFish with that information. While this information indicated a range of export prices, most were around \$1.00 per kg.

8 I agree with MFish's assessment that this figure represents an appropriate point on the export price range upon which to base deemed value rates, and consequently I have set interim and annual deemed value rates for all redbait stocks of \$0.25 per kg and \$0.50 per kg respectively. All redbait stocks will also be subject to the differential deemed value rates set out in the table below.

Catch in excess of ACE holdings (%)	Differential deemed value rates for all redbait stocks (\$/kg)
20	\$0.60
40	\$0.70
60	\$0.80
80	\$0.90
100	\$1.00

#### *Amendments to reporting codes*

9 I have decided to amend the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2001 to specify the redbait reporting codes to be used by commercial fishers when completing their statutory catch returns. The reason for this technical amendment is that the reporting codes for redbait when it enters the QMS will differ from those used prior to QMS entry. The new reporting codes will be RBT1, RBT3, RBT7 and RBT10.

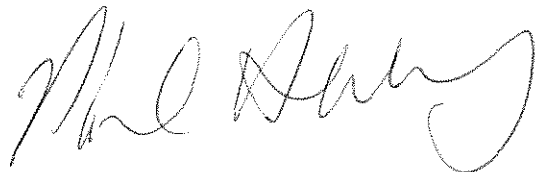
#### *Quota aggregation limits*

10 Many deepwater species, including most of those associated with the redbait fishery, are listed on Schedule 5 of the Fisheries Act 1996. Listing on this Schedule means that the 45% quota aggregation limit applies instead of the standard 35% limit i.e. a person can own quota up to the equivalent of 45% of the combined TACCs for all stocks of that species.

11 I am satisfied that as most of the species associated with the redbait fishery are already listed on Schedule 5 it would be inconsistent if redbait was not also added. For this reason I have decided to add redbait to this Schedule.

12 If you require any further information about any of these decisions please contact Aoife Martin, Manager Deepwater Fisheries, on 04 819 4675 or [aoife.martin@fish.govt.nz](mailto:aoife.martin@fish.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Heatley', written in a cursive style.

Hon Phil Heatley  
**Minister of Fisheries**