



## Office of Hon Phil Heatley

MP for Whangarei

Minister of Fisheries

Minister of Housing

H0147

Dear Stakeholder

### **DECISION TO INTRODUCE REDBAIT INTO THE QUOTA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON 1 OCTOBER 2009**

The purpose of this letter is to set out the rationale for my recent decision to bring redbait into the Quota Management System (QMS) on 1 October 2009.

In making this decision, I considered the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) Final Advice Paper, dated 27 February 2009, and the issues and information put forward in submissions. I appreciate the efforts made by stakeholders to provide submissions in the short time period available to enable this decision to be made in time for the start of the 2009-10 fishing year.

I am persuaded by the MFish recommendation that the allocation of rights under the QMS would provide a better framework for the sustainable utilisation of the fishery. I believe the rights-based approach to management provides greater certainty for investment and rational development. It will also provide incentives for collective action by rights holders to identify the most efficient solutions for mitigating adverse effects and thereby creating the best opportunity to enable their social, cultural and economic well-being.

However, I am aware of industry concerns at the possible increase in costs associated with redbait becoming a QMS species. While I have carefully considered these concerns, I believe that QMS entry will provide the most effective means of managing commercial redbait catch and ensuring that any fisheries development is sustainable. I acknowledge there will be some additional management costs accompanying QMS entry but I believe such costs are necessary to ensure the effective operation of the QMS.

In addition to my decision to introduce redbait stocks into the QMS, I have also made decisions on redbait Quota Management Areas (QMAs), fishing year and unit of measure for the expression of Total Allowable Commercial Catches and Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE).

There is little information available to determine whether separate redbait stocks exist in New Zealand. However, I note that redbait is most often taken as a bycatch to the jack mackerel fishery (in the JMA3 and JMA7 stocks) and for this reason I have

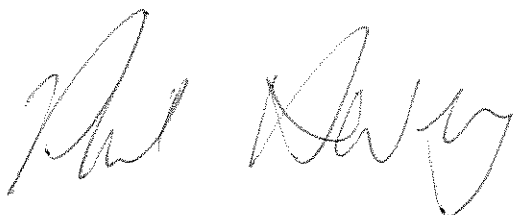
decided that redbait QMAs will be the same as those for jack mackerel i.e. RBT1, RBT3, RBT7 and RBT10.

I have also decided that the fishing year will be 1 October to 30 September; and that the unit of measure will be greenweight. This will align the redbait fisheries with other middle-depth species.

MFish will shortly consult on TACs and other management measures for redbait stocks. I encourage all stakeholders with an interest in this fishery to contribute to this consultation.

If you require any further information about this decision 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**