

Peter Campbell
Vice President
NZ Sport Fishing Council
PO Box 54242, The Marina
Half Moon Bay, Auckland 2144
secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz



Jim Yeoman
President
New Zealand Angling & Casting Association
president@nzaca.co.nz



Stuart Nash
Minister of Fisheries
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160
stuart.nash@parliament.govt.nz

31 August 2018

Dear Hon Stuart Nash,

In anticipation of your pending decision regarding the latest fisheries management review, the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council advises the Time Out for Tarakihi campaign has come to a successful conclusion. The campaign sought to raise public awareness of the need to rebuild the eastern tarakihi stock.

In just 39 days over 8000 people signed up in support of you making a bold decision to rebuild the eastern tarakihi stock, which is estimated to have declined to just 17% of unfished biomass. Clearly this level of depletion is unacceptable and a time-constrained rebuild, based on the best available information, is required.

During the campaign there was some lively online discussion of the issues and here is a sample of some of the feedback we received:

"Good luck, everybody should sign this plea it is absolutely essential that the stock must be restored whatever the cost." JD. Auckland.

"I've already made a tarakihi submission but it's not a difficult decision for the minister at all – it's a straightforward one if he's truly concerned about fish stocks – but don't expect any joy." BC. Marlborough.

"I have fished the area for 55 years and watched stocks be raped and pillaged mainly by commercial and the odd rec fisher!" LH. Blenheim.

"Thanks for the considerable efforts put into going through the raft of material and putting in submissions on our behalf. The task is well beyond most people to manage these things let alone the scope that has to be covered. There are few options for the average person re these issues." Thank you. BK. Canterbury.

You will be well aware of the difficulty of engaging the public in fisheries management reviews. In this case there was a 28-page discussion document and a complex range of options. A joint effort between the NZSFC-LegaSea and New Zealand Angling & Casting Association saw us engaging with the recreational sector and some of the commercial fishing community.

A large number of people took the time to read the available information and respond in support of a decision that will rebuild the tarakihi stock in 10 years or less.

Minister, we encourage you to read [our tarakihi submission](#), a joint effort with the New Zealand Angling & Casting Association, and act on our recommendations.

We do not underestimate the difficulty of your decision. Clearly the eastern tarakihi stock does not fit neatly into the existing Quota Management Areas. You have strong public support to act decisively yet you have pressure from commercial interests wanting to manage themselves through shelving and other constructs. You also have the Fisheries Act with statutory obligations and a Supreme Court decision that confirms you have discretion. Importantly, you have reliable information that the eastern tarakihi stock is below the soft limit thereby requiring a time-bound rebuild to the B40 target biomass, as set out in the Harvest Strategy Standard.

Our team is on standby to assist you with any further information. Meantime, we await your decision with much interest. Our contact is Helen Pastor, secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz.

Best regards,

Peter Campbell
Chairman, Fisheries Management team
Vice President
New Zealand Sport Fishing Council

Jim Yeoman
President
New Zealand Angling & Casting Association