



Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

30 JUL 2021

OIA21-0858

Shaun Lee
shaun@stet.co.nz

Dear Shaun Lee

Thank you for your email of 7 July 2021 requesting information relating to Commercial Scallop Dredging. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

1. *A map of the current commercial dredging footprint.*
2. *The review process. Please demonstrate how the process will protect passively restored epifauna and actively restored kutai (*Perna canaliculus*) beds.*

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) does not currently hold the information you have requested. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA on the basis that the information requested does not exist.

The commercial scallop dredge footprint, which will determine where commercial scallop dredging will be permitted to continue within the Hauraki Gulf, is yet to be defined.

The process to define the area will be collaborative, involving the fishing industry and stakeholders, and it will be based on an assessment of reported dredging activity using fine scale electronic catch and position reporting available from 2019, alongside current understanding of the location of commercial scallop beds. Results from the scallop surveys undertaken earlier this year will also inform the process. Preliminary results from these surveys have been presented to the scientific working group, and once these results are finalised the timeframe to determine the commercial scallop dredge footprint will be confirmed.

MPI is also yet to determine the review process that will be followed in the event that new scallop beds are discovered, however we recognise the need to consider current and potential restoration efforts for the Hauraki Gulf in the review process.

We would be happy to meet with you in person to discuss your queries in more detail and talk through our intended approach for ongoing management of scallop fisheries. Please feel free to contact Sonja Austin (Sonja.austin@mpi.govt.nz) in the inshore fisheries team to arrange a suitable time.

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Thank you again for your queries. I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'EE Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Emma Taylor
Director, Fisheries Management