

Protect the resource

The demand by Peter Talley, of Talley Fisheries, that recreational scalloping should be banned from Tasman and Golden bays ["Cut recreational scalloping, says Talley", *Express*, March 11] is absurd in the extreme and typical of the big corporate approach to exploiting our fisheries for maximum profits.

Mr Talley's philosophy of management was illustrated to me in the late 1970s at a Nelson meeting when I said pair-trawling of spawning snapper in Tasman Bay was gross short-sighted exploitation.

He was enraged.

The Tasman Bay snapper saga appeared to be a case of corporate greed and ministry ineptitude. Fish were dumped from excessive trawling and the "goose that lays the golden egg" was slaughtered.

In Mr Talley's latest comments on scallops, he wants to use the Marlborough Sounds blue cod "management" as a model to exclude recreational fishers.

Is he not aware of the discrimination against recreational fishers and the damage bizarre controls like the slot rule are doing - killing female cod; "the goose that lays the golden egg" syndrome again?

Mr Talley wants the ministry removed from management and says "the measures in place work best".

Yet those measures have left depleted beds in Golden and Tasman bays in their wake.

While commercial spokesmen use a 2011 big flood as a scapegoat for depletion, the reality is ministry graphs clearly show the

fisheries were being severely over-fished and declining from 2002 onwards.
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