



# NORTH-WEST FINFISH FISHERIES PLAN

## MINUTES – FISH PLAN ADVISORY GROUP – MEETING 8

25 September 2008, 10.00am – 4.00pm, Butterfly Creek, Auckland

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### Members and observers present:

Mai Aperahama	Te Hiku o Te Ika
Andrew Bond	Sanford Ltd / Northern Fisheries Stakeholder Management Co. Ltd.
Victor Holloway	Te Hiku o Te Ika / Ngati Kahu
Sam Karaka	Nga Hapu o Te Uru o Tainui
Tommy Moana	Nga Hapu o Te Uru o Tainui
Clive Monds	ECO
Ben Potaka	Te Taihauāuru Iwi Forum
Brent Rolston	Feilding Surfcasters Club / North Island South West Recreational Forum
Carol Scott	Challenger Finfish Management Company
Lynette Stafford	Nga Hapu o Te Uru o Tainui
Hally Toia	Ngati Whatua

### MFish present:

Paul Creswell	MFish Central Inshore Senior Fisheries Analyst
Richard Fanselow	MFish North West Fisheries Analyst
Manihera Forbes	MFish Pou Takawaenga
Te Puoho Katene	MFish Science Officer
Alicia Marchant	MFish North West Fisheries Analyst
Laura Mitchell	MFish North West Fisheries Analyst
Sarah Omundsen	MFish North West Inshore Fisheries Manager
Otene Reweti	MFish Pou Hononga
Eidre Sharp	MFish Compliance Manager
Tracey Smith	MFish North West Fisheries Analyst
Dominic Vallieres	MFish Compliance Analyst

### Apologies:

Mark Bellingham	Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society
Ron Fenwick	Northland Recreational Forum
Sheryl Hart	NZ Recreational Fishing Council/ North Island West Coast Recreational Forum
Leane Makey	ECO
Kevin Moratti	Taranaki Recreational Fishers Association/ North Island South West Recreational Forum
Richard Orzecki	Te Hinakinui o Kapiti
Trish Rea	option4 / North Island West Coast Recreational Forum / Hokianga Accord
Kevin Sullivan	MFish Science Manager (Stock Assessment)
Kerry Torpey	Manukau commercial fisher
Abe Witana	Te Hiku o Te Ika / Te Rarawa
Peter & Christine Yardley	Kaipara Harbour Sustainable Fisheries Management Study Group

## **DRAFT SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

### **1. Mihi and karakia tīmatanga, welcome**

Members were welcomed and the agenda for the day's meeting was confirmed.

### **2. Update on west coast finfish issues**

MFish advised that:

- Regulations resulting from the Minister's decision on the Hector's and Maui's Dolphin Threat Management Plan come into effect on 1 October. The fishing industry has sought interim relief from some of the measures (note that this relief has since been granted).
- The proposed amendment to section 13 of the Fisheries Act would likely be finalised on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September.
- The Minister is expected to make decisions on the application of the Kaimoana Regulations to freshwater in the North Island, the use of special permits for exploratory and developmental fishing activities, new species for the QMS and new TACs for bluenose stocks soon.
- Current consultations include a strategy to provide for the input and participation of tangata whenua, and the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Settlement.

Members of the advisory group requested that the treaty strategy be referred to in the fish plan and the outcomes of the strategy be reflected throughout the fish plan.

- MFish is also consulting on changes to freshwater species codes and net mesh sizes, and new regulations for fishing pots.
- MFish advised that the Research Co-ordinating Committee would be meeting on the 8-9<sup>th</sup> October to consider and prioritise research proposals for 2009/10.

#### Marine Recreational Fishing Charter Vessel Registration and Reporting

MFish advised that it is currently consulting on this proposal. The proposal is to require all marine recreational charter vessel operators to register their vessels with MFish and report monthly on their fishing activity. For some species in some areas, catch reporting will also be required. The reporting scheme may be phased in around the country over a number of years.

Members were concerned that the proposal didn't include catch reporting for all species, particularly those of importance on the North West coast. Members were also concerned the paper had been developed without discussions with tangata whenua and stakeholders. MFish explained that the proposal had been developed following public meetings with charter boat operators – with discussions focussed on the balance between information needs and co-operation in completing the reporting requirements.

The Fish Plan Advisory Group requested that the following points be provided as a submission to the proposal:

#### ACTIVITY REPORTING

- The initial position paper (IPP) states that the MFish preferred option is to require fishing-related activity reporting that includes the main species caught for each fishing location visited.. Members request that **all species** be recorded, particularly as the MFish rationale for activity reporting is to “allow the assessment of the extent of current activity and trends over time that may affect management”.

#### LIMITED CATCH REPORTING

- There is unanimous support from the Group to implement catch reporting by charter boat operators of **all species**.
- The IPP states that the MFish preferred option is to only require catch reporting for certain stocks. The stocks proposed by MFish are Hapuku & Bass (HPB1, HPB2), Kingfish (KIN1, KIN2), Blue Cod (BCO3, BCO5, BCO7), Southern Bluefin Tuna (STN1) and Pacific Bluefin Tuna (TOR1). Members believe that catch reporting should be required for **all species** caught.
- Singling out only a few species for catch reporting when there is little information about current catch could miss out species caught that MFish may not be aware of. Catch and “valuable species” may change in the future, and without knowing increased targeting of species there will be little information to trigger or support the addition of further “important” stocks to the list of those where catch information is required.
- Arguments that new reporting requirements should be phased in and can be added to in the future were rejected. Members felt that the effort required to report all catch would be minimal and that records were likely to already be collected by most operators anyway.

- While members thought it was important that catch reporting was done for all species, snapper was singled out as an example of a species that should definitely be included. Given the proposal has been developed in response to “Shared Fisheries” consultation, and snapper is a very important shared fishery, members could not see why it wasn’t included in the stocks proposed for catch reporting.
- Members rejected MFish explanation that they were not aware of snapper being targeted by many charter boat operators.
  - o Some members have seen charter boats come in (e.g to Mangonui Wharf) and watched snapper be distributed first (as this is what people are most interested in).
  - o In Kawhia all three charter boats target snapper.
  - o Snapper is perceived to be at risk by members, as each boat could take ten people who could all catch their bag limit. This could be 100 snapper per trip.

MFish encouraged members to contact them with any additional thoughts or information on this proposal and to also make individual submissions (to be submitted by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October).

### **3. Regulation reviews- process and timeline**

At the previous meeting there were a number of concerns from members that proposals coming out of the advisory group would not follow due process and that changes to regulations might be made without consultation.

In response to this concern MFish provided an overview of the MFish review process that would be followed to progress any proposal that was put forward by the advisory group.

Information on this process is attached in Appendix 2.

Discussion following this overview included:

- Members felt that the selection of what regulations get proposed for review is piecemeal.
- Objectives should identify a package of regulations that can be put through for review together.
- Concerns over how measures that have been identified to address objectives will be prioritised, both in relation to other plans and to other issues that are put forward outside of fish plans.
- Customary members emphasised that they can not make decisions at a meeting without going back to their people.

### **4. Customary hui update**

Members requested an update from members who attended the customary hui the day before. It was requested that an update be provided after every customary hui.

Hally Toia reported that customary members are working on an understanding that they can put into a manner that everybody will understand. He asked for patience as they work on this together and with their people. They are not anticipating any drastic changes and want to contribute in a positive manner to improve understanding.

## **5. Developing our sustainability objectives**

MFish presented the more detailed explanation of the sustainability objectives that had been developed using the ideas for strategies and measures brainstormed by the group at the previous meeting. Changes were suggested by the group and will be made and distributed prior to next meeting.

Now that we have started to look at the objectives in more detail, members felt that it was important that any proposed standards were explained and acknowledged in the document.

An exercise was then undertaken to answer a series of questions about how important each measure was in achieving the objective. MFish will collate and develop the results of this exercise and present back to members.

## **6. Developing our inclusive management objectives**

Members split into two groups to look at the inclusive management objectives and to brainstorm strategies and measures that will contribute towards achieving these objectives. MFish will develop these ideas in the way that they have developed the sustainability objectives and distribute this back to the group for further discussion at a later meeting.

## **7. Agenda for next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October.

MFish will invite NIWA scientist Mark Morrison to present on work he has been doing about important juvenile habitats.

Members requested that members of the Northern Inshore Working Group attend the meeting to provide a clearer link to the research process.

Members also requested a pictorial diagram of all the different MFish processes, their purpose and how they fit together.

The fish plan approval process has been presented at other fish plans and members requested the presentation at a future meeting.

## **8. Karakia whakamutunga**

Otene Reweti closed the meeting with a karakia.

**ACTIONS:**

**Members**

- Members to check that minutes regarding submission on charter boat registration and reporting are accurate and to forward any further comments to MFish.
- Members to read and consider revised objectives once received from MFish.

**MFish**

- Sarah Omundsen to put forward a submission on charter boat reporting on behalf of the advisory group.
- MFish to make suggested changes to wording of the sustainability objectives and distribute.
- MFish to incorporate an explanation of standards into the fish plan document.
- MFish to assemble and distribute responses to the sustainability objective exercise.
- MFish to write up and distribute the strategies for the inclusive management objectives.
- MFish to provide science perspective on the link between the research prioritisation process and fish plans.
- MFish to produce a pictorial diagram of all the different MFish processes, their purpose and how they fit together.
- MFish to organise presentation on the fish plan approval process for a future meeting.

**APPENDIX ONE: Matters on the parking board.**

- Maui's section of info brief
- Where to discuss fisheries enhancement in the info brief
- Nature of value of fisheries for different sectors.
- Advisory group interaction with Tangata Whenua
- Terminology- which to use? Amateur/ recreational/ non- commercial?
- Information to Kaitiaki where Privacy Act might be breached.

**APPENDIX TWO: Regulation reviews process**

