

RECREATIONAL FISHING FORUM : SUMMARY NOTES

NORTH ISLAND NORTH-WEST COAST

Issues common to the other Auckland based Recreational Meetings

Stakeholders raised similar concerns to the issues heard at the other Auckland meetings

- Ministry needs to improve its communication strategy with recreational fishers
- Consultation timeframes must be longer – at least 6 weeks required
- Confirmation of receipt of submissions
- Ministry should produce more information / consultation on the internet
- More information should be provided on the Ministry's compliance strategy to improve the overall level of compliance within the recreational sector with the regulations.
- More information is required on management tools that are available to the recreational sector for managing local issues - they would also like to know more about how the management tools available to Maori customary fishing are used.

Main issues specific to the NW Coast Forum

TRE7: It was significant that all members said that TRE7 was now a problem, with very few trevally now being caught for all types of fishing methods, and inside and outside harbours.

Kahawai: Members also agreed that kahawai fishing was still reasonably good at the Marokopa river mouth [south of Kawhia], but that kahawai catch rates in other areas were generally not as good as in the past.

SNA8:

All the members considered that a 15-20 year rebuild timeframe that the Minister decided upon was unacceptable. They said the TACC should have been cut much more than just 200 tonnes down from 1500 to 1300 tonnes because the pair trawlers "raped" the fishery in the 1970s. Their reason was that with the SNA8 fishery way below B_{MSY} many people will not go fishing because snapper catch rates are bad and the fish are small in size. They noted that by the time SNA8 is rebuilt to B_{MSY} , two generations of New Zealanders will not have had the benefits of fishing this fishery at B_{MSY} .

It was also interesting that the NW coast members were less concerned about the political conflict regarding the "proportional" aspect of the Minister's decision – the members were more concerned about the reality of why it was important to rebuild SNA8 back to B_{MSY} . They also did not outrightly object to the bag limit reduction, but did not want any further bag limit reductions.

Kingfish: Most of the members appeared to support the change allowing legal sized kingfish to be released.