



Annual Operational Plan for Freshwater Fisheries 2012/13

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Publications Logistics Officer
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526
WELLINGTON 6140

Email: brand@mpi.govt.nz
Telephone: 0800 00 83 33
Facsimile: 04-894 0300

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Glossary of Terms

Aquatic environment	The natural and biological resources comprising any aquatic ecosystem including aquatic life. These environments can include: oceans, seas, coastal areas, inter-tidal areas, estuaries, rivers, lakes and other places.
Biological diversity	The variability among living organisms, including diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems
Biomass	The size of a stock in units of weight.
Ensuring sustainability	Maintaining the potential of fisheries resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations and avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of fishing on the aquatic environment .
Fisheries resources	Any one or more stocks or species of fish, aquatic life or seaweed.
Fish stock or Stock	Any fish, aquatic life or seaweed of one or more species that are treated as a unit for the purpose of fisheries management.
Group	The grouping of stocks to facilitate multi-stock objective setting and service delivery. The grouping methodology categorises stocks according to their desirability to fishers, their biological vulnerability, and how management objectives and services strategies might differ across categories.
Habitat	Includes all aspects of the aquatic environment which fisheries resources depend on directly or indirectly in order to carry on their life processes.
Hard limit	A specified biomass (or proxy) reference level below which a fishery should be considered for closure.
Harvested species	Any fish, aquatic life, or seaweed that may, for the time being, be taken with lawful authority.
Harvest strategy	Identifies target, soft and hard biomass reference points and management actions associated with achieving the target and avoiding the limits.
Long-term viability	In relation to a biomass level of a stock or species, means there is a low risk of collapse of the stock or species and the stock or species has the potential to recover to a higher biomass level.
Management Action(s)	The key results that will be targeted for completion during the time period of the Annual Operational Plan that will contribute to the delivery of management objectives in the National Fisheries Plans for Freshwater.
Management Objective(s)	The high-level objectives set for freshwater fisheries in the National Fisheries Plan for Freshwater.
Management Service(s)	The high-level tasks and resources required to ensure delivery of the Management Actions. These include services provided for the purposes of fisheries management, such as changes to catch limits and rules, education, enforcement, monitoring and research.
Operational Objective	Stock or fishery-specific objectives that are required to achieve, and are derived from, broader Management Objectives.
Performance measure(s)	Assist MPI to determine whether the management objective(s) is/are being met. Performance measures may be direct or indirect depending on the information available. Assessment of the measure may provide a signal that there is a need to investigate further and to possibly take new action.
Protected species	As defined in the Wildlife Act 1953 and the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978.

Quota Management Area (QMA)	The spatial boundaries for each QMS stock . These boundaries are aligned with FMA s, either directly or as a part or combination of FMA boundaries.
Quota Management System (QMS)	System of fisheries management for the main harvest species in New Zealand which includes the requirement to set a TAC , make allowances for customary Māori interests, amateur interests and fishing-related mortality and set a TACC .
Soft Limit	A specified biomass (or proxy) level that triggers a requirement for a formal, time constrained rebuilding plan.
Stock Status	A determination made about the current condition of the stock on the basis of stock assessment results.
Sustainability Measures	Any measure or action taken for the purpose of ensuring sustainability.
Target biomass	Generally, a biomass (or proxy) level that management actions are designed to achieve with at least 50% probability.
Total Allowable Catch (TAC)	The total quantity of fishing-related mortality allowed for a QMS stock in a given fishing year.
Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)	The total quantity of commercial catch allowed for a QMS stock in a given fishing year.
Utilisation	Conserving, using, enhancing and developing fisheries resources to enable people to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

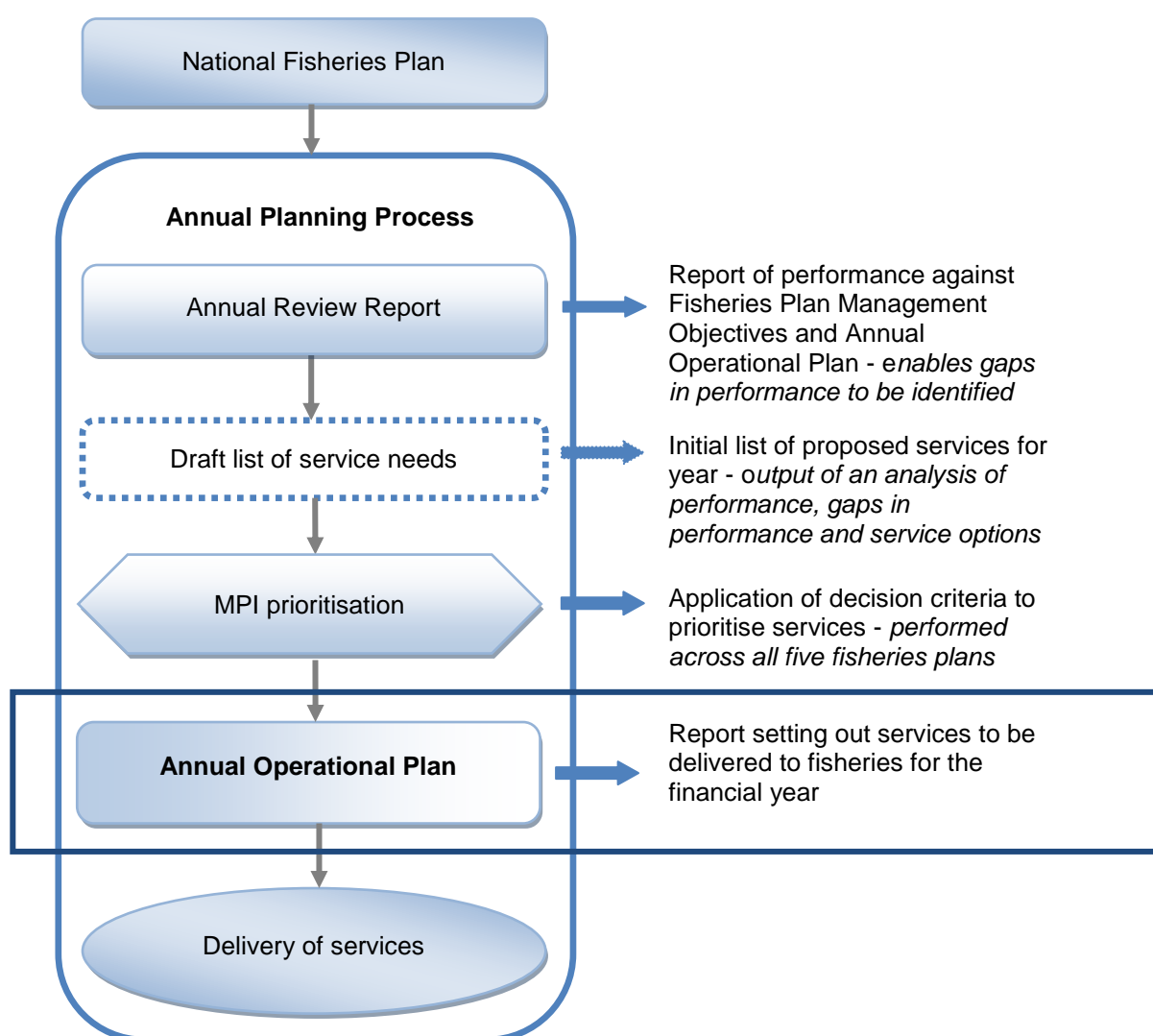
The Annual Operational Plan describes the specific management actions relating to fisheries managed under the draft National Plan for Freshwater Fisheries (the National Plan) that will be undertaken during the 2012-13 financial year. Completion of the management actions will contribute to meeting the management objectives, outcomes and goals described in the National Plan.

Also included in this Annual Operational Plan are details of the management services (compliance, research, regulatory, etc.) that will be required to deliver the specified management actions, and the business groups responsible for delivery.

1.2 Context

The Annual Operational Plan is one of two annual companion documents to the National Plan. The National Plan provides the overarching framework for management of freshwater fisheries managed under the Fisheries Act 1996 and is implemented through an annual planning and service delivery cycle as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Annual Planning and Service Delivery Cycle



The National Plan guides the annual cycle by establishing the management objectives for the fisheries. The Annual Operational Plan sets out the specific stock, fishery and across-fishery management actions and management services that will contribute to the achievement of the National Plan management objectives.

This Annual Operational Plan is informed by the Annual Review Report for Freshwater Fisheries 2010/11. The Annual Review Report presents information on:

1. the status of freshwater fisheries relative to the performance measures set out in the National Plan; and
2. delivery of management actions and services specified in the previous year's Annual Operational Plan [Note: the next Annual Review Report will review last year's (i.e. 2011/12) Annual Operational Plan].

Together, parts one and two of the Annual Review Report identify potential areas of focus when developing the Annual Operational Plan, which are analysed and discussed with tangata whenua and stakeholders to determine what, if any, management action is required.

Not all management actions are driven by performance gaps. Management actions and services are also applied to maintain a desired level of performance or to further enhance performance in a key result area.

The demand for management services is frequently greater than can be provided by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). An internal prioritisation within MPI across draft Annual Operational Plans for the five different Fisheries Plans (Deepwater, Highly Migratory, Inshore Finfish, Inshore Shellfish, and Freshwater) seeks to address competing interests. Engagement with tangata whenua and stakeholders also provides opportunities to identify where these groups can provide needed or desired services.

1.3 Operational Plan components

The 2012-13 management actions for freshwater fisheries are described in relation to the management objective that the action seeks to support. External and core supporting services have been included in addition to specific MPI-led management services to describe the wider services that contribute to the operation of fisheries management. The terminology used in the Annual Operational Plan is further described below.

Stock Groups

The National Plan groups fish stocks to facilitate multi-stock objective setting and service delivery. The grouping methodology categorises stocks according to their desirability to fishers, their biological vulnerability, and how management objectives and service strategies might differ across categories. This Annual Operational Plan organises management actions by stock groups, as summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: National Plan for Freshwater Fisheries fish stock groupings

QMS stocks	Group 1: Eel fisheries
	Longfin eels (North Island and Chatham Islands LFE 17, 20 to 23)
	Shortfin eels ¹ (North Island and Chatham Islands SFE 17, 20 to 23)
Non-QMS stocks	Freshwater eels ² (South Island ANG 11 to 16)
	Group 2: Non-QMS fisheries
	All other freshwater fisheries resources subject to the Fisheries Act 1996

Management Actions

Management actions are the key results targeted for completion during the time period of the Annual Operational Plan. These actions support the management objectives specified in the National Plan.

¹ SFE stocks include the Australasian longfin eel *Anguilla reinhardtii*.

² ANG stocks encompass longfin eel *Anguilla dieffenbachii*, shortfin eel *A. australis* and, where relevant, Australasian longfin eel *A. reinhardtii*.

Each management action will provide a clear link to the relevant management objective(s) in the National Plan.

Management actions are described at a high-level to provide a clear overview of what MPI is planning to achieve for the financial year. They may apply to a specific stock, fishery, group, or across the entire National Plan.

Management Services

Management services are the high-level tasks and resources required to successfully deliver the management actions. Each management service will describe:

1. the task to be completed (nature of the service);
2. the organisation(s) responsible for delivery – MPI or external (if applicable); and
3. business group responsibilities for MPI or MPI-led tasks.

Management services will be detailed enough to allow business groups to plan and write their annual work programme. The description of each management service allows for flexibility in how individual business groups choose to provide that service. This flexibility gives business groups the ability to find the most practical and cost-effective way to deliver the service.

Core Services

There are a number of services provided by MPI business groups that the Annual Operational Plan describes as 'core' services. Core services are defined as those that relate to MPI as a whole, are delivered every year, and may be used by various business groups. This includes communications and Ministerial support provided by the Office of the Director-General, finance, data management and IT services, and legal services within the Organisational Services branch.

It also includes supporting processes that have been designed to achieve the governance conditions outlined in the National Plan. For example, services that support the operation of engagement forums like Iwi forums.

External Services

External services are provided by service providers other than MPI, including tangata whenua and stakeholders, which contribute to the delivery of management actions. Some external services address a gap or maintain performance of a stock or fishery. In these cases if the external provider is unable to deliver the service, MPI may provide resourcing to ensure service delivery.

1.4 Structure

The Annual Operational Plan is set out in the following sections:

- Section 2: details the **management actions** that will be undertaken during the 2012/13 financial year; this section is organised by stock groups.
- Section 3: details the **management services** that will be required to deliver the management actions described in Section 2; this section is organised by "service provider".

2.0 Management actions for freshwater fisheries

MPI has set out 18 management actions to deliver during the 2012-13 financial year for freshwater fisheries. The table below lists these management actions and describes how each action supports the achievement of management objectives in the National Plan, including how they seek to fill performance gaps identified in the Annual Review Report.

Some of the management actions are stock or fishery specific, while others apply across all stocks in a group, all fisheries in the National Plan or all inshore fisheries. All management actions contribute to the management objectives set out in the National Plan.

Group	Objective	Management Action	Need/Rationale
1: Eel fisheries	<i>Secure social, economic and cultural benefits from each stock</i>		
	USE	1. Review minimum Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) holding requirement for South Island eel stocks	Although there was not sufficient information to assess the trend in economic benefit from the fishery, this requirement is currently a significant barrier to entry as a fisher needs to source and hold 4 tonnes of ACE before being able to go fishing. The review of this restriction (with a view to either reduce the current requirement or remove it altogether) would eliminate/reduce this barrier to entry, which appears to be either excessively restrictive or redundant, and reduce compliance costs.
		2. Review Total Allowable Catch for Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere (ANG13), subject to final outcome of fishery status indicators	Draft fishery status indicators suggest that Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere fishery (ANG13) may be able to support a higher level of catch than the current catch limit. This management action is subject to the final outcome of fishery status indicators due to be reported in October 2012.

Group	Objective	Management Action	Need/Rationale
1: Eel fisheries	<i>Maintain adequate spawning biomass to provide for high levels of recruitment; protect, maintain and enhance eel habitats</i>		
	ENVIRONMENT (Stock Sustainability)	<i>Carry out research projects to identify the impact of habitat change on freshwater environments and eel fisheries:</i> 3. Factors Required to Create Benign Habitats for Eels in a Modern New Zealand Context (industry-led through MSI)	Although the importance of freshwater environments to eel fisheries is generally recognised in national and regional policy statements, resource management decisions often fail to adequately protect freshwater environments. The outcomes of this research project would allow a more effective engagement with agencies responsible for resource use decisions (e.g. resource consents) that may have a significant impact on eel fisheries and freshwater environments. The outcomes of this research project may also support management of the fisheries.
		4. Review of Total Allowable Catches for North Canterbury/Marlborough (ANG12) and South Canterbury/Waitaki (ANG14), subject to final outcome of fishery status indicators	Fishery status indicators show that ANG12 had a declining CPUE series up to 2006 and local depletion concerns have been raised. Although ANG14 had a fluctuating CPUE series up to 2006, local depletion concerns have also been raised. This management action is subject to the final outcome of fishery status indicators due to be reported in October 2012.
		<i>Carry out core sustainability research projects:</i> 5. EEL2012/01: CPUE for North Island eel stocks 6. EEL2012/02: Monitoring/sampling size composition/grades of commercial eel catch 7. EEL2012/03: Recruitment of eels	Catch per unit of effort (CPUE), commercial catch size composition and recruitment are the three basic fishery status indicators of the stocks' sustainability. The proposed research projects are 'business as usual' updates of these indicators.
		<i>Carry out other ongoing sustainability research projects:</i> 8. EEL2011/01: Eel population structure in tributaries of hydro reservoirs seeded with elvers	Elver catch and transfer programmes are an important way to mitigate the impact of major infrastructures (e.g. hydro dams) on eel passage. This is an ongoing research project looking at the effectiveness of these programmes. Final results are expected during 2012/13.
		9. Develop Harvest Strategies for eel fisheries including: - agreed methodology for assessing/monitoring eel stocks - setting management targets - developing a medium term research plan to support Harvest Strategies	Because of the eels' life history, biological characteristics and their vulnerability to habitat change and loss, management needs to be relatively cautious. Harvest Strategies provide an opportunity to increase certainty and efficiency in reviews of catch limits, allowing MPI to respond promptly when scientific information suggests stocks may be at risk or that there are opportunities to increase value obtained from the fisheries. Harvest Strategies also provide certainty for the industry, tangata whenua and stakeholders.
		10. Review North Island and Chatham Islands fyke net escape tube minimum diameter requirement	An Eel Enhancement Co proposal for the North Island. The current minimum escape tube diameter requirement (25mm) is inconsistent with the minimum weight limit (220g). The majority of North Island commercial fishers use 31mm diameter tubes under a Code of Practice. Regulate this Code of Practice element would improve the ability to enforce and ensure compliance, particularly with any future new entrants. The change would make all escape tube requirements consistent.

Group	Objective	Management Action	Need/Rationale
2: Non-QMS fisheries	<i>Enable utilisation of each stock</i>		
	<i>Ensure catch is at a level that is sustainable</i>		
	USE ENVIRONMENT (Stock Sustainability)	11. Clarify management objectives for non-QMS freshwater fisheries, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reviewing the application of the QMS Introduction Standard to endemic freshwater species; and - reviewing management rules for introduced/unwanted species. 	Because of the range of non-QMS freshwater species (including a mixture of endemic and introduced/unwanted species), it is not always clear how the management objectives apply to each species. The aim of this management action is to provide for development opportunities for non-QMS freshwater fisheries while ensuring sustainability, where applicable. The QMS Introduction Standard is not well suited to endemic non-QMS freshwater species due to the small quantities harvested. Furthermore, there has been some interest to commercially harvest introduced/unwanted species yet there are significant barriers to entry and regulatory costs which could be streamlined.
All	<i>Secure social, economic and cultural benefits from each stock</i> (Group 1: Eel fisheries)		
	<i>Enable utilisation of each stock</i> (Group 2: Non-QMS fisheries)		
	<i>Maintain adequate spawning biomass to provide for high levels of recruitment; protect, maintain and enhance eel habitats</i> (Group 1: Eel fisheries)		
	<i>Ensure catch is at a level that is sustainable</i> (Group 2: Non-QMS fisheries)		
	USE ENVIRONMENT (Stock Sustainability)	12. Increase proportion of New Zealand's fisheries waters covered by customary fishing regulations. * 13. Improve iwi and Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki understanding of the importance and use of customary fishing authorisation data and provide for easy reporting. *	There is less than 75% of coverage by Kaimoana Customary Fishing Regulations in the North Island. Although some reporting has occurred, it is very sporadic and not species specific so it cannot effectively inform management. In the Chatham Islands, uptake of Customary Fishing Regulations is fairly recent, thus there has been no reporting to date. For South Island stocks, reporting of customary fishing is generally consistent. Improved reporting of customary fishing is important to help identify whether management objectives are being met. These management actions are aimed at that.
	USE ENVIRONMENT (Stock Sustainability)	14. Improve fisher awareness and understanding of fishing laws where current compliance levels are sub-optimal. 15. Increase deterrent activities where emerging or systemic illegal activities (or opportunities for illegal activity) are identified.	Illegal fishing negatively impacts on the benefits that may be derived from legitimate resource use. Reducing illegal fishing may require fisheries management or compliance services, or a combination of these, and calls for an adaptive framework to identify and respond to risks as they arise. This management action includes business as usual education, compliance and enforcement activities. ³

* Cross-fisheries plan management action – relevant to the National Fisheries Plans for Inshore Shellfish, Finfish, & Freshwater.

³ The focus of education, compliance and enforcement activities for freshwater fisheries for 2012/13 will be on:

- commercial reporting requirements ; and
- evaluation of the compliance risk arising from international demand for glass eels.

Group	Objective	Management Action	Need/Rationale
All	<i>Maintain adequate spawning biomass to provide for high levels of recruitment; protect, maintain and enhance eel habitats (Group 1: Eel fisheries)</i> <i>Ensure catch is at a level that is sustainable (Group 2: Non-QMS fisheries)</i>		
	ENVIRONMENT (Stock Sustainability)	16. Implement an agreed definition of habitats of particular significance for freshwater fisheries management by identifying such habitats. 17. Develop "peer networks" in natural resource management agencies to share information where non-fishing activities may impact on the health of freshwater fisheries and to clarify/ confirm MPI's role vs. the role of other agencies in relation to freshwater fisheries.	A working definition of habitats of particular significance for fisheries management was developed during 2012. The application of this definition by identifying such habitats will allow more effective engagement with other resource management agencies at the operational level and may assist in informing fisheries management decision-making. Although the importance of these habitats is captured by high-level resource policy and planning documents, there are few operational objectives or policies that support protection of these habitats. The purpose of engagement with other resource management agencies is to increase understanding, monitoring and mitigation of impacts from non-fishing activities on freshwater environments and fisheries.
	<i>Minimise adverse effects of fishing on the aquatic environment, including on biological diversity</i>		
	ENVIRONMENT (Effects of fishing)	18. Maintain a watching brief of biosecurity risks and mitigation measures	Although policy objectives for managing fishing effects on the aquatic environment have not been determined, impacts from freshwater fishing are considered to be low. A potential risk is the spread or introduction of unwanted aquatic life. These risks are managed currently managed through compulsory and voluntary mitigation measures. This management action will document the range of current risks and mitigation measures, serving as an information resource to assist in the identification of, and response to, future breaches.

3.0 Management services

The delivery of management actions requires services and support from across a number of different business groups within MPI and in some cases by external providers. MPI branches, directorates and teams responsible for delivering management actions and services for freshwater fisheries are described below. The core and support services provided by these teams are also described below.

3.1 Resource Management and Programmes branch – Fisheries Management Directorate

The role of the Fisheries Management Directorate is to carry out the full-range of statutory and regulatory functions, duties and powers to manage New Zealand's fisheries resources. The Directorate is responsible for the implementation and operation of the National Fisheries Plans covering all of New Zealand's fisheries resources. These plans drive the range of relevant services across MPI, as well as all other aspects of the operational policy framework for fisheries. This includes enabling the maximisation of value obtained from fisheries by setting outcomes, management objectives and strategies. Along with fisheries managers, the Fisheries Management Directorate includes fisheries scientists to provide expert advice and interpretation of science-based information for fisheries management.

Inshore Fisheries Management

The Inshore Fisheries Management team is responsible for overseeing the management of New Zealand's inshore and freshwater fisheries resources. This includes determining the approach to manage these fisheries, priorities between the fisheries, and specifying the services required to meet the management objectives outlined in draft National Inshore Fisheries Plans (Finfish, Shellfish and Freshwater) within the resources available. Delivery of prioritised services is done through the implementation of Annual Operational Plans. The Inshore team provides fisheries management expertise and advice, implements sustainability and regulatory management interventions and drives the fisheries planning processes for inshore and freshwater fisheries.

Core/support services

- Implementation of the Annual Fisheries Planning Process (e.g. development of Annual Review Reports and Annual Operational Plans, and monitoring service delivery and performance)
- Operation of six recreational fishing forums, in particular to facilitate input into annual fisheries planning and service delivery process
- Participation in six iwi forums, including facilitation of Tier 1 iwi input into annual fisheries planning and service delivery processes
- Engagement with the Inshore Fishing Industry Council and Commercial Stakeholder Organisations to facilitate input into annual fisheries planning and service delivery processes
- Operation of the Annual Research Planning Process
- Completion of Ministerial services, including responding to correspondence, briefings, Official Information Act (OIA) requests, media enquiries
- General fisheries monitoring, including attendance at the Science Working Group meetings (where required)
- Engagement with the Compliance & Response team to inform business planning and provide input into the annual fisheries planning and service delivery processes
- Implementation of general and specific Treaty obligations related to fisheries management
- Drafting and providing input into media releases, interviews and other communication responses
- Providing fisheries management input into other MPI activities – e.g. special permits, policy development, spatial allocations, aquaculture, Treaty settlement negotiations
- Engagement with environmental NGOs
- Implementing the QMS Introduction Standard to consider stocks for entry to the QMS

Science and Principal Advisor (Fisheries Science)

The Science team has a core responsibility to help interpret and advise fisheries managers on science-based information. It is responsible for stock assessment and aquatic environment and biodiversity related processes, supporting the researching planning processes, and ensuring that quality scientific information is used in fisheries management decisions.

The Principal Advisor (Fisheries Science) is the intellectual leader of MPI's fisheries science and research efforts, providing thought leadership and critical review of fisheries research, and contributing to the translation of research results as required across fisheries (including marine, freshwater and aquaculture) research. The Advisor's responsibilities include providing advice on the implementation and applicability of the Harvest Strategy Standard and the Science and Research Standard.

The Science team is also responsible for a number of core/support services. In some cases these services may provide opportunities for targeted action to improve fisheries management performance, but in general they are required to support day-to-day and business-as-usual functions.

Core/support services

- Operation of Research Advisory Groups.
- Operation of Science Working Groups.
- Development of Plenary Documents.
- Project management, provision of scientific expertise/advice, and review programmed research outputs.
- Completion of ministerial services, including correspondence, briefings, OIA requests, media enquiries.
- Drafting and providing input into media releases, interviews and other communication responses.
- Peer review and input into other business group "on-demand" services such as the processing of special permit, aquaculture and spatial allocations.

Special Permits & Spatial Allocations

The Special Permits & Spatial Allocations team provides advice to the rest of MPI on issues dealing with allocation of marine and freshwater space as well as special permit applications and processing. The team is responsible for evaluating marine reserve and other types of applications in terms of their impacts on the use of fisheries resources. The team is also responsible for evaluating proposals for customary management areas, such as mātaihai reserves, taiapure-local fisheries and temporary measures under section 186A/B of the Fisheries Act 1996. They assist in the coordination of MPI's involvement in regional processes for determining proposed marine protected areas, assist in the evaluation of allocation issues, and provide advice and support on development of standards and policies, as required.

3.2 Compliance & Response/Verification & Systems branches

The Compliance & Response and Verification & Systems branches support analysis of risks to the fishery and deliver the intervention services aimed at achieving cost-effective compliance with fishery management strategies. The branches provide advice to fisheries managers on the most cost-effective and effective combination of intervention services to manage risks and achieve objectives. They are also responsible for the presentation of potential cases for prosecution to the Legal Team and providing support to the Prosecutions Team where required.

Compliance Directorate

The Compliance Directorate (Compliance & Response) is responsible for the all operational delivery of compliance services, investigation services, and compliance inspections across the full spectrum from voluntary compliance to enforcement. The Directorate delivers all compliance activities including patrol, operational surveillance, inspection, tactical intelligence analysis and investigation across the services of informing, assisting, directing and enforcing compliance.

Operational Programmes Directorate

The Operational Programmes Directorate (Verification & Systems) is responsible for developing and maintaining systems to support the delivery of the key outputs/outcomes for the Verification & Systems and Compliance & Response branches. The directorate will identify best practices that occur in areas of the business and leverage those to deliver greater value across both branches.

The Directorate undertakes the development, implementation and maintenance of frameworks and systems to support the delivery of key outputs (including training, intelligence and profiling, planning, monitoring and business support) for the Compliance and Response branch. Additionally, this directorate supports translating the needs of fisheries managers into agreed service delivery plans and to report on performance on a regular basis.

The Compliance & Response and Verification & Systems branches are also responsible for a number of core/support services that support fisheries managers, MPI business groups as well as tangata whenua and stakeholders in the management of inshore fisheries. Some of these services may be tailored to support delivery of specified management actions or target specific areas/fisheries throughout the financial year.

Core/Support Services

- Undertake commercial fishing inspections.
- Undertake licensed fish receiver inspections.
- Undertake patrols targeting non-commercial fishers.
- Provide liaison for tangata tiaki/kaitiaki.
- Undertake dealer-in-fish inspections.
- Promote understanding of sustainability measures or regulations.
- Co-ordinating and supporting the Honorary Fishery Officers (HFO) network.
- Leading education initiatives.
- Responding to 0800 4 POACHER line and general public enquiries.

3.3 Māori Primary Sector Partnerships branch

The Fisheries Management Directorate works closely with the Māori Primary Sector Partnerships branch to ensure that the strategies, policies, processes and operations of the directorate are developed and implemented in a way that supports and enables delivery of MPI's obligations, and strategic outcomes, to Māori (particularly Iwi Fisheries Plans).

Māori Partnership Advice Directorate

The Māori Partnership Advice Directorate ensures delivery of strategies and operational advice to the Minister and MPI management on delivery of obligations and strategic outcomes to Māori and Māori involvement across the primary sectors, including fisheries. It develops initiatives that enable Māori to improve fisheries sector productivity and maximise the benefits from the sustainable use of their fisheries assets.

Māori Partnership Implementation Directorate

The Māori Partnership Implementation Directorate assist the implementation of MPI initiatives that improve Māori primary sector productivity and increasing sustainable resource use including the delivery of fisheries related obligations to Māori. This includes enabling MPI to deliver its obligations to Māori and ensuring effective engagement with Māori, government agencies, sector stakeholders and staff at all levels throughout MPI. Implementation advisors support iwi forums to develop Iwi and Forum Fisheries Plans to feed into the National Fisheries Plans for Inshore.

The Māori Primary Sector Partnership branch is also responsible for a number of core/support services that support fisheries managers, other MPI business groups as well as tangata whenua and stakeholders in the management of inshore fisheries.

Core/Support Services

- Develop and implement indicators for monitoring the level to which MPI is meeting its obligations to Māori
- Build constructive relationships with all MPI business groups to assist the success of the Treaty Strategy
- Processing the gazetting of tangata tiaki/ kaitiaki under the customary regulations based on iwi rohe
- Provide advice to the Minister on the appointment of kaitiaki and tangata tiaki
- Assist with dispute resolution/mediation and customary regulation education
- Provide guidelines to assist with the application of customary tools
- Establishment and operation of national and regional forums to allow iwi/hapu input and participation in the management of fisheries to meet MPI's obligations under the Treaty Settlement
- Build constructive relationships with iwi/hapu leadership to assist MPI to meet its obligations in respect of the Deed of Settlement and individual iwi treaty settlements
- Assist iwi/hapu to understand the application and management implications of the fisheries management tools
- Provide advice and support, including training, to MPI staff to enhance the effectiveness of MPI's Treaty Strategy
- Assist iwi/forums to develop integrated iwi fisheries plans and assist iwi with building capacity in this area

3.4 Policy branch

The Policy branch is responsible for providing the regulatory processes and advice for the wide range of legislation administered by MPI. It provides forward-looking analysis, policy development and advice on strategic issues relating to the primary sectors, including fisheries.

Resource Policy Directorate

The Resource Policy Directorate is responsible for supporting the development and operation of government policy on the allocation, use and management of natural resources (including aquatic). The Directorate is responsible for working with stakeholders and other government agencies to develop and implement policy and regulatory frameworks to increase sustainable resource use and manage natural resource externalities arising from or affecting primary sector production and value.

Sector Policy Directorate: Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Group

The Sector Policy Directorate is responsible for working with stakeholders and other government agencies to develop and implement policy, including legislative and regulatory frameworks that support dynamic efficiency, growth and development from the plant, animal, fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Group will be responsible for the monitoring and review of policy on management and production systems (including processing and market related issues) that generate primary products and value from aquatic environments. It will include working with stakeholders and other government agencies to

develop policy, including legislative and regulatory frameworks, that supports dynamic efficiency, growth and development of the sector. This group is also responsible for policy relating to non-commercial, non-extractive and customary use of the fisheries resource.

Strategy, Systems and Science Policy Directorate: Policy Capability and Regulatory Systems Group

The Policy Capability and Regulatory Systems Group is responsible for developing and implementing frameworks and processes to ensure that policy and regulatory processes across MPI are of sound quality and meet all government requirements. In addition to its function of monitoring and supporting regulatory quality, it will support the continuous improvement of MPI policy advice. It will also lead the development of the multi-year work programme for the branch.

3.5 Organisational Services branch

Legal Services Directorate

The Legal Services Directorate provides expert legal advice to the Minister, Director-General, and other business groups within MPI. For Fisheries Management this includes protecting the integrity of the fisheries legal frameworks. The Directorate is also responsible for delivery of prosecution services that support compliance with the fisheries legal frameworks. For the Inshore Team their knowledge and legal opinion on the interpretation of the relevant fisheries legislation supports the assessment and implementation of any fisheries management intervention, as well as proactively identifying and managing or mitigating legal risks.

Finance

The Finance team administers the cost-recovery process and assists various business groups with any financial analysis as required. They provide centralised purchasing and asset management services and guidance to the rest of the organisation.

Information Services

The Information Services Team is responsible for the information systems of MPI, ensuring effective collection, storage and use of information and development of technology solutions to support these functions.

3.6 Office of the Director-General

Ministerial Support

The Ministerial Support team acts as the contact point between MPI and Ministers. It is responsible for processing the ministerial and statutory correspondence that MPI and Ministers receive; coordinating regular status reports to Ministers; transmitting material to Ministers' offices and liaising with Private Secretaries; organising regular officials meetings with Ministers; and advising staff on ministerial and parliamentary procedure. The team provides effective management of the ministerial process, feedback and complaints process and Official Information Act requests. This work is managed according to specific delivery timeframe and quality assurance policies.

Strategic Projects

The Strategic Projects team are deployed to high priority projects where required to bolster capability throughout the organisation as required. They have a focus on supporting the delivery of MPI's organisational strategy, *Strategy 2030*. For fisheries management, the organisational strategy overlays and is realised in *Fisheries 2030*. The Strategic Projects Team provides advice and support on a wide variety of projects, assists delivery of organisational strategy, and ensures the strategy is reflected in plans and progress against the strategy is measured. They also develop, promote and maintain the organisation's project management systems, methodology and capability.

Communications Directorate

The Communications Directorate is responsible for providing strategic communications advice and leadership. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to, leading MPI's external communications efforts by producing and implementing communication strategies, plans and services. For Fisheries Management this can include distributing communications on legislation change, policy consultations and programme information.

Additionally, the Directorate is responsible for managing media inquiries and releases, development of MPI press releases, speeches, articles, fact sheets and other written material for public release. The team provides an integrated and consistent approach to our public enquiry channels, with people directed to the most efficient and effective channel for what they need. Services include administering MPI's websites and intranet, publication design and co-ordination, and the MPI general enquiries 0800 number.

3.7 External Service Providers

External service providers are commonly responsible for delivering certain management services, particularly fisheries research. These may include iwi, industry groups or research agencies like NIWA.

3.8 Management actions by service provider

Management Action			Service provider								
			<div>☑: Lead provider</div> <div>✓: Input/support provider</div>								
			Inshore Fisheries Management	Science	Special Permits & Spatial Allocations	Compliance/Response & Verifications	Māori Primary Sector Partnerships	Policy	Organisational Services	Office of the Director-General	External service providers
	1.	Review minimum Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) holding requirement for South Island eel stocks	☑						✓		
	2.	Review Total Allowable Catch for Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere (ANG13), subject to final outcome of fishery status indicators	☑	✓					✓		
	3.	Factors Required to Create Benign Habitats for Eels in a Modern New Zealand Context (industry-led through MSI)	✓	✓					✓		☑
	4.	Review of Total Allowable Catches for North Canterbury/Marlborough (ANG12) and South Canterbury/Waitaki (ANG14), subject to final outcome of fishery status indicators	☑	✓					✓		
	5.	EEL2012/01: CPUE for North Island eel stocks	✓	☑					✓		☑
	6.	EEL2012/02: Monitoring/sampling size composition/grades of commercial eel catch	✓	☑					✓		☑
	7.	EEL2012/03: Recruitment of eels	✓	☑	✓				✓		☑
	8.	EEL2011/01: Eel population structure in tributaries of hydro reservoirs seeded with elvers	✓	☑					✓		☑
	9.	Develop Harvest Strategies for eel fisheries including: - agreed methodology for assessing/monitoring eel stocks - setting management targets - developing a medium term research plan to support Harvest Strategies	☑	☑							✓

Management Action			Service provider								
			☑: Lead provider ✓: Input/support provider								
			Inshore Fisheries Management	Science	Special Permits & Spatial Allocations	Compliance/ Response & Verifications	Māori Primary Sector Partnerships	Policy	Organisational Services	Office of the Director-General	External service providers
	10.	Review North Island and Chatham Islands fyke net escape tube minimum diameter requirement	☑	✓					✓		
	11.	Clarify management objectives for non-QMS freshwater fisheries, including: - reviewing the application of the QMS Introduction Standard to endemic freshwater species; and - reviewing management rules for introduced/unwanted species.	☑	✓	✓			☑			
	12.	Increase proportion of New Zealand's fisheries waters covered by customary fishing regulations.	✓			✓	☑		✓		
	13.	Improve iwi and Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki understanding of the importance and use of customary fishing authorisation data and provide for easy reporting.									
	14.	Improve fisher awareness and understanding of fishing laws where current compliance levels are sub-optimal.	✓			☑				✓	
	15.	Increase deterrent activities where emerging or systemic illegal activities (or opportunities for illegal activity) are identified.				☑			✓	✓	
	16.	Implement an agreed definition of habitats of particular significance for freshwater fisheries management by identifying such habitats.	☑	✓				✓			
	17.	Develop "peer networks" in natural resource management agencies to share information where non-fishing activities may impact on the health of freshwater fisheries and to clarify/ confirm MPI's role vs. the role of other agencies in relation to freshwater fisheries.	☑			✓		✓			
	18.	Maintain a watching brief of biosecurity risks and mitigation measures	☑			✓					