



## NORTH-WEST FINFISH FISHERIES PLAN

### MINUTES – FISH PLAN ADVISORY GROUP – MEETING 7

28 August 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.
Henry Gentry	Te Hiku o Te Ika
Ron Fenwick	Northland Recreational Forum
Sheryl Hart	NZ Recreational Fishing Council/ North Island West Coast Recreational Forum
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
Richard Orzecki	Te Hinakinui o Kapiti
Brent Rolston	Feilding Surfcasters Club / North Island South West Recreational Forum
Lynette Stafford	Nga Hapu o Te Uru o Tainui
Hally Toia	Ngati Whatua
Kerry Torpey	Manukau commercial fisher
Ross Webber	Kaipara Harbour Sustainable Fisheries Management Study Group/ North Island West Coast Recreational Forum
Peter & Christine Yardley	Kaipara Harbour Sustainable Fisheries Management Study Group

#### 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
Laura Mitchell	MFish North West Fisheries Analyst
Sarah Omundsen	MFish North West Inshore Fisheries Manager
Eidre Sharp	MFish Compliance Manager
Toni Ferdinands	MFish Compliance Analyst
Tracey Smith	MFish North West Fisheries Analyst

#### Apologies:

Mark Bellingham	Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society
Victor Holloway	Te Hiku o Te Ika / Ngati Kahu
Leane Makey	ECO
Kevin Moratti	Taranaki Recreational Fishers Association/ North Island South West Recreational Forum
Trish Rea	option4 / North Island West Coast Recreational Forum / Hokianga Accord
Carol Scott	Challenger Finfish Management Company
Kevin Sullivan	MFish Science Manager (Stock Assessment)
Abe Witana	Te Hiku o Te Ika / Te Rarawa

## 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

The Northland Regional Council has decided to grant the resource consent required for the Crest Energy Kaipara Harbour turbine application. The consent granted has a number of conditions that must be followed, including the requirement to stage development. Between each stage extensive environmental monitoring must take place and the activity must be adapted prior to the next stage if negative effects on the environment are being observed.

The Northland Regional Council press release and the final decision can be found at this address <http://www.nrc.govt.nz/News/Staged-tidal-power-generation-recommended/>.

MFish also advised that:

- The Primary Production Committee has heard submissions on the proposed amendment to section 13 of the Fisheries Act;
- The Minister would shortly 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;
- Current consultations include a strategy to provide for the input and participation of tangata whenua, and the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Settlement;
- MFish will shortly be consulting on a reporting regime for charter boats, changes to freshwater species codes and net mesh sizes, and new regulations for fishing pots.

### 3. Research planning process

MFish provided an overview of the MFish research planning process. A diagram of how the current process works is attached in Appendix 2. Matters raised in response to this process included:

#### Length of Process

Members expressed frustration with the length of time in the process between when a research need is identified and when the research is actually undertaken. MFish explained this is because there are a large number of requests and a formal process is required to prioritise the requests, allocate funding, and tender and award contracts to research providers.

Members suggested there must be a better way to manage the process, as the delay in getting the research done can reduce the relevance of the research to management decisions. Members requested that MFish look at a formal way to accelerate the process for research required for urgent management decisions.

#### Research Prioritisation and Funding

Crown recovers costs from commercial fishers to fund research for the stocks of commercial interest. Research for shared fisheries such as snapper is funded in part by this cost recovery and partly by the Crown. Members asked that MFish provide the group with more information on the cost recovery process.

Members raised the issue that it can be difficult to get smaller projects approved that are important to a community but not necessarily of wider importance. Members discussed the importance of finding a balance in getting value for research but also responding to community concerns.

MFish explained that it was intended that the fish plan advisory group would be involved in providing input into the proposals and prioritisation for the North Island West Coast Inshore fisheries research programmes, but that ultimately projects would also have to be prioritised at a national level.

#### Customary Needs

Concerns were raised that the type of research described could not provide tangata whenua the information they needed to determine whether their mokopuna would have fish on the table. MFish explained that there is an additional process specific to planning customary research which will be discussed at another meeting.

#### Alternative Ways to Get Information

Members expressed concerns over the lack of recreational harvest information. Support was expressed for the upcoming proposal to require charter boats to report their catch. Another suggested way to collect information is to collate information from fishing clubs and fishing competitions that already record catch.

### **4. Goals and Objectives for the North-West finfish fisheries**

MFish presented the draft high level goals and objectives that they had developed from the framework confirmed at the last meeting.

Members requested that if goals and objectives from the fisheries plan became accessible to the public while the plan is still in development, they have a context provided. Members also requested that all working documents be labelled so that it is clear that they are not finalised.

Wording of the goals and objectives were discussed and amended.

The “sustainability” goal and its corresponding objectives were then selected for further discussion in small groups. Each group brainstormed ideas and strategies to achieve the objectives, which will meet the goal of sustainability.

During discussions, a proposal was made to actually progress work on an issue that could be achieved in the short term, and that would encourage buy-in into the fishplan process from tangata whenua and stakeholders. Consensus was not reached about what to work on however.

The group decided it was important to continue the planning process and explore and discuss all the goals before deciding which areas to focus on achieving. It was requested that each member go back to their area and think and discuss any specific issues that require addressing as a priority.

MFish explained that if any issue was to be addressed either before, or when, the fisheries plan was completed, it would still be done in the formal way with information collated, analysed and consulted on prior to any recommendation being made to the Minister.

## **6. Information brief**

MFish asked if any further changes needed to be made to the revised information brief, which incorporated the compliance and non-extractive/ecosystem changes, from the last couple of meetings. Any further comments on the information brief are to be forwarded to MFish prior to next meeting. MFish explained that the information brief is an evolving document that can be changed as new information is updated- but the advisory group’s review of the document, is now complete with the exception of the customary and Maui’s dolphin sections.

## **7. Crown Minerals**

Crown Minerals did not send a representative to the meeting. Members stated that this was not a good enough response from Crown Minerals.

MFish offered to forward questions respecting mining off the North Island West Coast to Crown Minerals.

Members stated that mining was an issue important for all members of the group to be aware of. Clive Monds has personal experience battling mining issues in the Environment Court and was happy to be contacted by members to share the lessons learnt from his experience.

## **8. Karakia whakamutunga**

Te Puoho Katene closed the meeting with a karakia.

## **ACTIONS:**

### **Members**

- Members to send questions for Crown Minerals to MFish.
- Members to send any other comments about the information brief to MFish.

### **MFish**

- MFish to provide the group with more information on the cost recovery process.
- MFish to distribute revised high level goals and objectives.
- MFish to highlight changes on the information brief.
- MFish to collate questions and send to Crown Minerals.

**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: Research planning process.**

