

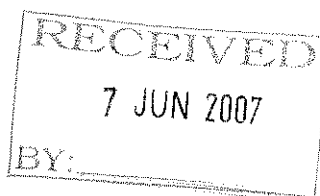
# OFFICE OF HON **Jim Anderton**

Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity, Minister of Fisheries, Minister of Forestry,  
Associate Minister of Health, Associate Minister for Tertiary Education, Minister responsible for Public Trust

S8024 / MR404

06 JUN 2007

Paul Haddon  
Hokianga Accord  
c/o Te Runanga a Iwi o Ngapuhi  
PO Box 263  
KAIKOHE



Tena koe Paul

## **FISHERIES ACT 1996 AMENDMENT BILL**

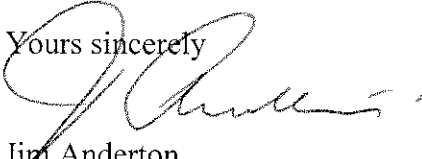
Thank you for your support for the Fisheries Act 1996 Amendment Bill which proposes changes to the Fisheries Act 1996 to better reflect the internationally accepted precautionary approach.

The precautionary approach recognises that in order to achieve sustainable utilisation, decision makers need to take particular care to ensure sustainability where information is uncertain, and not use that uncertainty as a reason for postponing measures to ensure sustainability. The precautionary approach was developed to recognise the additional care that needs to be taken to ensure sustainability under uncertainty, because information about sustainability risks is generally less clear than information about the costs of constraining utilisation and because sustainability damage is particularly difficult to remedy.

The proposed amendments will enhance the capacity of decision makers to take the measures they judge necessary to maintain the long-term potential of fisheries resources. I agree with you that this will be of benefit to all fishers – customary, commercial, and amateur – who have a long term perspective and recognise the need to ensure a strong resource base for future generations. I believe that the proposed amendments are consistent with the responsibilities of kaitiakitanga to provide for use today while ensuring the health and productivity of the resource into the future.

I do not believe that the Bill will result in immediate, widespread reductions in TACs. It may lead to some reductions in short-term utilisation in circumstances where information, although uncertain, indicates a sustainability concern. It will help, however, to ensure a more stable and sustainable resource base for fisheries utilisation in the future.

Yours sincerely

  
Jim Anderton  
**Minister of Fisheries**

