

Previous Page Photo:

Snapper
C Denny

NIWC FINFISH FISHERIES ARE SUSTAINABLE TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE

Protecting and safeguarding those taonga that have been passed down to us

3.1 The Goal

Goal 1 – NIWC finfish fisheries are sustainable today and in the future – recognises that sustainable management of NIWC finfish stocks will ensure that tangata whenua, communities and stakeholders can be provided for now and in the future.

3.2 Contributing Objectives

In order to achieve our goal of sustainability, the Advisory Group has developed the following objectives:

Sustainability Objectives	
A	Total Allowable Catches (TACs) are set transparently, ensure sustainability and reflect the Information Principles of our legislation
B	All fishers use and promote best fishing practices to ensure sustainability
C	Catches maintain NIWC stocks at, or above, levels that produce the maximum sustainable yield
D	Best information is available

3.3 Principles underlying the Objectives

Objective A: TACs are set transparently, ensure sustainability and reflect the Information Principles of our legislation.

The intent of this objective is to ensure NIWC TACs and supporting management measures are set with the involvement of tangata whenua, communities and stakeholders in a way that is easy to understand and is communicated effectively.

Objective B: All fishers use and promote best fishing practices to ensure sustainability

The intent of this objective is to ensure all NIWC fishers minimise bycatch, juvenile mortality, wastage and adverse effects on the aquatic environment by using culturally, economically, and socially sustainable best fishing practices.

Objective C: Catches maintain NIWC stocks at, or above, levels that produce the maximum sustainable yield.





The intent of this objective is to ensure that appropriate management strategies are in place for NIWC stocks and these strategies are supported by tangata whenua, communities and stakeholders.

Objective D: Best information is available.

The intent of this objective is to ensure that all types of information are recognised and applied in NIWC fisheries management decisions and that information needs are assessed against the costs and resources required.

3.4 Assessment of Current Performance against Objectives

The following table assesses current performance against these objectives using best available fishery and stakeholder information. The risk factors (Medium – Very High) represent the level of risk to the fishery should an objective not be fulfilled. A more detailed analysis is found in Appendix 1.

Are we on track?	Risk
<p>Objective A: TACs are set transparently, ensure sustainability and reflect the Information Principles of our legislation.</p> <p> The Advisory Group do not believe the current TAC setting process allows for tangata whenua, communities and stakeholders to collaborate in developing options for management changes. Further, they believe a lack of quality information is a critical problem in finding appropriate management solutions that will ensure long term sustainability.</p>	High
<p>Objective B: All fishers use and promote best fishing practices to ensure sustainability</p> <p> The effects of fishing practices on sustainability are not all well researched and best practices may need promotion. Further research and education would likely increase the use of best practice by all sectors.</p>	V-High
<p>Objective C: Catches maintain NIWC stocks at, or above, levels that produce the maximum sustainable yield.</p> <p> The catch rates and biomass estimates for many stocks are uncertain, making managing catches at the desired levels difficult. The large size of some Quota Management Areas can make some areas vulnerable to localised depletion.</p>	M-High
<p>Objective D: Best information is available.</p> <p> Some information is detailed and readily available for decision making, such as commercial catch information and scientific information. Other information such as customary and recreational catch information and anecdotal information is more difficult to collect and verify, and at present is less available for use in management decisions.</p>	M-High

Key: Are we on track?

 = No  = Partially  = Mostly  = Yes



3.5 Management Tools and Services - how do we achieve our Objectives?

'Te ohonga ake i taku moemoea Ko te puawaitanga o nga whakaaro.' - **'Dreams and goals become reality when we take action.'**

Assessments show that management action is required to ensure Goal 1 objectives can be met. The Advisory Group has recommended that management activity be focused in the following areas, with the management strategies with a tick (✓) the priority for 2009/10:

Objective A: TACs set transparently, ensure sustainability and reflect the information principles.		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Agree on the process to follow when TACs and management measures are reviewed. This could involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How the problem definition and potential solutions are developed. ○ Deciding on how often the TACs and management measures for particular stocks are reviewed. 		MFish, sectors
(ii) Develop a process to manage urgent sustainability issues.	Ongoing	MFish
(iii) Have regard to relevant approved fisheries plans when setting TACs for affected stocks.		MFish
Objective B: All fishers use and promote best fishing practices to ensure sustainability		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Review the fishing methods used on the NIWC and characterise fishing practices e.g. set nets	✓	MFish
(ii) Improve education on fish handling and best practices.		MFish, sectors
(iii) Improve reporting of wastage, juvenile mortality and bycatch.		MFish, sectors
Objective C: Catches maintain NIWC stocks at, or above, levels that produce the maximum sustainable yield		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Apply the harvest strategy standard to NIWC stocks. This will involve tangata whenua, stakeholders and MFish collaborating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop appropriate harvest targets and limits ○ Agree on rebuild strategies for stocks where required 		MFish, sectors

(ii) Review sector catch estimates for NIWC stocks and identify information requirements for priority stocks.		MFish
(iii) Identify impacts of localised depletion on overall stock sustainability.		MFish
(iv) Review current management areas and determine if they are set appropriately.		MFish
Objective D: Best information is available		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Identify and gather appropriately detailed and geographically scaled information for all sectors.	Ongoing	MFish, sectors
(ii) Value anecdotal, mātauranga māori and kaitiaki ⁹ information and determine how this can be effectively used in fisheries management.	✓	MFish
(iii) Agree on a process to gather information when it is urgently needed i.e responding to immediate issues.	✓	MFish, sectors
(iv) Ensure that scientific research carried out is relevant and cost effective.	Ongoing	MFish



⁹ Kaitiaki- guardian: the person who protects, manages and uses nature's resources.

3.6 Performance Monitoring

The NIWC Finfish Plan Advisory Group will track performance against the sustainability goal using the following performance indicators:

Objective	Performance Indicators
A	More collaborative approach adopted for setting TACs and management measures
B	Action taken to reduce wastage, juvenile mortality, bycatch and the adverse effects on the aquatic environment.
C	Harvest strategy in place for NIWC stocks, with special recognition of local management aspirations.
D	Best anecdotal, kaitiaki and scientific information is used.



Fishing trawler
Photo: T. Smith