



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

POLICY DEVELOPMENT FOR SHARED FISHERIES

This note is to inform you that I have requested that the Ministry of Fisheries develop policy options to address the long-standing issues of concern over inter-sectoral allocation and management in shared fisheries. Shared fisheries are those where both commercial and non-commercial fishers have significant interests.

The new policy project will carry forward the extensive and valuable work carried out between 1998 and 2003 by former Ministers, the Ministry, and stakeholders. Lessons will be drawn from this experience concerning both process and the substantive issues raised, to positively address the concerns of all stakeholders. I want the Ministry to develop a management framework to reduce conflict between the sectors and to enhance the opportunities for all stakeholders to better realise the values they seek from use of New Zealand's fisheries resources.

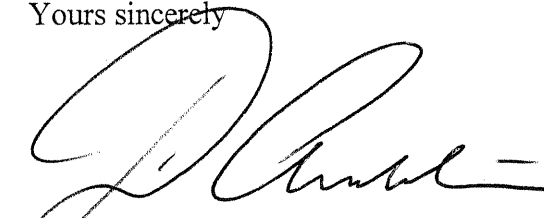
The policy will encompass the allocation of the TAC in shared fisheries, and the development of more accessible tools to enhance recreational management and outcomes for the customary component of shared fisheries.

Process and Timeframe

Ministry staff will be initiating discussions with key stakeholder groups during February 2006, seeking comments on the main issues and suggestions on the most constructive ways to address them. The Ministry will then develop a public discussion document containing reasonable and practical options to address the issues of concern. All going well this document will be released in June, and submissions invited over the next four months. Following consideration of stakeholder feedback, I will consider the options for moving forward with my colleagues in Government.

These issues have proved contentious in the past and success in improving management for the benefit of all users will require good will and commitment to positive outcomes from all parties. I look forward to a positive interaction with all interested parties in 2006 as we proceed with the Shared Fisheries Policy Project.

Yours sincerely



Hon Jim Anderton
Minister of Fisheries