



Ministry of
Fisheries
Te Tautiaki i nga tini a Tangaroa

MFish Update

"He pānui"

Northern Region July 2006

October Review of Sustainability Measures & Other Management Controls 2006

Each year the Ministry of Fisheries reviews the management measures for selected New Zealand fisheries.

Sustainability Round

Most items in the sustainability round were released for consultation on 20 June 2006. The closing date for submissions is **31 July 2006**. Items in the sustainability round are typically issues requiring implementation at the start of the fishing year on 1 October 2006.

Items included in this year's review are:

- The Ministry will review total allowable catches and commercial and non-commercial allowances for:
 - Southern Bluefin Tuna (STN1) (the decision on whether to review the TAC and adjust allowances and/or the TACC for the stock will be made following a special meeting of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna on 17-18 July 2006);
 - Paua (PAU5A) (south-west coast of the South Island);
 - Orange Roughy (ORH1 and ORH3B);
 - Low Knowledge Stocks (particular stocks introduced into the QMS in 1998 and 1999);
 - Rig (SPO7 - Nelson and West coast region);
- Conversion Factors - proposal to update various conversion factors used to assess greenweight of fish landed from a processed state. Species include: orange roughy, oreo, school shark and silver warehou.

Adaptive Management Programme

- Eight AMP fishstocks have reached the end of their five year term:
 - Orange Roughy 1; Alfonsino 1; Bluenose 1, 3, 7 & 8; Sea Perch 3; & Rig 7
- AMPs included in the sustainability round review are:

- Rig (SPO 7) - *see above*;
 - Orange Roughy (ORH 1) - *see above*;
 - Alfonsino (BYX 1) - *(this paper was released for consultation at the start of July 2006. Closing date for submissions is 31 July 2006).*
- The other fishstocks that have reached the end of their five year term will not be reviewed at their due date, but will be extended for a further two years when resources are available to address these stocks.

Regulatory Round

The items in the regulatory round were released for consultation on 3 July 2006. The closing date for submissions is **25 August 2006**. Items in the regulatory round will be implemented in April 2007.

Items of interest include:

- Catch Balancing (Deemed Values) Review - proposal to update guidelines for the setting and varying of deemed values used for balancing commercial catch at the end of a fishing year;
- Freshwater Eels - proposal to apply the South Island commercial eel maximum size limit (4 kgs) nationwide;
- Freshwater Eels - proposal to remove particular South Island freshwater eel stocks from the Second Schedule of the Fisheries Act 1996 (*The Second Schedule lists stocks whose abundance is highly variable and allows for an in-season TAC increase*);
- Fifth Schedule - proposal to review species on the Fifth Schedule, which allows for 45% aggregation of quota shares;
- Inshore trawl form - proposal for a new form to replace existing inshore trawl catch and effort returns to provide better information;
- Catfish - final advice following earlier consultation on proposals to prohibit the possession of live catfish by recreational and/or commercial fishers (*Note: Final advice paper to be released the same time as final advice for the above topics. The initial position paper and consultation has already been carried out, in 2004*).

Consultation papers on the web

These papers for discussion are available on the new Ministry of Fisheries website, at:

http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/default.htm?wbc_purpose=Basic&WBCMODE=PresentationUnpublished

This site also lists everything that's coming up for consultation in the next few months, so you can have a look and let us know what you would like to know more about.

Review of Recreational Regulations Round 2: 2006

As part of a commitment given by the Minister of Fisheries, recreational fishers' top ten concerns are being reviewed within a specified timeframe. This is the second year of the review and three issues are being addressed in the regulatory round.

A workshop was held in March 2006 with NZ Recreational Fishing Council members and MFish staff to prioritise the issues and agree which would be reviewed this year.

The issues that have been included in the recreational regulation review in 2006 are:

1. define "take";
2. review the minimum legal size for gurnard, blue cod & trumpeter;
3. review the scallop season

The initial position papers were released for consultation on 12 July 2006. Consultation will occur throughout July and August 2006; submissions close on **8 September 2006**.

These papers are available on the web too: http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/default.htm?wbc_purpose=Basic&WBCMODE=PresentationUnpublished

Shared Fisheries Policy

Work on the Shared Fisheries project is now focusing on the development of a public discussion paper. Meetings have previously taken place with various stakeholder groups and comments and feedback were sought on the issues to be addressed within the shared fisheries policy. Further meetings with stakeholders will take place as required.

Over the next two months the Shared Fisheries project team will discuss advice with the Minister and get his decisions on the options to proceed with. MFish will then seek Cabinet approval to release a public discussion document and undertake consultation. A four month consultation period from mid-August to mid-December is planned. This will give MFish an opportunity to discuss potential solutions with stakeholder groups.

Let us know as soon as possible if you would like someone to come and talk with your group about shared fisheries policies!

Te Uri o Hau Oyster Reserve Regulations (Kaipara Harbour)

The Minister of Fisheries has considered the final advice paper about the Te Uri o Hau Oyster Reserve Regulations and has decided to proceed with regulations. The Final Advice Paper and the Minister's decision letter will be available on the MFish website and sent to those who made submissions within the next month.

The development of oyster reserve regulations is designed to empower Te Uri o Hau to manage oyster resources within the oyster reserve areas, in recognition of their special relationship to these areas. Over the next few months, regulations will be developed to meet outcomes for the oyster reserves as provided by the Deed of Settlement 2000 signed by Te

Uri o Hau and the Crown and as required through the subsequent Te Uri o Hau Settlement Act 2002.

Scallop Catch Limits

NIWA carried out a biomass survey of the Northland scallop fishery and the Coromandel scallop fishery in mid May for MFish. The surveys indicate that both fisheries are in a generally healthy state, with scallop abundance significantly improved compared to 2000.

The research provides information to help the Minister set the annual catch limits for the scallop fishery. Based on information from NIWA's research report for the Coromandel scallop fishery, quota holders have considered it appropriate to adopt a cautious approach towards the in-season TAC increase.

The initial position paper to review an in-season increase to the catch limit for the Coromandel scallop fishery was released towards the end of June 2006. Submissions for this proposal closed on 10 July 2006. The Ministry is now preparing final advice to the Minister.

The initial position paper to review an in-season increase to the catch limit for the Northland scallop fishery (based on survey information) will be released for consultation in early August.

Maui's Dolphins

MFish is working with the Department of Conservation and stakeholders to develop a joint Threat Management Plan to identify and manage the threats to Hector's and Maui's dolphins.

The goals of the plan are:

- to ensure the long-term viability of Hector's and Maui's dolphins is not threatened further by human activities;
- to further reduce the impacts of human activities as far as possible, taking into account advances in technology, knowledge, and financial, social and cultural implications.

Regional threat mitigation workshops will also be held to propose solutions to mitigate the key threats. In the northern region, the plan relates to the west coast, including harbours - there are no Maui's dolphins on the north east coast.

New MFish Website

MFish has recently launched a new and updated website.

To view go to: <http://www.fish.govt.nz>

If you would like more information on anything discussed in this update, please contact
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