

Creating an Over Arching Body for Marine Recreational Fishing Meeting Bucklands Beach Yacht Club, Auckland, 26 March 2010

A report for the NZ Sport Fishing Council, Hokianga Accord, option4 and other non-commercial interests
By Trish Rea, Jason Foord and Kim Walshe
1 April 2010

Attendees

Facilitator: Doug Kidd

Promoter panel: Nelson Cross (Balclutha), Alan Key (Gore), Laurel Tierney (Dunedin)

Participants: Keith Ingram (New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council), Don Glass (NZ Trailer Boat Federation), Ted Howard (NZRFC), Bob Rosemergy (Spearfishing NZ), Grant Dixon (NZ Fishing News magazine), Scott Tindale (NZACA), George & Shona Zander (NZRFC), Geoff Rowling (NZRFC), Peter Crabb (NZ Underwater), David Beattie (NZ Trailer Boat Federation), Brent Rolston (NZACA), Graeme Dawber (NZACA), Sheryl Hart (NZRFC), Bob Meikle (Christchurch), Ross Gildon (NZRFC), Bryce Johnson (Fish & Game), Gary Ottman (NZ Game & Forest), Kim Walshe (Akroyd Walshe), Jason Foord (CORANZ), Trish Rea (CORANZ/NZSFC/Hokianga Accord/option4).

Duration: 6.5 hours.

Disclaimer

This report covers the March 26th meeting held at the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club, Auckland. As no electronic recording of the meeting was permitted this report is based on notes taken during the day.

Proposal promoter and panel member, Nelson Cross, has been asked for an electronic copy of the slideshow presentation, the proposal and a list of attendees and their affiliations. On receipt of these details the names and affiliations above may need to be amended. The slideshow and proposal will be appended to this report.

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Executive summary

This document is a report of a meeting held to discuss the creation of an over arching body for marine recreational fishing. The meeting was held at the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club, Auckland, on 26 March 2010. This report has been commissioned by several non-commercial fishing interests groups including the NZ Sport Fishing Council, the Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand, the Hokianga Accord and option4. Source material for the report were notes taken during the meeting. This report was written by Trish Rea, Jason Foord and Kim Walshe.

In mid-2009 Nelson Cross and Alan Key, members of the South Island South East Advisory Committee, developed a Discussion Paper: *Is it time to create a marine recreational fishers' mandate*. They sought feedback on their 12-page document and advised it would be discussed at the NZ Recreational Fishing Council AGM and conference in late July. The proposal was amended following the NZRFC conference and a further meeting in Christchurch in October 2009.

Laurel Tierney joined Nelson and Alan to present the amended proposal to selected national, representative organisations at this meeting held at the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club in March 2010.

Once it became clear that both Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua iwi were not welcome to attend, and that there was no intention to distribute the proposal to all participants prior to the meeting, the organisers were advised that the NZ Sport Fishing Council, the Hokianga Accord and option4 would not attend. However, they would send an observer to listen and report on the proceedings.

Top priority of the proposal is to establish a united body to speak on behalf of all recreational fishing interests by developing a database of recreational fishers and fishing. The database would be useful for management and advocacy purposes. Key to this initiative's success is the issuance of a photo ID smart-card that would contain each fisher's details and catch records. Access to the database could be on-sold to retailers for a monthly fee and limited access provided to MFish for management purposes. A membership/license fee would be charged. Participation in the organisation would be voluntary however, the intention was that all marine recreational fishers would join the new body.

The panel sought the agreement of the Auckland meeting to present the proposal to the Minister of Fisheries and subsequently raise funds to present the concept nationwide. No decision was made from the meeting about support or otherwise for the proposal. It was left to the proposal promoters to determine their next step. Notes of the meeting will be distributed by the panel in due course.

Background

In December 2009 Nelson Cross, Alan Key and Laurel Tierney issued an invitation to a selected list of organisations and individuals involved in recreational fishing advocacy, to attend a meeting in March 2010 to discuss creating an over arching body for marine recreational fishing¹. (Appendix One)

On 20 January 2010 this trio issued a media statement advising of the meeting scheduled for 26 March in Auckland, that would seek to establish a “*single umbrella*” to advocate for recreational fishing interests².

Discussion between Nelson Cross, option4, the NZ Sport Fishing Council and the Hokianga Accord continued in February as to who was eligible to attend, the opportunity and need to invite tangata whenua to participate in the March meeting.

On February 25 the organisers confirmed they would not be extending the invitation to tangata whenua as “*the range of organisations invited to the meeting are all national bodies of either amateur fishers or those closely associated with fishing*”³. Three days later the Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand (CORANZ) was invited to send two representatives to the March meeting.

Discussion with the organisers continued into March as to their refusal to invite tangata whenua to the meeting and the need to distribute the proposal due to be discussed at the meeting, prior to attendance.

Nelson Cross was advised on 11 March that at least eight people from option4 would attend the Bucklands Beach meeting. The recommendation to extend the meeting invitation to tangata whenua was reiterated. Nelson was also asked if the proposal included the need for a license or charge on people to fish in the sea.

On 12 March Nelson confirmed the event was “*a private invitation only meeting*”, the number of invitees would not be extended and asked option4 to confirm the names of two attending representatives. Regarding a charge on fishers, the proposal was “*a package including a list of funding options with pros and cons identified. Among the options the possibility of the amateur fishing sector being self-funded is considered*”⁴.

On 13 March Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua iwi confirmed their desire to be involved “*in any discussions around an organisation that will purport to represent our Tamariki [children] and Mokopuna [descendants] into their ability to feed the whanau into the future*”⁵.

Nelson Cross confirmed, on 14 March, the meeting was for the invited national organisations and that iwi would be involved in later discussions⁶. An agenda for the 26 March meeting was distributed. Repeated requests for the courtesy of having a copy of the proposal prior to the meeting was met with silence.

Richard Baker, the President of the NZ Sport Fishing Council (formerly the NZ Big Game Fishing Council), confirmed on 24 March the Council would not be attending the meeting due to a number of outstanding issues including the selective nature of those invited to participate⁷. The NZSFC letter was tabled at the outset of the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club meeting. (Appendix Two).

On 24 March Scott Macindoe, on behalf of option4 and the Hokianga Accord, advised the organisers that the CORANZ representatives to the meeting, Trish Rea and Jason Foord, would be attending the meeting as observers⁸ and reporting back to the various non-commercial organisations.

¹ Creating An Over Arching Body for Marine Recreational Fishing, received 19 December 2009.

² The Way Forward for Marine Recreational Fishing, 20 January 2010.

³ Email from Nelson Cross to Scott Macindoe, 25 February 2010.

⁴ Email from Nelson Cross to Scott Macindoe, 12 March 2010.

⁵ Email from Raniera T (Sonny) Tau to Nelson Cross and ors, 13 March 2010.

⁶ Email from Nelson Cross to Raniera T (Sonny) Tau and ors, 14 March 2010.

⁷ Letter ‘Meeting 26032010 Decline to Participate, NZSFC, 24 March 2010.

⁸ Email from Scott Macindoe to Nelson Cross and ors, 24 March 2010.

Introduction and panel presentation

Doug Kidd was a former Minister of Fisheries with the National government in the mid-1980s. Doug was invited to act as facilitator and advised he was not being paid for his time at this meeting. He did explain the process by which he eventually convinced the Ministry of Fisheries to pay his airfare, on the basis of improving recreational fishing representation.

Each member of the panel, Nelson Cross, Alan Key and Laurel Tierney would present their views, adequate time would be allocated for questions and notes of the discussions would be distributed after the meeting.

Doug advised that, contrary to the agenda, a media statement would not be issued at the end of the day, he speculated that it would take too long to agree on the content of that release.

Alan Key has been involved in advocating recreational fishing interests in the South Island, at a local level, for many years and much of it had been "*a waste of time*". Out of frustration he was keen to find a solution for recreational fishers, and acknowledged their proposal does not have a "*silver bullet*," but wanted equal treatment and rights, as compared to the other sectors [commercial and customary].

Laurel Tierney does not fish but has worked with fishers for more than 20 years, 10 years with Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) and the other 10 as an independent consultant⁹. Changing policy and personnel in MFish has meant recreational fishers "*have fallen behind other interests*". She believed the proposal to be presented at this meeting offered a "*common sense approach and solution*".

Nelson Cross has been a fisherman for 50 years; he has seen the good times and become frustrated over the past ten years and was now trying to "*find a solution*". He acknowledged the NZRFC for providing the catering, Keith Ingram for the venue and certain (unnamed) clubs for contributing to the day's costs.

Each attendee was asked to give a brief introduction of themselves and their affiliations.

Proposal discussion

Slideshow presentation

It is unclear how many meeting participants had seen the latest, amended proposal discussing future representation prior to this meeting.

Nelson Cross presented a slideshow and discussed the fragmented nature of recreational representation, the limited effect current representatives were having at government level and the constant issue of lack of funding. Dedicated individuals were being overwhelmed by the demands of advocacy and effective representation. The recreational fishing sector was losing status and effectiveness.

In his opinion, the NZ Sport Fishing Council had demonstrated a "*defeatist attitude*" by not attending the meeting.

The proposal to create an over arching body for marine recreational fishing was initiated in May 2009 by Nelson and Alan Key, in part triggered by another MFish re-structure and subsequent "*disengagement*". The proposal was presented to the NZ Recreational Fishing Council Annual General Meeting in July 2009, in Nelson. A challenge was issued at that AGM to deliver within three months a demonstrable, practical solution based on the original proposal and feedback received.

After some revision another proposal was presented to a Christchurch-based meeting in October 2009. That meeting resolved to develop and deliver the proposal to a meeting of all national organisations in Auckland, in March 2010.

⁹ Laurel Tierney operates a resource management consultancy from Dunedin. She has a fisheries management and fisheries science background and has been the facilitator for the Guardians of Fiordland community group for a number of years. NZ Government press release, 8 July 2005.

As a possible reference to the exclusion of Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua from this meeting Nelson advised, “*Some groups may feel miffed, but we couldn’t accommodate everyone*”, they will be included in future discussions.

Nelson emphasised this initiative was not about denigrating other fishing interest sectors, “*they got there because of what they have achieved*”.

As an example of how the recreational sector was losing status and effectiveness Nelson invited Bob Meikle, of Christchurch, to explain the history behind the set net ban around Banks Peninsula.

Bob believes the Minister’s decision on set nets, which adversely affected recreational fishers, was highly influenced by high-profile media campaigns orchestrated by environmental organisations. These campaigns generated over 6,000 submissions in support of proposed measures to protect Hector’s dolphins. In his opinion, if the recreational sector has access to a nationwide database then future Ministerial decisions may be influenced to be more favourable to amateur fishing interests.

Representation

Nelson advised that input into fisheries management and political processes was compromised by not having one representative body, inadequate funding and the lack of independent data about recreational fishers and fishing. He emphasised the need for one representative organisation mandated by a wider group to represent recreational fishing interests, in Wellington. This body –

- ⇒ Needs to be effective;
- ⇒ Does not necessarily have to replace existing organisations;
- ⇒ Requires adequate, ongoing and secure funding;
- ⇒ Will have a database of all people who participate in recreational fishing:
 - database valuable for monitoring recreational fishers over time;
 - Communication with all fishers “*will finally be possible*”; and
 - Enable the body to canvass views of recreational fishers.

Top priority is to establish a database of recreational fishers and fishing. This would provide “*very valuable information for recreational fishers and management*”.

Nelson went onto discuss the benefits and disadvantages of various funding sources. Options included targeted sales tax, free membership, dedicated fuel tax, marine industry levy, government funding or self-funding.

Derrick Paull explained that membership fees could be minimal or zero if the body took the opportunity to sell the database of voluntary members to certain retailers enabling information to be disseminated to the database. Access to a database of around 200,000 people could be worth as much as \$80,000 per month.

It was noted several times throughout the meeting that there is “*an entrenched aversion by some to self-funding [licensing]*”. However, this entrenchment was not necessarily widespread. Nelson advised attendees to the Christchurch meeting in October 2009 had indicated a fee was “*okay*”.

A membership fee paid to the organisation of \$20 to \$30 maybe palatable to the public as opposed to a license fee paid to the government. Membership would be voluntary, but it was intended that all marine recreational fishers would join the new body.

An Otago University dean had agreed to develop a business model for the organisation, free-of-charge. An approach could be made to possible mentors, Gareth Morgan’s name was mentioned.

Bill English, deputy Prime Minister, had been approached about the proposal. The National Party could not support the concept, in this political term, because of their pre-election promise of no licensing of recreational fishers. Eric Roy (Invercargill) had indicated similar sentiments.

The organisers had letters of support for the concept from both Pete Hodgson (Labour) and United Future. Environment Southland had also expressed interest in the concept. Initial contact with Ngai Tahu had been “*positive so far*”, but they needed to continue those discussions.

Smart-card membership card

One idea was to issue a photo identification card and fishers would download their catch information via a computer onto this card. Information would be gathered by authorised people with card readers. Nelson suggested that around 18 card readers nationally would be adequate for this purpose. This information could be helpful for compliance and management purposes. Retail discounts would be available to card holders.

The smart-card was the key to the success of this initiative. Several smart-card suppliers had been approached already.

There is the possibility of having different classes of membership ie. shellfish, finfish, divers.

Nelson emphasised this smart-card concept was an idea and not necessarily what would happen in the future. There was the potential to gather a fighting fund of \$10 to \$12 million¹⁰ from this initiative.

He added that having one body with the mandate to negotiate recreational fishers’ access and rights was the ideal solution.

Note: This concept is based on the assumption that membership of this body would give that person’s mandate to the organisation to negotiate both access and rights.

Next steps

Next steps in this process:

- ⇒ Present the proposal to the Minister of Fisheries to garner support;
- ⇒ Seek initial sponsorship to produce a DVD, including comments from expert advisers;
- ⇒ Present the proposal to fishers via a nationwide roadshow;
- ⇒ Present the proposal (with amendments if necessary) to the Minister; and
- ⇒ Form a unified body to represent recreational fishing interests.

Securing and defining recreational rights

Laurel Tierney advised the most effective way of securing a mandate and rights for the recreational fishing sector was through legislation. This would enable formal recognition of the amateur sector, establishment of a single body to represent those interests while identifying the functions and responsibilities of the organisation. Communication and funding was key to its success. Gaining credibility and fishing data, increasing trust and having a single organisation that other sectors can confidently negotiate with are other benefits.

It was important to clarify that the cost to individual fishers was a membership fee (with benefits) to belong to the fishers’ organisation, as opposed to a license fee that would be paid to the government.

Note: It is unclear whether membership, and thus a levy, would be voluntary or become compulsory if the body was given statutory authority.

Experience of other organisations

Gary Ottman is a spokesman for the NZ Game & Forest Foundation which represents several organisations with a commercial interest in big game hunting. Annual membership fee is \$85.

¹⁰ An example for clarity, from the reporters - A yearly fee of \$20 per person from 600,000 members would yield \$12M per annum.
FINAL REPORT: Creating an over arching body for marine recreational fishing meeting, 26 March 2010.

Gary acknowledged the difficulties of developing a professional business model from a largely volunteer base. Success will be achieved if clear goals are set, a plan is devised to achieve those goals, professionals are employed and funding is secured. Funding for their organisation was provided by foreign benefactors for the first five years.

It was important to recognise that other groups could try to outlast or out-spend whatever body is established so the core leadership group needs to be committed to the success of the organisation.

Bryce Johnson is the Chief Executive of the New Zealand Fish & Game Council established to manage New Zealand's freshwater sport fisheries¹¹. Fishers are required to be licensed and the annual fee is \$105 per person. Fish & Game has 70 employees nationwide and around 300 honorary rangers.

Having a statutory mandate enables Fish & Game to have a role and a right to advise the Minister of Conservation while not being directed by that Minister. There are statutory provisions that require Fish & Game to be consulted on a broad range of issues beyond just government departments. They have ongoing involvement in habitat protection and more recently hydro power scheme proposals and high country tenure reviews. It was an advantage to have fishers and hunters managing their own affairs.

Bryce was keen to see this proposal succeed to enable more effective advocacy of recreational fishing interests. His recommendation was to establish a public entity as opposed to a Crown entity, and a responsibility to report to Parliament rather than a government department.

Bryce was very clear that the new body avoid Treaty issues because, in his opinion, those issues are between the Crown and Maori. His recommendation was for the new organisation to lobby government to represent recreational fishing interests in any Treaty discussions.

Break

A lunch break was taken after these presentations. Grant Dixon left the meeting during this break.

Questions and answers

Jason Foord, attending on behalf of the Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand, advised the meeting that CORANZ and option4 were strongly opposed to licensing of recreational marine fishers.

Management and access to introduced freshwater, non-commercial fisheries was a different concept to the marine environment, which was a public resource. Both commercial and non-commercial interests had access to the saltwater fisheries. People fished non-commercially to sustain themselves and their family.

Every New Zealander has a common law right to fish for food. Doug Kidd argued the common law right to fish for sustenance no longer existed, it disappeared with the advent of the 1908 Fisheries Act. A statutory right to fish now exists.

Note: Subsequent to this meeting legal advice has been sought to clarify this issue.

Jason highlighted the possibility that there is likely to be public resistance to paying a fee/license. While it maybe \$20 to \$30 per person at the outset it was inevitable that fees will increase over time. Compliance then becomes an issue. At \$100 per person, per annum, non-compliance was a real possibility.

Moreover, there were many communities, particularly in Northland, that could not afford to pay any license to go fishing to feed the whanau.

Sheryl Hart added there was 100% support for licensing of recreational fishers in the Raglan area.

¹¹ Management of Lake Taupo is the exception.

Alan Key emphasised the fee would be based on the roles and responsibilities of the organisation. Involvement in advocacy and management processes would be determined by availability of funds. At this stage the promoters were trying to sell the concept, details such as fees would be decided later.

Nelson Cross was interested to know why CORANZ was so opposed to licensing considering it had been so long since the *Soundings*¹² process in mid-2000.

Keith Ingram encouraged the meeting to focus on the organisation's possible structure and advocacy role as opposed to licensing, as conversation about fees could destroy ongoing talks. He also reiterated his previous comments, that unless Maori can be convinced to pay a license to fish for food to feed their whanau then any conversation about licensing was a waste of time.

There was some debate about the merits of having smart cards retaining personal information about the holder and who would have access to that data. It was unrealistic to expect people to agree to have adverse information, particularly about non-compliance, on their card. People needed to have faith in the system and trust the integrity of the card.

Graeme Dawber, secretary of the New Zealand Angling and Casting Association (NZACA), made reference to the letter from the NZ Sport Fishing Council declining to participate in this meeting. (Appendix Two). The NZSFC acknowledged that the NZ Recreational Fishing Council (NZRFC) was incorporated 25 years ago to represent recreational fishers' interests and be the overarching national representative body.

Alan Key accepted the NZRFC had done a very good job but the task was now beyond volunteers.

The promoters were trying to sell the concept of a single organisation with Wellington-based representation. *"It's up to the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council, it doesn't have to be the NZRFC but there has to be one body"*. It was open to suggestion as to who or what that body will be.

Geoff Rowling, President of the NZRFC, agreed that secure funding is definitely required and that many issues are not dealt with because of a lack of funds. *"There is no recreational organisation in New Zealand that can address the job in total; not to say that there is not good work being done."* He went on to discuss the NZ Sport Fishing Council's Hiwi the Kiwi initiative.

He also reiterated the Council's policy of no licensing of recreational fishers. Many people are opposed to paying a license to the government to go fishing. However, they may not be so averse to paying a fee to an organisation that seeks to protect their interests.

The paper written by Kim Walshe and Derrick Paull, *Recreational Fishing Mandate Discussion Paper*¹³, examines some options for future representation. Whatever is agreed, an independent presence in Wellington is required.

Geoff continued, *"If Scott Macindoe wants to write out a cheque for us every month then that's good, but there is a need for funding to address the threats. Whether that includes a smart card or not is another issue. The New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council doesn't have the funds to pay people to protect recreational fishing interests in New Zealand."*

He emphasised that the government will always be able to create bigger obstacles than what the recreational fisheries sector can afford to deal with.

Laurel Tierney emphasised that any cost would not be a license fee for the government, but a membership fee for the recreational fishing organisation.

¹² <http://www.option4.co.nz/option4/soundings.htm>

¹³ Representation and mandate in New Zealand's marine fishing recreational sector – A discussion paper, Kim Walshe and Derrick Paull, March 2010.

Derrick Paull acknowledged the different approaches being taken by this meeting as opposed to the NZ Sport Fishing Council, which relied on its club structure. The concept of one person-one vote was better for any future representative organisation.

Bryce Johnson reinforced the need to have people to agree on the principles and reach agreement at each step of the process. The licensing/membership fee was almost irrelevant, it was important to present a proposal that had value to fishers.

Peter Crabb, NZ Underwater, advised that NZU has very few members and clubs but “*represented divers whether they like it or not*”. Even if the database contains 500,000 names the technology is available to maximise the benefits of having access to those people. The NZU is also a member of the NZ Recreational Fishing Council.

At this stage both Jason Foord and Trish Rea departed the meeting.

Don Glass agreed with the principle of individual membership however, attendees had been acknowledged as representatives of organisations so it was untenable any commitments about support could be given at this meeting.

Alan Key accepted Don’s comments and advised this was only the third meeting to discuss the concept, which had been modified after earlier meetings. The panel recognised it may take three to five years for any body to be established.

In his presentation, Nelson Cross commented that the smart-card would be carried whenever the holder was fishing. The proposal was that a Fisheries Officer would have the right to access the card and check the catch record and, if necessary, the information could be used in the prosecution of a fisher. Don Glass asked Nelson to clarify that the card could be used as evidence in a prosecution.

Nelson reiterated that that was the intention and neither Alan Key nor Laurel Tierney commented to the contrary. Don commented that there was no way he could see the smart-card being supported if the card could be used as evidence in a prosecution.

Conclusion

Discussion occurred around the next step in the process of developing the proposal. Two points of view emerged, some felt more consultation was required before going to the Minister and/or Ministry of Fisheries; others advocated the promoters should go to the Minister/Ministry now and see if there was any support in principle for the proposal.

Later discussion centred on whether or not the meeting would support the proposal as is. Don Glass stated that as the representative of a number of clubs he would need to go back and consult before any decision about support could be made.

Kim Walshe stated he agreed with the five principles that Laurel had identified but had notes on more than a dozen points he thought were impractical or needed further work and consideration.

Kim noted that northern Maori, namely Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua, had been expressly excluded from this meeting. This exclusion was likely to undermine the proposal if it is presented to the Minister, the Ministry or other politicians.

Keith Ingram made a strong plea not to progress the licensing approach.

Keith added that Maori fishing interests were well represented in political and fisheries management processes and could advocate their own views and interests as required.

No decision was made from the meeting about support or otherwise for the proposal. It was left to the proposal promoters to determine their next step.

Appendix One – December 2009 meeting invitation

CREATING AN OVER ARCHING BODY FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING

To Irish Rea
Option 4

Dear Irish

It is not difficult to recognize and to acknowledge the continued deterioration in entitlement, bag limits, fishing area, and steady but ever downward diminishment of Ministerial responsibility in the “management” of recreational fisheries that has occurred since the 1980s. While we appreciate the commitment, effort and sacrifice toward recreational fishing that many people, largely volunteers, have given us in the past, collectively we must recognize that looking toward the Fisheries 2030 Vision Document and the apparent commercialization of MFish objectives we need to explore a new direction in order to keep, enhance and protect our rights as recreational fishers.

We are convinced there is a need for an overarching marine recreational fishing body that carries out a professional advocacy role to protect and develop the rights, aspirations and future direction of all those who enjoy marine recreational fishing and care about the future of their fisheries in this country.

Given the direct interest, experience and expertise in recreational fishing and fisheries within your organisation it is clear that your group more than qualifies as an integral part of the proposed body. Indeed, the attributes your organization could bring would be an important and valuable asset to the proposed body.

Accordingly you are warmly invited to a meeting where the proposed body will be discussed further, including functions, a structure that meets the needs of recreational fishers and how funding can be facilitated. We anticipate our proposal will be greatly strengthened our collective involvement.

The meeting will be held in Auckland early in March next year at a time and venue yet to be decided (tentatively 12th March).

Those organisations and individuals invited to this meeting are:

NZ Recreational Fishing Council

NZ Sport Fishing Council (formerly NZ Big Game Fishing Council)

NZ Sports Industry

NZ Trailer Boat Federation

NZ Marine Transport Inc

NZ Underwater Association

NZ Angling & Casting Association

Option Four

NZ Spearfishing

Fish and Game

Game and Forest

Ackroyd Walshe

Bruce Alvey.

A press release outlining details of the March meeting and the reasons for it will be distributed to the various media outlets in mid January 2010 followed by a briefing after the meeting in March.

Given the upheavals within the Ministry and the implications of the 2030 Vision Document we believe the time has never been "more right" for the action we propose. Enabling marine recreational fishers is the only sensible way forward.

Sincerely,

We look forward to making progress together with your organization.
Sincerely,

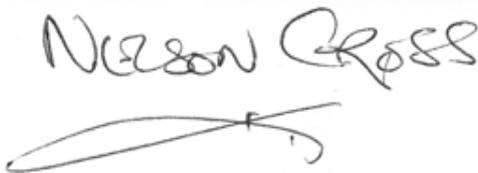
Nelson Cross

Alan Key

Laurel Teirney

Please confirm your intended attendance to the meeting to

N L Cross
8 Totara Street
Kaka Point 9271
RD 1 Balclutha
Ph 03 412 8666
njcross@kpwifi.net.nz

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nelson Cross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish underneath the name.

Appendix Two – NZ Sport Fishing Council Decline to Participate letter.

24th March 2010

The New Zealand Sport Fishing management committee wishes to advise that it has discussed this matter at length and respectfully declines the offer to participate in the meeting called by Nelson Cross, Alan Keys and Laurel Tierney to promote their proposal for an overarching fishing representative body.

Concerns have been expressed at the selective nature of those invited to participate, and requests for details of the proposal (which is to be discussed) to be provided prior to the meeting have not been responded to.

A proposal for participation by representatives of Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua whose people have a significant non commercial interest in the fishery, and have for the past 5 years worked alongside New Zealand Sport Fishing, option4 and more recently Forest & Bird, Greenpeace & ECO, with the Hokianga Accord, has been refused. The rationale was advised that this is only a meeting of “national organisations” The list of invitees contradicts this statement.

It has been stated by the organisers that the meeting is being held in Auckland due to interest expressed in their proposal. To the contrary, with the proposal not having been circulated, and Ngapuhi, Ngati Whatua and many others from the North, that have given many years to fisheries representation having been declined the ability to participate, clearly interest from Auckland / The North is not the purpose for the meetings location.

New Zealand Sport Fishing is concerned that, with the process being commenced with an undisclosed proposal, having only selected invitees to the meeting, and an agenda that has a press release as the last item of business, there may well be a predetermined agenda / outcome.

It is observed that there is already an organisation incorporated to be the overarching national fishing representative body. The New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council. This organisation was incorporated 25 years ago to represent the interests of NZ's non commercial fishers in fisheries management processes.

At its 2007 AGM in Whakatane, New Zealand Sport Fishing voted by a large majority to cease its membership of the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council.

The possibility of a new overarching fishing organisation was raised at the New Zealand Sport Fishing AGM held in Napier September 2008. It was discussed, and recognised that there was no need for a new body, rather a new behaviour from the existing organisations.

It is considered that the proposed process risks only exacerbating the existing unresolved issues within the sector.

There are now several national bodies representing the public fishing interests. These bodies often have different aspirations for fisheries management outcomes, have different structures, and participate at varying levels for varying reasons.

This isn't of itself a sign of dysfunction, and in many ways it's a great sign of diversity and effectiveness, that a range of "voices" are available to the public to promote their views.

All of these national bodies have respect and access to MFish management processes, and their views are received and noted within these processes.

New Zealand Sport Fishing has a demonstrable history of commitment to resourcing and participating in fisheries management. Given the difficult history of representation, New Zealand Sport Fishing is understandably cautious about any proposal to assign, delegate or devolve its mandate.

The management committee of New Zealand Sport Fishing does not support the establishment of a legislated fisheries management entity, with or without licensing. It is comfortable that it has an increasingly effective regionally structured, voluntary business model, with a mandate from its member clubs that, amongst other functions, supports representing their interests in the fishery and participation in fisheries management processes.

Given the vital importance of who represents our interests in fisheries management, and the sectors well known history of failures with predetermined and closed processes, New Zealand Sport Fishing is not prepared to commit its resources and credibility through being involved with this proposed process, and without having first had full consultation on the proposal with its member clubs. It does however wish to appoint Trish Rea to record and report back on the meeting.

It is considered that any proposal to change the status quo on representation of our fishing interests, should involve a clean sheet of paper as a starting point, a transparent and inclusive process, and be without media releases.

In conclusion. New Zealand Sport Fishing recognises and supports the notion that the various fishing representative bodies working more closely together could provide increased benefits and efficiencies to the non commercial fishing sector.

Yours faithfully

Richard Baker
President
New Zealand Sport Fishing

Appendix Three – Glossary

AGM	Annual General Meeting
CORANZ	Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand
Fish & Game	Fish & Game New Zealand
Fisheries Act	Fisheries Act 1996
Hokianga Accord	Mid north iwi regional fisheries forum
MFish, Ministry	Ministry of Fisheries
Minister	Minister of Fisheries
NZ Game & Forest	Game and Forest Foundation of New Zealand
NZACA	New Zealand Angling & Casting Association
NZRFC	New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council
NZSFC	NZ Sport Fishing Council
NZU	New Zealand Underwater Association
Recreational or amateur fisher/fishing	Fishing conducted for non-commercial purposes under the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986
Tangata whenua	People of the land, Maori
Treaty	Treaty of Waitangi 1840
Treaty Settlement	Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992