

Section 9

Have Your Say!

Note:

Issues surrounding the timing for consultation of this discussion paper over the 2006/2007 Christmas holiday period, and the short four month submission period expiring on 28 February 2007 on such an important issue for all New Zealanders and the health of our fisheries and public right to fish in our coastal fisheries will be considered at a later date.

The Ministry of Fisheries would like to hear the views of as many people as possible on the proposals for change put forward in this discussion document. All submissions will be considered and taken into account in final advice and decision making. It is just as important to let us know of your support for proposals as it is to tell us why you think they may not work or to offer an alternative idea.

Please let us know what you think before 28 February 2007. You can make your views known by:

- Sending a letter by email to shared.fisheries@fish.govt.nz or by post to Shared Fisheries consultation, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington.
- Filling out and returning a submission form available from the website, or from MFish staff at any of the consultation meetings or by calling 0800 666 675.
- Filling out the online submission form on the Shared Fisheries pages of the MFish website.

Please note that all submissions are subject to the Official Information Act and, if requested, MFish may need to release information in submissions. If you have any objection to releasing information in your submission, please indicate the parts you think should be withheld and the reasons. MFish may still have to release all or part of a submission.

MFish will be updating the Shared Fisheries pages on its website (www.fish.govt.nz) regularly so you can stay up-to-date with the shared fisheries consultation and management reform process. [83]

[83] Former Minister of Fisheries with the National Government, and 'author' of the Fisheries Act 1996, The Hon. Doug Kidd in 2001 at a meeting of recreational fishers at the Milford Cruising Club argued strongly against any attempt at defining the broad non-commercial right of the people of New Zealand to fish for food that is not for sale, which the Minister must "allow for" in fisheries management decisions. The strength and power of the right lies in its breadth.

MFish in their discussion paper are asking the people of New Zealand to consider the removal of such right to be substituted with a defined 'baseline allocation,' coupled with 'a basic right' initially in six key fisheries with uncertain outcomes on the worth

of that replacement on important issues of improving the health of our coastal fisheries and marine environment, thereby improving both abundance and the ability of non-commercial – customary and recreational – fishers to ‘catch a fish’ that is not undersize.

The scheme of the Fisheries Act 1996 is that ‘fish come first.’ By improving the biomass and hence the health and abundance of our coastal fisheries first, the Minister will then be able to fully allow the non-commercial right of the people of New Zealand to fish for food, as well as providing for commercial fishers to catch quota that is sustainable for our coastal fisheries.

Case studies:

Much work is already in place for most of these case studies to be completed with reference to policy proposals and constructive alternative proposals being worked on:

Snapper 2

Snapper 8

Hapuka 1

Flatfish (Flounder) 1

Grey Mullet 1

Gurnard 1

Blue Cod 7

Paua 5D

John Dory 1

Scallop CS

Garfish (Piper) 1

Sprat 1

Trevally 1

Kahawai 1

Terakihi 1 – Adaptive Management proposals

Crayfish 8

Crayfish 2