



Hokianga Accord



GREENPEACE

FOREST & BIRD



## MORE FISH IN THE WATER

*Kia maha atu nga ika ki roto i te wai*

Primary Production Committee members  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

cc. Minister of Fisheries  
Chief Executive, Ministry of Fisheries

26 August 2009

Dear Committee members

### **Fisheries 2030 and the alternative management strategy from non-commercial fishing and environmental interest groups**

We note with interest the committee's comments regarding the *Fisheries 2030* strategy in the 2009/10 Estimates for Vote Fisheries, Report of the Primary Production Committee. Our alliance of non-commercial fishing and environmental interest groups has serious concerns about *Fisheries 2030* proposals, the process conducted by the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) and the lack of public consultation.

Our concerns differ from the Committee's, but we believe there is an opportunity for us to work together to achieve your goal of encouraging and preserving New Zealand jobs in the 2030 strategy, while achieving our vision of more fish in the water and restoring the health and abundance of our oceans.

While we understand the government's intention of improving the benefits from our fisheries resources this must not be at the expense of our marine environment, or the long-term social, economic and cultural wellbeing all New Zealanders.

Collectively we have offered the Minister and Ministry an alternative management strategy that we believe will provide benefits for all New Zealanders, make fishing more sustainable and profitable while improving the abundance and health of our marine environment by having "more fish in the water/kia maha atu nga ika ki roto i te wai".

A meeting with the Minister occurred on 3 August and he assured us he would "fix" the *Fisheries 2030* proposals that are focused purely on economic outcomes. Our subsequent letter to Hon. Phil Heatley is attached as Appendix One.

We are particularly concerned that the Committee's report states the aim of the *Fisheries 2030* project is to get "*the best value possible to the fishing quota holders by lowering costs and thus allowing them to catch more fish and employ more people*".

This aim is vastly different to the original objective of the 2030 project, which was to develop a shared vision. In March Cabinet instructed MFish to work in collaboration with tangata whenua and fisheries stakeholders to confirm a shared direction (CAB Min (09) 9/8A).

If reducing costs and increasing commercial quota (property rights) is the actual goal then all pretence of achieving collaboration through a broader programme of vision statements and stakeholder "engagement" needs to be stripped away.

Our alliance never envisaged this process would be used to grant benefits to government supporters under the guise of public policy.

Moreover, while more dead fish may mean short-term gains for quota owners the long-term, national economic prospects are dim if we continue to deplete our fisheries, maintain them at such low stock levels and use current harvesting methods, many of which cause unacceptable destruction and waste.

The quota management system is delivering greatest economic efficiency for quota holders, who can choose how and who catches their fish. Joint venture arrangements maximise the returns to these investors at an unknown cost to the health and abundance of our taonga, our fisheries and marine environment.

Our alternative management strategy offers a range of solutions to improve harvesting techniques and thus reduce unnecessary juvenile mortality while providing food and jobs for New Zealanders.

Our alliance urges the committee to consider our collective alternative management strategy attached with this letter, dated 31 July 2009<sup>1</sup>.

Our representatives are available to meet and discuss these alternative proposals in more detail so that we can unlock the economic potential of our fisheries while ensuring our mokopuna/grandchildren enjoy abundance and a healthy marine environment in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Baker  
New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council  
PO Box 93  
Whangarei 0140

Trish Rea  
option4  
PO Box 37-951  
Parnell, Auckland 1151

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://option4.co.nz/Fisheries\\_Mgmt/2030.htm](http://option4.co.nz/Fisheries_Mgmt/2030.htm)

Mike Britton  
Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New  
Zealand  
PO Box 631, Wellington 6140

Cath Wallace and Barry Weeber  
Environment and Conservation Organisations  
of Aotearoa New Zealand  
PO Box 11057, Wellington 6142

Jonathan Dick  
Guardians of Hawke Bay Fisheries  
84 Avondale Road  
Napier 4112

Hugh Barr  
Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations  
of New Zealand  
PO Box 745, Wellington 6140

Lloyd Hanson  
Marlborough Recreational Fishers Assoc.  
PO Box 384  
Blenheim 7240

Bunny McDiarmid  
Greenpeace New Zealand Aotearoa  
PB 92507  
Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141

Geoff Rowling  
New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council  
PO Box 238  
Raglan 3265

Paul Haddon  
Hokianga Accord  
PO Box 263  
Kaikohe, Northland 0405

Jim Mikoz  
New Zealand Angling and Casting Association  
PO Box 12042  
Rotorua 3045

## Appendix One

Hon. Phil Heatley  
Minister of Fisheries  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington  
[Phil.Heatley@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Phil.Heatley@parliament.govt.nz)

cc. All Cabinet Ministers  
Chief Executive, Ministry of Fisheries

13 August 2009

Dear Minister

### **Fisheries 2030 and the alternative collective vision and strategy from non-commercial fishing and environmental interest groups**

We would like to thank-you for meeting with us on 3 August, and for taking extra time to discuss our collective concerns about the MFish *Fisheries 2030* strategy and process to date. Also, we appreciate your acknowledgement that the original project was skewed towards economic outcomes and that you would be seeking to “fix” that.

As outlined in our 31 July letter<sup>2</sup>, we remain concerned the current approach is environmentally risky, means more dead fish and seeks to maximise economic benefits at the expense of every New Zealander's long-term cultural, economic and social well-being. As such, there is no support from the non-commercial sector for the current *Fisheries 2030* proposals.

As an alliance of non-commercial fishing and environmental groups we aspire to having healthy and abundant oceans with more fish in the water, providing all New Zealanders with access to kai moana and our future generations with the opportunity to enjoy a healthy ocean and sustainable fisheries.

Whilst we support the government’s intention of improving the efficiency of our fisheries management and optimising the benefits from our marine resources, we consider it essential to adopt a long-term strategy that will improve harvesting techniques, provide food and jobs for New Zealanders while reducing the risk to the health and abundance of our fisheries and marine environment.

In our 17 June letter we outlined several urgent and long-term actions designed to achieve our collective vision while giving effect to the Crown’s ongoing, statutory obligation to have particular regard to kaitiakitanga/stewardship when managing our taonga, both our fisheries and environment<sup>3</sup>.

By adopting such a strategy New Zealand will gain maximum benefit on the international market, as transparency and accountability in fisheries management is increasingly being driven by both consumer and retailer demand.

We understand from our meeting with you that you will be making your decision about the future of the *Fisheries 2030* strategy by the end of this week and presenting a final copy to your Cabinet colleagues by the end of this month.

---

<sup>2</sup> [http://option4.co.nz/Fisheries\\_Mgmt/documents/More\\_fish\\_in\\_the\\_water\\_2.pdf](http://option4.co.nz/Fisheries_Mgmt/documents/More_fish_in_the_water_2.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://option4.co.nz/Fisheries\\_Mgmt/documents/Alternative\\_joint\\_strategy\\_2030.pdf](http://option4.co.nz/Fisheries_Mgmt/documents/Alternative_joint_strategy_2030.pdf)

We look forward to hearing how you have managed to incorporate our collective proposals into your government's strategy and change the focus of the *Fisheries 2030* project to achieve broader, more acceptable outcomes.

Should you need further clarification on any of our proposals and action points, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Baker  
New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council  
PO Box 93  
Whangarei 0140

Trish Rea  
option4  
PO Box 37-951  
Parnell, Auckland 1151

Mike Britton  
Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand  
PO Box 631, Wellington 6140

Bunny McDiarmid  
Greenpeace New Zealand Aotearoa  
PB 92507  
Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141

Cath Wallace and Barry Weeber  
Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand  
PO Box 11057, Wellington 6142

Geoff Rowling  
New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council  
PO Box 238  
Raglan 3265

Jonathan Dick  
Guardians of Hawke Bay Fisheries  
84 Avondale Road  
Napier 4112

Paul Haddon  
Hokianga Accord  
PO Box 263  
Kaikohe, Northland 0405

Hugh Barr  
Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand  
PO Box 745, Wellington 6140

Jim Mikoz  
New Zealand Angling and Casting Association  
PO Box 12042  
Rotorua 3045

Lloyd Hanson  
Marlborough Recreational Fishers Assoc.  
PO Box 384  
Blenheim 7240