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*“More fish in the water/Kia maha nga ika i roto te wai”*

Tracy Steel  
Ministry of Fisheries  
PO Box 1020  
WELLINGTON  
[tracy.steel@fish.govt.nz](mailto:tracy.steel@fish.govt.nz)

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## **Endorsement of the NZ Big Game Fishing Council’s Submissions on the Harvest Strategy and QMS Introduction Standards**

option4 submits in support of the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council’s submissions to the Ministry of Fisheries proposals for a Harvest Strategy Standard and a QMS Introduction Standard. The NZBGFC’s submissions were sent to you on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2007.

option4 is an NGO that promotes sustainable fisheries management and the New Zealand public’s non-commercial fishing interests.

option4 has not been able to conduct an adequate consultation process due to the limited MFish submission period and our own lack of resources. However, during the development of the NZBGFC’s submissions discussions were held with a number of experienced individuals and other interest groups including major participants in the Hokianga Accord (mid north regional iwi fisheries forum).

We strongly object to the inadequate submission period. While we acknowledge MFish for extending the deadline after several requests, MFish would have been well aware that most of the non-commercial sector’s resources were concentrated on another of their process – the Shared Fisheries proposals. More importantly, we have not had time to respond to MFish’ Consultation Standard proposals. Improved consultation is critical if we are to achieve better understanding and collective agreement on future management of our precious fisheries.

option4 appreciate the opportunity to submit in support of the NZBGFC and believe the views expressed are a fair representation of non-commercial interests and therefore endorse the recommendations in both Council documents.



Trish Rea  
On behalf of the option4 team