

*"Sharing the finfish resources
of our west coast"*



Utilisation

NIWC FINFISH FISHERIES ARE USED AND VALUED FOR THE WELLBEING OF ALL

Previous Page Photo:

Surfcasting
T Smith

5.0 NIWC FINFISH FISHERIES ARE USED AND VALUED FOR THE WELLBEING OF ALL

Sharing the finfish resources of our west coast

5.1 The Goal

Goal 3 – NIWC finfish fisheries are used and valued for the wellbeing of all – recognises that we all have important roles to play in managing our finfish fisheries of the west coast of the North Island.

5.2 Contributing Objectives

In order to achieve our utilisation goal, the Advisory Group has developed the following objectives:

Inclusive Management Objectives	
A	All sectors understand and recognise the use and value each gains from NIWC finfish fisheries.
B	All sectors are made aware of and comply with all fishing regulations.
C	People's access to fisheries are maximised by seeking to ensure there is enough fish for everyone where they fish.
D	Best harvest information is used to allocate catch levels fairly amongst all sectors of NIWC finfish fisheries.
E	Fishing regulations are clear, effective, practical and enforced.
F	The rights of all users of NIWC finfish fisheries are recognised, enhanced and protected.

5.3 Principles underlying the objectives

Objective A: All sectors understand and recognise the use and value each gains from NIWC finfish fisheries.

The intent of this objective is to ensure all sectors respect why people go fishing, that each should have a legitimate share of the fisheries they are involved in and the values they derive from fishing.

Objective B: All sectors are made aware of and comply with all fishing regulations.

The intent of this objective is to ensure all fishers know about the fishing regulations that apply to NIWC

finfish fisheries, about the purpose of the regulations and about the penalties and implications for the fisheries if there is non-compliance with these regulations.

Objective C: People’s access to fisheries are maximised by seeking to ensure there are enough fish for everyone where they fish.

The intent of this objective is to ensure that best available information is used to set catch limits that ensure that everyone has a share of the NIWC finfish fisheries to meet their needs

Objective D: Best harvest information is used to allocate catch levels fairly amongst all sectors of NIWC finfish fisheries.

The intent of this objective is to ensure everyone has enough fish to meet their needs.

Objective E: Fishing regulations are clear, effective, practical and enforced.





The intent of this objective is to protect NIWC finfish fisheries by ensuring regulations are relevant and communicated in a manner that is easily understood by all sectors



Objective F: The rights of all users of NIWC finfish fisheries are recognised, enhanced and protected.

The intent of this objective is that through the recognition, enhancement and protection of rights, sectors will be better able to work together on NIWC finfish issues.

5.4 Assessment of Current Performance against Objectives

The following table assesses current performance against these objectives using best available fishery and stakeholder information. The risk factors (Medium – Very High) represent the level of risk to the fishery should an objective not be fulfilled. A more detailed analysis is found in Appendix 1.

Are we on track?	Risk
<p>Objective A: All sectors understand and recognise the use and value each gains from NIWC finfish fisheries.</p> <p> The increasing involvement of west coast fishing and environmental sectors in fisheries management is improving understanding and acceptance of other sectors’ values and use of different species. As sectors continue to work together the benefits associated with a collaborative approach to management should become clearer.</p>	Medium
<p>Objective B: All sectors are made aware of and comply with all fishing regulations.</p> <p> There has been a more effective and wider communication of rules over recent years through people’s involvement with fisheries management and better use of media, but awareness could always be improved.</p>	M-High
<p>Objective C: People’s access to fisheries are maximised by seeking to ensure there are enough fish for everyone where they fish.</p> <p> There is relatively low spatial conflict between sectors on the NIWC and some regulations separate the fisheries. There is also an improved awareness that people do not have to catch everything they are able to. However, there is a lack of information about the catch levels and sizes of some stocks.</p>	High
<p>Objective D: Best harvest information is used to allocate catch levels fairly amongst all sectors of NIWC finfish fisheries.</p> <p> The lack of quality catch information, particularly for customary and recreational catches complicates decision-making about catch allocations made to all sectors, especially allocations that are fair in terms of varying values and uses for different species.</p>	V-High

Objective E: Fishing regulations are clear, effective, practical and enforced.	V-High
 A review is required to determine the regulations that could be improved.	
Objective F: The rights of all users of NIWC finfish fisheries are recognised, enhanced and protected.	Medium
 Progress has been made on legislation to recognise commercial and customary rights, but not recreational, notwithstanding, all people in New Zealand have the right to fish recreationally. Legislation exists to protect fisheries and the marine environment, and therefore fisher's rights to fisheries. However, information that feeds into processes that affect fishers' rights could be improved.	

Key: Are we on track?

 = No
  = Partially
  = Mostly
  = Yes



5.5 Management Tools and Services - How do we achieve our Fishery Objectives?

***'Te ohonga ake i taku moemoea Ko te puawaitanga o nga whakaaro.'* - 'Dreams and goals become reality when we take action.'**

Assessments show that management action is required to ensure Goal 3 objectives can be met. The Advisory Group has recommended that management activity be focused in the following areas, with the management strategies with a tick (✓) the priority for 2009/10:

Objective A: All sectors understand and recognise the use and value each gains from NIWC finfish fisheries.		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Improve education about fisheries management frameworks for each sector.		MFish, sectors
(ii) Increase communication between sectors about the values they obtain from fishing.		Sectors
Objective B: All sectors are made aware of, and comply with, all fishing regulations.		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Improve education and mātauranga within industry and communities e.g. schools, clubs, marae.		MFish, sectors
(ii) Improve signage at boat ramps and fishing spots.		MFish
(iii) Improve relationships between Fisheries Officers, Honorary Fisheries Officers, Tangata Kaitiaki ¹¹ and local communities to better use compliance resources.	Ongoing	MFish, sectors
(iv) Improve use of media e.g. TV shows, pamphlets, internet and notifying of offenders and their offences in local newspapers.		MFish
Objective C: People's access to fisheries are maximised by seeking to ensure there are enough fish for everyone where they fish.		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Address fisher concerns about spatial overlap. This could be done by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increasing communication and education ○ Use of inter-sector agreements in areas of high value to particular sectors. ○ Best practice used by all sectors. 		MFish, sectors

¹¹ Tangata Kaitiaki (/Tiaki)- any person appointed as Tangata Kaitiaki/Tiaki under the Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998, being a member of the tangata whenua or a tangata whenua organisation or their notified representative.

(ii) Address fisher concerns about inequality of access. This could be done by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Improved information on harvest levels o Managed stocks at a level consistent with the harvest strategy standard. o All sectors promote the idea of taking what you need, not what you can catch. 		MFish, sectors
Objective D: Best harvest information is used to allocate catch levels fairly amongst all NIWC finfish fisheries sectors.		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Improved collection of harvest information from all sectors.	✓	MFish, sectors
(ii) Use sector harvest information to better inform the allocation of TACs.		MFish
Objective E: Fishing regulations are clear, effective, practical and enforced.		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Review regulations to ensure they are achieving the desired objective, enforceable, cost effective and easy to understand	✓	MFish, sectors
(ii) Ensure that penalties reflect the impacts of non-compliance on fish stocks		MFish, Justice system
Objective F: The rights of all users of NIWC finfish fisheries are recognised, enhanced and protected.		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Improve education about sectors' fishing rights		MFish, sectors
(ii) Provide incentives for all sectors to participate in managing their fisheries		MFish



Whangape Harbour, Northland
Photo: D. Parsons



Mana and Kapiti Islands
Photo: R. Orzecki

5.6 Performance Monitoring

The NW Finfish Advisory Group will track performance against the inclusive management goal using the following performance indicators:

Objective	Performance Indicators
A	Increased acceptance of everyone's participation in shared fisheries
B	Improved compliance with fishing regulations
C	Spatial conflict is reduced
D	More reliable harvest estimates available
E	Regulations are supported
F	The rights of all fishery users are better understood





*"Where the lifeforce is strong,
the resources and taonga will
flourish"*

Environment

NIWC FINFISH FISHERIES ARE PART OF A HEALTHY MARINE ENVIRONMENT



Previous Page Photo:

Mercer Bay, Auckland
T Smith

6.0 NIWC FINFISH FISHERIES ARE PART OF A HEALTHY MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Where the life force is strong, the resources and taonga will flourish

6.1 The Goal

Goal 4 – NIWC finfish fisheries are part of a healthy marine environment – recognises that sustainable fisheries that everyone has access to depends on a healthy marine environment and that some fishing and non-fishing activities affect the health of the environment.

6.2 Contributing Objectives

In order to achieve our environmental goal, the Advisory Group has developed the following objectives:

Environmental Objectives	
A	Decision-making reflects the Environmental Principles of our legislation
B	An awareness of the impacts of non-fishing marine activities is promoted.
C	All sectors promote best fishing practices to minimise the impacts of fishing on the NIWC marine environment.
D	All sectors work together to promote and maintain a healthy NIWC marine environment
E	The impact of land-based activities on the NIWC marine-environment is understood and reflected in decision making

6.3 Principles underlying the objectives

Objective A: Decision-making reflects the Environmental Principles of our legislation.

The intent of this objective is to ensure that the NIWC marine environment is healthy by protecting associated and dependent species, biological diversity and essential fish habitats for fisheries management purposes, as required by the Environmental Principles.

Objective B: An awareness of the impacts of non-fishing marine activities is promoted

The intent of this objective is to ensure that agencies that administer activities within the marine environment are aware of, and take into account, the impacts these activities may have on fisheries and fisheries habitat.

Objective C: All sectors promote best fishing practices to minimise the impacts of fishing on the NIWC marine environment

The intent of this objective is to ensure all NIWC fishers minimise their impacts on the environment and promote the best fishing practices to do this

Objective D: All sectors work together to promote and maintain a healthy NIWC marine environment






The intent of this objective is to ensure all NIWC fishers communicate and work with each other and the different government agencies to achieve the goal of a healthy NIWC marine environment.

Objective E: The impact of land-based activities on the NIWC marine environment is understood and reflected in decision making

The intent of this objective is to ensure that detrimental impacts of land-based activities on the marine environment are mitigated to promote healthy NIWC fisheries and habitats.

6.4 Assessment of Current Performance against Objectives

The following table assesses current performance against these objectives using best available fishery and stakeholder feedback and information. The risk factors (Medium – Very High) represent the level of risk to the fishery should an objective not be fulfilled. A more detailed analysis is found in Appendix 1.

Are we on track?	Risk
<p>Objective A: Decision-making reflects the Environmental Principles of our legislation</p> <p> The Minister of Fisheries must take into account the environmental principles of the Fisheries Act. However, a lack of information about species relationships and their habitats can make this difficult. In addition, the Principles and the way they work is relatively complicated making it difficult for people to understand the rationale for some decisions related to the Principles.</p>	Medium
<p>Objective B: An awareness of the impacts of non-fishing marine activities is promoted</p> <p> The effects of non-fishing marine activities e.g. harbour dredging, flood protection and seabed mining, are managed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), which requires an assessment of the environmental impacts of an activity, the Crown Minerals Act 1991 and the Continental Shelf Act 1964. There is a gap of knowledge about the full scale of environmental impacts on the marine environment, which makes it difficult to have these effects taken into account in coastal land use planning and when projects are being assessed.</p>	High
<p>Objective C: All sectors promote best fishing practices to minimise the impacts of fishing on the NIWC marine environment</p> <p> The effects of fishing practices are not all well researched and best practices may need promotion. Further research and education would likely increase the use of best practice by all sectors.</p>	M-High
<p>Objective D: All sectors work together to promote and maintain a healthy NIWC marine environment</p> <p> There are several examples of sectors working together to promote and maintain a healthy marine environment but they are in localised geographic areas, with little interaction with each other.</p>	Medium
<p>Objective E: The impact of land-based activities on the NIWC marine-environment is understood and reflected in decision making</p> <p> The RMA provides a legislative framework and councils are monitoring the coastal environment and imposing restrictions on development. While the effects of land-based activities on the marine environment are not fully understood, it is becoming increasingly clear that they must be taken into account for land management in coastal areas.</p>	High

Key: Are we on track?



= No



= Partially



= Mostly



= Yes

6.5 Management Tools and Services - How do we achieve our Fishery Objectives?

'Te ohonga ake i taku moemoea Ko te puawaitanga o nga whakaaro.'* - *'Dreams and goals become reality when we take action.'

Assessments show that management action is required to ensure Goal 4 objectives can be met. The Advisory Group has recommended that management activity be focussed in the following areas, with the management strategies with a tick (✓) the priority for 2009/10:

Objective A: Decision making reflects the Environmental Principles of our legislation		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Characterise the effects of fishing on NIWC species and habitats	✓	MFish
(ii) Improve our understanding of how species interact with each other		MFish
(iii) Identify habitats of particular importance for fisheries management	✓	MFish, sectors
Objective B: Awareness of the impacts of non-fishing marine activities is promoted.		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Identify activities that occur in coastal areas and the marine environment that can affect fisheries.		MFish
(ii) Improve working relationships with agencies responsible for managing those marine activities. This could involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sharing information about the effects non-fishing marine activities can have on the marine environment and fisheries. ○ Providing information on the commercial, customary and recreational values of fisheries affected by non-fishing activities. ○ Promoting the importance of monitoring the effects of non-fishing marine activities. ○ Participating in managing non-fishing marine activities where necessary ○ Requesting a more transparent process for assessing non-fisheries marine activities in the EEZ 	Ongoing	MFish, other Government Agencies*, sectors
Objective C: All sectors promote best fishing practices to minimise the impacts of fishing on the NIWC marine environment.		
Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Document the fishing methods used on the NIWC and characterise impacts on the environment	✓	MFish

*Regional and Local Councils, other Ministries and Government Departments e.g. Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation, Crown Minerals.

(ii) Educate fishers on practices that minimise the impacts on the environment. This could involve promoting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The prevention of the loss of fishing gear into the coastal environment (e.g. soft baits, nylon). ○ Good fish handling practices 		MFish, sectors
(iii) Encourage innovation within the commercial sector to improve best practice		MFish, commercial sector

Objective D: All sectors work together to promote and maintain a healthy NIWC marine environment

Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Promote a coordinated approach to the management of the NIWC environment amongst sectors.	Ongoing	MFish, sectors

Objective E: The impact of land-based activities on the NIWC marine environment is understood and reflected in decision making.

Strategy	Priority	Responsibility
(i) Identify the impacts of land-based activities (including climate change) on the NIWC marine environment.	✓	MFish
(ii) Identify and promote the fisheries benefits of mitigation methods such as riparian planting and fencing.		MFish, sectors
(iii) Work together with relevant agencies to ensure current rules and regulations are effective in preventing sedimentation, nitrification and other processes that can be shown to adversely impact marine habitats.	Ongoing	MFish, other Government agencies*



6.6 Performance Monitoring

The NW Finfish Advisory Group will track performance against the environmental goal using the following performance indicators:

Objective	Performance Indicators
A	Improved understanding of associated and dependant species, biological diversity and essential fish habitats
B	Values of fisheries and fisheries habitats are recognised and provided for when activities that impact on fisheries are undertaken
C	Best fishing practices are promoted and impacts of fishing on the NIWC are reduced
D	The management of the NIWC environment is better coordinated amongst agencies
E	The impacts of land based activities on NIWC finfish fisheries are taken into account and minimised by agencies responsible for coastal land and catchment management.

