

11 June 2007

Dear Stakeholder

### **Purpose**

Each year the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) reviews the management measures for selected New Zealand fisheries. This letter advises you of the items included in the current review, the timeline for this process, and other considerations.

### **Scope of Current Review**

MFish's focus on developing fisheries plans and standards has limited the time available for MFish staff to consider all issues proposed in this year's sustainability and regulatory rounds. MFish judged some issues to be a lower priority, and for others, a review would first require further work to evaluate the problem and possible solutions. The issues identified in this letter will be of interest to a broad range of fishery interests.

The issues in the current review are divided into a "sustainability round" and a "regulatory round".

Items in the sustainability round are issues requiring implementation at the start of the fishing year on 1 October 2007. There are two sustainability issues that will not be enacted on 1 October. MFish is reviewing the Northland and Coromandel Scallops TAC, and any amendments will likely be gazetted at the end of August.

Regulatory round items will be implemented on 1 April 2008, rather than immediately following the Minister's decisions, as in the past.

A description of the issues and expected timeframes for review of Initial Position

Papers (IPP) are listed in the following tables.

***Sustainability round – 1 October 2007***

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSALS</b>	<b>IPP RELEASED</b>	<b>SUBMISSIONS CLOSE</b>
Kahawai* (KAH)	To review sustainability measures and other management controls	04 July	17 August
Deemed Values	To review and recommend adjustments to the deemed value rates for an assortment of stocks	15 June	27 July
Hoki (HOK)	To review the TAC and east-west catch split for the stock	15 June	27 July
Orange roughy (ORH 1)	To review the TAC and TACC for the stock	15 June	27 July
Orange roughy (ORH 3B)	To review the TAC and TACC for the stock	15 June	27 July
Orange roughy (ORH 7B)	To review the TAC and TACC for the stock	15 June	27 July
North Island Eel stocks (SFE 20-23 & LFE 20-23)	To review the TAC for the stocks	15 June	27 July
Flatfish (FLA 3)	To review the TACC and set a TAC for the stocks	15 June	27 July
Red Cod (RCO 3)	To review the TACC and set a TAC for the stock	15 June	27 July
Oreo (OEO 1)	To review the TAC and TACC for the stock	15 June	27 July
Tarakihi (TAR 1)	To review the TAC for the stock	15 June	27 July
School shark (SCH 1)	To review the TACC and set a TAC for the stock	15 June	27 July
Rubyfish (RBY 8)	To correct a TAC and TACC drafting error	15 June	27 July
Squid (SQU 1T)	To review the TAC and TACC for the stock	15 June	27 July
Dredge Oyster (OYS 7C)	To review the TAC and TACC for the stock	15 June	27 July

\*The Kahawai IPP will be sent to stakeholders 2-3 weeks later than the other sustainability round IPPs. The scientific information concerning the 2007 KAH 1 stock assessment has only recently become available following consideration by the Pelagic Working Group and the Fisheries Assessment Plenary, meaning the preparation of the KAH IPP has been delayed to fully take into account the best available information.

*Regulatory round – 1 April 2008*

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSALS</b>	<b>IPP RELEASED</b>	<b>SUBMISSIONS CLOSE</b>
Turtles	To review regulations relating to the capture of marine turtles	29 June	24 August
Destination X	To resolve issues concerned with the Destination X reporting code	29 June	24 August
Scallop season	To review the recreational scallop season in the north-west coast of the North Island	29 June	24 August
Kaipara Harbour	To review a regulation permitting the stalling of nets in Kaipara Harbour	29 June	24 August
Deepwater Crab	Addition of Deepwater Crab to the Sixth Schedule to allow species to be returned to the sea	29 June	24 August
Paddle Crab	Addition of Paddle Crab to the Sixth Schedule to allow species to be returned to the sea	29 June	24 August
Surf Clams	To amend regulations to allow a new Surf Clam dredge size	29 June	24 August

MFish and the Department of Conservation are working together to develop a joint Threat Management Plan to manage the threats to Hector's dolphins (including Maui's dolphins). A regional discussion document has been completed. This document will form the basis of discussion with stakeholders on options to mitigate threats to dolphins. Regional meetings with stakeholders are now underway and will be completed shortly. The consultation process for Hector's dolphins will follow a different timetable than for the issues listed above.

On the IPP release date you will be sent a letter that summarises all of the issues listed in the above tables. The full IPP will be posted on the MFish website for you to review at that time, or you will be able to request a hard copy of the IPP to be posted to you.

Should you wish to add or remove names or organisations from the mailing list, please advise Tracey Steel by 14 June. Tracey Steel, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington, or fax to 04 470-2669, or email [Tracey.Steel@fish.govt.nz](mailto:Tracey.Steel@fish.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

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