



Hokianga Accord



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## MORE FISH IN THE WATER

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

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>1</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>2</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.

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,

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<sup>1</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>2</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)

Fisheries 2030 – an alternative collective vision and strategy.  
Non-commercial Fishing and Environmental Interests Alliance.

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