

8 July 2005

Dear Stakeholder

PROPOSAL TO AMEND ASPECTS OF THE AMATEUR FISHING REGULATIONS

The purpose of this document is to seek your views on Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) proposals to amend a series of regulations that are of concern to recreational fishers. In late 2003 a commitment was made to review aspects of recreational fisheries regulations that were considered by the sector to be inequitable or outdated. As a first step in the process, the NZ Recreational Fishing Council (the Council) nominated five issues to be reviewed:

- a) the 'primary' taker rule;
- b) measuring scallops and dredge oysters on the seafloor;
- c) methods of catching rock lobster;
- d) the Coromandel scallop amateur bag limit; and
- e) taking and possession of paua and mussels with underwater breathing apparatus.

The proposals contained in this document are the result of MFish's review of these five issues, working in conjunction with representatives of the Council. The document also contains a sixth proposal that seeks to allow the possession of shucked scallops and dredge oysters on board a vessel. This issue arose from consideration of the other rules relating to scallop and dredge oyster fishing.

Final recommendations will be provided to the Minister by early September 2005. Any regulatory amendments required will be implemented at a subsequent date and will follow the normal Cabinet process. If there are any changes to recreational rules, MFish will advise stakeholders at the time.

MFish is formally consulting on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries in relation to the proposed changes, in accordance with the Minister's statutory obligations to consult under the Fisheries Act 1996.

If you wish to make submissions on this proposal please forward your comments to: Amateur Fishing Regulations Amendments, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 19747, Avondale, Auckland. Alternatively, electronic submissions can be emailed to Sarah.Omundsen@fish.govt.nz.

Should you wish to discuss the content of the IPP please contact:

- Arthur Hore, Senior Fisheries Management Advisor; or Sarah Omundsen, Fisheries Advisor on (09) 820 7771

Comments will need to be received by **5 August 2005**.

Please note that all submissions are subject to the Official Information Act and can be released, if requested, under that Act. If you have specific reasons for wanting to have your submission withheld, please set out your reasons in the submission. MFish will consider those reasons when making any assessment for release of submissions if requested under the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Arthur Hore
Senior Fisheries Management Advisor