



30 January 2009

Dear Stakeholder

PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF REDBAIT INTO QUOTA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON 1 OCTOBER 2009

The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) is proposing that redbait stocks be introduced into the Quota Management System (QMS) on 1 October 2009. The Initial Position Paper (IPP) accompanying this letter provides you with MFish's initial position on the proposed measures.

The purposes of this letter are to:

- Provide you with a summary of the issues in the IPP so that you can decide if you would like to examine these issues further and provide comment to MFish;
- Advise you how to make a submission; and
- Inform you of the deadline by which submissions must be received.

Redbait stocks are currently managed outside the QMS and are subject to an open access management regime. MFish is aware of interest from stakeholders in:

- Developing the redbait fishery;
- Developing markets for redbait; and
- Securing access to the fishery.

MFish believes that without the security provided by quota, stakeholders will be unwilling to make significant investments in the redbait fishery. This in turn will not enable the potential value of the fishery to be maximised.

MFish believes that if redbait stocks are brought into the QMS on 1 October 2009 the value of quota is likely to be comparatively low. This would represent the best opportunity for interested parties to purchase quota. The security of quota ownership would then enable companies to make business decisions regarding the redbait fishery.

Additionally, if brought into the QMS on 1 October 2009, quota for redbait stocks will be allocated to the fishing industry based on catches reported during the period 1 October 1990 – 30 September 1992. Any quota allocated to the Crown will be

tendered at the earliest possible opportunity. The amount of quota allocated to both Industry and the Crown will depend on the amount of catch history from the 1990-1992 period as well as the total allowable commercial catches that are subsequently set.


MFish proposes two options for redbait quota management areas (QMAs). The first is to simply have two main QMAs, one of which would encompass fishery management areas (FMAs) 1-6 with the other encompassing FMAs 7-9. The other option is to set the redbait QMAs the same as those for jack mackerel in recognition of the fact that most redbait is taken as a bycatch to the jack mackerel fishery. In both cases there would also be a Kermadec stock (FMA10).

MFish welcomes submissions on any aspect of the proposals detailed in the IPP. MFish is particularly interested in stakeholder views on the proposed redbait QMAs. **Submissions are due by Friday 20 February 2009** and should be sent to Tracey Steel. Submissions can be posted (Tracey Steel, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington 6140), emailed (tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz) or faxed (04 819 4208).

Because of the relatively short consultation period MFish is willing to attend any meetings that stakeholders with an interest in these proposals may wish to hold. Any issues raised at a meeting will be treated as an oral submission. Please contact Aoife Martin, Manager Deepwater Fisheries on 04 819 4675 if you wish to arrange a meeting.

Access to the IPP can also be found on the MFish website under the "Consultations" section (www.fish.govt.nz). Alternatively, please contact Tracey Steel on 04 819 4585 if you require additional paper copies.

Yours sincerely



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Ministry of Fisheries