

HO263

Minister of Fisheries

Purpose

1. This paper seeks confirmation of your decision regarding the introduction of regulations to require marine recreational charter fishing vessel operators (charter operators) to register their vessels and report their fishing activity on a monthly basis. For some key species in some areas, catch reporting will also be required.

Background

2. MFish originally submitted the final advice paper – Marine Recreational Charter Vessel Registration and Reporting - on 26 January 2009. This paper was part of the review of regulatory measures and other management controls for June 1 2009. You decided to defer your decision on this paper until after you had met with a group of charter operators to discuss implementation options. You met with charter operators on June 3 2009.
3. Following this meeting you asked officials to revise the recommendations outlined in the final advice paper to reflect specific decisions you have made on the granularity of reporting and the \$150 cost of the administration fee.
4. You have indicated to officials that you have decided that:
 - Charter operators should be required to report activity and catch information to the nearest minute of latitude and longitude. This means that the information reported is at a coarse enough level that charter operators' concerns that their favoured fishing spots would be identified would be alleviated, but fine enough that managers will be able to use the information to inform advice on spatial management measures. You indicated that you felt that this was the best balance between generating data that was useful and recognising the concerns of charter operators regarding their fishing spots.
 - The administration fee should be \$54 per annum (\$27 if registered electronically). This means that charter operators will only be charged for the actual costs of the registration process. This charge is equivalent to that charged to commercial operators to register vessels less than 28 metres in length.
5. The revised recommendations are outlined below for your confirmation.

Recommendation

6. MFish recommend that you:
 - i. **Agree** to introduce regulations to take effect in 2010 whereby recreational charter vessel operators would be required to:

A. Registration

- I. Register their vessel(s) annually, providing basic details of their vessel(s) and contact details for their business
- II. Pay a fee of \$54 (\$27 if paid electronically) to recover the administrative costs of registration only

B. Activity Reporting

- I. Record fishing activity for each trip before returning to port, using reporting forms provided by MFish. Activity would be recorded by location, and include the number of fishers, time fished, and main species caught;
- II. Return completed reporting forms monthly to a contracted service provider, with nil returns required where no activity has occurred during a month;
- III. Location to be reported to the nearest minute of latitude and longitude and to be held by contracted service provider under standard MFish guidelines and protocols designed to protect confidentiality of commercially sensitive information;

C. Catch Reporting

- I. Where catch includes fish of the certain stocks, record on the reporting form the number of fish of that stock caught and retained at each location. The stocks would be:
 - Hāpuku and bass (HPB 1 and 2)
 - Kingfish (KIN 1 and 2)
 - Blue cod (BCO 3, 5 and 7)
 - Rock lobster (CRA 3, 4,5, 7 and 8)
 - Southern bluefin tuna
 - Pacific bluefin tuna

AND

- II. Where catch includes either Southern blue-fin tuna or Pacific blue-fin tuna, record the estimated weight of each fish.
- ii. **Note** that catch information will be able to be associated with personal and vessel identification.
 - iii. **Agree** that implementation would include the following steps:
 - MFish would work with a representative group of charter operators, before regulations are drafted, to ensure the reporting scheme is as streamlined as possible. This work would include:
 - Developing an appropriate definition of a charter operator and a charter fishing trip
 - Designing a reporting form that contained the necessary information but was as practical and intuitive as possible
 - Developing a strategy to inform and educate individual charter vessel operators and other stakeholders about the new requirements.
 - Registration and reporting services would be provided by a third party on tendered contract to MFish.
 - On passing of the regulations, the Minister of Fisheries would release a policy statement explaining the reasons for, and intent of, the regulations.

This policy statement would assure stakeholders on matters of sensitivity of data management.

Russell Burnard

Manager Regulatory and Information

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED / APPROVED AS AMENDED

Hon Phil Heatley

Minister of Fisheries

/ / 2009