

**CONSULTATION
ON THE
FISHERIES SERVICES
PROPOSED
FOR
2006/07**

Prepared by the Mahia Coastal Marine Strategy on behalf of the following:
Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust
Mahia Boating and Fishing Club

FISHERIES SERVICES

1 This submission is in response to the request from the Ministry of Fisheries regarding Fisheries Services.

2 The following are brief points of how the Ministry of Fisheries can improve its Fisheries Services in particular to ensure effective monitoring of our decreased resources leading to informative fisheries management decision making procedures and applications to the fishery within the New Zealand.

3 Firstly, in future consultation periods, we would appreciate it if you would be able to forward such documents to:

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4 The above details are the central base that ensures that all stakeholders that hold a direct interest within the tribal boundaries of Rongomaiwahine are informed of such documents via the Mahia Coastal Marine Strategy:

Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust

Te Mana Taiao o Rongomaiwahine

Mahia Boating and Fishing Club

All marae within the boundaries of Rongomaiwahine

Commercial Operators

Increased Regional Research activity

5 There needs to be more research emphasised in statistical areas of QMA, as this will provide a more detailed/intimate assessment of what is truly occurring with various spp, in particular, shellfish. This would then lead to providing an increase knowledge base of what happens to each spp which then leads to effective management decisions on each spp. This type of research can also be complimented with research data collection for Mataitai, 186a Temporary Closures, Taiapure, and Regulations 27 A aspects when these issues are ready to be assessed.

Central Customary Database

6 The need for data collection regarding customary take, via Regulation 27 A and Kaimoana Regulation Permits is eminent as there is very little collection of this information and also very little of this information used toward TAC setting. Collecting this data would allow provisions for realistic TAC settings, and also contribute to gaining increased knowledge of what is occurring in particular tauranga ika, thus providing more knowledge of spp activity and establishing a better trend of activity. This could then lead into quicker and effective decision making processes and implementations.

7 This should see:

- ⇒ A single and or many specific areas in New Zealand establishing options of harvesting data collection on customary take as a pilot project:
 - this should include harvest data collection from both Regulation 27 and Kaimoana Regulations since 1999 - 2005 throughout New Zealand;
 - This will provide some base line data.
 - Regulations 27 A and Kaimoana Regulation permit records and other non commercial harvesting recording options established in New Zealand via NIWA, MCMS and in areas such as Waimarama, eg non commercial record forms.
- ⇒ Design a user friendly database
 - This should include data such as the amount, spp, area of harvest and destination etc;
 - This database should be able to evaluate, manipulate and predict information;
 - This data base should also provide accurate information for TAC allocation, essential data for Mataitai and other customary management tools establishments etc;
 - And have the capacity to compare results of the data collection with other areas.
- ⇒ Implement the plan through out most to all areas as a Project within the DoSIP .

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Stage one:	Pilot Case Study
Stage two:	Options Package designed
Stage three:	Implementation of Package

Stage four: Database for customary harvest activity

8 These can be achieved via Deed of Settlement/non commercial, other and or individual key spp fisheries research projects.

Central Recreational Database

8a This is very similar to the Central Customary Database but put into Recreational text.

Non commercial Utilisation and Sustainability measures

9 Need to increased effort in non commercial research services, as this area is least known or in most cases guessed when setting TAC levels.

10 Possible options of ensuring that non commercial harvest rates are included within the Ministry can be determined by accepting research proposals that signal data collection of non commercial take in areas of significance (significance in this text is associated to areas that have the capacity to carryout such research projects effectively, with some preference to those proposed projects being carried out in areas which have management tools that are consistent with Fisheries Act implemented in their area etc) and or Implement the plan mentioned in the section of this document titled Central database.

11 For the QMS to work effectively the best available information must be taken into consideration. If the option of having the data collected for non commercial harvest is available it must/should be taken into consideration and or be part of decision making processes. Such issues should be promoted through the Regional Forums. Therefore leading to accurate stock assessment modelling planning and implementation, that then leads to effective TAC level settings and finally leading to accurate predictions amongst stock assessments of a stock.

12 QMS is good so long as the TAC is set at an effective level which will maximise the value in future/long term which also leads to increased value of spp and better business planning etc.

13 There should also be a focus on the higher valued to mid valued stocks that also may show low abundance in spp of research. For an example high valued spp such as rock lobster and paua is highly valued in customary, recreation and commercial areas and have the potential to recover and or rebuild and monitor stocks more efficiently than those such as fish.

14 A research component should be included in the 'expected results' of the Deed of Settlement Implementation to build robust structures when negotiating fisheries management decisions.

15 It is suggested that DoSIP hold a significantly increased customary related funds, and also project proposals of research. The DoSIP can be the arena that deals with all customary issues.

16 DoSIP should have the capacity to relate with mandated representatives from the retrospective Iwi and Hapu and engage with the Ministry of Fisheries at higher levels so that maximum results for customary issues can be implemented to suit each fishing year of the various stocks.

17 Due to the fact that Maori have a substantial interest across all stakeholder avenues all sectors including commercial interests should be included in the 'expected results' where possible. This could lead into a better understanding of the customary management tools and how they can be of benefit to all across all stakeholder groups.

18 It is also suggested that there be single regional forums for non commercial issues, instead of having forums for customary and forums for recreational. This causes a perceived separation between the two sectors, when in more instances than not are one in almost the same.

19 The benefits of the combination are obvious. One in many examples in particular, are the establishment of mataitai in a area. Both groups will be able to achieve a united, secure and comprehensive front with a predominately customary issue.

20 With a combined budget to carryout the non commercial Regional forums, will reduce costs in some instances therefore having the ability to focus funds into achieving objectives effectively instead of talking of the same issues, causing separation, meeting with the same Ministry officials and other government groups for the same reason as the other forum.

21 The combination of the two should then also have the ability to meet the objectives of both groups, formulate a central forum for non commercial related issues, inform both groups of each stakeholder rights and obligations, which could then lead to, because of a better understanding of each group, a united voice for non commercial.

22 Direct the AFL and TOKM, SeaFIC etc in to these forums to utilise the forums for these issues pertaining to any customary issues of Iwi and hapu and or non commercial issues. Attendees of Iwi/Hapu recreational clubs should have a mandate to present issues facing their rohe. Having this will lead to the forums having robust and direct views of what the region wants.

23 For an example:

Forum Construction should also include reps from each sector – AFL, TOKM, SeaFic, NZRLIC, Mfish, NIWA, etc

Listening to the constructive initiatives/directions of the Iwi and Hapu and recreational (if combined), and reporting the views of these groups back to their retrospective agencies to make better management developments.

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Day one Morning session held with all mandated Iwi and Hapu Reps and recreational groups (if combined) discussing general fisheries issues with Ministry of Fisheries.

Afternoon session discussing mandated proposals and initiatives etc from Iwi and Hapu and recreational groups (if combined) that have been circulated to the members, executive committee and subcommittees of the regional forum 2 weeks prior to Day one, presented to the forum from each of the individual areas within the parameter of the Regional forum.

Day two Formalise a robust combined Proposal for the region to present to the invited agency representatives from the various industry/government groups on Day three.

Day three Presentation of the combined proposal to invited agencies of interest.

All members via secretary, executive committee and sub committee of the regional forum receive written comments on the proposal from the various agencies.

Day four Meeting held within the next four weeks with the agencies of interest presenting the outcomes from the agencies concerning the presented combined proposal. This meeting should include a detailed direction from the Ministry of fisheries and other agencies, which should have all interested groups answering to any matters arising. Afternoon session could see a changed proposal (if necessary) to implement comments from agencies. The best way forward for the proposal is the ultimate aim of this hui.

24 This forum will be the direct route of communication with interested groups that provides a base for tangata whenua and recreational groups (if combined) to maximise the potential to address fishery issues.

Fisheries Research

25 Fisheries Research proposals that have been declined should receive a written explanation of the reasons why the proposed project was declined.

26 Increased research projects on rock lobster as this is a highly valued spp across the board of all stakeholder groups.

27 Increased funds to the non commercial projects as the harvest levels as there is little known.

28 All information on completed projects is made public, available to public.

29 Localised research in general and stock assessments should be encouraged as it assists mataitai and other customary management tools with in the Act.

30 Non commercial projects should include at diverse range of stocks and that are of high value to the groups.

31 Projects that have an enhancement/rebuilding of stocks that have a non commercial gain component should be accepted.

32 There should be alternate ways to carryout a project. In particular to Stock assessment projects. Certain parts of the primary data collection for stock assessments can be carried out by those who live in the area, thus reducing the cost of the project, and putting the money into another project that needs addressing in that same section.

33 Need a stock assessment for the CRA 3 area. This was indicated as a high priority, and yet there is no project accepted in Tier 1 and no possible project as indicated in Tier 2.

34 Include all non commercial and other customary related projects proposals and partial decision making under the DoSIP especially if the recreational groups are combined with this forum, as this sector knows what is best needed to be research.

Commercial Fishing Rules enforced

35 Make provisions for Iwi Compliance Plans which is formalised by both Iwi and Ministry.

36 To conclude, I would like to take this opportunity for us to provide some information pertaining to our concerns to assist the Ministry of Fisheries with comments on how we would like to address the issues mentioned above.