

Transcript of letter from E Chambers Ngatiawa

PO Box 2177
Stoke
Nelson
South Island

18 December 2004

The Chief Executive
Ministry of Fisheries
PO Box 1020
Wellington

Dear Sir

Consultation on Draft Statement of Intent for 2005/08, the Fisheries Services proposed for 2005/06 and Stock Strategies Documents

Proposed Fisheries Services

Having read the proposal, Ngatiawa are supportive of the concept that is being proposed, as we agree with the reasons – especially for sustainability as this has been an issue that Ngatiawa have always been concerned about.

Realistic sustainable quota, allowing those involved to record/accept/utilize and grow the stocks so that there is an ongoing future with an increasing stocks for future generations. It is good to see costings, but it would be good if there was a “buffer” if there are cost over-runs, unseen costs/dangers/diseases or events as it has proven fortuitous in the past to slightly ‘over-budget’ with a surplus than to ‘under budget’ and fail.

It is good to see that the local partially accepting their part in placing fresh water and sea-borne fish species at risk from poisoning and contamination around the local estuary, and Tasman Bay by the action of tipping 75,000 litres of up to 8751 times the limit of recreational shellfish takes and only 500 metres from the potential Commercial shellfish beds, as identified by MAF.

Stock Strategy Consultation Document

Having shown that areas around Nelson and our estuary have serious contamination problems it is of concern that there are areas from which the commercial take just outside the sewage outfalls is allowable. Sadly at the levels that are being tipped out being 8750 times the level for recreational take of shellfish, warnings need to be posted and adhered to.

Other areas were identified and tested for faecal coliform, within the shellfish living/gathering area which shows levels of up to 1700MPN/100gm. Yet other than a small notice appearing in a local Council publication no other warning has been issued, not to take

shellfish. That notice appeared after the test results proved the polluted shellfish, should not be taken, instead of the day that the test-results proved shellfish contamination is at serious levels. Testing in December 2003, January 2004, February 2004 and March 2004, January, February and March tests proved to be over the limits to take shellfish for human consumption, but no warnings issued, posted or published.

Within this contaminated area, there are Oysters, Mussels and Pipi, as well as crabs, flounder, yellow eyed mullet, shark, ray, snapper, etc, taken. Local Council also identified many of the streams within the area are unsafe to swim in, so then fish stocks may be unsafe to eat.

As quota are issued, than warnings need to be looked into as to taking of fish from contaminated areas not widely policed in the past, as Ngatiawa proved, rather the problem has been denied.

Tena tätou katoa

E Chambers Ngatiawa