



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
Te Tautiaki i nga tini a Tangaroa

16 October 2003

Minister of Fisheries

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE: SOUTHERN AND PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

### **Purpose**

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to seek your agreement to proceed with introduction of Southern bluefin tuna and Pacific bluefin tuna into the Quota Management System (QMS) on 1 October 2004.

### **Background**

- 2 On 26 September 2003 MFish submitted final advice to you on introduction of species into the QMS for 1 October 2004. Two of the species proposed for introduction were Southern and Pacific bluefin tuna.
- 3 On 6 October 2003 you met with officials to discuss the final advice paper. At this meeting you agreed to defer your decision on introduction of Southern bluefin tuna pending the outcome of the tenth meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT10) that took place in Christchurch from 7-10 October 2003. The decision on introduction of Pacific bluefin tuna was also deferred to allow confirmation of recommendations of Quota Management Areas for this species.
- 4 The New Zealand negotiating position for the CCSBT meeting was to seek an increase to the New Zealand national allocation of Southern bluefin tuna which is currently 420 tonnes. If the New Zealand proposal to CCSBT had been accepted, an increase in the New Zealand national allocation would have had implications for the proposal to introduce Southern bluefin tuna into the QMS on 1 October 2004. The implications related to the amount of compensation required (Southern bluefin tuna is listed on the Fourth Schedule of the Fisheries Act 1996 which therefore requires the Crown to pay compensation to fishers if provisional catch history is reduced in order to meet the Crown's obligations to Māori) and with respect to your decisions on catch history years for this species.
- 5 The outcome of CCSBT10 was that a one-year total allowable catch for members, individual member allocations and a global allocation for cooperating non-members were agreed. New Zealand's individual member allocation remains at 420 tonnes, however New Zealand has been invited to prepare a paper in advance of the next CCSBT meeting (CCSBT11). This paper would explore how the allocation principles reflected in CCSBT1 (the basis of the New Zealand proposal for an increase in allocation) could be accommodated given the current CCSBT environment. CCSBT11 is set down for October 2004 in Korea.

- 6 The New Zealand national allocation that will apply should you agree to introduce Southern bluefin tuna into the QMS on 1 October 2004 will be 420 tonnes. There are therefore no additional issues (beyond those outlined in current advice to you) requiring your consideration with regard to the introduction of Southern bluefin tuna into the QMS.
- 7 MFish has clarified recommendations with respect to Quota Management Areas for Pacific bluefin tuna and revised recommendations are detailed below. There are no other outstanding issues that prevent a decision being made on introduction of these species into the QMS.

## Recommendations

- 8 It is recommended that you:
- a) **Note** the MFish advice on introduction of Southern and Pacific bluefin tuna contained in the MFish Final Advice dated 23 September 2003;
  - b) **Note** that there are no outstanding issues that require your consideration with respect to the introduction of Southern and Pacific bluefin tuna into the QMS;
  - c) **Agree** that Southern and Pacific bluefin tuna be introduced into the Quota Management System on 1 October 2004;
  - d) **Agree** that introduction of these two species proceed on the basis of:
    - i) A fishing year of 1 October to 30 September; and,
    - ii) Greenweight as the unit of measure for the fishery.
  - e) **Agree** that Southern bluefin tuna be introduced on the basis of a single Quota Management Area which includes New Zealand fisheries waters and the high seas; and,
  - f) **Agree** that Pacific bluefin tuna be introduced on the basis of a single Quota Management Area for all New Zealand fisheries waters.

Mike Arbuckle  
for the Chief Executive

**APPROVED/NOT APPROVED/APPROVED AS AMENDED**

Hon Pete Hodgson  
Minister of Fisheries

/ / 2003