

# INTRODUCTION

---

- 1 This Initial Position Paper (IPP) provides you with the Ministry of Fisheries' (MFish) initial position on those sustainability measures and other management controls that MFish is reviewing for the (1 October) 2007–08 fishing year. A separate IPP will be subsequently released for those issues that require a regulation or Order-in-Council. Should Ministerial agreement on these latter issues be obtained, these will be scheduled for implementation on 1 April 2008.
- 2 This IPP has been developed for the purpose of consultation as required under the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act). MFish emphasises the views and recommendations outlined in each paper are preliminary and are provided as a basis for consultation with stakeholders.
- 3 Each paper has regard to the legal obligations required under the Act. MFish does not intend to use the IPP, and the consideration of proposals contained within it, to debate in full its generic statutory interpretations. The section of the IPP that discusses generic statutory interpretations should guide the reader when interpreting each of the individual papers.
- 4 Initial positions in each paper consider recent research, analysis of commercial and non-commercial catch data, and any other relevant information.
- 5 A further source of information is drawn from the fishery assessment plenary (the 'plenary report') held in May 2007. Between February and April every year Fishery Assessment Working Groups review the available fishery research and catch data for all Quota Management System (QMS) fishstocks and for other important non-QMS species. These scientific working groups involve MFish staff, other research providers, and commercial and non-commercial sector group representatives.
- 6 The fishery assessments for each species were summarised in draft working group reports, and those with substantive changes from the preceding year were critically reviewed in the meeting of the fishery assessment plenary. The plenary report contains the final agreed working group reports for each species.
- 7 The individual papers within the IPP present and analyse information with the aim of focusing each paper on fisheries management outcomes. In particular, the body of the advice places an emphasis on analysis and application of the facts to the issues that need to be addressed. Most technical information, including information from stock assessments, has been attached as an Appendix to each paper.
- 8 This introduction is immediately followed by the statutory obligations and policy guidelines. This provides the Minister with the context under which he

must make his decisions, and explains his legal obligations, including the bounds within which he must act.

- 9 The first section of the IPP concerns fishstocks for review. For each fishstock there is an outline of the key issues to be considered, rationale for proposed management options and some preliminary recommendations for the management of the stock in the 2007–08 fishing year. The fishstocks reviewed in this document include: orange roughy (ORH 1, ORH 3B, ORH 7B), hoki (HOK 1), oreo (OEO 1), arrow squid (SQU 1T), North Island eel stocks (SFE 20-23 & LFE 20-23), flatfish (FLA 3), red cod (RCO 3), tarakihi (TAR 1), school shark (SCH 1) and dredge oyster (OYS 7C).
- 10 The second section of the IPP contains other management measures currently being reviewed. MFish has reviewed the deemed value rates for a number of fishstocks in the IPP using the new deemed value standard.
- 11 An amendment to the relevant gazette notices is proposed to correct a drafting error for the TAC and TACC for rubyfish (RBY 8).
- 12 A review of sustainability measures and other management controls for kawahai (KAH 1) will be sent out to stakeholders in a separate IPP. The scientific information concerning the 2007 KAH 1 stock assessment has only recently become available following consideration by the Pelagic Working Group and the Fisheries Assessment Plenary, meaning the preparation of the IPP has been delayed to fully take into account the best available information.
- 13 In August 2007, MFish will compile the Final Advice Paper. This document will summarise MFish and stakeholder views on those issues being reviewed, and will provide final advice and recommendations for each issue. A copy of the Final Advice Paper and subsequently the Minister's letter setting out his final decisions will be posted on the MFish website as soon as it becomes available, and hard copies will be available on request.

## **Deadline for submissions**

- 14 All written submissions on this consultation document must be received by MFish by **Friday 27 July 2007**.
- 15 Written submissions should be sent directly to:

Tracey Steel,  
Ministry of Fisheries,  
P O Box 1020,  
Wellington;

or faxed to 04 819 4208  
or emailed to [tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz](mailto:tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz)

- 16 All submissions are subject to the Official Information Act 1986 and can be released, if requested, under the Act. If you have specific reasons for wanting to have your submission withheld, please set out your reasons in the

submission. MFish will consider those reasons when making any assessment for the release of submissions if requested under the Official Information Act 1982.